

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
740 Unionville Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Telephone: (610) 347-0970; FAX: (610) 347-0976
Web Site - www.ucfsd.org

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Minutes
September 20, 2004

The September meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, September 20, 2004 in the Unionville High School LGI.

Mr. Wandersee, President, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. He requested that the group stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The following members were present: Edward Wandersee, Ed Murray, Kathleen Brown, Curt Baker, Keith Knauss, Stephen McClaskey, Bruce Swayze, Dr. Corinne Sweeney, and Timotha Trigg. Also present were Dr. John Kenney, District Superintendent, Robert Cochran, Thomas Marinelli, Maria Schwab, Dr. Jim Price, John Nolen, David Dickens, Bruce Vosburgh, Rich Hug, Marie Wickersham, Gail Wolfel, Tim Minella, student representative, community residents, members of the press, and Denise Miller, recording secretary.

Mr. Wandersee announced that comments from district residents would be welcome at this time or at the end of the meeting. If residents have any comments regarding action items, they should state them at this point.

Kristin Ramsdell, Birmingham Township resident, stated that she is the parent of a third grade student at Pocopson Elementary School. She reviewed the Federal Class Size Reduction Program of 1999 that provided funds to districts to help schools to hire more qualified teachers so the children would learn in smaller class size settings. The goal was to improve classroom behavior and test scores by reducing K-3 class sizes to 18 students. Although No Child Left Behind eliminated the Class Size Reduction Initiative (CSRI) and it is doubtful whether U-CF qualified for such monies, smaller class sizes have become standard across the country. Some benefits of lower class sizes are:

1. Students exhibit less destructive behavior and are more engaged in learning activities;
2. Teachers have more knowledge about their students and more time to provide individualized instruction.
3. Teachers have increased job satisfaction and higher morale, reducing stress and burnout in the profession.

(Continued)

**CALL TO
ORDER**

**MEMBERS
PRESENT**

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

Class Size

Residents' Comments (Continued)

Mrs. Ramsdell reviewed several research studies that have been conducted and indicated that:

- Students in classrooms of less than 18 regularly outperform their peers in larger classroom settings of 20-25 students, including regular plus aide classrooms on standardized and curriculum-based tests.
- This persists through their middle and high school years.
- It is important that students enter smaller class sizes in the early years (K – Grade 1) to reap the benefits and continue for three or more years.

The underlying premise of CSR is not up to debate.

She reviewed the current third grade class sizes in the district:

- Pocopson - 24, 25, 25, and 26
- Hillendale - 26 and 27
- Chadds Ford - 23 and 23
- Unionville - 21, 21, and 22

Mrs. Ramsdell also reviewed Pocopson's K-5 class sizes:

- Kindergarten – 19, 15, 19, 17
- Pre-First – 9
- Grade 1 – 17, 16, 17, 17
- Grade 2 – 19, 19, 19, 18, 19
- Grade 3 – 24, 25, 25, 26
- Grade 4 – 21, 22, 23, 23
- Grade 5 – 25, 26, 25, 25

It appears that there is no district-wide standard by looking at the numbers. There is a wide variance from K-5 to K-5 school and also from grade to grade in a single, K-5 school. The current 2nd grade at Pocopson has consistently enjoyed smaller class sizes. Mrs. Ramsdell's child has experienced 20 in grade 1; 23 in grade 2; and 25 in grade 3. It appears that we are on an upward trend and that class size is determined by the numbers of incoming students versus a district-wide goal.

Why does she care? Mrs. Ramsdell stated that our standardized and PSSA scores are high. Her position is that higher test scores are a factor of socioeconomic persuasion from our continually rising number of highly educated, highly motivated adults moving into the school district. In the future, disgruntled parents may move their children to private schools. If our district continues to lose these students, there will be an impact on schools. More people may choose to move into a neighboring school district. She commented about low teacher morale, stating that we currently enjoy the most

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Class Size

Residents' Comments (Continued)

dedicated and talented pool of teachers. They are already paid less than teachers in similarly situated school districts. Mrs. Ramsdell asked how many years we could ask a third grade teacher to address the varying skill levels of 27 students in one class. She offered the following solutions:

- Look to the budget - if it does not allow for additional hires, we should raise taxes. She would be willing to endure an increase in taxes as opposed to the cost of private school.
- Think creatively – Do whatever it takes to raise enough support for the education that takes place within our classrooms.

Mr. Wandersee thanked Mrs. Ramsdell for her excellent piece of research. There is a lot to think about.

Jack McDonough, East Marlborough Township resident and parent of a ninth grade student, commented regarding class sizes. Specifically, he reviewed science classes that are over capacity with 31 students and one class with 51 students. He feels this is a crisis in the high school. Mr. McDonough had sent a proposal to Board members and Dr. Kenney for their consideration. He suggested that if no more tax money could be spent, we should change to a K-6, 7-8, and 9-12 grade configuration. He feels that teaching to 51 students is just asking too much. Mr. McDonough requested that a tax increase be considered first; otherwise, we should consider his proposal.

Mr. Wandersee thanked Mr. McDonough and stated that Dr. Kenney and he did receive his letter. His proposal has merit for consideration and we will continue to study it.

Doug Jones, Birmingham Township resident, stated that he had last spoken at the voting meeting for the absurd attempt to not open Chadds Ford Elementary School and sell the property. He is back again in this subject matter. Mr. Jones stated that in Tennessee, the STAR report (Student Teacher Achievement Ratio) gave conclusive results for students in smaller classes. They are more likely to graduate on time (72% vs. 66%); the dropout rate is 19% vs. 23%; they graduate with honors more often; they have completed more advanced English and math courses. Also, in Florida, they have mandated class sizes (in 2002) by the year 2010. For Pre-K –3, 18; Grades 4-8, 22; and Grades 9-12, 25 students. Grade 3 at Pocopson is at 26. In California, the Morgan Hart Class Size Reduction Act mandates grade 9 math at 20 students per certificated teacher. These are things that are being passed – not just discussions. He referenced Kristin's point about the seemingly total arbitrariness as to what is happening here with class size.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Class Size

A district resident, Mr. Jones, stated that he moved here from Radnor six years ago and considers U-CF to be a fantastic school district. We have an astonishing cadre of teachers in this district. Certainly, if we asked the teachers of their preference between 17, 26 or 51 students per class, they would choose 17. He stated that the NEA supports 15 students per class. Clearly, lower class size supersedes all. He is dealing now at the elementary level with one fantastic teacher and 26 kids. He believes that every grade should have the proper low number of students per class. It should not be a matter of vaguery - we need to hire more teachers. We will not continue to have higher socio-economic people moving here. Mr. Wandersee thanked Mr. Jones very much for this information.

Amy Berg, Pennsbury Township resident, stated that she is the parent of a third grade and a fifth grade student at Hillendale. Although fifth grade also has its challenges, she is particularly concerned with third grade math classes. Ms. Berg feels there is less of a chance for the children to work to their ability and with a new math curriculum, it is challenging for the teachers. Their school is, therefore, different than the other three elementary schools. Mr. Wandersee thanked Ms. Berg for her comments.

Karen Johnson, Chadds Ford Township resident, commented about the \$12M cost option for HVAC at Unionville High School. She feels that this is an excessive amount of money and questions the firm hired by the district. In response to Ms. Johnson's additional questions, Mr. Wandersee stated that Mr. Knauss would be reviewing these items in his Facilities Report later this evening.

Melissa Jacono, Birmingham Township resident, stated that she also hopes that the air-conditioning project does not become a dead issue. The parents are very concerned about it. With regard to class size, she asked whether it was possible to have a temporary fix in delivering the third grade math curriculum utilizing additional math teachers. This would give each child more of an opportunity to work at his/her level. Mrs. Jacono expressed concern over the amount of time that teachers are out of the classroom for curriculum meetings, etc. and would like to see that cut back. She commented regarding the amount of junk food and sugar in the cafeterias and vending machines.

Mr. Wandersee stated that air conditioning is not a dead issue. He suggested that she contact Dr. Kenney regarding class sizes. Her concerns regarding teacher time out of the classroom and cafeteria food are under consideration for the year.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Class Size

**High School
HVAC Project**

Tracy Cohen, Birmingham Township resident, relocated to the district a few weeks ago from San Jose, California. She is a former board member and a health care provider who commented regarding the negative effects of large class sizes on teachers. She has observed a teacher who was short of breath, rushing around, sweating, and tired by 9:30 in the morning. She asked how many sick days that person might have. Ms. Cohen also commented regarding her childrens' school schedule in California, where they attended from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. to balance class sizes. They would not change class sizes.

Mr. Wandersee thanked Ms. Cohen for her comments.

Theodore Beidler, UHS senior, along with Jeff Blanchard, stated that they believe that air conditioning is the wrong idea when considering spending \$12M and, at the same time, there are 31 students per science class. A lot of teachers have carts for science and it is more important to have the classrooms. Air conditioning is not needed ... what we need is the future.

Nasia Schaller, Pennsbury Township resident, stated that there are 26 students in her daughter's class at Hillendale. Additionally, four houses have sold in her neighborhood and one of the new children is a third grader. She wonders whether we'll have 28/29 by June and asked whether the board had a Plan B. Mr. Wandersee stated that the board has heard the message.

Lele Galer, Pocopson Township resident, commented regarding the number of children who were moved around in the spring. Several teachers were also moved or have left the district. She stated that it's easy to let them go and we cannot hire one when we need them. Mrs. Galer asked who made the decisions to get rid of these teachers when we need them right now.

Mr. Wandersee thanked Mrs. Galer and stated that the board understands the problems but we cannot debate this tonight.

It was moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Minutes of the August 23, 2004 Regular Board Meeting.

Motion carried (9-0).

The following committee meeting minutes were reviewed:

1. Curriculum Committee – September 13, 2004 (pp. 3.a.2.1-2)
2. Facilities Committee - August 19, 2004 (p. 3.a.2.3)

Mr. Wandersee requested that the secretary file the minutes.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Class Size

**MINUTES
APPROVED**

The following financial statements and reports were reviewed:

1. General Fund Treasurer's Report – August, 2004 (p. 3.b.3)
2. Term Investments Report – August, 2004 (p.3.b.4)
3. Year-to-Date Summary of Revenues & Expenditures – August 31, 2004 (pp. 3.b.5-6)
4. Capital Reserve Fund Report – August, 2004 (p. 3.b.7)
5. Capital Projects Fund Report – August, 2004 (p. 3.b.8)
6. Construction Project Reports – August, 2004 (pp. 3.b.9-16)
 - a. Unionville Elementary School Project (pp. 3.b.9-10)
 - b. Chadds Ford Elementary School Project (pp. 3.b.11-12)
 - c. Pocopson Elementary School Project (pp. 3.b.13-14)
 - d. Track & Stadium Project (pp. 3.b.15-16)
7. Food Service Department Annual Report – July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004 (pp. 3.c.1-4)

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS
& REPORTS**

Mr. Wandersee requested that the secretary file the reports.

It was moved by Mr. Swayze and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the Bill List dated August 27, 2004 in the amount of \$1,307,368.03 (pp. 3.d. 1-20).

BILLS PAID

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. McClaskey and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to approve the Bill List for Collegium Charter School as on the attachment (p. 3.d.21) in the amount of \$10,066.05.

Motion carried (8-0-1). Mr. Murray abstained.

It was moved by Mr. Swayze and seconded by Mr. Knauss to approve the End-of-Year Budget Transfers for 2003-2004 as on the attachment (pp. 3.b.1-2).

Motion carried (9-0).

Mr. Knauss stated that there were no action items regarding the high school HVAC project tonight. He reviewed the board's concern with maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to teaching and learning by meeting or exceeding temperature, noise, humidity, and air quality standards.

FACILITIES

**UHS HVAC
Project**

There are several very hot days in May through September that make teaching and learning difficult in the high school. A study was completed with the engineers to explore options for adding air-conditioning onto our current heating system at a cost of \$1-2M or to replace the entire aging heating system and adding air-conditioning at a cost of \$12M. Neither option was well

Facilities Report (Continued)

received by the board. The low-cost option was a temporary solution and had the potential to introduce mold problems and was excessively noisy. The high-cost option met all current standards but was more than we could afford. The board asked the engineering firm to explore other options.

The engineering firm presented other options on September 2, 2004. The most favorable option was to replace the heating system and add air conditioning in digestible steps. It was estimated that we could address the HVAC on the second and third floors for \$4-5M. This plan would add air-conditioning to the most uncomfortable classrooms. At the same time, the heating system would be brought up to current noise and air quality standards. This option would not include the cafeteria, gym, auditorium or first floor classrooms. Those areas might or might not be addressed in subsequent steps. The initial system design would allow the subsequent steps to be added at a subsequent date.

At the September 2nd meeting, the board directed the engineering firm to proceed with the \$4-5M design option. They planned to hear the results at the October 7th meeting, discuss them at the October 11th Work Session, and include an action item at the October 18th board meeting to vote on producing construction documents at about \$200,000. In the future, there would be two votes needed – one in January for the bid package and one in February to award the bids and proceed to construction. The time frame would then be established to begin construction when school ends in the summer and complete the project in 18 months or less.

Dr. Sweeney commented that the project cost of \$12M would probably increase to a much higher amount in total after walls were opened, etc.

Mrs. Brown stated that the Curriculum Department has been very busy. They have just returned from a curriculum meeting that most of the board members were able to attend. She commented that there were no action items for curriculum this evening.

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve participation with the Chester County Intermediate Unit Consortium to utilize Altair Direct Mail Management, Inc. at a cost of \$0.28 per parcel plus postage for a mailing to all district homeowners of an “Application for Homestead Exemption” in compliance with Act 72 of 2004.

**FACILITIES
(Continued)**

CURRICULUM

FINANCE:

**Act 72 of 2004-
Homestead
Exemption**

Mr. Murray informed the public that everyone who is living in Delaware or Chester County will receive an application for a Homestead rebate in compliance with Act 72. The Legislature has passed it and the school district will need to make a decision regarding whether we accept some gambling money as part of Act 72. For every dollar that we take in from gambling, we must offset property taxes and homeowners will receive a rebate.

Mr. Wandersee stated that the District will also have to impose a personal income or an earned income tax in combination with the state gambling money but would rebate to every homeowner the same amount of money no matter what their home is worth. This is the way the Legislature wanted it and we are authorizing these letters to go out to the taxpayers. He stated that you must understand that this program is based on gambling and won't be effective until 2006-07, until they have a certain base load to be able to distribute. We have no idea what the amount of tax decrease will be and we will have an increase in some tax. The most important point to make is that the amount of tax decrease is not known now. You will see politicians out there talking about this decrease and you may not want to spend it until you see the money. This is a very complicated issue and we will be discussing it at board meetings each month for probably 18 months.

Mrs. Brown stated that we are required to send out the letters. The amount of money returned is in the hundreds, not the thousands of dollars. We still have to support the school, so we will have a personal income tax. It doesn't look good to her as a homeowner. She encouraged everyone to read about this topic.

Mrs. Trigg stated that we are required to send this out . You are not required to return it but she asked that you please return it so it does not have to be sent out again and helps the Business Office to understand how much of the community is rental properties and how many are homeowners.

Dr. Kenney commented that he had mentioned to the faculty that this is the most significant legislation enacted in Pennsylvania. We have talked about air-conditioning, class sizes, etc., but starting in 2006-07, every budget will be sent to the public for a vote. They will decide whether we have any money for air-conditioning or class sizes, and the parents will oppose the citizens because of subjecting it to a vote. Dr. Kenney also noted that 80% of citizens are not parents in most Pennsylvania school districts. These kinds of referendums generally do not survive. The concern is that if we exceed the index, we will have to go to the public when there is no federal or state money and areas such as construction, special education, No Child Left Behind, basic education are under funded. If we opt in, we're in and there would be a resolution for a 1/10 of 1% earned income tax in May. In subsequent years on the ballot, a front-end referendum is placed to decide whether the school

**FINANCE
(Continued)**

**Act 72 of 2004-
Homestead
Exemption**

Act 72 (Continued)

district wants to go to additional earned income tax or to personal income tax. This will fundamentally change public education in Pennsylvania. These are the issues facing the citizens, parents and students of the Commonwealth. We'll have some difficult decisions to make.

Motion carried (9-0)

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the following personnel items (agenda items 7.a through 7.f):

- a. Professional Conferences / Retirements / Resignations / Discharges
 1. Approve attendance at Professional Conferences (15 employees) as on the attachments (pp. 7.a.1 revised and 7.a.3)
 2. Retirement
 - a. James Cowan – Assistant Mechanic, Transportation Department, effective November 9, 2004
 3. Resignations
 - a. Deborah Wygent – Unionville High School Learning Support Professional, effective August 30, 2004
 - b. Beverly Quevedo – Bus Driver, effective August 30, 2004
 - c. Joseph Reller – Chadds Ford Elementary Custodian, effective August 27, 2004
 - d. Carolyn Penrose – Unionville High School Food Service Assistant, effective August 19, 2004
 - e. Catherine Gunn – Chadds Ford Elementary Food Service Assistant, effective August 19, 2004
 - f. Katie Bowen – Pocopson Elementary Grade 2 Teacher (LTS), effective August 24, 2004
 - g. Victoria Jelke – Bus Driver, effective August 30, 2004
 4. Discharge
 - a. Josh Walker – Unionville High School Custodian (second shift), effective August 23, 2004

**FINANCE
(Continued)**

**Act 72 of 2004-
Homestead
Exemption**

PERSONNEL:

**PROFES-
SIONAL
CONFERENCE**

RETIREMENT

J. Cowan

**RESIGNATIONS
D. Wygent**

B. Quevedo

J. Reller

C. Penrose

C. Gunn

K. Bowen

V. Jelke

DISCHARGE

Personnel (Continued)

b. Reclassifications

1. Lisa Winnick – from Pocopson Elementary .5 Kindergarten Teacher to Pocopson Elementary 1.0 Kindergarten Teacher
2. Glenda Souders – from Unionville High School Emotional Support Paraprofessional to Learning Support Paraprofessional, effective August 30, 2004
3. Barb McDonald – from Bus Driver to Bus Driver Substitute, effective September 17, 2004
4. Marilyn Wiechecki – from Chadds Ford Elementary Food Service Assistant to Food Service Lead (6.5 hours per school day), effective August 30, 2004, at a salary of \$11.00 per hour
5. Mildred Sergi – Food Service Assistant – Transfer from Hillendale Elementary to Chadds Ford Elementary
6. David Buck – from full-time Bus Driver to part-time Bus Driver, effective August 30, 2004
7. Francis Cooper – from full-time Bus Driver to part-time Bus Driver, effective August 30, 2004
8. Silas Crossan – from full-time Van Driver to part-time Van Driver, effective August 30, 2004
9. Linda DeHaven – from part-time to full-time Bus Driver, effective August 30, 2004
10. Joanne Kumpf – from full-time Van Driver to part-time Van Driver, effective August 30, 2004
11. Glenn Murdock – from full-time Bus Driver to part-time Bus Driver, effective August 30, 2004
12. Kathleen Ogden – from full-time Bus Driver to part-time Bus Driver, effective August 30, 2004
13. Barbara Underwood – from full-time Bus Driver to part-time Bus Driver, effective August 30, 2004
14. John Harms – from full-time Bus Driver to part-time Bus Driver, effective August 30, 2004
15. Sally Palic – Nurse's Office Paraprofessional –from 14 hours per week at Patton Middle School to 14 hours at Patton Middle School plus 14 hours at Unionville High School, effective August 25, 2004

**Personnel
(Continued)**

**RECLASSIFI-
CATIONS:**

L. Winnick

G. Souders

B. McDonald

M. Wiechecki

M. Sergi

D. Buck

F. Cooper

S. Crossan

L. DeHaven

J. Kumpf

G. Murdock

K. Ogden

B. Underwood

J. Harms

S. Palic

Personnel (Continued)

c. Substitutes

1. Brenda Wood – High School only
2. Tina Shaplin – Elementary/Reading
3. Laurie Manfredi - Elementary
4. Stacy Zemba - Elementary
5. Melissa Iacono – K-6
6. Shawn Forte – K-5
7. David Cox - Elementary
8. Rosemary Bieg – Elementary/Reading

d. Supplemental Contracts

1. Jeremy Dickson – Head Swim Coach
2. Patricia Ross – 7th Grade Girls' Volleyball
3. George DeDonato – Head Baseball Coach
4. Stacey Remphrey – 7th Grade Girls' Soccer Coach
5. Alison Holmes – Honor Society (1/2)
6. Jennifer Reigel – Honor Society (1/2)
7. Ashley Burslem – Student Council
8. Michael Duggan – Assistant Football
9. Jason Palo – Assistant Football
10. Jerry Little – Assistant Football
11. Ron Phillips – Sophomore Class Advisor
12. Ron Phillips – FBLA Advisor
13. Mentor Contracts for 18 New Teachers:

Joe Ahart	Anita Leiden
Karen Amoss	Audrey Perloff
Ann Bielli	Judy Jordan-Roney
Vicki Capolarello	Jean Russell
Margaret Conner	Jennifer Spisak
Frank Deady	Ryan Stephens
Amanda Donnelly	Kristin Webb
Wendy Farina	Dennis White
Erin Grubb	Lisa Yackel

e. Correction

1. Sheryl Kolakowski – Chadds Ford Elementary Office Manager – Rate correction from \$14.62 per hour to \$15.05 per hour, effective August 2, 2004

**PERSONNEL
(Continued)**

SUBSTITUTES

**SUPPLE-
MENTAL
CONTRACTS**

CORRECTION

S. Kolakowski

Personnel (Continued)

f. Employ

1. Dena DeTitta – Pocopson Elementary Grade 2 Teacher (LTS), effective August 24, 2004, at the Bachelor’s Step 1 salary level
2. Carol Wren – Unionville Elementary Reading Specialist, effective August 24, 2004 (pending Pennsylvania Certification), at the Master’s + 15, Step 1 salary level
3. Lisa Citrone - .5 Emotional Support Teacher and .5 504 Coordinator, effective August 24, 2004, at the Master’s + 15, Step 9 salary level.
4. Margarita Clyde – Patton Middle School Spanish Teacher (LTS), effective for the first semester of the 2004-2005 school year, at the Bachelor’s, Step 1 salary level (pro-rated)
5. David Taylor – Unionville High School Second Shift Custodian, effective September 1, 2004 at a salary of \$11.86 per hour
6. Louise Kreuter – Hillendale Elementary Food Service Assistant (2.5 hours per school day), effective August 30, 2004, at a salary of \$9.85 per hour
7. Miriam Murphy – Pocopson Elementary Food Service Assistant (2.5 hours per school day), effective August 30, 2004, at a salary of \$9.70 per hour
8. Marilyn Olbera – Unionville High School Food Service Assistant (4 hours per school day), effective August 30, 2004, at a salary of \$10.00 per hour
9. Margaret Buck – Pocopson Elementary .5 Special Education Teacher (TPE), effective September 14, 2004, at the Master’s, Step 1 salary level

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to approve the following personnel item:

g. Proposal

1. Modification of School Health Services Program related to private physical and dental examinations (pp. 7.h.1-2)

Motion carried (9-0).

EMPLOY:

D. DeTitta

C. Wren

L. Citrone

M. Clyde

D. Taylor

L. Kreuter

M. Murphy

M. Olbera

M. Buck

PROPOSAL

**School Health
Services
Program**

Mr. Swayze stated that he surmised there is basic happiness with busing as it stands so far, judging from the lack of comments tonight. He invited other comments from anyone who may have had one. Mr. Swayze reported for Transportation regarding:

1. We have had a very good start in Transportation during the first three weeks of school. We have added a route and made some changes due to parental concerns on secondary runs; the routes are going very well.
2. The media has already sent us their updated information in preparation for unexpected closings or delays due to heavy rain. Let's hope that Mother Nature is kind to us this year.
3. School Bus Safety Program – will begin during the week of October 20 for students in grades K-5. The program includes boarding the bus, proper behavior on the school bus and evacuation procedures.
4. Facts and Figures for 2004-05:
 - a. Public School Students Transported - 3,906
 - b. Non-Public School Students Transported - 541
 - c. Charter School Students Transported - 18
 - d. Public Schools (No.) - 6
 - e. Pennsylvania Non-Public/Charter Schools - 26
 - f. Delaware Non-Public Schools - 18
 - g. Total Miles Traveled - 1,244,344.6

It was moved by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the adoption of the school calendar for 2005-2006 as on the attachment (Proposal A – Revised 9-16-04) – (pp. 9.a.5-6).

Motion carried (9-0).

Mrs. Trigg stated that there were no Policy items this evening.

Tim Minella, Student Representative, stated that he appreciates Ted's comments. We can hire teachers whenever we want. The air-conditioning project needs planning, adoption, and there are lots of logistical issues. He hears these comments stating that maybe we can hang on to an outdated heating system for 5-10 years. Tim disagrees and is glad it is continuing. In response to the resident's comments regarding 50 students per class at the high school, Tim stated that this is the Foundations of Western Thought course that is team taught by two teachers. This course encompasses both English and social studies and is taught in a large-group setting or split up into two, smaller class sizes. Tim congratulated all of the sports teams and activity groups. He is looking forward to a win at homecoming later this year.

**TRANSPOR-
TATION
REPORT**

**COMMUNI-
CATIONS**

**2005-06 School
Calendar**

BOARD POLICY

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE
REPORT**

Mr. Baker reported for the Center for Arts and Technology/ Special Education/Intermediate Unit:

1. September Board Meeting - was procedural in nature
2. I.U. Goals – Copies of the goals, including Mr. Baker's weighting, were distributed to our board members for review. Mr. Baker requested changes from the board if they feel differently.

Mr. Wandersee stated that the Act 72 legislation has been discussed previously this evening under Finance.

Dr. Kenney provided the Superintendent's report:

1. Jose Romero – We received a letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Education regarding his selection to participate in the Annual Student Leadership Institute sponsored by the Migrant Education Program. Jose was 1 of 48 secondary students in the state selected for this program. Congratulations were extended to Jose, who was in attendance.
2. National Merit – Unionville High School has three National Merit Semi-Finalists and one National Merit Achievement Scholarship winner this year. There were also 14 Commended students.
3. PIAA Sportsmanship Award – Unionville High School has been given this award for the second year in a row for District One, Southern Chester County League. Patton Middle School also won this award this year.
4. Air-Conditioning – the entire faculty and staff of UHS want air-conditioning.
5. Achievement Report – A full report will be given at the October board meeting. The goals were established seven years ago. Dr. Kenney will report what he feels are remarkable results at all grade levels. Hope you can attend the October meeting.
6. Welcome back to all of the athletes and all who are involved in extra-curricular activities. Congratulations on your success and for the effort that you put forth.

Mr. McDonough commented that a teacher at Open House stated that there were normally 30 and not 51 students in the combined social studies course.

Judy Muller, Pennsbury Township resident, has just read the three research articles regarding class size. All of them cited math and reading. If we hire a floating teacher, we should address both areas. She moved here two years ago because of the wonderful school district.

**C.A.T./
SPECIAL
ED. / I.U.**

**LEGISLATIVE
REPORT**

**SUPER-
TENDENT'S
REPORT**

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

Lele Galer, Pocopson Township resident, commented regarding buses. She stated that drivers are extremely upset with so many students being allowed per bus (three per seat). Mr. Wandersee stated that the issue has been handled.

Mr. McClaskey extended his thanks to all who came out regarding the air-conditioning and class size issues. It's also nice to hear the public discussion about Act 72 and what that will mean for education in the future.

Mr. Baker commented regarding Act 72, referring to Proposition 13 in California and the loss of control that it brought. He directed his comment to Mrs. Cohen (new U-CF resident who was a former board member in San Jose), having been a former resident of California himself. Mr. Baker welcomed the comments regarding co-curricular activities. This is the time to be focused on those, as well as our overall high school curriculum. He announced that the Organizational Meeting for Unionville Rugby will be held on October 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Mr. Baker stated that as we talk about class size and air-conditioning, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that this is an outstanding district that continues the upward trend (PSSA scores, total quality of education, total community involvement) – don't lose sight of that.

Mr. Knauss thanked the parents who came out to talk about class size. This is dear to his heart and we have looked at it very closely. He added that the STAR study did find a very statistical increase for classes of 15 or less. He invites everyone to calculate the number of teachers and new rooms we would have to hire or construct if we did this for every elementary classroom. There is a lot of discussion about the most cost effective way to increase education and everyone who reads the literature should read both sides.

Mrs. Brown requested that everyone read as much as possible about Act 72. It will affect how the school district is funded and will be discussed every month. She thanked everyone who came out regarding class size – this is public knowledge. In response to a resident's question, Dr. Kenney stated that third-day enrollment is public knowledge. Mr. Knauss added that there have been a number of discussions at Work Sessions throughout the summer. Mrs. Brown stated that the board is not opposed to hiring teachers when it's something that has been recommended to them. You need to make your thoughts known to the principal and administration and then it comes back to them.

Mrs. Trigg stated that she had attended the Open House at the high school. It was a pleasure to see the program that evening and to see the teachers back in their classrooms. The year has gotten off to a great start.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Mr. Swayze thanked the citizens and students for being here this evening. He appreciates those coming who have taken time to prepare comments, especially on class size. This is a very important issue to them and is not a dead issue. He hopes your comments and pressure will lead to some expanded educational opportunities in these particularly troubled grades.

Mr. Murray thanked everyone who came out tonight. Their seriousness regarding class sizes is evident. He referred to a letter from a district resident regarding why we don't want to increase taxes. The 77 year-old citizen has asked that the board consider the situation for seniors who may be living on a fixed social security income and are paying the same school taxes as those who may be earning large salaries. The board takes this matter seriously and it would be very easy to put teachers in rooms to make classes of 15 students for optimum size all the time but there are budgetary constraints. There are people who have difficulty meeting the increased taxes. As Mrs. Brown stated, we have generally addressed the challenge of lowering class sizes when it was a great need.

Mr. Murray stated that some of the things we are talking about this evening are things we would not be able to do because of Act 72. He referred to Dr. Kenney's comment about 80% of citizens not being parents and stated that we won't have the ability to raise revenue over a certain index. The budget increases every year for increases in health care costs, etc. We think they have earned it and deserve it but if the cost is over the index, we will not have it if we add a \$13M air-conditioning project. If we take the gambling money, we may not get to have this discussion as it will not be up to us. Mr. Murray referred to Dr. Kenney's comments about pitting parents against citizens and stated that we are all very sympathetic to that. This is one of the harder, non-paying jobs you can have. We don't spend hours in meetings to hide things from you. They are done for good reasons. We will have to pay attention to and talk a lot about Act 72.

Dr. Sweeney stated that felt some responsibility to review a little history. It was not too many years ago when we all sat in here because we knew we needed to expand the schools in the elementary area. There were extensive meetings with parents and administrators regarding a school on one campus so that we wouldn't have some of these class size issues, etc. that we have now. It was concluded in the end that there were disadvantages. Parents wanted neighborhood schools and the disadvantages were discussed at that time. The Board and administration did what we thought the public wanted. In looking back, we can see that it was not decided to make class sizes big – we were warned that this might happen in some years.

Mr. Wandersee stated that in looking around at his colleagues in the audience, he is very pleased that everyone is still here. We had the opportunity to hear your comments and you heard the board's comments. We are very concerned but somewhat limited and cannot do things immediately. Mr. Wandersee commented that as we go forward into Act 72 and have worked together as parents and board members, we should continue to work together.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown
Secretary

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**