BOARD OF EDUCATION
UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING – MAY 20, 2026 – 6:30 P.M.
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING – 929 YORK ST., UTICA, NY 13502

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	Joseph H. Hobika Jr.; Presiding, Danielle Padula, Donald Dawes, Tennille Knoop, James Paul, Jason Cooper, Braedon Nanna (enroute)
ADMINSTRATORS PRESENT:	Dr. Christopher Spence, Superintendent, Charles Symonds, Esq. (virtual), Sara Klimek, Dave Langone, Heather Mowat, Kathy Hughes, Stephanie Lyness

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President Hobika, Jr called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. After the NJROT presented the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance Board Clerk Kathy Hughes conducted roll call. All members of the Board of Education were present, with the exception of (Braedon Nanna - enroute).

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Public Comment

Olivia Paul, Armory Dr – Thanks
Dawn LaGuerre, Barton Ave – Contract Extension
James Scutchings, 23 Porter St, NY Mills – Support
Tyra McKenzie, on behalf of Gloria Scutchings, 23 Porter St, NY Mills - Support
Matthew Kilbourn, 158 Hobart St – Congrats, Accountability & Safety
January Watson, 916 Brayten – Congrats & Questions about Updating Code of Conduct
Christina Sutter, New York Mills – SEIU
Kevin Marken, 2608 Genesee St. – Thanks
Cynthia Baldwin, 755 South St. – Thanks
Hynijah Lacy, 902 Downer Ave. – Thanks
Za'Khar Gooch, 401 Milgate St. – Thanks
Travis Harper, 12 Calais Dr, Whitesboro – Self-introduction & offer Japanese
Rev. Sharon Baugh, 749 South St. – Contract Extension & Thanks
Tekquanna Deane, 410 James St. – Support for Dr. Spence
Franklin Davis, 11 Winner Ave. – Support for Dr. Spence
Carol Gable, 901 Parkway E. – Support for Dr. Spence
Sabrina Brown-Engram, Jefferson Ave – Support for Dr. Spence

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Acceptance of Election Results

President Hobika, Jr. presented the following Resolution

Resolution

Declaring the Results of the Annual Meeting and General Election

WHEREAS, the Utica City School District conducted the Annual Meeting and General Election on May 19, 2026 for the purpose of voting on the budget for fiscal year 2026-2027; a Capital Reserve Fund, Capital Reserve Fund Expenditure, election of one member to the Board of Education, and funding for the Utica Public Library; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has examined the reports from the Election Inspectors at each polling location, and in accordance with its obligations under the Education Law, desires to declare the results of the vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is resolved as follows: 1. Upon examination of the reports of the Election Inspectors presented to the Board, the following is declared to be the results of the annual meeting and General Election held on May 19, 2026:

	Annual School Election																
	Official Canvass																
	Tuesday, May 19, 2026																
	1 - School Board Candidate Vacancy	BOARD CANDIDATE			BUDGET			CAPITAL RESERVE FUND			CAPITAL RESERVE FUND EXPENDITURE			LIBRARY PROPOSITION		
	1 - Budget Vote			District	Yes	No	District	Yes	No	District	Yes	No	District	Yes	No	District
	1 - Capital Reserve Fund			Total			Total			Total			Total			Total
	1 - Capital Reserve Fund Expenditure	826	866	1692	1138	520	1658	1230	421	1651	1272	384	1656	1287	388	1675
	1 - Library Proposition				BUDGET			CAPITAL RESERVE FUND			CAPITAL RESERVE FUND EXPENDITURE			LIBRARY PROPOSITION		
		1-A	2-A													
ED	POLLING LOCATION	Sonia Y. Marte	Howard Potter	Vote Totals	YES	NO	Vote Totals	YES	NO	Vote Totals	YES	NO	Vote Totals	YES	NO	Vote Totals
1	Parkway Recreation Center	127	78	205	138	60	198	150	46	196	158	41	199	158	41	199
2	Utica Fire Academy-Wetmore & Bleecker	41	55	96	53	44	97	68	27	95	72	24	96	75	21	96
3	Gilllmore Village	53	58	111	74	41	115	88	29	117	96	21	117	88	29	117
4	West Side Senior Center	33	8	41	27	13	40	29	9	38	32	6	38	30	10	40
5	Mid-York Library	3	6	9	6	4	10	6	4	10	7	3	10	7	3	10
6	Perretta Twin Towers	37	18	55	28	26	54	41	13	54	38	14	52	40	14	54
7	The Jewish Community Center	197	174	371	287	84	371	309	67	376	309	68	377	311	70	381
8	Conkling Elementary School	27	23	50	29	18	47	32	15	47	31	11	42	38	12	50
9	Donovan Middle School	63	60	123	73	37	110	82	29	111	83	29	112	79	31	110
10	MLK, Jr. Elementary School	12	11	23	10	9	19	11	9	20	13	6	19	13	7	20
11	General Herkimer Elementary School	32	63	95	67	27	94	64	26	90	68	23	91	67	28	95
12	Thomas Jefferson Elementary School	60	74	134	112	25	137	103	31	134	105	31	136	108	28	136
13	John F. Kennedy Middle School	50	80	130	78	52	130	86	44	130	87	42	129	94	36	130
14	Thomas R. Proctor High School	91	158	249	156	80	236	161	72	233	173	65	238	179	58	237
	Joseph Blair	49%	51%		69%	31%		75%	25%		77%	23%		77%	23%	
	Dr Rafe Roger Adler Mickler															
	Jeremy Carey															
	Wink Martindale															

In accordance with the foregoing tabulations of ballots, it is hereby determined and declared:

A. The fiscal year 2026-2027 budget is $ 310,427,947.

B. The proposition seeking approval of a Capital Reserve Fund is approved.

C. The proposition seeking approval of a Capital Reserve Fund Expenditure is approved.

D. Howard Potter is elected to a five-year term of office on the Board of Education commencing July 1, 2026.

E. The proposition regarding funding the Utica Public Library is passed.

Moved by Mrs. Knoop. and seconded by Mr. Cooper.

Mr. Nanna requested a roll call:

President Hobika, Jr.	Yes
Danielle Padula	Yes
Jason Cooper	Yes
Donald Dawes	Yes
Tennille Knoop	Yes
James Paul	Yes
Braedon Nanna	Yes

Mr. Nanna: I just wanted to explain that this is a procedural vote to accept the results of the election, that this Board of Education takes election integrity extremely seriously and has moved many new and innovative election procedures forward over the last five years. I want to commend the Board Clerks and the entire election team that's established within the district for all the work that they do in order to ensure that free and fair elections happen every year in the school district. It's a gigantic undertaking that they undergo to train all the poll workers, to organize all the logistics for the election, and I just want to thank them for their efforts, because they don't go unnoticed, but they do often go underappreciated. So, thank you.

President Hobika, Jr: Let's have a round of applause. Excellent comments.

No further discussion; motion passes 7-0.

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Adjournment

Mrs. Knoop made a motion to adjourn the May 20, 2026 Regular Meeting; seconded by Mr. Paul.

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

The May Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully transcribed and submitted,

STEPHANIE LYNESS
District Clerk

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