

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 24, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.  
Administration Building – 929 York Street – Kernan School**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph H. Hobika Jr, Presiding; Danielle Padula, Robert Cardillo, Donald Dawes, Tennille Knoop, James Paul, Jason Cooper

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. Kathleen Davis, Acting Superintendent, Steven Falchi, Katherine Gavett, Esq., Mike Ferraro, Andre Paradis, Erica Schoff, Sara Klimek, Pam Smoulcey, Trina Falchi, Shawna Fleck, Judeanne Rockford, Hiram Rios, Michele Hall, Heather Mowat, Kathy Hughes, Paris Rich

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT: Kler Kler Gay Moo



**Public Comment to the Board of Education**

President Hobika, Jr. called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Board Clerk Kathy Hughes conducted roll call. All members of the Board of Education were present.



**Student, Employee, and Community Recognition**

**Girls Dive Team – Coach Kristi Peterson and Coach Bryan Koscinski**

Ms. Peterson recognized her team.

Dr. Davis: Thank you coach. I can tell you that in my history in education I have been to many diving events and it takes a lot of courage to dive and a lot of power to get beyond that board, so congratulations. It is quite an effort and it takes total concentration. You have to have silence in the room and be focused on yourself and control of your body, that's huge.

Dr. Davis and the Board of Education presented certificates of recognition to the following members of the Thomas R. Proctor girls dive team members; Diandra Frazier for placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the Tri-Valley Championship meet and being the first Proctor diver to ever place first, Isabella Matos for placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Tri-Valley championship meet and Aryiana Swift for placing 6<sup>th</sup> in the Tri-Valley championship meet.

President Hobika, Jr.: Thank you for coming. I do have to say that I would like to invite any of you that would like to say a few words you are welcome to do so. As a former diver myself, my signature dives were the cannon ball and the can opener. Have any of you guys ever won an event with doing either one of those dives, the can opener or the cannon ball?

Ms. Frazier: Oh, that's one of the hardest dives there is.

President Hobika, Jr.: Would you guys like to say something, because we are always happy when our students come and like to share with us.

Ms. Frazier from the Thomas R. Proctor dive team spoke of her experience being on the team.

President Hobika, Jr.: That was wonderful and thank you for sharing that with us, really. Anyone else want to say anything? Its not required. I wish I could give you extra credit just for coming but nobody will take me up on that. I appreciate everyone coming tonight and we appreciate your efforts on behalf of the district and the school. I am glad that all of you are supportive of each other. I think that is really important. Congratulations thank you for coming. Tell your friends we all want them to come to our meetings. Thank you.

**Jeff Lynch – “Wounded First Responders” Award presented by Joseph Fraccola, Commander of the CNY Chapter 490 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart**

Mr. Fraccola and Mr. Egresits presented the Wounded First Responders award to Mr. Lynch.

President Hobika, Jr.: Thanks. I didn't know if Jeff wanted to share anything this week?

Mr. Lynch: Thanks everyone. I think the term “thank you”, I can't emphasize it enough, it seems diluted. It's not enough. The words themselves don't mean enough. This stuff is; I've gotten nothing but positive response. I was injured working for the school that I graduated from in the city that I was raised in. I think the physical is coming back and now the mental is starting to hit me a little bit, super emotional. I don't know how much attention anybody besides a celebrity can kind of handle. It's a little overwhelming, but I appreciate it from everyone. Thank you very much.

President Hobika, Jr.: Thank you.



**Discussion  
None**



**Presentations**

**Career & Technical Education (CTE) – Erica Schoff, CTE Director**

Ms. Schoff presented an update on Career & Technical Education (CTE).

**Questions from Board Members:**

None



**School Safety Update – Hiram Rios**

Mr. Rios presented his school safety update.

**Questions from Board Members:**

President Hobika, Jr.: You're talking red shirts, right?

Mr. Rios: Yes, red shirts.

Dr. Davis: Thank you, nice job.

President Hobika, Jr.: Thank you, nice job with the PowerPoint. I like it.

Mr. Paul: For MSA students is there a different way of identifying those students just incase that person that comes down from MSA doesn't recognized that student from MSA or is there a student ID number that will identify that student as well?

Mr. Rios: I don't believe that we are on the same system as MSA but the male that we have is the JV coach and he seemed to know everyone that was coming through the football games. So, he will be there for the basketball games so hopefully he will still know them all. I don't know how to identify them all. For me it would be impossible to even identify one. I think his name is Dave, I am not 100% sure, but he was really good for the football games. He seemed to catch them all.

Mrs. Knoop: Let me just interject on that too. Will we have the 411-system available at these games so students can come in with their IDs and scan them and everything comes up right there?

Mr. Rios: Again, I am not sure the protocols if we are going to sell presale or if they are going to be at the door, or how that will work. That will be up to athletics between now and the time we actually start the process of the games.

Mrs. Knoop: Well I think it's a security issue because we need to ensure that these are our students as they are coming in and they are not MSA. So, if they got those badges that they are required to get into school with, if that could be a

requirement too for our students to provide those in order to get into the game too that cuts a lot of them wondering who someone is and trying got figure it out.

Mr. Rios: Yes, and for the football games were where, if you were an elementary or junior high and you needed a parent to come in, that will still be the protocol you can't just come in. Any Proctor student would come in as long as they had their ID. The issue was at the time is if they were not students of Proctor, let's say Whitesboro or New Hartford how would we identify them via picture? So, it got a little convoluted with who is coming in and what time.

President Hobika, Jr.: Anybody else have any questions?



### **Announcements/Reports**

#### **Student Representative Report – Kler Kler Gay Moo**

Kler Kler Gay Moo presented a Student Representative Report to the Board of Education for October 2023.

#### **Questions from Board Members:**

President Hobika, Jr.: I just wanted to know how are the ticket sales going for the dance?

Mr. Moo: We have all the tickets sold out already.

President Hobika, Jr.: Wow, that's fantastic, congratulations. Thank you for coming in. If you want to go home and do your homework you are welcome to do that if not you are welcome to stay and watch the rest of the meeting.

#### **PTO/PTA, Shared Decision-Making Committees, Student Councils, CSE Chairs, Title I, UTA, UAA, UTC, Teamsters Local 182, SEIU Local 200B, M.V. Buildings and Trades Council**

Ms. Leo presented a report from the Utica Teacher Association.

#### **Questions from Board Members:**

President Hobika, Jr.: We will look into that. That's really the first that we're hearing that the Board is hearing of it.

Ms. Leo: Correct and Dr. Davis is also very new to this.

President Hobika Jr.: I am sure she is going to look into it.

Ms. Leo: When I had a colleague call me I was like, alright, you know, we have a time to talk. I think this is perfect.

President Hobika, Jr.: One more thing so we passed copier regulations, are you aware of that?

Mr. Rogowski: Yes.

President Hobika, Jr.: Has It helped?

Mr. Rogowski: It just got passed. We just got the instructions yesterday.

President Hobika, Jr.: If you have any questions about them, then you know where to go to ask them, right?

#### **Superintendent's Remarks**

Dr. Davis: I would like to thank the Board for their support this past 3 ½ months. I have to say you're one of the best Boards I've ever worked with. There's a lot of cohesiveness and student-centered discussions. I do appreciate being a part of that, part of the discussions and part of this team. So, thank you. I do want to thank you, I know this is the Board appreciation week and our central office administrators all chipped in and the fruit baskets are on us that are in the other room. So please enjoy those. We know you like the fruit. I do want to say and make an announcement that we are officially on Board Docs for our community that is out there. We're excited. I want to thank Stephanie and Carol for helping me get there, and Mike for helping me get there. We are 100% on. We hope to expand that after tonight's meeting so you won't see piles of paper in front of me. I had to bring a cart down tonight because there was so much to carry so that will never happen again moving forward, so I am very excited. Also, I do want to make a comment about the agenda. You'll see some police officers that are resigning from the UPD. Please know that they received a directive from the Police Department that they are only to work for the Police Department, but we have contracted with the Police Department so they're not leaving us. They're on

staff, but they're hired by the Police Department and we contract with the UPD. That way it's not two separate employments. So please don't think they're leaving for some reason, they're not. They're here, and we appreciate them. Thank you to the Police Chief for his efforts in making that contract happen, as well as the Mayor. I know you're going to ask about the agenda we wanted to pull Policy 4502, Mr. Hobika if we can do that.

**Questions from Board Members:**

None



**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Davis, Acting Superintendent presented the Superintendent's Report dated October 24, 2023 to the Board of Education for approval with the following adjustments:

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President Hobika, Jr. asked the Board Members if there were any items that needed clarification before a motion was made on the Consent Agenda. At this time, he polled Board Members: **None**

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**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. S – 137**

**SUBJECT:**

**Construction Management Agreement between the Utica City School District and C&S Engineers, Inc.**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the Construction Management Agreement between the Utica City School District and C&S Engineers, Inc., for grant funded projects dated October 24, 2023.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. S – 138**

**SUBJECT:**

**Construction Management Agreement between the Utica City School District and C&S Engineers, Inc.**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the Construction Management Agreement between the Utica City School District and C&S Engineers, Inc., for the Proctor High School – CTE Addition and Reconstruction Project dated October 24, 2023.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. S – 139**

**SUBJECT:**

**Agreement between the Utica City School District and LaBella Associates D.P.C.**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the Agreement between the Utica City School District and LaBella Associates, D.P.C., for the Proctor High School – CTE Addition and Reconstruction Project dated October 24, 2023.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. S – 140**

**SUBJECT:**

**Agreement between the Utica City School District and LaBella Associates D.P.C.**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the Agreement between the Utica City School District and LaBella Associates, D.P.C., for District-Wide Paving Reconstruction Projects at Hughes Elementary School; Jefferson Elementary School; Kennedy Middle School; and Jones Elementary School dated October 24, 2023.

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the Agreement between the Utica City School District and LaBella Associates, D.P.C., for District-Wide Access Control Monitoring Improvements dated October 24, 2023.

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the Agreement between the Utica City School District and LaBella Associates, D.P.C., for the Kennedy Middle School Field Building Reconstruction Project dated October 24, 2023.

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the Agreement between the Utica City School District and LaBella Associates, D.P.C., for the Donovan Middle School – Air Conditioning and Mechanical Reconstruction Project dated October 24, 2023.

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the Agreement between the Utica City School District and LaBella Associates, D.P.C., for the Donovan Middle School Roof Reconstruction Project dated October 24, 2023.

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the Agreement between the Utica City School District and LaBella Associates, D.P.C., for the Donovan Middle School Additions and Alterations Project October 24, 2023.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. S – 141**

**SUBJECT:**

**Agreement between the  
Utica City School District and LaBella Associates D.P.C.**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the Agreement between the Utica City School District and LaBella Associates, D.P.C., for the Kernan Elementary School – Soil Remediation Project dated October 24, 2023.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. S – 142**

**SUBJECT:**

**Utica City School District  
Policy Approval and Adoption**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve and adopt the following Utica City School District Policies, effective October 24, 2023:

- Policy #: 4202 – Budget Transfers
- Policy #: 4501 – Competitive Bidding
- Policy #: 4502 – Non-Bid Purchasing – **TABLED**

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. S – 143**

**SUBJECT:**

**Facilities Use Agreement between the Utica City  
School District and Vista Lanes Bowling Center**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the Facilities Use Agreement between the Utica City School District and Vista Lanes Bowling Center for the period October 25, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. S – 144**

**SUBJECT:**

**Amended Contract between the Utica City School  
District and American Institutes for Research (AIR)**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the amended contract between the Utica City School District and American Institutes for Research (AIR) for school year 2023-2024.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. S – 145**

**SUBJECT:** **Amended Memorandum of Agreement between the Utica City School District and the Business Training Institute, Inc.**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the amended Memorandum of Agreement between the Utica City School District and the Business Training Institute, Inc., for the school year 2023-2024.

**FOR ACTION:** **Volume LVIII** **Report No. S – 146**

**SUBJECT:** **Amended Financial Advisory Services Agreement between the Utica City School District and Fiscal Advisors & Marketing, Inc.**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the amended Financial Advisory Services Agreement between the Utica City School District and Fiscal Advisors & Marketing, Inc., effective October 25, 2023.

**FOR ACTION:** **Volume LVIII** **Report No. S – 147**

**SUBJECT:** **Settlement Agreement between the Utica City School District and Birnie Bus Service, Inc.**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the settlement agreement between the Utica City School District and Birnie Bus Service, Inc., effective October 25, 2023.

**FOR ACTION:** **Volume LVIII** **Report No. S – 148**

**SUBJECT:** **Intermunicipal Agreement between the Utica City School District and the City of Utica for Tax Collection Services**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Utica City School District and the City of Utica for Tax Collection Services for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 fiscal years.

**FOR ACTION:** **Volume LVIII** **Report No. S – 149**

**SUBJECT:** **Dual Enrollment Contract between the Utica City School District and Mohawk Valley Community College**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the Dual Enrollment Contract between the Utica City School District and Mohawk Valley Community College, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

**FOR ACTION:** **Volume LVIII** **Report No. S – 150**

**SUBJECT:** **Affiliation Agreement between the Utica City School District and Grand Canyon University (GCU)**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the Affiliation Agreement between the Utica City School District and Grand Canyon University (GCU), effective October 10, 2023 through October 10, 2026.

**FOR ACTION:** **Volume LVIII** **Report No. S – 151**

**SUBJECT:** **Resolution Creating Accountant Position**



Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION CREATING ACCOUNTANT POSITION

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, the Board of Education hereby approves the establishment and creation of the civil service position of Accountant, a competitive civil service position, effective October 25, 2023.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. S – 152**

**SUBJECT:**

**Resolution Creating School Bus Training Coordinator Position**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION CREATING SCHOOL BUS TRAINING COORDINATOR POSITION

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, the Board of Education hereby approves the establishment and creation of the civil service position of School Bus Training Coordinator, a competitive civil service position, effective October 25, 2023.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. S – 153**

**SUBJECT:**

**Memorandum of Agreement between the Utica City School District and Deanna DiBrango**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the Memorandum of Agreement dated October 24, 2023, between the Utica City School District and Deanna DiBrango.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. S – 154**

**SUBJECT:**

**Memorandum of Agreement between the Utica City School District and SEIU, Local 200**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the Memorandum of Agreement dated October 24, 2023, between the Utica City School District and SEIU, Local 200.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. S – 155**

**SUBJECT:**

**Application for Extended Field Trip – Proctor High School**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve approximately eleven (11) Proctor High School ROTC students to travel to Green Lane Park State Park, Boyertown, Pennsylvania from October 20-21, 2023 to attend an Area 4 Championship Orienteering Competition. Orienteering is an outdoor navigation sport which allows the students to use a map and compass to find check points along a mapped course using decision-making skills.

Supervision of these students will be provided by Master Chief Mark Williamson.

This trip was reviewed and approved by Kenneth Szczesniak, Acting Principal at Proctor High School, Dr. Kathleen Davis, Acting Superintendent of Schools, and Steven Falchi, Chief Academic Officer.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. S – 156**

**SUBJECT:**

**Application for Extended Field Trip –  
Proctor High School**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve approximately thirty-two (32) Proctor High School Girls and Boys Cross Country Team students to travel to Black Bear Mountain and Stony Mountain in Inlet, New York on Saturday, October 28, 2023. This trip will involve cross-training, team bonding, and a mental health reset as these students head into post season.

Supervision of these students will be provided by Dave Caruso, Coach/Teacher, Heather Monroe, Coach/Teacher, and Alexis Holmer, Coach/Teacher.

This trip was reviewed and approved by Kenneth Szczesniak, Acting Principal at Proctor High School, Dr. Kathleen Davis, Acting Superintendent of Schools, and Steven Falchi, Chief Academic Officer.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. S – 157**

**SUBJECT:**

**Application for Extended Field Trip –  
Hughes Elementary School**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve approximately thirty-eight (38) Hughes Elementary School students to travel to the Black River Outdoor Education Program in Boonville, NY on Tuesday, January 30, 2024. This trip will teach students science (wilderness), ELA (increase background knowledge), as well as teach the students the value of group-work and following directions

Supervision of these students will be provided by Ani Sojda, Teacher, Kimberly Race, Teacher, and Francisco Manoiro, Teacher.

This trip was reviewed and approved by Mary Belden, Principal at Hughes Elementary School, Dr. Kathleen Davis, Acting Superintendent of Schools, and Steven Falchi, Chief Academic Officer.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. B – 20**

**SUBJECT:**

**Budget Transfer – Reversal of Federal Funds**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the following Budget Transfer – Reversal of Federal Funds for Fiscal Year 2022-2023:

	<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
From:	A9060.800-00-0000	Hospital, Medical & Dental Insurance	\$ 944,274
To:	A1621.462-00-0000	Maintenance of Plant – Repair BLDG/Mechanical	\$ 187,119
	A1621.474-00-0000	Maintenance of Plant – Electrical Contract	\$ 33,752
	A1621.504-00-0000	Maintenance of Plant – Repair BLDGS/Parking Lots	\$ 501,460
	A1621.544-00-0000	Maintenance of Plant – Supplies – Electrical	\$ 28,288
	A1621.549-00-0000	Maintenance of Plant – Supplies – Heating	\$ 21,520
	A1621.551-00-0000	Maintenance of Plant – Repair BLDG/Alt Materials	\$ 62,843
	A9901.950-00-0000	Transfer to Special Aid	\$ 109,292

Explanation: To adjust for expenditures originally posted to federal funds and found to be ineligible for reimbursement

	A9060.800-00-0000	Original Budget	\$ 25,450,000
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	Revised Budget with Transfer	\$	24,505,726
	Transfers In	\$	-
	Transfers Out	\$	1,604,886
	Expended & Encumbered	\$	20,579,823
	Balance before Transfer	\$	3,265,291
	Percent Used (Original Budget)		80.86%
	Percent Used (Revised Budget)		83.98%
A1621.462-00-0000	Original Budget	\$	65,000
	Revised Budget with Transfer	\$	209,804
	Transfers In	\$	-
	Transfers Out	\$	42,315
	Expended & Encumbered	\$	209,804
	Balance before Transfer	\$	(187,119)
	Percent Used (Original Budget)		322.78%
	Percent Used (Revised Budget)		100.00%
A1621.474-00-0000	Original Budget	\$	28,000
	Revised Budget with Transfer	\$	40,419
	Transfers In	\$	-
	Transfers Out	\$	21,333
	Expended & Encumbered	\$	40,419
	Balance before Transfer	\$	(33,752)
	Percent Used (Original Budget)		144.35%
	Percent Used (Revised Budget)		100.00%

Cont'd:

	A1621.504-00-0000	Original Budget	\$	100,000
		Revised Budget with Transfer	\$	610,736
		Transfers In	\$	9,276
		Transfers Out	\$	-
		Expended & Encumbered	\$	610,736
		Balance before Transfer	\$	(501,460)
		Percent Used (Original Budget)		610.74%
		Percent Used (Revised Budget)		100.00%
	A1621.544-00-0000	Original Budget	\$	35,000
		Revised Budget with Transfer	\$	88,090
		Transfers In	\$	24,802
		Transfers Out	\$	-
		Expended & Encumbered	\$	88,090
		Balance before Transfer	\$	(28,288)
		Percent Used (Original Budget)		251.69%
		Percent Used (Revised Budget)		100.00%
	A1621.549-00-0000	Original Budget	\$	25,000
		Revised Budget with Transfer	\$	62,012
		Transfers In	\$	15,492

		Transfers Out	\$ -
		Expended & Encumbered	\$ 62,012
		Balance before Transfer	\$ (21,520)
		Percent Used (Original Budget)	248.05%
		Percent Used (Revised Budget)	100.00%
	A1621.551-00-0000	Original Budget	\$ 220,000
		Revised Budget with Transfer	\$ 835,751
		Transfers In	\$ 552,908
		Transfers Out	\$ -
		Expended & Encumbered	\$ 835,750
		Balance before Transfer	\$ (62,843)
		Percent Used (Original Budget)	379.89%
		Percent Used (Revised Budget)	100.00%
	A9901.950-00-0000	Original Budget	\$ 200,000
		Revised Budget with Transfer	\$ 309,292
		Transfers In	\$ -
		Transfers Out	\$ -
		Expended & Encumbered	\$ 309,292
		Balance before Transfer	\$ (109,292)
		Percent Used (Original Budget)	154.65%
		Percent Used (Revised Budget)	100.00%

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. B – 21**

**SUBJECT:**

**Disposal of Obsolete Instructional Resources**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to dispose of obsolete instructional resources located at Kernan Elementary School.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT:**

**Retirements**

It is recommended that the following retirements be accepted:

Kelvin Haden

Security Monitor  
Donovan Middle School  
Effective: October 11, 2023  
Years of Service: 35

Joanne Aughe

Teacher Assistant – Special Education  
Kennedy Middle School  
Effective: October 5, 2023  
Years of Service: 31

Sandra Mahar

Bus Monitor  
Effective: October 13, 2023  
Years of Service: 30

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT: Resignation Teacher**

It is recommended that the following resignation be accepted:

Ammie Clark  
Special Education Teacher  
Jefferson Elementary School  
Effective: November 12, 2023  
Reason: Accepted position outside the  
Utica City School District  
Notification Received: October 12, 2023

**FOR ACTION: Volume LVIII Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT: Resignation Teacher Assistant**

It is recommended that the following resignation be accepted:

Briana Marlenga  
Teacher Assistant – Special Education  
Jefferson Elementary  
Effective: October 13, 2023  
Reason: Personal  
Notification Received: October 13, 2023

**FOR ACTION: Volume LVIII Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT: Resignations Clerical**

It is recommended that the following resignations be accepted:

Danielle Giovinazzo  
Typist (10-months)  
Albany Elementary School  
Effective: October 25, 2023  
Reason: Accepted Office Specialist  
position within the Utica City School District  
Notification Received: October 18, 2023

Gianna Iacone  
Confidential Secretary to Chief Human Resources Officer  
Human Resources Department  
Effective: October 27, 2023  
Reason: Accepted position outside the  
Utica City School District  
Notification Received: October 11, 2023

Mandy Mroz  
Secretary to Chief Accountability Officer  
Accountability Office  
Effective: October 25, 2023  
Reason: Accepted position outside the  
Utica City School District  
Notification Received: October 13, 2023

**FOR ACTION: Volume LVIII Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT: Resignations Transportation**

It is recommended that the following resignations be accepted:

Charmaine Rosado                      Bus Driver  
Effective: October 30, 2023  
Reason: Personal  
Notification Received: October 16, 2023

James Watkins                      Bus Monitor  
Effective: October 26, 2023  
Reason: Personal  
Notification Received: October 16, 2023

**FOR ACTION:**                      **Volume LVIII**                      **Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT:**                      **Terminations**

It is recommended that the following terminations be approved:

Sandra Moses                      Food Monitor – Breakfast and Lunch Program  
District-Wide – not to exceed 35 hours per week  
Effective: October 16, 2023

Faith Turczyn                      Bus Driver  
District-Wide  
Effective: October 11, 2023

**FOR ACTION:**                      **Volume LVIII**                      **Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT:**                      **Changes of Assignment**                      **Transportation**

It is recommended that the following changes of assignment be approved:

Marlene Mendoza                      From: Substitute Monitor  
To: School Monitor (Bus)  
Salary: \$16.32 per hour  
Effective: Retroactively on September 19, 2023

Elisa Ramirez-Duarte                      From: Substitute Monitor  
To: School Monitor (Bus)  
Salary: \$16.32 per hour  
Effective: Retroactively on September 19, 2023

**FOR ACTION:**                      **Volume LVIII**                      **Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT:**                      **Change of Assignment**                      **Custodial/Maintenance**

It is recommended that the following change of assignment be approved:

Alfred Wehrle                      From: Assistant Custodian  
To: Custodian (Permanent)  
District-Wide  
Salary: \$30.13 per hour  
Effective: October 23, 2023

Mr. Wehrle passed the examination for this classification and appears on the Certified List for Custodian from the Utica Civil Service Commission.

**FOR ACTION:** **Volume LVIII** **Report No. P – 17**  
**SUBJECT:** **Change of Assignment** **Food Service/Monitor**

It is recommended that the following change of assignment be approved:

Amira Dizdarevic  
From: Food Service Worker 1-Breakfast and Lunch Program District-Wide – not to exceed 35 hours per week  
To: Monitor Breakfast and Lunch Program – not to exceed 35 hours per week  
Effective: October 30, 2023  
Salary: \$17.34 per hour

**FOR ACTION:** **Volume LVIII** **Report No. P – 17**  
**SUBJECT:** **Unpaid Leaves of Absence** **Teacher**

It is recommended that the following unpaid of leaves of absence be approved:

Amanda Faccioli  
Grade 2 Teacher – Conkling Elementary School  
From: October 25, 2023  
To: December 12, 2023  
Reason: Personal  
Notification Received: October 11, 2023

Judith Piccione  
English Teacher – Kennedy Middle School  
From: November 27, 2023  
To: December 15, 2023  
Reason: Personal  
Notification Received: October 6, 2023

Courtney Rahn  
Grade 1 Teacher – Kernan Elementary School  
From: October 31, 2023  
To: November 17, 2023  
Reason: Family  
Notification Received: October 13, 2023

Emily Shene  
Spanish Teacher – Proctor High School  
From: October 13, 2023  
To: November 9, 2023  
Reason: Personal  
Notification Received: October 13, 2023

**FOR ACTION:** **Volume LVIII** **Report No. P – 17**  
**SUBJECT:** **Paid Administrative Leave**

It is hereby resolved, that the Board of Education hereby approves paid administrative leave for Renee O’Neill.

**FOR ACTION:** **Volume LVIII** **Report No. P – 17**  
**SUBJECT:** **Mentor/Mentee – Rescindment of Mentor**

It is recommended that the following rescindment of Mentor be approved:

<b><u>Mentor</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>School</u></b>	<b><u>Mentee</u></b>
Michael Pagliaro	Elementary Reading	Columbus	Marissa Brown

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT:**

**Mentors/Mentees for 2023-2024**

It is recommended that the following Mentors/Mentees for school year 2023-2024 be approved:

<b><u>Mentee/New Teacher</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>School</u></b>	<b><u>Mentor</u></b>
Sara L. Fairbairn	Special Education	Hughes	Jillian Testa
Ronald Klopfanstein	English Language Arts	Kennedy	Melissa Mariotti
Andrea Judycki	Special Education	Kernan	Kristen Joy
Traci McClendon	Special Education	Hughes	Dina Fernald
Jeneva Taylor	Special Education	Jefferson	Kimberly Shackett
Marissa Brown	Elementary Reading	Columbus	Lynda Lloyd
Kristen Reese	Special Education – SS	Proctor	Alexis Holmer

Salary:

Prorated at \$700.00 per school year

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT:**

**Resolution for Probationary Appointment  
Phung Hoang – Teacher Assistant**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, that Phung Hoang, who possesses Level I Teaching Assistant certification issued by the Commissioner of Education, is appointed to the position of Teacher Assistant commencing retroactively on October 3, 2023. Phung Hoang’s salary shall be \$18.36 per hour as set by the collective bargaining agreement between the Utica City School District and SEIU.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT:**

**Resolution for Probationary Appointment  
Patricia McComb – Teacher Assistant**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, that Patricia McComb, who possesses Level I Teaching Assistant certification issued by the Commissioner of Education, is appointed to the position of Teacher Assistant commencing October 11, 2023. Patricia McComb’s salary shall be \$18.36 per hour as set by the collective bargaining agreement between the Utica City School District and SEIU.



**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT:**

**Resolution for Per Diem Substitutes**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, that the following individuals are appointed to serve as per diem Substitute Teachers at \$100.00 per day, effective immediately:

- Isabella Blake
- Emma Fasolo
- Isak Kulalic

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT:**

**Resolution for Appointment of Accountant –  
Mark Bono**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Utica City School District ("District") Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, hereby appoints Mark Bono to the provisional position of Accountant, pending a valid civil service list of eligibles following examination, at an annual salary of \$85,000 (prorated).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to oversee the preparation of a written terms and conditions agreement reflecting Mr. Bono's terms and conditions of employment within the position of Accountant.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT:**

**Resolution for Appointment of Office Specialist –  
Danielle Giovinazzo**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Utica City School District ("District") Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, hereby appoints Danielle Giovinazzo to the provisional position of Office Specialist, pending a valid civil service list of eligibles following examination, at an annual salary of \$56,000 (prorated).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to oversee the preparation of a written terms and conditions agreement reflecting Ms. Giovinazzo's terms and conditions of employment within the position of Office Specialist.

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT:**

**Appointments**

**Homebound Instruction**

It is recommended that the following Homebound Instruction appointments be approved:

- Emily Congdon
- Jacqueline Rueckert
- Andrea Wilson
- Michele Wyborski

Secondary Instruction – Minimum three (3) hours per day  
 Elementary Instruction – Minimum two (2) hours per day

Salary:

\$40.00 per hour per UTA Contract

<b><u>FOR ACTION:</u></b>	<b>Volume LVIII</b>	<b>Report No. P – 17</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Appointment</b>	<b>Extra-Curricular Music</b>

It is recommended that the following appointment be approved:

Jared McFarlin	Elementary Chorus Kernan Elementary School Effective: 2023-2024 School Year Index: \$1,311
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<b><u>FOR ACTION:</u></b>	<b>Volume LVIII</b>	<b>Report No. P – 17</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Appointments</b>	<b>Volunteer Coaches – Winter 2023-2024</b>

It is recommended that the following volunteer coach appointments be approved:

Joe Leo	Boys Jr. Varsity/Varsity Basketball Proctor High School Effective: Winter 2023-2024 sport season
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Angelina Mancuso	Girls Modified Basketball Donovan Middle School Effective: Winter 2023-2024 sport season
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<b><u>FOR ACTION:</u></b>	<b>Volume LVIII</b>	<b>Report No. P – 17</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Appointments</b>	<b>Food Service/Monitor</b>

It is recommended that the following appointments be accepted:

Erlinda Franco Mancilla 49 Emerson Ave. Utica NY 13501	Monitor-Breakfast and Lunch Program District-Wide – not to exceed 35 hours per week Effective: October 30, 2023 Salary: \$16.32 per hour Education: Graduated 2000, Simon Bolivar School, Arauca, Colombia Experience: 2003-2008, PAR, Analyst; 2008-2014, Insurance Broker; Utica City School District, Utica, NY, Sub Monitor-Breakfast and Lunch Program May 15, 2023 to present
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Cerima Latic  
1013 Culver Ave.  
Utica NY 13501

Monitor-Breakfast and Lunch Program  
District-Wide – not to exceed 35 hours per week  
Effective: October 30, 2023  
Salary: \$16.32 per hour  
Education: Graduated 1997, Bosnia High School, Bosnia  
Experience: 2009-2022, Weston Foods, Quality Control & Packer;  
Utica City School District, Utica, NY, Sub Monitor-Breakfast and Lunch  
Program  
May 15, 2023 to present

Heily Concepcion  
1411 Howard Ave.  
Utica NY 13501

Monitor-Breakfast and Lunch Program  
District-Wide – not to exceed 35 hours per week  
Effective: October 30, 2023  
Salary: \$16.32 per hour  
Education: GED, 2022  
Experience: 2022-2023, Masonic Home, Resident Aide; Utica City School  
District, Utica, NY, Sub Monitor-Breakfast and Lunch Program May 15,  
2023 to present

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT:**

**Appointment**

**Food Service/Monitor**

It is recommended that the following appointment be accepted:

Gersy Santana Deconcepcion  
1411 Howard Ave.  
Utica NY 13501

Monitor-Breakfast and Lunch Program  
District-Wide – not to exceed 35 hours per week  
Effective: October 30, 2023  
Salary: \$16.32 per hour  
Education: Graduated 2001, Dominican Republic  
Experience: 2014 to present, Resource Center for  
Independent Living (RCIL), Caretaker; Utica City School  
District, Utica, NY, Sub Monitor-Breakfast and Lunch Program  
May 15, 2023 to present

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT:**

**Re-call for Bus Driver**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to recall the following sub bus driver to their position, effective October 25, 2023:

<u>Sub Bus Driver:</u>	<u>Salary:</u>
Dariem Gomez Alcantara	\$20.50 per hour

**FOR ACTION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. P – 17**

**SUBJECT:**

**Re-call for Bus Monitor**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to recall the following bus monitor to their position, effective October 25, 2023.

Bus Monitor:                      Salary:  
Junior Jimenez Castillo              \$16.32 per hour

**FOR ACTION:**                                      **Volume LVIII**                                      **Report No. P – 17**  
**SUBJECT:**    **Conference**

It is recommended that the following conference be approved:

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>CONFERENCE</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
Sharon Ellison	NYS TESOL Annual Conference Albany, NY Approved by: S. Falchi & E. Gerling Allotted: \$319.00 from Budget Code: A2070-400-00-0000 Substitute Required	November 3, 2023

**FOR INFORMATION:**                                      **Volume LVIII**                                      **Report No. P – 18**  
**SUBJECT:**    **Abandonment of Position**                      **Food Service/Monitor**

It is recommended that the following abandonment of position be accepted:

Jaylen Rodriguez                                      Food Service Worker-Breakfast and Lunch Program  
District-Wide – not to exceed 35 hours per week  
Effective: October 2, 2023

**FOR INFORMATION:**                                      **Volume LVIII**                                      **Report No. P – 18**  
**SUBJECT:**    **Resignations**                                      **Security Officer**

It is recommended that the following resignations be accepted:

Peter Caruso    Security Officer  
District-Wide  
Effective: October 2, 2023  
Reason: Primary position with Utica Police Department  
Notification Received: October 2, 2023

Steven Gray    Security Officer  
District-Wide  
Effective: October 1, 2023  
Reason: Primary position with Utica Police Department  
Notification Received: October 2, 2023

Patrick Murphy    Security Officer  
District-Wide  
Effective: October 1, 2023  
Reason: Primary position with Utica Police Department

Notification Received: October 2, 2023

Vincent Parrotta

Security Officer  
District-Wide  
Effective: October 2, 2023  
Reason: Primary position with Utica Police Department  
Notification Received: October 2, 2023

Shawn Ruddy

Security Officer  
District-Wide  
Effective: October 1, 2023  
Reason: Primary position with Utica Police Department  
Notification Received: October 2, 2023

Reginald Sanders

Security Officer  
District-Wide  
Effective: October 2, 2023  
Reason: Primary position with Utica Police Department  
Notification Received: October 2, 2023

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. P – 18**

**SUBJECT:**

**Resignations**

**Security Officer**

It is recommended that the following resignations be accepted:

Eric Scorzafava

Security Officer  
District-Wide  
Effective: October 2, 2023  
Reason: Primary position with Utica Police Department  
Notification Received: October 2, 2023

Pernell Wadley

Security Officer  
District-Wide  
Effective: October 1, 2023  
Reason: Primary position with Utica Police Department  
Notification Received: October 2, 2023

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. P – 18**

**SUBJECT:**

**Resignation**

**Security**

It is recommended that the following resignation be accepted:

Dominica Palmer

Security Monitor  
District-Wide  
Effective: October 10, 2023  
Reason: Personal  
Notification Received: October 16, 2023

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**Volume LVIII**

**Report No. P – 18**

**SUBJECT: Rescindment of Resignation Food Service**

It is recommended that the following rescindment of resignation be accepted:

Deanna DiBrango  
Food Monitor – Lunch Program  
Proctor High School  
Effective: August 23, 2023  
Notification Received: October 16, 2023

**FOR INFORMATION: Volume LVIII Report No. P – 18**

**SUBJECT: Unpaid Leave of Absence Food Service**

It is recommended that the following unpaid leave of absence be approved:

Deanna DiBrango  
Food Monitor – Lunch Program  
Proctor High School  
From: August 23, 2023  
To: June 30, 2024  
Reason: Personal  
Notification Received: September 21, 2023

**FOR INFORMATION: Volume LVIII Report No. P – 18**

**SUBJECT: Unpaid Leave of Absence Security Monitor**

It is recommended that the following unpaid leave of absence be approved:

Roquan Caban  
School Monitor (Security) – Proctor High School  
From: September 13, 2023  
To: November 3, 2023  
Reason: Medical  
Notification Received: September 21, 2023

**Mr. Cardillo made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and seconded by Mr. Cooper.**

There being no further discussion, **motion approved 7-0.**

**THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**THIS CONCLUDES THE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT IN ITS ENTIRETY.**

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### **Student Discipline**

**Student #1**

**Mr. Cardillo made a motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Padula**

President Hobika, Jr. conducted a roll call vote for one of the following; Uphold, Modify or Overturn for Student #1 as follows:

Mr. Cardillo	Modify to 1-year suspension
Mrs. Knoop	Modify to 1-year suspension
President Hobika, Jr.	Modify to 1-year suspension
Mrs. Padula	Uphold
Mr. Dawes	Uphold
Mr. Cooper	Modify to 1-year suspension
Mr. Paul	Modify to 1-year suspension

**There being no further discussion; motion to Modify to 1-year suspension carried 5-2.**

## **Student #2**

**Mr. Cardillo made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Padula.**

President Hobika, Jr. conducted a roll call vote for one of the following; Uphold, Modify or Overturn for Student #2 as follows:

Mr. Cardillo	Modify to 1-year suspension
Mrs. Knoop	Uphold
President Hobika, Jr.	Uphold
Mrs. Padula	Uphold
Mr. Dawes	Uphold
Mr. Cooper	Modify to 1-year suspension
Mr. Paul	Modify to 1-year suspension

**There being no further discussion; motion to uphold discipline carried 4-3.**

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### **Reports of the Special Committees**

#### **BOCES Report – President Joseph Hobika, Jr.**

President Hobika, Jr.: I attended the BOCES meeting. There are always very lively discussions about all kinds of issues and you have to really be a Board nerd to love them as much as I do, or just a nerd. There is nothing really I have specific to report about it. I do just want to mention that I did attend it and they are excellent board meetings if you ever have the opportunity to attend them.

#### **BOCES Executive Board – Jason Cooper**

Mr. Cooper: We have not met again since the last time I spoke I have nothing to report back.

President Hobika, Jr.: Would you like to share with us your experience on dealing with the NYSSBA resolutions?

Mr. Cooper: So, by my colleagues I was graciously voted in as the delegate of our Board to represent for New York State School Board Association. Last week I joined a live zoom with representatives and delegates across the state, over 220 of us to vote on resolutions for legislation to have NYSSBA basically advocate for school boards across the state at upcoming legislation meetings. I am as much a school board nerd as I can be, the zoom lasted 8 hours. It was quite insightful.

Mrs. Padula: What time did it start?

Mr. Cooper: It started at 4:00 and we finished at 5 of midnight. I will say I was in it to win it. In for the long run. I represented Utica and I was glad to say that we had a quorum of the requirement throughout the entire 8 hours, which is great. We were able to work through every piece of legislation and have a vote conducted on that.

Mrs. Padula: Great job.

President Hobika, Jr.: I've done it for 3 years. Thank you for doing that for us. It is important I know that people don't really appreciate it.

#### **Audit/Finance/Grant/Insurance Committee – Donald Dawes/ Joseph Hobika, Jr./Tennille Knoop**

President Hobika, Jr.: We have had multiple audit and finance committee meetings. We have been spending a lot of time on audit and finance. A lot of meetings. We are dealing with the external auditors, the internal auditors, various issues with regard to guardrails, contracts, bidding. We spent a lot of time getting explanations that only accounting nerds and people that understand the intricacies of school district finance guided by the General, Dr. Davis and we spend a lot of time working on those and I can tell you we've had more meetings on the audit and finance committee since July than I think since I've been on this Board for 6 years. We are learning a lot of issues and I am very confident that moving forward and we will report all this stuff to you at one point, moving forward we are going to be in tremendous financial shape in terms of guide rails and things like that. I can't predict the future, I'm hopeful we are going to be in good financial shape into the future.

#### **Capital Projects/Buildings & Grounds/Health & Safety Committee – Danielle Padula/Donald Dawes/Robert Cardillo**

Mrs. Padula: We haven't met. Dr. Davis did send a list of calendar dates. I was thinking we could meet every 2 months or every other month. Something like that. If you just want to look at something like that and send it to us. Thank you.

#### **Career & Technical Education (CTE) – Danielle Padula/Tennille Knoop/Jason Cooper**

Mrs. Padula: I attended zoom but we had a beautiful presentation this month, with what you all saw tonight with the wonderful 3D drawings and the videos. I can't thank you enough and your whole team for everything that you're doing and you are traveling a lot and its tedious but you basically saw what we saw. Then we have the Blue-Ribbon Task Force meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> so we are excited for that.

Mrs. Knoop: This is just a great program. The amount of work that goes into it is incredible when you see it. It's something that I think the community is going to be so excited about once everything comes to light and they see the dynamics around this. Its definitely something you need, this meeting. Jason, Danielle, and I can't stop talking about it because we are so excited about our students and the fact that they and the fact that they're already experiencing this and they go to places like Indium Corp. and those organizations get to meet our students. They always say one of the best ways that we can break the cycle of this fear and this whole reservation that people have behind want you to get is because they don't know our students. Once they actually get to know our students and they talk to them and they have a conversation, it breaks barriers, it breaks misconceptions. So, the fact that we already have organizations doing that and they're seeing how wonderful our kids are and we know it now other people are beginning to see not only are they seeing that, they want that, they can't wait to come on board, to be in our school and to work with these students. That also has a lot to do with you, Michelle, because you take that and you reach out to these programs and talk to them directly and communicate with them and create these bridges and create these things like them going to SUNY Poly and eating in the cafeteria. So, they're not just going to SUNY Poly and just having this experience and seeing everything there, but they're having the real college experience, which is, besides going to check out things, they're looking at the cafeteria where they get to learn to pick their own food. They get to do that where we might just look at that and say, OK, it holds a lot of weight for a student to go in there and have options and choices and something as significant as walking on a campus, experiencing or eating lunch in the dining hall, it does something. And that's what we want our students to have. We want them to realize so much of the



college aspect, the career aspect, so everything that's going into the CTE, it's going to change the game for our students, but not only for our students to our community, the businesses that are in this community and our teachers, because even our teachers are invested in this and are excited to see different ways that we can teach. Different ways that they can get involved. It comes together and it's really bringing everyone together. Once it comes, you can actually see it come full circle. I can't wait for that dynamic and I can't thank you guys enough. It is one of our most exciting Not that audit and finance is not exciting, but it's great.

Mrs. Padula: It's definitely a feel-good meeting. I don't know if they'll always be that great, but it's really exciting right now. I'm sure when the ground breaks and you're getting through all your approvals it'll be a different conversation but it's definitely a very proud moment.

Mr. Cardillo: Can I say something real quick? I met with some of the people from the buildings and trades unions. They are very excited about it. I'm going to tell you why. They look at it from a little different perspective. It's called jobs. They can't find enough people and they're very clear about that. This is going to be something that our young kids can come out and not just get a job, because they make good money in these projects. I was very, very impressed. They were impressed with the fact that we're doing it, but they were all on excited. Matter of fact, one of the fellows talked to Dr. Davis had reached out, the Carpenters Union, they're really excited and I think that's a great thing for our kids, wonderful thing for our kids. So, thank you.

President Hobika, Jr.: One of the things they were talking about is trying to do some kind of intern program while the construction was taking place.

Mr. Cardillo: Internships too. It would be a wonderful thing.

#### **PEAC Committee – Donald Dawes /James Paul/ Jason Cooper**

Mr. Dawes: We haven't met yet but I am trying to set something up I talked our athletic director and he asked me to hold off this week because of sectionals and for those of that don't know we have a football team boys soccer team.

Mrs. Padula: Soccer plays tonight right? It's 1 nothing at the half.

President Hobika, Jr.: We're up?

Mr. Dawes: We're up yeah. We are going to look at trying to get together next week. We have a couple of issues that we need to address and then maybe we can set up a schedule for the rest of the year after I meet with them.

President Hobika, Jr.: The doctor is very good at sending out emails with schedules in them. All you have to do is ask and your whole year will be scheduled.

Mr. Dawes: It's getting those coaches to get together that is going to be hard.

#### **Policy Committee – Tennille Knoop/Robert Cardillo/Joseph Hobika, Jr.**

President Hobika, Jr.: I have to say I enjoy the Policy Committee and the discussions almost as much as Tennille and Danielle, like the Communications Committee meetings. We have some lively discussion over a lot of different things that really materially affect the students and the district employees and teachers. I know it's hard to imagine that sometimes there can be some pretty lively debate over things, but it really does take place and we have probably two meetings a month I think, because we're digging through how many years was it, 13 years of not really keeping things up to speed. We're doing things one section at a time. Hopefully by the end of the year we'll have covered everything and then we'll just be making minor tweaks. Very excited about that, I really am.

#### **Code of Conduct – James Paul/Danielle Padula/Jason Cooper**

Mr. Paul: We have not met, something came up. We had to cancel that meeting, postpone it rather. Our next meeting is scheduled for November 7th at 5:00 PM.

#### **Communications, Equity and Outreach – Danielle Padula/Tennille Knoop/James Paul**

Mrs. Knoop: We had our communications meeting last week. I don't see any of the AV coordinators that were there. It was a really interesting meeting. We hashed out a lot of interesting details to go basically past December. We discussed a lot of things that we want to see in our buildings. The constant push for communication. In a school of this size, we're never going

to be on top of communications, it's impossible. But at this point, getting all the communications out, we're looking at every avenue that we can do. We're also looking to flood our channels, our media, everything, with all the amount of positive things that are happening in Utica schools. We get hit every which way. They're going to find any little piece to come at us and to breakdown our students and to breakdown our teachers and to breakdown our bus drivers and anything that you can think of when it comes to our school. People can't wait to hit. Our component is we're going to hit back. We're going to flood with so much positive information, so you don't have a choice but to see all of the amazing things that go on. For so long our Utica district, as parents, as teachers, we've become our own kind of entity. We lean on each other. The outside comes at us all the time. But guess what we all know together, they're missing, they're misled. They don't know half of the things that go on. We're the best kept secret inside and let them judge. Let them say what they like. We know what we have, I've taking that approach for a long time. So, we want to use our communication platform. To take to the Airways and show you every dynamic of what's going on, and that's a lot. We reach out to every teacher in every school and every administrator here and every committee that we have going on. It is impossible, there's not enough time in the day or enough outlets to show you everything that goes on in this school for our students and all the work that goes in for our students. So, we're trying to come up with different approaches and ways to see that. You've seen that through videos that are going out. You've seen that through Dr. Davis's newsletter that were going out in the beginning of the year. We've reached out to all the AV coordinators. Also, starting with last year, we have a wonderful media program at Proctor High School. If anybody's ever had the chance to see it, it's remarkable. Full television studios down there, screens. This isn't just a camera set that's working down there. This is a live performance that happens every morning, adults aren't running this. We have magnificent teachers who've shown up and that are there and they pilot this. They are in the background. They are there to give kids help when they need it, to boost their self-esteem, when they're a little bit nervous to be in front of the camera and move it. This is like a full WKTV set. If you go down there with all dynamics, they're pushing buttons, they're controlling audio, somebody's rolling the script. It's phenomenal what goes into that. Last year we brought that too into JFK and that's about to start rolling. We want to see that off the ground. We want to take that and begin to feed that. We were looking at Donovan as well, how we can bring that into both middle schools as well. Jefferson is one of our elementary schools that has the same and it begins with the morning program where students get in front of the camera and talk to their entire school and it's streamed across the dynamic, we want to continue that. We also want schools to have their own personality, so we're looking for everyone to come forward. What do you need? How can we communicate? Show us everything that you're doing, send it to us so we can show our parents and our community and everyone else what we stand for and what we are. You've got a lot of things going on in our communications. It's a great, fantastic group. We're always open to share all kinds of things. It was supposed to be a shortcoming. In meeting this week, we promised only an hour, but when everybody gets together and these are teachers that are there, they're tired, they've worked all day. I shouldn't say they don't want to be there, but of course they want to come to the communication meeting, but they're also tired at the end of the day. They also have lesson plans to do. So, I promise just an hour we'll get through it. That meeting was far, far past an hour because the teachers and the AV coordinators have so much what they want to see how we can get it together. So, we're busy working on all those dynamics and we always love to hear from you. If you ever have any ideas on things you want to see, reach out. Send an e-mail to Kathy Hughes, our Board Clerk if the community members have something they want to see, so communication meetings are always lively and busy. It's one of my favorite ones too.

President Hobika, Jr.: Anyone else have anything to say about the communication committee? If you're looking for someone to start some videos, I'm more than happy to free up some time.

Mrs. Padula: I'll propose that at the next meeting.






**Financial Report  
None**



**Approval of Minutes**

**Mr. Cardillo made a motion to approve the following minutes; seconded by Mr. Paul.**

-  September 18, 2023 – Special Meeting
-  September 26 ,2023 – Special Meeting
-  September 26,2023 – Regular Meeting

There being no further discussion; **motion carried 7-0.**

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**Continuing Business**

**Mr. Paul made a motion to reschedule the November and December Regular Board Meetings and it was seconded by Mrs. Padula.**

Reschedule Board of Education November 21, 2023 and December 26, 2023 Meeting Dates to:

- 🗳️ November 14, 2023
- 🗳️ December 19, 2023

There being no further discussion; motion passes 7-0.

Mrs. Knoop: Can you give us an update on the 411-system Will students be able to access them on an app without a card, with their phone. I know that we are waiting on an iPhone,

Mr. Ferraro: So, they have the Android portion all set. They're still working with Apple to verify the ID's. They're still in beta mode.

Mrs. Knoop: Do we have a timeline or anything that they're coming back with?

Mr. Ferraro: I reached out to them to them today. I'm waiting for them to get back to me.

Mrs. Knoop: Ok thank you.

President Hobika, Jr.: I think it's great that Android already has that in place.

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**New Business**

President Hobika, Jr.: We are going to be having a special meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup> and that will be at 5:00.

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**Communication**  
None

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**Adjournment**

**Mrs. Knoop made a motion to adjourn the October 24, 2023, Regular Meeting; seconded by Mr. Cardillo.**

**The October Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**

There being no further discussion; **motion carried 7-0.**

Respectfully transcribed and submitted,

STEPHANIE LYNESS  
Assistant Board Clerk