

**UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**Minutes**  
**October 18, 2004**

The October meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, October 18, 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.

**CALL TO  
ORDER**

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

**MEMBERS  
PRESENT**

Karen Johnson, Chadds Ford Township resident, stated that the air-conditioning project at the high school is no longer just about air-conditioning but about the heating system which is in disrepair. She feels that \$12 million is excessive and asked that the board obtain an opinion from another firm. Mrs. Johnson also commented about the travel time for parents from the Chadds Ford area to pick up students from after-school activities. She inquired as to how we can have a bus transport the children to Chadds Ford Elementary at approximately 5:30 p.m. Mr. Wandersee thanked her for her comments and Mr. Swayze stated that we would keep her suggestion in mind for transportation.

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS**

Kristin Webb, UHS Teacher and Social Studies Department Chairperson, stated that she was asked to speak on behalf of the teachers. They requested that she put a petition together for air-conditioning in the high school. Instead, she has come to tonight's meeting personally to thank the board for their consideration and for the chiller that was in her classroom during September. She understands that the board is seriously considering C and B floors but there has also been a change on A floor for the teachers and it has been brought to her attention. Due to the modular classrooms that are on the interior courtyard, those rooms in close proximity need to shut their windows because the noise level is so high that they cannot hear themselves teach. It has been extremely uncomfortable to them and students have reported that a lot of heat comes in from those units as well. Mrs. Webb stated that they understand it's a tremendous expense but thanked the board for any consideration they can provide to changes.

Residents' Comments (Continued)

Mr. Wandersee thanked Mrs. Webb and stated that her comments were appreciated as always.

Shar Gigliotti, Birmingham Township resident and Co-Chairperson of the UHS School & Home Association with Lynn Majarian, commented that the Association really supports air-conditioning in Unionville High School. They feel that it's very important to the educational environment for students.

Lynn Majarian, Birmingham Township resident and Co-Chairperson of the UHS School & Home Association, stated that she hopes the board will also consider air-conditioning "A" floor in the future.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2004 Regular Board Meeting.

Motion carried (9-0).

The following financial statements and reports were reviewed:

1. General Fund Treasurer's Report – September, 2004 (pp. 3.b.1-3)
2. Term Investments Report – September, 2004 (p.3.b.4)
3. Capital Reserve Fund Report – September, 2004 (p. 3.b.5)
4. Capital Projects Fund Report – September, 2004 (p. 3.b.6)
5. Construction Project Reports – September, 2004 (pp. 3.b.7-14)
  - a. Unionville Elementary School Project (pp. 3.b.7-8)
  - b. Chadds Ford Elementary School Project (pp. 3.b.9-10)
  - c. Pocopson Elementary School Project (pp. 3.b.11-12)
  - d. Track & Stadium Project (pp. 3.b.13-14)

Mr. Wandersee requested that the secretary file the reports.

It was moved by Mr. Swayze and seconded by Mr. Knauss to approve the Bill List dated September 30, 2004 in the amount of \$1,132,664.24 (pp. 3.d.1-21).

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Knauss and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Bill List for Collegium Charter School as on the attachment (p. 3.d.22) in the amount of \$382.26.

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

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

**MINUTES  
APPROVED**

**FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS  
& REPORTS**

**BILLS PAID**

It was moved by Mr. Knauss and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the development of Construction Documents and Bid Specifications for the proposed HVAC system for the Unionville High School by MM Architects, Inc. at a cost of 3.01% of the final construction value, being a total of \$180,600.00.

Mr. Knauss stated that the board is concerned with maintaining a classroom environment that meets or exceeds temperature, noise, humidity and air quality standards. The study that was conducted in August to explore other options for adding air-conditioning onto the existing heating system at a cost of \$1-2 million or replacing our entire heating and air-conditioning system at a cost of \$12 million. Neither option was well received by the board. The low-cost option was a temporary solution and had the potential to introduce mold and mildew problems. The high-cost option met all current standards but was more than we felt we could afford.

The board asked the engineering firm to return to the drawing board to explore other options. We had a presentation at our Facilities Committee meeting on September 2 to explore those options. The most favorable option was to replace the heating system and add air conditioning in digestive steps. This plan would add air-conditioning to the most uncomfortable classrooms (second and third floors) and bring the heating system in those areas up to current air quality and noise standards. We won't get everything in the first step. We would not be addressing the first floor classrooms, gym, cafeteria or auditorium. Those areas might or might not be addressed in subsequent steps in the future. The initial system would be designed to allow subsequent steps to be added at a later time.

The engineering firm returned to the Facilities Committee Meeting on October 7th with engineering documents and an estimate of \$6 million. In essence, our vote tonight is to do or not to do the entire \$6 million project. We have one more opportunity to cancel the project in February when the bids come in but there is little additional information to be gained between now and February. We would be foolish to cancel the project after voting to spend \$180,000 for construction documents tonight. The price is high and it is a difficult decision. The price would have been less than half if the HVAC system had been addressed during the 1990's renovation.

We tried less expensive options like fans and portable air-conditioning units but they were unsuitable or ineffective. The educational environment is unique when compared to the home or business environment. Packing 25 heat-producing bodies into a 750 square foot classroom is a challenging situation that is not encountered in our home or business environment. Of the 20 districts who were polled, every district in the Philadelphia region either has air-conditioning or has immediate plans to add it. Mr. Knauss believes the students and teachers of Unionville High School deserve that too.

## **FACILITIES**

### **UHS HVAC Project – Construction Documents / Bid Specs.**

Mr. Baker stated that he has sat very close to the fence on this project and is trying to understand all of the issues. He thanked the Facilities Committee members, the administration, the engineering firm and the architect for the good work over the past eight weeks. In August, Mr. Baker expressed concern that we may have shortchanged the search for creative solutions that are less expensive and suitably effective. Since then, he is satisfied that a careful evaluation of a wide range of alternatives has been completed, bringing clarity to most of the unanswered questions from two months ago. We've now done our homework and no matter which way the vote tonight goes, it was a job well done that should be recognized.

Mr. Baker commented regarding the key findings that weighed heavily on his thinking:

- a. The portable air conditioning alternative, which has always been intriguing because it is cheap, is a band-aid, not a permanent solution. A test was run in two "C" floor classrooms (one with a single, two-ton unit and the other with two one-ton units). He had the opportunity to sit in both classrooms and can attest that the units were unable to bring the classroom temperature down to targeted levels, even on a day that was not particularly hot. He was told that the space required three tons of cooling capability; therefore, the units that were installed were undersized. They were also unacceptably noisy. Although we could run additional trials with three-ton options, it would not be worth the effort for what everyone agrees is little more than a band-aid. In the end, Mr. Baker cannot support the portables alternative.
- b. The \$6 million option on the table tonight emerged from the view that a greater than \$12 million project was too expensive. The concept was to fix the most significant problem areas up to a pre-determined affordability level, that number being informally about \$5 million.

In support of this approach, data loggers were placed in numerous locations at the high school. The data collected seem to support the concept that "C" floor is a bigger problem than "B" floor, which is a bigger problem than "A" floor. However, since the data were collected when it was cool outside, it takes some interpretation to come to that conclusion.

Nonetheless, as he indicated at the Facilities Committee Meeting and Board Work Session, he believes that the proposal tabled has considerable merit for four reasons:

**FACILITIES  
(Continued)**

**UHS HVAC  
Project –  
Construction  
Documents /  
Bid Specs.  
(Continued)**

1. It fixes the heating issue which surfaced as a part of the discussions regarding air conditioning.
  2. It cools most of our classrooms. He referenced how the discussion began with concerns that teaching and learning are negatively impacted when classroom temperatures rise above 80 degrees, as can happen frequently at the beginning and end of each school year.
  3. By focusing on the second and third floors, alternatives would be left open for the first floor, where most future renovation work is likely to be concentrated.
  4. It puts in place a permanent infrastructure that can be leveraged and used in subsequent renovations. This is NOT a disposable option but the first stage of a multi-stage program to put in place an appropriate HVAC system at the high school.
- c. The Superintendent has argued convincingly that if we are to do a project of this sort, we should do it right. He has provided evidence that partial projects are almost always regretted subsequently. Although Dr. Kenney has stated that he will support whichever direction the Board may go, he has been steadfast in expressing this view.
- d. At the August meeting, Mr. Baker indicated that he would vote “no” on the \$12 million project without additional evidence of need, being defined as:
- Demonstrated broad-based community support for this project.
  - Clarity that we truly have looked dispassionately at less expensive and less intrusive alternatives and that the \$12 million program is the only viable course of action
  - Further evidence that this truly is an issue that must be addressed and addressed now.

Mr. Baker has tried to gauge community support for this project, having spoken with more than 50 families, most of whom have children at the high school. His unscientific sample has folks split right down the middle regarding the merits of doing anything at all as we have also seen from students appearing before the Board. There is clearly not a consensus at this time.

Since there isn't a clear pathway, he has been told to vote with his heart, which says the best possible proposal is on the table, given the affordability constraints that have been established. He will vote “yes” on this proposal if there is a consensus that we ought to proceed now with the HVAC project.

**FACILITIES  
(Continued)**

**UHS HVAC  
Project –  
Construction  
Documents /  
Bid Specs.  
(Continued)**

In the end, Dr. Kenney's argument wins the day for him – if we're going to do this, let's do it right. Just like the portable air conditioning solution, the proposal offers a lower cost alternative than the full-blown project. But in the end, it's not the right course of action for the District.

Mr. Baker feels that it's incumbent on the administration and those who support this project to build the consensus necessary to move forward with a comprehensive solution – it's not there now.

Tim Minella, Student Representative, asked whether the HVAC project would include updating the ventilation system for the whole building or focus on "C" and "B" floors. Mr. Knauss stated that new boilers and a lot of new piping would be done for the entire school. The unit ventilators on the first floor will not change. Mostly everything on the first floor will remain the same. Changes will occur on floors two and three.

Tim also asked whether a \$6 million project would entail cuts in other areas. Mr. Wandersee stated that the \$6 million would be financed through a bond issue which would still contribute a fraction of a millage increase in taxes. Mr. Murray stated that if we are looking at \$6 million, it would entail \$620,000 per year for 20 years. It would be a one-third (1/3) of a mil requirement for the existing tax base.

Mr. Wandersee stated that in addition to Mr. Baker's very eloquent comments and Mr. Knauss's very specific project details, he wanted to make it clear that every board member has given this a lot of thought. During the past two board meetings, we have had some very dramatic discussions about what we could do and are arriving tonight relative to the approval of construction documents for \$180,000.00. We are not approving the HVAC project for \$6 million. However, Mr. Knauss made the point that if we approve this tonight, the only thing to derail the project would be after we receive bids from the contractors in the spring if we underestimated costs.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Baker -	No	Mr. Murray -	Yes
Mrs. Brown -	Yes	Mr. Swayze -	Yes
Mr. Knauss -	Yes	Dr. Sweeney -	No
Mr. McClaskey -	Yes	Mrs. Trigg -	Yes
		Mr. Wandersee -	Yes

Motion carried (7-2).

**FACILITIES  
(Continued)**

**UHS HVAC  
Project –  
Construction  
Documents /  
Bid Specs.  
(Continued)**

Mrs. Brown stated that there had been a lot of discussion at the Curriculum Committee level regarding the following agenda item, primarily because the materials do not cover everything that is going to be taught. Extra documents need to be put together to see how the pilot runs. Normally, we don't approve of a pilot until we have it all. In this case, a lot of extra documentation needs to be put together as the year goes along to see how the pilot runs.

Dr. O'Hern commented that the base program consists of the Social Studies Alive and the History Alive components. We have tried to come up with an alternative that takes into account the knowledge, expertise, needs and wants of the teaching staff, the administration, and the community as represented by the board members. We want to use that program as the skeleton and will increase the global connections piece of the program. We are still looking for the materials for that piece. Maria Schwab will be going to a conference next month and will inform the board at Curriculum Committee meeting each month for the remainder of the year regarding the other units we are adding, what the materials look like, etc. The pilot would be in development as the year goes on.

Mrs. Brown stated that if the pilot was approved tonight, the board would get another look at the program when it's completed to see if it is something that we want to approve.

It was moved by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Elementary Social Studies Pilot Program.

Mrs. Trigg stated that she had two significant concerns:

1. Content – She is concerned about the content and has reviewed the proposed textbooks. Through the end of the third grade, she sees no mention of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., Christopher Columbus, Ben Franklin, William Penn, Thomas Jefferson, Paul Revere or Betsy Ross. Finally, in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade book, there is one sentence about Abraham Lincoln. Christopher Columbus is allotted two paragraphs, as is Martin Luther King, Jr. There is still no mention of the other historical figures she listed through the end of fourth grade.

She realizes that a sound social studies curriculum requires more than the straightforward presentation of facts, but feels that balance is needed. She thinks many of us consider these people and the events that made them famous to be staples of early social studies education. Largely, the missing academic content seems to have been replaced by attempts to change the attitudes and behaviors of our young people in ways that she feels invite unnecessary controversy. For example, she thinks the third grade textbook would tend to do the opposite of instilling pride in being an American citizen.

## CURRICULUM

### Elementary Social Studies Pilot Program

The administration has assured us that adjustments and supplementation will occur, but as we are asked to approve this pilot tonight, we have only seen materials from this one publisher. Although she is much more comfortable with the fifth grade History Alive! Program, she believes the K-4 program is clearly inadequate. She had hoped and expected to be provided with the supplementary materials before being asked to approve this pilot, but that has not happened.

2. Process – There are two groups that provide guidance in curriculum matters – the Curriculum Council made up of teachers, parents, administrators and board members, and the Board Curriculum Committee made up of board members and administrators. This pilot still has not been presented to the Council, and only very late in the process was the Board Curriculum Committee provided with even the name of the program. While she is appreciative of moving ahead with all due speed, she thinks more involvement from both of these groups would have resulted in a better product.

Mrs. Trigg wanted to be clear that she very much appreciates the time and effort the teachers spent in reviewing the materials with which they were provided. She trusts their judgment when they say that this is the best program among those they were offered. It gives her great pause to cast a “no” vote that might be viewed as discouraging to our teachers, but it gives her even greater pause to consider 200 of our students diving into a program in a core content area before the needed supplementation is in place.

She believes that insufficient oversight was provided when the current social studies program was developed and approved, and she can’t approve a pilot that she believes to be inadequate and perhaps even less suitable than what we have now. Mrs. Trigg will vote “no” on this resolution.

Mr. Wandersee stated that he has not been as closely involved as some of the other committee members. He and some of the colleagues share some of Mrs. Trigg’s concerns about the need for adjustments and supplementary materials that will be forthcoming as we proceed with the pilot. As a condition, he would vote “yes” with a clear message to the administration that if we don’t find the supplementary materials forthcoming to the satisfaction of our Curriculum Committee, we would discontinue this effort and look for a new one.

Mr. Murray stated that it does give him some concern that there seems to be a great division among people on the Curriculum Committee. There seems to be a difference in how the process has developed. In the future, we need to better define the policy and procedures that the Board will be expected to follow for pilots in the future. There is a great divide among the Board as to their role and how it should be developed. How will we see the programs so that the board members who have less expertise in curriculum will feel more comfortable with the recommendations from the administration and the curriculum folks?

## **CURRICULUM (Continued)**

### **Elementary Social Studies Pilot Program**

Mrs. Brown stated that the Curriculum Committee is not divided. All of them are uncomfortable with the program as it sits. It's just a question of the administration telling them that it will be right and they will add things and it satisfies you. Basically, that is how the committee is feeling.

Mr. Knauss stated that it's unclear as to when the pilot begins. Dr. O'Hern stated that it would begin in early November (second marking period).

It was moved by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Elementary Social Studies Pilot Program.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Baker -	Yes	Mr. Murray -	Abstained
Mrs. Brown -	Yes	Mr. Swayze -	Yes
Mr. Knauss -	No	Dr. Sweeney -	Abstained
Mr. McClaskey -	Yes	Mrs. Trigg -	No
		Mr. Wandersee -	Yes

Motion carried (5-2-2).

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Special Education Release and Settlement Agreement for Student 2004-05-1 as on the attachment (pp. 12.a.1-12).

Motion carried 9-0).

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the following personnel items (agenda items 7a. through 7f. Dr. Sweeney commented regarding Dawn Hood's departure from Patton Middle School and asked that everyone support Dawn in her new business at Minnie's bakery.

Dr. Kenney stated that we've spent the better part of the summer looking for a Special Education Director. He introduced our new Director, James Molleca, who will begin in late November. Mr. Molleca worked from 1971 through 1997 in the classroom and from 1997 to the present as a Director of Special Education in the Daniel Boone Area School District.

Dr. Kenney also introduced Ms. Colleen Shearburn, new Educational Database Manager, who will begin on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Colleen has been employed with the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District where she was a Software Support Specialist. She will be able to address a lot of our issues under the Technology Director and will be doing data analysis.

## **CURRICULUM (Continued)**

### **Elementary Social Studies Pilot Program**

## **PERSONNEL:**

### **Special Education Director**

### **Educational Database Manager**

Personnel (Continued)

a. Professional Conferences / Retirements / Resignations / Discharges

1. Approve attendance at Professional Conferences as on the attachment (p. 7.a.1)
2. Resignations
  - a. Barbara Underwood – Bus Driver, effective September 22, 2004
  - b. William A. Baxter – Unionville High School Custodian, effective September 24, 2004
  - c. Dawn Hood – Patton Middle School Secretary, effective October 15, 2004

b. Reclassifications

1. Allison Holmes – from .6 Unionville High School Math Teacher to .8 Unionville High School Math Teacher, effective August 25, 2004
2. William Allfather – from part-time Bus Driver to full-time Bus Driver, effective September 14, 2004
3. Bertha Barrow – from part-time Bus Driver to full-time Bus Driver, effective September 14, 2004
4. Deborah Dougherty – from part-time Bus Driver to full-time Bus Driver, effective September 14, 2004
5. Stacy Stanolis – from Second Shift Custodian to Second Shift Supervisor Custodian, effective September 27, 2004

c. Substitutes

1. Dorothy Stanczuk – Substitute Nurse
2. Kristen Vahey – Substitute Elementary Teacher
3. Jamie Sharon – Substitute Elementary Teacher
4. Kelly Morrison – Substitute Early Childhood Teacher
5. DeeAnn Martin – Substitute Elementary Teacher
6. Karilee Jeantet – Substitute K-8 Teacher
7. Janis Kumpf – Substitute Early Childhood Teacher
8. Melvin O'Klock – Substitute Social Studies Teacher
9. Denise Solon – Support Staff Substitute
10. Bernadette Hutchison – Support Staff Substitute

**PERSONNEL  
(Continued)**

**PROFES-  
SIONAL  
CONFERENCES**

**RESIGNATIONS**

**B. Underwood**

**W. Baxter**

**D. Hood**

**RECLASSIFI-  
CATIONS:**

**A. Holmes**

**W. Allfather**

**B. Barrow**

**D. Dougherty**

**S. Stanolis**

**SUBSTITUTES**

Personnel - Substitutes (Continued)

11. Helena McGinnis – Support Staff Substitute
12. Bernadette Forese – Support Staff Substitute
13. Jacquelin McKenzie – Substitute Elementary Teacher
14. Tania Mann – Substitute Elementary/M.S./Special Education
15. Letitia Makai – Substitute Chemistry/Biology Teacher
16. Phillip Robinson – Substitute Chemistry Teacher
17. Susan Heavens – Substitute Home Economics Teacher

d. Supplemental Contracts

1. Brian Kelley – Assistant Football Coach
2. Mike Duggan – Assistant Football Coach
3. Buddy Meredith – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Football Coach
4. Mike Berkeihiser – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Football Coach
5. Karl Klingmann II – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Soccer Coach
6. Holly Surber – Dance Ensemble
7. Wayne Waibel – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Soccer Coach
8. Steve Dissinger – Team Leader E Team
9. Wendy Landry – Team Leader C Team
10. MaryJo Knauer – Science Fair Supervisor
11. Janet Schuster- Science Fair Supervisor
12. Grace Vinci – Mentor
13. Julie Hawkes – Mentor
14. Andrea Hanna – Dance Chaperone

e. Employ

1. James Molleca – Director of Special Education, at a salary of \$102,000
2. Bobby Arnold – Chadds Ford Elementary Second Shift Custodian (full-time, 12-month), effective September 20, 2004, at a salary of \$11.86 per hour
3. Timothy Hayworth – Unionville High School Second Shift Custodian (full-time, 12-month), effective September 27, 2004, at a salary of \$11.86 per hour
4. Charlotte DeNenno – Emotional Support Paraprofessional (6.5 hours per day x 185 days per year), effective September 27, 2004, at a salary of \$11.55 per hour
5. Martin May – Bus Driver (part-time, 5-1/2 hours per day x 182 days), effective September 20, 2004, at a salary of \$13.46 per hour
6. Edmund Johnson – Bus Driver (part-time, 5-1/2 hours per day X 182 days), effective September 27, 2004, at a salary of \$13.46 per hour

(Continued)

**Personnel  
(Continued)**

**Substitutes  
(Continued)**

**SUPPLE-  
MENTAL  
CONTRACTS**

**EMPLOY:**

**J. Molleca**

**B. Arnold**

**T. Hayworth**

**C. DeNenno**

**M. May**

**E. Johnson**

**3.a.11**

Employ (Continued)

7. Kathryn Lange – Pocopson Elementary Food Service Assistant (part-time, 2.5 hours per school day), effective October 1, 2004, at a salary of \$9.70 per hour
8. Amy Burke – Pocopson Elementary Language Arts Teacher (.35 position for the 2004-2005 school year), effective October 11, 2004, at the Bachelor's, Step 1 salary, pro-rated
9. Janice Crawford – Hillendale Elementary Language Arts Teacher (.35 position for the 2004-2005 school year), effective October 11, 2004, at the Bachelor's, Step 1 salary, pro-rated
10. Colleen Shearburn, T-III Educational Database Manager (full-time, 12-month position), effective November 29, 2004, at a salary of \$30.00 per hour

f. Leaves

1. Kelley Wilson – Unionville High School Library, eight-week Maternity Leave beginning approximately December 3, 2004, followed by an Unpaid Child Rearing Leave through the end of the 2004-2005 school year
2. Christine Bailey – Patton Middle School Spanish Teacher, extend Unpaid Child Rearing Leave to the end of the 2004-2005 school year

Motion carried (9-0).

Mr. Swayze reported for Transportation regarding:

1. October 17-23 – Celebrated as National School Bus Safety Week
2. Operation Safe Stop – PA Department of Transportation will hold this annual event on Wednesday, October 20, 2004. Drivers will document any red light violations that occur during their routes and local law enforcement and state police will be visible throughout the Commonwealth to help catch the violators.
3. New Traffic Patterns – Starting Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, they will be implemented at the middle and high school campuses in the morning. Parents will drop off their students at the high school gym entrance and continue to the middle school to drop off their children at the main entrance. Any parent with just a middle school student to drop off will still be required to take them to the Cafeteria entrance at the back of the middle school.

(Continued)

**Personnel  
(Continued)**

**Employ  
(Continued)**

**K. Lange**

**A. Burke**

**J. Crawford**

**C. Shearburn**

**LEAVES:**

**K. Wilson**

**C. Bailey**

**TRANSPOR-  
TATION  
REPORT**

## Transportation Report (Continued)

Only school buses and staff will be allowed to loop around the front high school parking lot. If a parent must go into the school in the morning with their student, they must park in the front visitor parking circle at the high school. All staff are asked to have their parking lot pass visible on their rearview mirror.

4. Strobe Lights – Mr. Swayze is pleased to announce that buses are being equipped with them. The fleet will be retrofitted in a few weeks.

It was moved by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mr. McClaskey to approve the District Goals for the 2004-2005 Fiscal Year (Seventeen (17) Curriculum and Instruction and Nine (9) Support Goals) as developed by District Administration with input from the Board (pp. 11.a.1-4).

Mrs. Brown stated that the goals were discussed at the last Work Session and at several times in between. The Board was given the list of goals from the administration and weighted them. Mr. Wandersee commented regarding the list of weighted goals, stating that they were pretty close to the administration's weighted list in most cases. Mr. Knauss stated that it is a pleasure to have goals and measures done by the administration and with eager input from the board. He likes what is happening.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the graduation date for the Class of 2005 as June 9, 2005 (1:30 p.m., University of Delaware, Carpenter Convocation Center).

Motion carried (9-0).

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

Tim Minella, Student Representative, thanked the Board for moving forward on the air-conditioning project. Although it was a difficult decision, he feels that it was the right one. Tim reported regarding:

- Homecoming this week – Thursday–Bonfire; Friday-Pep Rally; Saturday-Parade at 11:00 a.m., Game at 1:00 p.m.
- Convertible needed – Student Council is looking for a convertible to use and would greatly appreciate anyone who could spare one.
- Act 72 – Was discussed in Work Session and at the Board Meeting – This sounds like a huge legislative trap and we need to educate our public about that and not do it.

## **TRANSPOR- TATION REPORT (Continued)**

## **COMMUNI- CATIONS**

### **District Goals 2004-2005**

### **Graduation Date: 6/9/2005**

## **BOARD POLICY**

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

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

1. I.U.Board Meeting – scheduled for Wednesday and should be procedural with several Executive Session items.

Mr. Wandersee reported that we would be meeting as a group regarding Act 72 legislation at the Chester County Intermediate Unit. The pros and cons and the ins and outs of this legislation will be discussed to see how this will impact the District. It's not as easy as it sounds to read some of the candidates' legislative reports out of Harrisburg. Mr. Wandersee stated that there was not much activity in Harrisburg right now. He expects quite a bit for November - stay tuned.

Dr. Kenney reviewed the format for the District's Achievement Report. He will outline the goals from last year. Maria Schwab, Director of Elementary Education, will talk about PSSA scores for grade 5 and TerraNova scores for grade 4. Dr. Jim Price, Director of Secondary Education, will speak on PSSA scores for grades 8 and 11, TerraNova scores for grades 6 and 7, S.A.T., National Merit, and A.P. results. Dr. O'Hern, Assistant Superintendent, will review the trend data, AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress), and also from a proficiency ranking as required under No Child Left Behind.

This year we are adding discussion by Dr. O'Hern and Mr. Marinelli regarding the activities they have initiated over the last two to three years that have added to our academic success. Credit is due to our students, teachers, and the School Board. We will conclude with our 2004-05 achievement goals. There is a possibility that we may be doing away with TerraNova in grades 4, 6, and 7 because Pennsylvania will be mandating that the PSSA be administered in grades 3-8 and once in grades 10-12 (U-CF will administer it to grade 11). The PSSA results in grades 4, 6, and 7 will be used as normative data initially.

We've tried to make our students competitive relative to their peers, to bring recognition to our students and they to us, and also to bring recognition to our school district by demonstrating achievement patterns superior to a lot of schools in the Commonwealth and across the U.S. When you look at achievement patterns, they are across the state and nation for SAT's and PSSA's. More and more colleges will be looking at them to determine how students are performing. Based on recent studies, there is a very high correlation between the PSSA and SAT success.

We will have two goals regarding SAT's for next year. Those taking the test in the fall could have a top score of 1600; those testing in the spring will have a top score of 2400. There will be changes in the testing that include Algebra II, a Writing section, language mechanics and usage.

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

**LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT**

**SUPER-  
TENDENT'S  
REPORT**

**District  
Achievement  
Report**

## District Achievement Report (Continued)

The 2003-04 achievement goals stated that we would reach or exceed PSSA scores of 1500. TerraNova scores would be in the top quartile (75<sup>th</sup> percentile), and S.A.T. scores would exceed the prior three-year average. For PSSA scores, we wanted to be at the median or higher when looking at similar schools. Actually, we would have made ours lower if we had set that goal because we were higher than a lot of similar schools. Writing is difficult because there are very few high schools in the Commonwealth who achieve 1500 (probably only three). Instead of being machine scored, the writing tests are scored by English teachers. We have reached the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile (mastery level) on the TerraNova tests. Also, we have exceeded the average scores on the S.A.T. over the past three years.

Mrs. Schwab thanked the elementary principals, parents, teachers, and particularly, the students, for their dedication and the enthusiastic manner in which they approach teaching and learning. We were well above our goal in all elementary buildings on the PSSA's. We also went well above our goal in our first year of testing at grade 4 on the TerraNova test and are very excited.

Dr. Price thanked the teachers and administrators at the secondary level who have done a lot of work with students individually that have resulted in a lot of great scores that we see this evening. We did a lot of individual analysis of student scores. The high school met 1500 in math and reading. We are a little short in writing but only one school (in western Pennsylvania) reached 1510. All other schools did not reach 1500. We were the 20<sup>th</sup> school in the entire state, indicating a good writing program. We will focus on looking at these scores individually to bring the scores up and for the S.A.T. also.

The middle school reached all individual targets at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile on the TerraNova. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, we met all levels except science. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade results you saw first were the results of a hands-on science approach at the elementary level. We anticipate that this will continue as these students move on through.

Dr. Price stated that we exceeded both state and national scores quite nicely on the S.A.T.'s. We hope to continue that in the future. He recognized our three National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: Catherine Eisele, Tim Minella (Student Representative to the Board), and Matthew Stauffer. Dr. Price stated that they are three of 1600 students throughout the U.S. who had to score at least at the 96<sup>th</sup> percentile throughout the nation. He extended congratulations to Tim and all of the students.

On the Advanced Placement examinations, Dr. Price reported that 186 students took 377 exams out of the 15 courses that are offered. They cover the subject areas of English, mathematics, social studies, science and world language. Ninety-seven percent of the students scored a three or higher, which is very difficult.

## District Achievement Report (Continued)

Dr. O'Hern provided an historical perspective on why we are achieving those results – a very supportive board, wonderful teachers and great students. She reviewed programs that we have implemented in the past five years to bring us to this point and reviewed the following charts:

- o PSSA 5-Year Trend in Mathematics and Reading
- o PSSA Cohort Comparison from 2001 to 2004 for grades 5, 8, and 11 (almost a 100-point jump from grade 5 to the current grade 8 in 2004)
- o Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) – All of our schools have met AYP. Schools must have certain attendance rates (elementary/middle schools) or graduation rate (high school), participation rates on the PSSA test and proficiency levels. There are also targets for sub-groups (i.e., grade 8 at the middle school had 40+ special needs students), including English As a Second Language. We don't have many of them at Unionville-Chadds Ford, but in some large, rural districts, an entire school may not make AYP because of a sub-group.
- o AYP – Target Attendance/Graduation – At this high school, AYP is calculated based on graduation rates, not attendance rates
- o Participation Rates (Math, Reading, Students with Individualized Education Plans-IEP's) – All students, plus sub-groups must meet the participation rates.
- o Proficiency Levels:
  - Mathematics – From the 2002 through 2007 school years, the proficiency level to make AYP must be 45%
  - Reading – From the 2002 through 2004 school years, the proficiency level was set at 45% but this year in 2005, it will be 54% and for special needs students, 75%.
  - Top 10 in Pennsylvania – Dr. O'Hern reviewed AYP from 2003 to 2004 for the top schools, noting that Tredyffrin/Easttown is only leading by .05% in 2004 over U-CF!
  - The emphasis has changed from scaled scores to proficiency levels because of the requirements of No Child Left Behind.
- o Achievement Activities (Past 5 Years):
  - Alignment to Academic Standards
  - Consistency of curriculum (new math, language arts, and science programs at the elementary level and development of standardized unit plans at the elementary and secondary levels)
  - Parent Waivers – 85% of students who waive into high school courses have achieved a "C" or better in those courses
  - SuccessMaker tutoring (after-school program) – had really helped the special needs students at the middle school.
  - PSSA Study – completed annually by each building

## District Achievement Report (Continued)

### District Achievement Report (Continued)

- Classroom Plus funds for this year
- DIBELS assessment – to see where the kids are and give them direct instruction in areas of weakness.
- Staff Development -
  - Faculty study groups in all buildings
  - Reinstitution of district-wide staff development day with a common focus
  - Training on pre-assessment and differentiating instruction
  - Alignment of Act 48 Committee endorsed activities and professional development
  - Contracts to district initiatives and achievement goals
  - Staff development focus on all aspects of becoming a standards-based school district
  - Continuous improvement of Induction Program
  - Staff Development Coordinator position

Mr. Marinelli, Director of Personnel & Pupil Services, stated that he was previously employed as the Coordinator of Elementary Curriculum. He commented that we have no greater resources than our people here, including wonderful teachers, students, and a very supportive community and school board. He cited some of the resources utilized in achievement activities:

- o K-5 Transition Management Team during K-5 reorganization
- o Purchase and use of PSSA coach materials
- o Funding, people and time focused on the achievement of the students
- o Hiring experienced teachers with additional coursework and advanced degrees
- o Peer Coaches – used to work with inductees on improving instruction
- o Federal Grants – acquisition of funding to focus on achievement goals
- o Hiring practices for classroom teachers and administrators
- o Hirings and continued development and focus of building principals as instructional leader

Dr. Kenney stated that one thing will change under No Child Left Behind. The consequences of not achieving proficiency will be very punitive. Although our levels are high, by 2014, our entire student body and every sub-group must have 100% proficiency on these tests. Otherwise, the state would ultimately take over your school district. He reviewed the achievement goals for 2004-05:

- o Increase proficiency levels on the PSSA in math and reading tests (grades 5, 8, and 11) by 1% at the elementary and middle schools and by 2% at the high school

### District Achievement Report (Continued)

### District Achievement Report (Continued)

- o If we achieve our goal annually, we would achieve our proficiency by 2014. This can be difficult for students in low-wealth communities and where there are ESL students who have not lived here long.
- o The year after next, you will see goals for grades 3, 4, and 5
- o Scaled scores of 1510 or better on the PSSA math and reading tests in grades 5, 8, and 11
- o SAT scores at the average of the mean of SAT scores received for the past three years (1132 on the old SAT and 1698 on the new SAT)

In order to make these achievement goals, we have to look at the aggregated and disaggregated data for individual students. We must be very prescriptive with instruction for our students.

Dr. Kenney complimented the entire community for their support. He thanked the parents for supporting their students, the support staff, teaching staff and the board. Dr. Kenney stated that there is a lot of competition for the money (i.e. air-conditioning, secondary needs, curriculum cycle, professional development, transportation, etc.). Hopefully, every decision results in higher achievement.

Deirdre Wielgus, Pocopson Township resident, congratulated the district on its achievement. She feels that it would be very reassuring if the district used this data to evaluate teachers.

Mr. McClaskey congratulated Dr. Kenney, the administration, teachers, students and parents for achieving the goal of being the best of the best. He hopes we will continue to be there as one of the top districts in the state and in the country. Mr. McClaskey also congratulated our student athletes (Golf – 16-0; Girls' Tennis, Girls' Volleyball, Girls' Field Hockey, Boys' and Girls' Soccer, Boys' and Girls' Cross Country and Football ) who have had a tremendous fall season. He asked that everyone come out for homecoming on Saturday.

Mr. Baker seconded the comments on goals and emphasized the implementation of content to measure on those goals. He attended the football game at Great Valley and congratulated Mr. Dickens for the extraordinary atmosphere and the level of enthusiasm.

Mr. Knauss extended congratulations to the administration for having very thick skin and patience with the board. He seconded the comments about the results that we've seen due to our parents, teachers, administration and students. Mr. Knauss values what it provides to his children, as a homeowner, and as a board member.

### District Achievement Report (Continued)

### RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

### BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mrs. Brown is proud of the results that the teachers and students have produced for us. She thanked Kristin Webb for coming out tonight and changing her “no” vote to a “yes.” Mrs. Brown thanked Dr. O’Hern for continuing to work on the social studies goals. She is expecting a great program and trusting her judgment on this one.

Mr. Swayze stated that it is a great day for our school district as far as test scores and we should be proud. It does not surprise him. He commented about the 17 curriculum and instruction goals being well considered. It surprised him just how closely the board and administration are aligned on those goals. Everyone worked on assessing those goals independently. That is why the district is what it is. Mr. Swayze welcomed Mr. Molleca and Ms. Shearburn to Unionville-Chadds Ford.

Mrs. Trigg commented about seeing the review of the wonderful changes we have seen in recent years. She could give a glowing speech on at least a half dozen things that would be at least as positive. Mrs. Trigg has had at least one student go through the schools over the past 12 years and she has seen tremendous improvement. She thanked everyone who was a part of making that happen.

Mr. Wandersee echoed everyone’s acknowledgements and thanks for a job well done. He has often said that the teaching core is the heart of our whole program. He referred to Dr. Kenney’s comments that we are about teaching and education; that is why we are here. Mr. Wandersee congratulated Tim Minella for his achievement as a National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist – quite an accomplishment!

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown  
Secretary

**BOARD  
MEMBERS’  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

**MEETING  
ADJOURNED**