

**UNITED TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 30
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES
April 14, 2025**

1. Call to Order / Roll Call (BP 2:10)

President Susan Koska called the regular meeting of the United Township High School District 30 Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m.

Board members present: Dr. Giovanna Davila, Chris DeCock, Jami Gonzalez, Sue Ickes, Susan Koska, Luis Puentes, and Debra Stevenson

Board members absent: None

Administrators present: Dr. Jay Morrow, Janice Roome, Shannon Miller, James Hood, and Matt Wright

Board Recording Secretary: Jennifer Rossi

2. Consent Calendar (BP 2:200; BP 2:220)

- a. Approval of Minutes
 - 1) Open Session Minutes – March 10, 2025
 - 2) Executive Session Minutes – March 10, 2025
- b. Approval of Bills
- c. Approval of Treasurer's Report
 - 1) District Financial Report
 - 2) HS Activity Account Report
 - 3) HS Activity Account – Money Market
 - 4) ACC Activity Account Report
 - 5) Booster Club Financials
 - 6) Health Insurance Report
 - 7) Cafeteria Report
- d. Freedom of Information Act Report (BP 2:250)
- e. Approve Silvis Little League/Junior Panther Baseball five-year agreement (April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2030)
- f. Approve e-rate projects for the 2025-2026 school year (BP 2:20)

MOTION by Debra Stevenson and second by Dr. Giovanna Davila to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. A roll call vote was called with all members present voting aye. No nay votes were cast and the motion was carried.

3. Hearing of Visitors (BP 2:230)

None.

4. Student / Staff / Community Program Recognition (BP 5:100; BP 6:190)

None.

5. Communications (BP 2:140; BP 3:10)

Dr. Morrow congratulated the newly elected and re-elected board members. He shared a thank you note from Betsy Maertens for the condolences expressed at the passing of her father.

6. Unfinished Business

None.

7. Student BOE Liaison Report (Bashara Sherif / Mayas Hasabo)

Mr. Sherif reported the student survey is being finalized and expected to be active soon. He looks forward to sharing with the board concerns expressed by the student body.

8. Administrative Report (Mathew Wright / Shannon Miller) (BP 3:10; BP 3:60)

- a. Consolidated District Plan/Schoolwide Title Plan Approval: Ms. Miller reviewed the plans recommended for approval.
- b. Intersession Grade Recovery: Mr. Wright reviewed attendance numbers during grade recovery March 17 – 19.
- c. Career Fair: Mr. Wright reported the Career Fair will be held April 23 in Gym B. Over 100 employers will be in attendance at this event.
- d. Testing Update: State assessment testing for the 2024-2025 school year will happen April 15 – 17.
- e. Mariachi Band: Recruitment continues for this after school activity.
- f. Community Health Care: The Attendance Committee is considering involvement with this organization for ease of physicals and immunizations for students.
- g. Upcoming Events: Mr. Wright shared information on spring events:

Date	Event
April 15 – 17	Spring Testing (8 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)
April 18	Good Friday Holiday
April 21	School is in Session (Emergency makeup day)
April 22	UTHS/John Deere Recognition Ceremony (3:05 p.m.)
April 23	Career Fair 8:00 to 10:45 a.m.
April 23	Panther Pant (5:30 p.m.)
May 3	Prom
May 6	National Honor Society Induction Ceremony (6:30 p.m.)
May 7	CNA Graduation (6:00 p.m.)
May 8	Academic Achievement Awards Ceremony (5:30 p.m. – Freshman/Sophomore) (6:30 p.m. – Juniors/Seniors)
May 19	Senior Student-Athlete Signing Ceremony
May 22	UTEC Graduation
May 22	Senior Awards Night (5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.)
May 26	No School – Memorial Day
May 29	Retirement Dinner at Lavender Crest
May 30	Last Day of School – Early Dismissal
May 30	Graduation Practice – 1:05 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
May 31	Graduation – 2:30 p.m. at Vibrant Arena at the Mark

9. Comptroller's Report (Janice Roome) (BP 3:10)

- a. Request approval of fuel tank upgrade bid: Ms. Roome requested the Board approve the bid for fuel tank upgrade with Evora Energy, for \$125,199, as recommended by the architect. This work will take place in the summer of 2025.

- b. Request approval of Upper Gyms Renovation bid: Ms. Roome reported the bid for this work came in less than expected, and includes lighting and air conditioning. This work will take place in the summer of 2025.
- c. Request permission to seek bids on tennis court resurfacing: Ms. Roome requested permission to seek bids to resurface the tennis courts. Grant money is potentially available to help with the cost of the project. Dr. Morrow expressed appreciation for Dr. John Feehan for making the district aware of the potential funding source.
- d. Tentative approval of the 2024-25 UTHS District 30 Amended Budget: Ms. Roome reviewed the changes for the amended budget. The amended budget will be available for public review in the Administrative Center and on the district website. Final approval will be done at the June meeting.

10. Superintendent's Report (Dr. Jay Morrow) (BP 3:10; BP 3:40; BP 3:60)

- a. Legislative Update: Dr. Morrow reviewed state and federal legislative items.
- b. RISE Academy: Dr. Morrow reported the ROE will open a district safe school at their new location in Moline. The Board will need to determine how to participate in this school.

11. Committee Reports (BP 2:150)

United Education Foundation: Ms. Koska reported the UEF is wrapping up fundraising for the Academic Achievement Awards. The Board of Directors meets next on April 28.

BHASED: Ms. Ickes reported the Board of Directors meets next on April 15.

12. BLANKET MOTION

- a. Approve District Consolidated Plan and Use of Funds, as presented (BP 2:20)
- b. Approve bid for fuel tank upgrade with Evora Energy, Grimes, Iowa, in the amount of \$125,199, as presented (BP 2:20; BP 4:60; BP 4:150)
- c. Approve bid for upper gyms renovation with Russell Construction Col Inc., of Davenport, Iowa, in the amount of \$763,500, as presented (BP 2:20; BP 4:60; BP 4:150)
- d. Approve request to seek bids for repair and resurfacing of the tennis courts, as presented (BP 2:20; BP 4:60; BP 4:150)
- e. Adopt tentative amended FY25 budget, as presented (BP 2:20; BP 4:10)

MOTION by Sue Ickes and second by Chris DeCock to approve the Blanket Motion, as presented. A roll call vote was called with all members present voting aye. No nay votes were cast and the motion was carried.

13. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Executive Session
 - 1) 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) Personnel to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employee(s) of the district
 - 2) 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representative
 - 3) 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6) Sale of Property

MOTION by Luis Puentes and second by Debra Stevenson to convene Executive Session for the topics presented. A roll call vote was called with all members present voting aye. No nay votes were cast and the motion was carried.

Time: 7:21 p.m.

Note: The Board took a break from 7:21 p.m. to 7:28 p.m.

b. Return to Open Session (BP 2:200)

MOTION by Chris DeCock and second by Debra Stevenson to return to open session. A roll call vote was called with all members present voting aye. No nay votes were cast and the motion was carried.

Time: 7:55 p.m.

c. Personnel Recommendations (BP 2:20; BP 5:30)

CLASSIFIED

1. Approve Steve Hughes as part-time seasonal groundskeeper (less than 600 hours), at \$17.00 per hour, effective March 14, 2025.
2. Accept retirement notice from Sally Way, full-time bus driver, effective June 1, 2025.
3. Reassign Sue VanWatermuelen from Administrative Assistant – Guidance (9.5 months, 8 hours per day) to Administrative Assistant – Athletics and Activities (replace Sherri Harding, 10 months, 8 hours per day – teacher attendance days plus 30 extra days), effective July 1, 2025.
4. Approve Shari Johnson as a substitute administrative assistant effective April 15, 2025.
5. Employ Johana Gonzalez as Administrative Assistant – General Office (12-months, 8 hours per day, replace Deborah Lofgren – 2024-2025 Secretary Classified Salary Schedule, Step 0 at \$19.68 per hour), effective May 5, 2025.
6. Employ Hannah Malmstrom as Administrative Assistant – General Office (12-months, 8 hours per day, replace Hermelinda Martinez – 2024-2025 Secretary Classified Salary Schedule, Step 0 at \$19.68 per hour), effective May 5, 2025.
7. Employ Joshua Morrow as part-time seasonal groundskeeper (less than 600 hours), at \$17.00 per hour, effective May 27, 2025.
8. Employ Sherry Eaves as a full time school bus driver, effective August 4, 2025, pending completion of training to begin April 15, 2025, at \$19.70 per hour.
9. Employ Meredith Biehl as Administrative Assistant – Counseling (9.5 months, 8 hours per day, replace Sue VanWatermeulen – 2024-2025 Secretary Classified Salary Schedule, Step 0 at \$19.68 per hour), effective May 5, 2025.
10. Accept resignation from Robert Neal, part-time Student Supervisor, effective May 30, 2025.
11. Reassign Ellen Gant-Tennant from Student Technology Support (full-time, 11-month) to Student Supervisor (full-time, 9-month), effective August 4, 2025.

MOTION by Debra Stevenson and second by Chris DeCock, to approve the classified personnel recommendations, numbers 1 through 11. A roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Davila, DeCock, Ickes, Koska, Stevenson

Nays: None

Abstain: Gonzalez, Puentes

MOTION CARRIED.

CERTIFIED

1. Place the following employees on second year probation effective the 2025-2026 school year:

Mayra Almanza	Nora Ansborg	Ryan Cahalan
Tiffany Dolk	Kristin Flynn	Judimar Hernandez
Michelle Kelley	Brandi LaFontaine	Jennifer VanWatermeulen
2. Place the following employees on third year probation effective the 2025-2026 school year:

Ashley Akers	Alexia Garza	Matt Martin
Genevive Ripslinger	Andy Saey	Leesa Schroeder
Garth "Toby" Whiteman		
3. Place the following employees on fourth year probation effective the 2025-2026 school year:

Ryan Dunbar	Logan Eggers	Stefan Escontrias
Haley Gladkin	Hannah Labrador	Matthew McCarthy
Rebecca McNamar	Donald Rahn	Nate Webber
4. Place the following employees on tenure effective the 2025-2026 school year:

Florence Awoukeng	Bryan Commisso	Jerome Dehnel
Fernando Garcia	Sean Kane	Kari Larson
Madelyn Morrow	Karenina Slone	Tyler Sward
Mark Webber	Allison Whitcher	Grace Winter
5. Accept resignation from Jeyson Seneli, English learner teacher, May 30, 2025.
6. Accept resignation from Kathryn Weber, history teacher, effective May 30, 2025.
7. Accept resignation from Danielle Hitchler, special education teacher, effective May 30, 2025.
8. Accept resignation from Rose Hernandez as Business Education / FCS Department Facilitator, effective May 30, 2025.
9. Employ Erin Morrissey as PE teacher (replace Maria Sakellaris – Lane BA, Step 0, TRS Tier 2), effective August 4, 2025.
10. Approve retirement request and incentive for Krista Haas, special education teacher, effective the end of the 2028-2029 school year.

11. Approve retirement request for Victor Moreno, law and public safety teacher, effective May 30, 2025.
12. Employ Emily DeVilder as special education teacher (replace Sean Hanley – Lane BA, Step 1, TRS Tier 2), effective August 4, 2025.
13. Accept resignation from Chris Pluister, Behind the Wheel Instructor, effective April 11, 2025.
14. Approve the following volunteer coaches effective the 2024-2025 season:

Name	Description
Taylor Siwek	Theater
Callen Sederquist	Theater
Rebecca Holland	Theater

15. Employ Brittany Secor as Family and Consumer Sciences teacher (replace Carol Mackel – Lane BA, Step 3, TRS Tier 2), effective August 4, 2025.
16. Approve Brandi LaFountaine as Link Crew Coordinator, for \$500, effective April 15, 2025.
17. Reassign Ryan Dunbar (health teacher) to special education teacher, effective August 4, 2025.
18. Employ Damon Bautista as health teacher (replace Ryan Dunbar – Lane BA, Step 10, TRS Tier 1), effective August 4, 2025.
19. Approve John Thodos as substitute teacher, effective April 15, 2025.
20. Approve Kylee Villarreal as head volleyball coach, effective the 2025-2026 season.

MOTION by Sue Ickes and second by Debra Stevenson, to approve the certified personnel recommendations, numbers 1 through 20. A roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Davila, DeCock, Ickes, Koska, Puentes, Stevenson

Nays: None

Abstain: Gonzalez

MOTION CARRIED.

- d. Approve appraisal value of \$340,000 for Building Trades House #26 by Baecke-Spranger Associates of Bettendorf, Iowa (BP 2:20; BP 5:30)

MOTION by Dr. Giovanna Davila and second by Sue Ickes to approve the appraisal value for the Building Trades house at \$340,000, as recommended. A roll call vote was called with all members present voting aye. No nay votes were cast and the motion was carried.

14. Board Hot Topics

- a. Ms. Koska reminded the board election canvassing will be completed by Tuesday, April 22.
- b. Ms. Koska reminded the board to submit the yellow receipt for Statement of Economic Interest to the Administrative Center by May 1, 2025.
- c. Ms. Koska asked the board to submit their attendance information for the IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference at the next board meeting on May 12. Conference registration opens on June 2.

15. Other Matters

Dr. Morrow asked for the Board's support for providing lunch on Friday, May 9, for Teacher Appreciation Week. He invited Board members to attend as well.

The Board will review IASB Board development opportunities at the May meeting.

16. Adjourn (BP 2:220)

There being no further business brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned by acclamation. (Time: 8:00 p.m.)

Susan Koska, President

Sue Ickes, Secretary