

**UNITED TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 30
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
March 9, 2026**

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

President Dr. Giovanna Davila 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, Matt Hutchins, James Hood, Shannon Miller, and Matt Wright

2. Consent Calendar

a. Approval of Minutes

- 1) Open Session Minutes – February 9, 2026
- 2) Executive Session Minutes – February 9, 2026
- 3) Open Session Minutes – February 20, 2026
- 4) Executive Session Minutes – February 20, 2026

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. Approve request to work with Streamline Architects on second floor west flooring and classroom refresh project, as presented (BP 2:20; BP 4:60; BP 4:150)

e. Approve IHSA Membership for the 2026-2027 School Year

f. Approve Curriculum Writing Project for Consumer Education as presented (BP 2:20; BP 6:40; BP 6:60)

g. Freedom of Information Act Report (BP 2:250)

MOTION by Chris DeCock and second by Susan Koska to approve the Consent Calendar, as presented. A roll call vote was called with all members present voting aye. There was no opposition to the motion – motion passed.

3. Hearing of Visitors (BP 2:230)

None.

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

Mr. Matt Wright reported Chelsea Clearman's class submitted pieces to the Fright Club Creative writing contest sponsored by Young Writers. All pieces submitted by those students were selected for publication. A complimentary copy of the book will be given to the district library.

Mr. Wright introduced Jace Thurman (senior) and Isabelle Hoffman (junior), participants in the American Choral Directors Association Midwest Honor Choir in February. Dr. Juliet

Minard explained the process for being selected for this festival in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Both students shared about the audition process, rehearsals, and performances. The Board congratulated all the students on their successes.

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

Dr. Morrow shared thank you notes from the Thurman family for the district's support of the arts; from the Karenke family for condolences at the passing of Gary Karenke; and from the Whiteman family for condolences at the passing of David Whiteman.

6. Unfinished Business

None.

7. Student BOE Liaison Report (Bashara Sherif / Husna Kadri)

Mr. Bashara Sherif reported regarding vaping in student restrooms. He noted student supervisors are not always able to intervene in a timely manner because they do not directly receive the vaping alerts from the HALO system. He recommends installing vaping detectors in all bathrooms and directing vaping notifications to student supervisors first.

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

a. 8th Grade Transition Process – 9th Grade on Track: Mr. Matt Hutchins, Assistant Principal – Counseling, shared the process for transitioning the incoming freshman students from the partner districts. He noted many individuals are involved in building the pathway toward student success as they begin their high school career.

b. Psychology Club Proposal: Mr. Wright reviewed the activity proposal process for a new Psychology Club. Mrs. Heather Monson has agreed to be the staff sponsor. The students have met the first six requirements in the approval process. Students participating in this club would be able to ride the after-school activity bus.

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

a. Request approval of bid for improvements to roofs #24, #25, and #26 (Pool): Ms. Roome presented the bids received on the pool roof overlays, replacement, and repairs project. The bid was projected at \$1,150,000 to do a full tear off and replacement. Dr. Morrow noted the technology in repair and construction has resulted in cost savings. Ms. Roome noted the higher expected cost remains budgeted in the event of unforeseen expenses.

b. Request approval of the tentative 2025-26 UTHS District 30 Amended Budget: Ms. Roome reviewed the changes for the FY26 budget, primarily in federal grant receipts and matching expenses. A change in best practices in accounting for leases is reflected in the budget though there is no actual dollar change. Some salary and benefit adjustments are recommended to account for staffing changes occurring before the end of the fiscal year. The budget is available for review on the district website and in the Administrative office. The final amended budget will be presented for approval in June.

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

a. Legislative Update: Dr. Morrow brought two bills to the attention of the Board. The first bill is the world language requirement for all students effective the 2028 school year. Legislation is being considered that would provide an opt-out for students. The second bill is one that would allow unemployment benefits during school breaks for education support personnel. Passage of this legislation would cost the district approximately \$400,000 annually.

11. Committee Reports (BP 2:150)

Pool Board: Ms. Roome reported the city of East Moline has posted the Pool Manager position. The current pool manager resigned effective May 1.

United Education Foundation: Ms. Koska reported fund-raising is underway for the Academic Achievement Awards.

IASB Blackhawk Division: Ms. Stevenson reported the resolution committee is reviewing 150 different position resolutions to see what should be eliminated from the platform.

12. BLANKET MOTION

- a. Accept the base bid proposal from Economy Roofing Insulating Co., Bettendorf, Iowa, for \$693,800, as presented (BP 2:20; BP 4:60; BP 4:150)
- b. Adopt the tentative amended budget for 2025-26 for United Township High School District 30, as presented (BP 2:20; BP 4:10)

MOTION by Debra Stevenson and second by Luis Puentes to approve the Blanket Motion, as presented. A roll call vote was called with all members present voting aye. There was no opposition to the motion – motion passed.

The Board discussed the use of the HALO detection system in restrooms, and how to improve the ability of staff to respond to vaping alerts. The administration will work with Student Services to help reduce response times to alerts.

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 representatives or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees
 - 3) 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9) Student Discipline

MOTION by Sue Ickes and second by Jami Gonzalez to convene Executive Session for the topics presented. A roll call vote was called with all members present voting aye. There was no opposition to the motion – motion passed.

Time: 7:07 p.m.

Note: The Board took a break from 7:07 p.m. to 7:17 p.m.

- b. Return to Open Session

MOTION by Debra Stevenson and second by Jami Gonzalez to return to open session. A roll call vote was called with all members present voting aye. There was no opposition to the motion – motion passed.

Time: 7:43 p.m.

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

CLASSIFIED

1. Employ Patricia Alvarado as full-time special services paraprofessional (9-months, 7 hours per day - replace Alexia Downey), at \$24.41 per hour (Paraprofessional Classified Salary Schedule, Lane FY26, Contract Year 1), pending completion of background check results.
2. Approve Delfina (Chocos) Tapia as seasonal painter assistant, at \$16.00 per hour, effective March 10, 2026.
3. Employ Maria Isabel Tapia Montoya as a substitute paraprofessional, at \$24.41 per hour, pending completion of background check results.
4. Employ Gloria Rivera as part-time Cafeteria employee (5-hours per day – replace Ryan LaMar), at \$16.13 per hour (2025-2026 Entry-Level rate), pending completion of background check results.
5. Employ Heather Canaday as part-time Cafeteria employee (4-hours per day – replace Karen Pierce), at \$16.13 per hour (2025-2026 Entry-Level rate), pending completion of background check results.
6. Accept resignation from Sung Par as bilingual paraprofessional, effective May 29, 2026.

CERTIFIED

1. Accept resignation from Elizabeth Tepen, Librarian, effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year.
2. Approve Elanah Harris as a girls' track volunteer coach, effective the 2025-2026 season:
3. Approve Cathy Anderson as varsity girls assistant track coach, at \$5,378, effective the 2025-2026 season.
4. Accept resignation from Brandi LaFontaine as sophomore girls' basketball assistant coach effective the end of the 2025-2026 season.
5. Accept resignation from Mark Webber, special education teacher, effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year.
6. Reassign Jill Sanders-Colgan from Title 1 Tutor, to Early Childhood Education instructor (Lane BA, Step 5 - \$59,888, TRS Tier 2 – replace Rose Hernandez), effective August 3, 2026.
7. Employ Yolanda Lira as Math teacher (Lane MA, Step 10 - \$79,531, TRS Tier 1 – replace Michelle Pustelnik), effective August 3, 2026.
8. Employ Katherine Wohrley as Math teacher (Lane BA, Step 3 - \$55,097, TRS Tier 2 – replace Deann Puebla), effective August 3, 2026.
9. Approve Mike Sherwood as Bass Fishing Club volunteer effective the 2025-2026 season.

10. Approve Cindy Abel as a substitute teacher, effective March 30, 2026.

MOTION by Susan Koska and second by Chris DeCock to approve Revised Personnel Recommendations, Classified numbers 1 to 6, and Certified numbers 1 to 10, as presented. A roll call vote was called with all members present voting aye. There was no opposition to the motion – motion passed.

14. **Board Hot Topics**

The Board discussed the IASB Division Meeting frequency schedule, asking if it is time to recommend fewer meeting dates each year.

15. **Other Matters**

Dr. Morrow shared his schedule during the upcoming spring break.

16. **Adjourn (BP 2:220)**

There being no further business brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned by acclamation. (Time: 7:49 p.m.)

Dr. Giovanna Davila, President

Jami Gonzalez, Secretary