

Union City Community Schools

“Educating and Preparing Each Child for Their Future”

Union City, Michigan 49094 / Superintendent’s Office (517) 741-3300 – Fax (517) 741-5205

Board of Education Agenda

Monthly Board Meeting	High School Media Center
Monday, June 15, 2026	6:30 PM

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Opening Statement

Welcome to the Union City Community Schools Board meeting. Our meeting agenda is available for you to follow. The expectation for our board meeting is to follow this agenda closely. We operate under the Open Meetings Act and utilize Roberts Rule of Order to govern our discussion and decision-making process. There is an opportunity for public comment during our set agenda. We welcome the public to express their opinions during this time of our agenda. If there are questions about the agenda or the board meeting process, please seek out one of the Board members for clarification.
- II. Addition or Deletion of Items on the Agenda
- III. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Minutes
 - b. Special 5/27/2026
 - c. Resignation Thomas Kusterer

Thomas Kusterer, high school teacher has resigned his position effective June 4, 2026.
 - d. Resignation Mindy Maples

Mindy Maples, high school teacher has resigned her position effective June 30, 2026
 - e. Cross Country Summer Team Camp

Platte River Campground July 12th - July 15th.
- IV. Correspondence
- V. Comments From the Audience on Agenda Items
 - a. Public Comments Statement

This is the section of the meeting in which the public may make comments or share their opinions about items on the agenda. We ask you to limit your comments to no longer than 5 minutes per person to allow others the opportunity to speak. This is an opportunity for the Board to listen to your concerns. It is not Board practice to act on the concerns voiced during this meeting to allow for the Board to do further research.
- VI. Action Items
 - a. School of Choice 2026 - 2027 Resolution

Board action is required to approve the School of Choice Resolution for 2026 - 2027 as presented.
 - b. High School - Apple Device Order

Board Action is required to approve the purchase of new devices from Apple
- VII. Discussion Items
- VIII. Information Items
 - a. MS/HS Project Guaranteed Maximum Price

Guaranteed Maximum Price has been established for our MS/HS Project
 - b. Thrun Summer Policy Update

Thrun has released their summer policy update
 - c. Hiring of Catherine Case as JV Girls Basketball Coach

Catherine Case has been hired as the JV Girls Basketball Coach

IX. Public Comment

a. Public Comment Statement

This is the section of the meeting in which the public may make comments or share their opinions about Union City Community Schools. We ask you to limit your comments to no longer than 5 minutes per person to allow others the opportunity to speak. This is an opportunity for the Board to listen to your concerns. It is not Board practice to act on the concerns voiced during this meeting to allow for the Board to do further research.

X. Board Roundtable

a. Additional June Meeting

A second meeting will be held this month to allow further time for the development of the 2026-2027 Budget. The Superintendent Evaluation will also take place at that meeting.

XI. Adjournment

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in agenda items five (V) and nine (IX).

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the meeting or hearing, please contact, Rhonda Reese at 517-741-8091 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible

Monthly Board Meeting
Monday, May 18, 2026 6:30 PM Eastern

High School Media Center
430 St. Joseph Street
Union City, MI 49094

Call to Order

Vice President, Darin LaBar, called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Jennifer Gautsche:	Present
Amber Herman:	Absent
Darin LaBar:	Present
Kate Stanton:	Present
Archie Mears:	Present
Andrew Yockey:	Present
Paul Arlt:	Present

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Statement

Addition or Deletion of Items to the Agenda

None

Consent Agenda

The Board of Education approves the Consent Agenda as presented. This motion made by Archie Mears and supported by Andrew Yockey, carried.

Paul Arlt: Yea, Archie Mears: Yea, Jennifer Gautsche: Yea, Darin LaBar: Yea, Kate Stanton: Yea, Andrew Yockey: Yea.

Yea: 6 Nay: 0

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting 4/20/2026

Closed Session 4/20/2026

Correspondence

None

Comments From the Audience on Agenda Items

Jessica Lane, Megan Burgett, Kenny Burgett, Amanda Walterspaugh

Action Items

Financials

The Board of Education approves the financials for the month ending April 30, 2026. This motion made by Archie Mears and supported by Jennifer Gautsche, carried.

Paul Arlt: Yea, Archie Mears: Yea, Jennifer Gautsche: Yea, Darin LaBar: Yea, Kate Stanton: Yea, Andrew Yockey: Yea.
Yea: 6 Nay: 0

Budget Amendment Resolution

The Board of Education approves the Budget Amendment Resolution for 2025 – 2026. This motion, made by Jennifer Gautsche and supported by Archie Mears, carried.
Paul Arlt: Yea, Archie Mears: Yea, Jennifer Gautsche: Yea, Darin LaBar: Yea, Kate Stanton: Yea, Andrew Yockey: Yea.
Yea: 6 Nay: 0

Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) 2026-27 Membership Resolution

The Board of Education approves the Michigan High School Athletic Association 2026-2027 Membership Resolution as presented. This motion, made by Archie Mears and supported by Jennifer Gautsche, carried.
Paul Arlt: Yea, Archie Mears: Yea, Jennifer Gautsche: Yea, Darin LaBar: Yea, Kate Stanton: Yea, Andrew Yockey: Yea.
Yea: 6 Nay: 0

Middle School Teacher Hiring

The Board of Education approves the hiring of Joshua Vick for the position of Middle School ELA Teacher. This motion, made by Jennifer Gautsche and supported by Paul Arlt, carried.
Paul Arlt: Yea, Archie Mears: Yea, Jennifer Gautsche: Yea, Darin LaBar: Yea, Kate Stanton: Yea, Andrew Yockey: Yea.
Yea: 6 Nay: 0

Hiring of Girls Basketball Coach

The Board of Education will create an action item to discuss the hiring of Joshua Vick for the position of Girls Varsity Coach and vote on this item later in the meeting. This motion, made by Paul Arlt and supported by Andrew Yockey, carried.
Paul Arlt: Yea, Archie Mears: Yea, Jennifer Gautsche: Yea, Darin LaBar: Yea, Kate Stanton: Yea, Andrew Yockey: Yea.
Yea: 6 Nay: 0

Middle School and High School Masonry Re-Bid from Christman

The Board of Education approves the Middle School and High School Masonry Re-Bids from Christman as provided. This motion, made by Archie Mears and supported by Jennifer Gautsche, carried.

Paul Arlt: Yea, Archie Mears: Yea, Jennifer Gautsche: Yea, Darin LaBar: Yea, Kate Stanton: Yea, Andrew Yockey: Nay.

Yea: 5 Nay: 1

Move the Presentation by Mr. Diamond and his 5th Grade Students to this portion of the meeting.

The Board of Education approves moving Mr. Diamond and his student's presentation to this portion of the meeting. This motion, made by Jennifer Gautsche and supported by Andrew Yockey, carried.

Paul Arlt: Yea, Archie Mears: Yea, Jennifer Gautsche: Yea, Darin LaBar: Yea, Kate Stanton: Yea, Andrew Yockey: Yea.

Yea: 6 Nay: 0

Hiring of Girls Basketball Coach

The Board of Education approves the hiring of Joshua Vick for the position of Girls Varsity Basketball Coach. This motion, made by Archie Mears and supported by Jennifer Gautsche, carried.

Paul Arlt: Nay, Archie Mears: Yea, Jennifer Gautsche: Yea, Darin LaBar: Yea, Kate Stanton: Yea, Andrew Yockey: Yea.

Yea: 5 Nay: 1

Discussion Items

Construction Updates

Patrick McKerr provided updates on the state of the Bond/Grant Project.

Information Item

Third Grade Field Trip, Third Grade will go to Historic Charlton Park June 1st and 2nd.
Resignation, Rebecca Burns has resigned her position as Assistant Prep Cook at the High School.
Presentation by Deb Brauker, Deb presented the training process for new bus drivers.

Public Comment

Chris Katz, Doug Diamond, Mike Eyre

Board Roundtable

Darin LaBar

Adjournment

The Board of Education adjourns the meeting. This motion, made by Archie Mears and supported by Jennifer Gautsche, carried.
Paul Arlt: Yea, Archie Mears: Yea, Jennifer Gautsche: Yea, Darin LaBar: Yea, Kate Stanton: Yea, Andrew Yockey: Yea.
Yea: 6 Nay: 0

Vice President Darin LaBar adjourned the regular meeting at 8:16pm.

Special Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 27, 2026 6:45am

High School Media Center
430 St. Joseph Street
Union City, MI 49094

Call to Order

Vice President Darin LaBar called the meeting to order at 6:49am

Jennifer Gautsche:	Present
Amber Herman:	Absent
Darin LaBar:	Present
Kate Stanton:	Present
Archie Mears:	Present
Paul Arlt:	Absent
Andrew Yockey:	Absent

Pledge of Allegiance
Opening Statement

Additions or Deletions of Items to the Agenda

None

Comments from the Audience on Agenda Item

None

Action Items

Materials Testing Bid

The Board of Education approves the bid on the materials testing. This motion made by, Jennifer Gautsche and supported by Archie Mears, carried.

Jennifer Gautsche: Yea, Darin LaBar: Yea, Kate Stanton: Yea, Archie Mears: Yea
Yea: 4 Nay: 0

Abatement Bid

The Board of Education approves the bid on asbestos removal. This motion made by, Archie Mears and supported by Jennifer Gautsche, carried.

Jennifer Gautsche: Yea, Darin LaBar: Yea, Kate Stanton: Yea, Archie Mears: Yea
Yea: 4 Nay: 0

CISD Budget Resolution

The Board of Education approves the general fund budget for 2026 – 2027 as presented. This motion made by Archie Mears and supported by Kate Stanton, carried

Jennifer Gautsche: Nay, Darin LaBar: Yea, Kate Stanton: Yea, Archie Mears: Yea
Yea: 3 Nay: 1

Union City Food Club

The Board of Education approves the creation of the Union City Food Club in partnership with Farm Bureau.

This motion made by Archie Mears and supported by Jennifer Gautsche, carried.

Jennifer Gautsche: Yea, Darin LaBar: Yea, Kate Stanton: Yea, Archie Mears: Yea

Yea: 4 Nay: 0

Adjournment

The Board of Education adjourns the special meeting. This motion made by Archie Mears and supported by Jennifer Gautsche, carried.

Jennifer Gautsche: Yea, Darin LaBar: Yea, Kate Stanton: Yea, Archie Mears: Yea

Yea: 4 Nay: 0

Vice President Darin LaBar adjourned the special meeting at 7:03am.

5-27-2026

Amber Case
Union City High School
430 St. Joseph St

Dear Amber Case,

Please accept this letter as my formal resignation from my position as a high school teacher at Union City Community Schools, effective June 4th.

Teaching at Union City has been a meaningful and rewarding experience. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with such dedicated colleagues and inspiring students over the course of my time here. I have valued the support of the administration and the chance to contribute to the school community.

This decision was not made lightly, but after careful consideration, I have decided to move in a different direction professionally. I remain committed to ensuring a smooth transition during my remaining time at the school. I am happy to assist with lesson plans, classroom materials, and any other support needed before my departure.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be part of Union City. I appreciate the experiences and relationships I have gained here and wish the school continued success in the future.

Sincerely,
Thomas Kusterer

June 1, 2026

Dear Amber & Patrick,

Thank you for the opportunity to have served as English and Drama Teacher at Union City High School! I have enjoyed working with the staff, students and administration. I also have valued learning and growing as an individual. Thank you for the support and encouragement you have offered over the last four years, especially with the performing arts.

After much consideration, I have decided to step down at the end of this school year. Challenges and experiences this year have opened my eyes to see clearly that my pursuits and values are headed in a very different direction than what this school can provide. As a result I have begun taking social work and ministerial courses to one day be able to really help people—children, teens and families—who are struggling and want to learn resilience. Furthermore, numerous teaching opportunities have opened up for me at various colleges in the area.

Amber, I sincerely appreciate all your efforts to build rapport with our students. Your compassionate heart for these teens is unsurpassable! I know the present climate is difficult for securing teachers, so I wanted to give you sufficient notice. I highly recommend Ruhl Cook and/or Jessica Payne as Performing Arts Director for the coming year. Let me know how I can make this transition as smooth as possible for all involved.

Please accept this as my letter of resignation, effective June 30, 2026.

Sincerely,

Mindy Maples, MA, MFA

Union City Cross Country Summer Team Camp 2026



When: July 12th - July 15th

Where: Platte River Campground @ Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore - 5685 Lake Michigan Road, Honor MI 49640

Who: UC High School Cross Country athletes

What: Our team will travel to Platte River Campground. We will camp in a group campsite. We will run the famous Sleeping Bear Dunes trail as well as other scenic and challenging trails in the area. There will be plenty of

time for team bonding with activities such as swimming, eating, camp games, campfires, and much more!

Coaches:

Jessica Decker (HS coach) - (517) 465 - 0394 or Message HS Remind

Clint Gautsche (MS coach) - (616) 780 - 2268

What to bring: You will need to bring items that will allow you to camp comfortably for three nights. Our space is limited, please make sure you can fit all your items into one backpack.

- Sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Clothing for three days including running attire
- Swimsuit
- Towel
- Sunscreen and bug spray
- Flashlight
- Phone and phone charger
- Favorite snacks - these will need to be kept in a vehicle or bear locker when not being eaten.
- Camp chair
- Shower items - there are modern amenities at the campsite
- Favorite book, camp games, etc.
- Socks (2 pair per day)
- Running shoes
- Sandals (for beach and shower room only)
- Money for fast food on the ride up and and the ride back. Suggested amount \$30 - \$50

Additional information: We will be running 5-10 miles a day. It is important that each athlete attend summer workouts and/or run on their own to build a base that will allow them to run this distance. Athletes will need to log 50 miles or more between June 1st and July 10th to attend camp. Athletes will be given a log to track their mileage. Logs are due to Coach Decker on or before July 10th, 2026.

Cost: \$50 per athlete or donate a food/camp item. Athletes may fundraise their cost by completing our Run-a-Thon and/or other fundraising opportunities. Camp cost includes stay at the campground, three meals per day while at camp, snacks, and pizza the last night.

Tentative Camp Itinerary:

Sunday, July 12th at 11:00 am: Depart from UC High School for camp. Runners will ride to camp with Coach Decker, Coach Gautsche, or a parent volunteer. We will stop for a late lunch on the way up.

4:00 PM - Arrive at camp. Set up tents and other camp equipment.

6:00 PM - Quick trail run (3-4 miles)

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM - Dinner, campfire, showers

10:00 PM - lights out

Monday, July 13th:

7:30 - 9:00 am - Wake up, breakfast, clean-up.

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Run the Dunes Trail at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park. Approximately 4-mile trail run through the dunes from Glen Arbor, MI to Lake Michigan and back.

2:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Return to camp. Swimming, exploring, hanging out.

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM - Dinner, campfire, showers

10:00 PM - Lights out

Tuesday, July 14th

7:30 - 9:00 AM - Wake up, breakfast, clean-up.

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - trail run (Lasso Loop - 6.6 miles)

2:00 -4:30 PM - Beach time.

5:00 - 7:00 PM - Trail run

7:00 - 9:30 PM - Dinner (pizza @ beach), games, swimming

10:00 PM - Lights out.

Wednesday, July 16th

7:00 - 8:00 - Optional early morning run (3 miles).

8:00 - 11:00 AM - wake up, breakfast, pack up.

11:00 - 4:00 - Travel back to UC, stopping for lunch along the way.

4:00 PM - Arrive back in UC.

UNION CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS SCHOOLS OF CHOICE RESOLUTION

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Union City Community School District, Branch and Calhoun Counties, Michigan, was held in the Union City High School Media Center in said district on the 15th day of June, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by

Present Members:

Absent Members:

The following preamble and resolution was offered by
and supported by

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 105 and 105c of the State School Aid Act of 1979, as amended by Public Act 119 of 1999, schools may opt in or opt out of the schools of choice programs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Union City Community School District certifies that it will participate and accept applications for enrollment by resident students within the Calhoun Intermediate School District for purposes of operating a schools of choice program for the first semester of the 2026-2027 school year;

further, that the Union City Community School District certifies that it will accept applications for enrollment by resident students of contiguous school districts located in another intermediate school district for purposes of operating a schools of choice program for the 2026-2027 school year;

further, that the Union City Community School District certifies that it will participate in the schools of choice program for the second semester of the 2026-2027 school year.

Ayes: Members:

Nays: Members:

Resolution declared adopted. _____
Acting Secretary, Union City Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of the Union City Community School District, Branch and Calhoun Counties, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education at a regular meeting held on the 15th day of June, 2026, the original of which resolution is a part of the Board's minutes, and further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public under the Open Meetings Act, 1976 , PA 267, as amended.

Acting Secretary, Union City Board of Education