

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING – NOVEMBER 27, 2023 – 4:00 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, Joseph Shields, Esq., Charles Symonds, Esq., Kathy Hughes

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President Hobika, Jr. called the Special Meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Board Clerk Kathy Hughes conducted roll call. All members of the Board of Education were present.

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Education contends that a purported employment contract with Mr. Karam is void and has asked a court to confirm the same and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to terminate its employment relationship with Superintendent Bruce Karam effective immediately.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Education resolves to terminate the employment of Superintendent of Schools Bruce Karam, effective immediately.

Moved by Mrs. Knoop; and seconded by Mrs. Padula.

President Hobika, Jr., Any discussion?

Mr. Dawes: Yeah, I'll discuss it. Again, I'll say this; that there is no, there have been charges against him, there have been no convictions. In this country, as far as I know, you're still innocent until proven guilty. He has court cases pending. I think we're putting ourselves at great risk by voting on this motion, and I will be voting against it.

President Hobika, Jr. asked for a roll call vote.

Mr. Cardillo	NO
Mr. Cooper	YES
Mr. Dawes	NO
Mr. Hobika, Jr.	YES
Mrs. Knoop	YES
Mrs. Padula	YES
Mr. Paul	YES

There being no further discussion; motion passes 5-2.

RESOLUTION APPOINTING INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Board of Education after due consideration, has determined that Acting Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathleen M. Davis has the necessary certification; has demonstrated the skills and experience which the board believes will serve the students and other constituents of the District well; and has determined that it's in the best interests of the District to appoint her to a position of Interim Superintendent of Schools for a term to begin on November 27, 2023 in accordance with a contract approved by the Board of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby appoints Dr. Kathleen M. Davis as Interim Superintendent of Schools of Utica City School District for a term to begin on November 27, 2023 subject to her taking the oath of office and filing it with the district clerk and further subject to Board approval of final written contract employment containing the relevant applicable benefits and other terms and conditions of employment for the Interim Superintendent of Schools.

Moved by Mrs. Knoop; and seconded by Mrs. Padula.

President Hobika, Jr.: Any discussion?

Mr. Dawes: Yeah, same, I'll say the same thing again. I don't consider what we did with Mr. Karam to be the right course of action. Dr. Davis does an excellent job. I think she's done very well. I'm very impressed with what she does, but I don't think this is the time to make her the Interim. I think she should stay where she is.

Mr. Paul: After our previous vote, this District does still need a Superintendent correct?

President Hobika, Jr.: That's correct.

Mr. Paul: So, this isn't about Dr. Davis, this is about filling the position, am I correct? We can't leave this District open.

President Hobika, Jr.: That's correct.

Mr. Paul: Ok, thank you.

President Hobika, Jr.: Any other discussion? We are going to do a roll call vote.

Mr. Cardillo	YES
Mr. Cooper	YES
Mr. Dawes	NO
Mr. Hobika, Jr.	YES
Mrs. Knoop	YES
Mrs. Padula	YES
Mr. Paul	YES

There being no further discussion; motion passes 6-1.

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Interim Superintendent Signs the Oath of Office Book

Dr. Davis signs the Oath of Office Book.



Superintendent's Report

Dr. Davis, Acting Superintendent presented the Superintendent's Report dated November 27, 2023 to the Board of Education for approval:

Dr. Davis: We have 3 items. We have a clinical experience agreement with Munson. We have a resolution for the settlement for the Bus Driver Unit, which we are working with Durham at this time. Then we have the authorization with Haylee Lallier, she is back from her leave, as treasurer, so she can sign checks with the bank.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

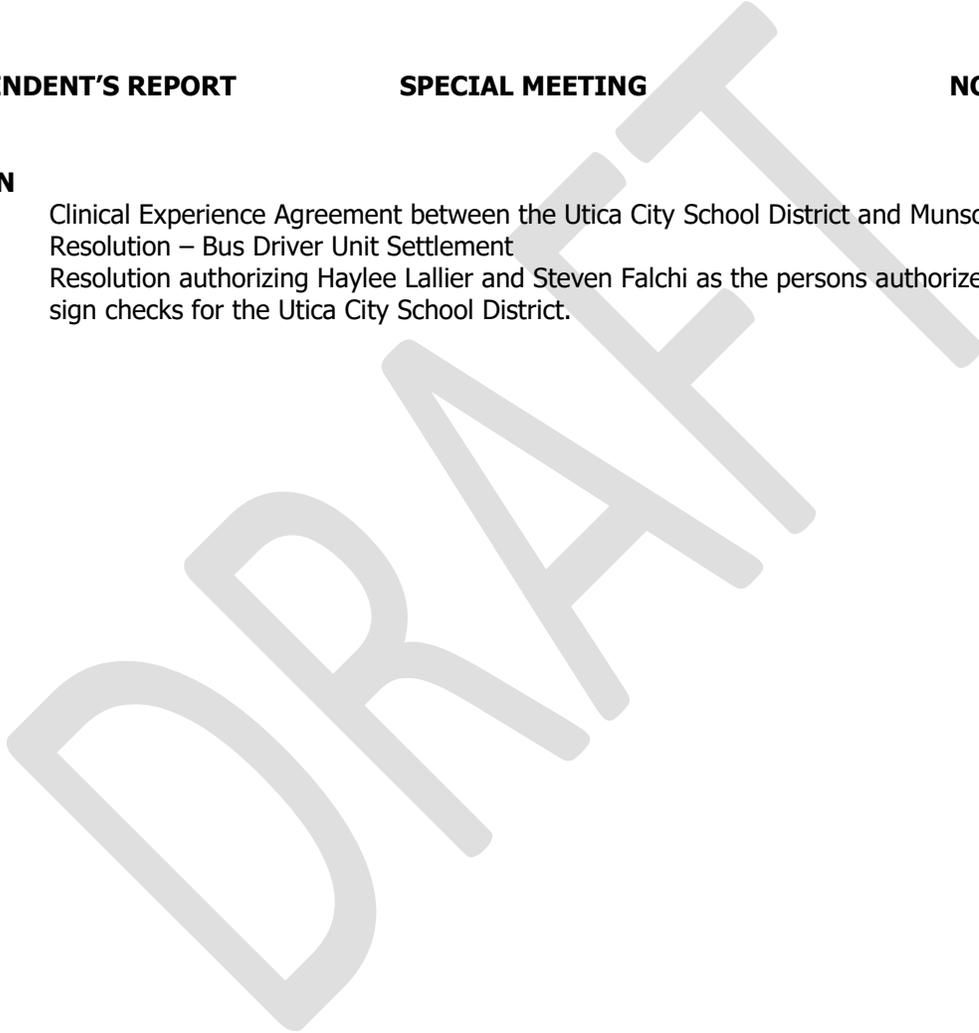
SPECIAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 27, 2023

FOR ACTION

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FOR ACTION:

Volume LVIII

Report No. S – 175

SUBJECT:

**Clinical Experience Agreement between the
Utica City School District and Munson**

Authorization is requested of the Board of Education to approve the Clinical Experience Agreement between the Utica City School District and Munson, effective November 27, 2023 through August 30, 2023.

FOR ACTION:

Volume LVIII

Report No. S – 176

SUBJECT:

Resolution – Bus Driver Unit Settlement

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the State Department of Motor Vehicles Bus Driver Unit ("Bus Driver Unit") submitted a "Statement of Charges and Offer of Settlement" dated November 15, 2023 alleging certain violations of Article 19-A of the Vehicle and Traffic Law by the Utica City School District ("School District") during the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years; and

WHEREAS, the Bus Driver Unit has agreed to settle such charges in exchange for payment of \$38,000.00;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School District's Board of Education (hereinafter, the "Board"), as follows:

1. That the Board authorizes the School District to remit payment of \$38,000.00 to the State Department of Motor Vehicle on or before the deadline for remittance of such payment.
2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Dated: November 27, 2023

District Clerk

FOR ACTION:

Volume LVIII

Report No. S – 177

SUBJECT:

Resolution authorizing Haylee Lallier and Steven Falchi as the persons authorized to sign checks for the Utica City School District

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

Resolution of Association or Club, Religious, Charitable or Educational Organization or Any Other Organization to Open Deposit Account and to Procure Loans

By: Utica City School District
929 York Street
Utica, NY 13502

Date: November 27, 2023

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED certify to the Bank of Utica, Utica New York that a meeting of the Utica City School District Board of Education held on the 27th day of November 2023, it was agreed that Bank of Utica be designated as a depository of this organization and that all checks, notes, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptances, undertakings or other for the payment of money from the account of this organization with Bank of Utica, including any payment by Bank of Utica which might exceed the amount of funds of the organization then on deposit may be honored by Bank of Utica when signed on behalf of the organization by any one of the following:

Haylee Lallier, Treasurer
Steven Falchi, Chief Academic Officer

Dated: November 27, 2023

District Clerk

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

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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Continuing Business

None

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New Business

None

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Communication

None



Adjournment

Mrs. Knoop made a motion to adjourn the November 27, 2023, Special Meeting; seconded by Mrs. Padula

The November Special Meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

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

Respectfully transcribed and submitted,

STEPHANIE LYNESS

Assistant Board Clerk

DRAFT