

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
January 18, 2005

The January meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 in the Unionville High School LGI. Mr. Wandersee, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Wandersee requested that the group stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

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

Melissa Jacono, Birmingham Township resident, asked for the basis of the decision not to release the Middle School Study to the public. Mr. Wandersee stated that Mrs. Brown would address her question during the Curriculum Report later this evening.

Scott Litzenberg, East Marlborough Township resident and Unionville High School Instrumental Music Teacher, stated that the proposed HVAC project at the high school would address cooling "B" and "C" floor classrooms. He commented that the music classrooms are used during the summer and asked why they are not being considered for air conditioning as part of the project, along with the Auditorium. He also inquired as to whether these rooms would be considered in the timeline as part of the overall picture. Mr. Wandersee responded that he understands Scott's concern and stated that Mr. Knauss would comment about it during his report for Facilities this evening. He confirmed that these rooms would not be included in the project due to constraints in the plan that was established. We felt that this was the best plan we could establish with the general concern of many people on the Board as to how much money we could spend on it.

Amanda Combs, East Marlborough Township resident, asked whether there would be time allotted at the end of the meeting for comments from residents regarding the elementary redistricting. Mr. Wandersee stated that there would be time for additional comments following Dr. Kenney's presentation on this topic.

CALL TO ORDER

MEMBERS PRESENT

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the Minutes of the December 6, 2004 Reorganization Meeting and the December 6, 2004 Regular Meeting.
Motion carried (7-0).

**MINUTES
APPROVED**

The following committee meeting minutes were reviewed:

1. Curriculum Committee Meeting – January 10, 2005
(pp. 3.a.2.1-17)
2. Facilities Committee Meeting – December 2, 2004 (p. 3.a.2.18)

Mr. Wandersee requested that the secretary file the committee meeting minutes.

The following financial statements were reviewed:

1. Year-to-Date Summary of Revenues – November 30, 2004
(p. 3.b.1) and December 31, 2004 (p. 3.b.15)
2. Year-to-Date Summary of Expenditures – November 30, 2004
(p. 3.b.2) and December 31, 2004 (p. 3.b.16)
3. General Fund Treasurer's Reports – November, 2004 (p. 3.b.3)
and December, 2004 (p. 3.b.14)
4. Capital Reserve Fund Reports – November, 2004 (p. 3.b.4) and
December, 2004 (p. 3.b.17)
5. Capital Projects Fund Reports – November, 2004 (p. 3.b.5) and
December, 2004 (p. 3.b.18)
6. Construction Project Reports – November, 2004 (pp. 3.b.6-13)
and December, 2004 (pp. 3.b.19-26)
 - a. Unionville Elementary School Project (pp. 3.b.6-7 and
3.b.19-20)
 - b. Chadds Ford Elementary School Project (pp. 3.b.8-9 and
3.b.21-22)
 - c. Pocopson Elementary School project (pp. 3.b.10-11 and
3.b.23-24)
 - d. Stadium/Track Project (pp. 3.b.12-13 and 3.b.25-26)
7. Activity Account Reports
 - a. C. F. Patton Middle School Activities Reports – July-
October, 2004 (pp. 3.c.1-4)
 - b. Unionville High School Activities Reports – July-
October, 2004 (pp. 3.c.5-14)

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

Mr. Wandersee requested that the secretary file the financial statements.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the Bill List dated December 28, 2004 in the amount of \$1,359,995.23 (pp. 3.d.1-23). In response to Mr. Wandersee's question regarding the number of local tax refunds, Mr. Cochran stated that we do receive many duplicate payments (i.e. mortgage company and property owner both make payments).
Motion carried (7-0).

BILLS PAID

3.a.2

It was moved by Mr. Swayze and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the Budget Transfers for January as on the attachment (p. 3.e.1).

Motion carried (7-0).

Mr. Wandersee stated that Mr. Baker was unable to be here this evening due to a commitment with the school district where he is employed in Lancaster, PA. Mr. McClaskey was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a death in the family.

It was moved by Mr. Knauss and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education of an application for a non-reimbursable construction project (PDE-3047-a) at Unionville High School in the amount of \$5.6 million as on the attachment (p. 4.a.1)

Mr. Knauss commented that this is not a binding commitment to move forward with the HVAC project. It is just one step in the paperwork mill.

Motion carried (6-1). Dr. Sweeney voted nay.

Mr. Knauss reviewed the history of the proposed project. The original estimate included the entire high school at a cost of over \$12 million. Due to the lack of a consensus on the board to move forward with that project, a coalition was put together regarding a scaled-down version of the HVAC project. In looking at the temperatures in the high school, they felt that "B" and "C" floors were in most need of air conditioning and a heating change. This estimate came out to \$6 million and does not include the choral and band rooms or the auditorium. Mr. Knauss requested that Mr. Hostetler provide a rough estimate to include air conditioning the band and choral rooms (~\$175,000). He is hesitant to include this additional estimate since we are moving forward with the documents and this would delay the project. We want to start construction in the summertime and if we delayed, it would be postponed for one year. Also, if we include these rooms, we would probably have requests to include other portions of the high school too. Mr. Knauss feels that these requests will be considered but we should move ahead with the project as it is right now.

Mrs. Brown reported that there were no action items for Curriculum this evening. She stated that there has been a lot of activity, including the beginning of work on the results of the Middle School Study.

**BUDGET
TRANSFERS**

FACILITIES

**PDE Application
- UHS HVAC
Project**

CURRICULUM:

Dr. O'Hern stated that there has been no secrecy about the study that was done. It was basically a needs assessment and the Executive Summary is posted on the district web site. The committee was formed with 16 people, including teachers, parents, and administrators who are looking at the results of the study and obtaining input from various people to formulate action plans. They will be ready on February 8th for review by the Curriculum Council and on February 14th for the Board Curriculum Committee and the Board Work Session. Their hope is to have the plans voted upon at the February 22nd regular Board meeting. Dr. O'Hern stated that we are focusing on academic achievement and although the study was basically very positive, there were considerations for district discussion. There is a good groups of people who are meeting weekly to discuss and formulate the plans. She suggested that those who are interested in reading more should go to the district web site – www.ucfsd.org.

Mrs. Brown stated that the people on the committee are going back to their constituents and discussing what was said at the meetings. There are parents on the committee who should be discussing it with other parents and providing feedback.

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Knauss to approve the 2005-06 Building Budget Allocations as on the attachments (pp. 6.a.1-6). Mr. Murray commented that these allocations are set for each building annually and reflect last year's budgetary requests, budgetary spending patterns, and some inflationary factor to maintain some consistency in the cost per student each year.

Mr. Wandersee stated that this is modest and they are certainly proud of the administration with what they've done regarding this over the past few years. We are right in line with the inflation factors at 3.2% for next year and 2% this year. He congratulated the administrative staff for the job they've done.

Motion carried (7-0).

Mr. Murray requested that the following item be entered into the Board Minutes:

Plancon Part K: Project Refinancing for Issuance of General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2004 to Advance Refund General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2000 (Lease No. 002599) as attached on pp. 6.b.1-5.

He stated that the Pennsylvania Department of Education reimburses us on a very small amount of our debt service. We are required to send them a new debt service schedule of our refunding bonds.

Mr. Wandersee requested that Mrs. Miller enter this item into the Minutes.

**CURRICULUM
(Continued):**

**Middle School
Study**

FINANCE:

**Building
Allocations –
2005-2006**

**Plancon Part K:
Project
Refinancing,
Series of 2004
Bonds**

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

- a. Professional Conferences / Resignations
 - 1. Approve attendance at Professional Conferences (16 individuals) as on the attachment (p. 7.a.1)
 - 2. Resignations
 - a. Ronnie Eldreth – Patton Middle School Custodian, effective December 31, 2004
 - b. Gary Ticknor – District Floater Custodian, effective December 14, 2004
 - c. Jennifer Frank – Bus Driver, effective December 23, 2004
- b. Reclassification
 - 1. Rob Super – from full-time, ten-month Bus Driver to full-time, 12-month Assistant Mechanic, effective December 6, 2004, at a salary of \$14.00 per hour for 90 days; then \$14.50 per hour
- c. Substitutes
 - 1. Donna Glynn – Elementary
 - 2. Danielle DiNicola – Special Education
 - 3. Clee Brun – Chemistry
 - 4. Brian Burke – Health & Physical Education
 - 5. Elizabeth Krapf - Elementary
 - 6. Gerald Clark – Middle School / High School
 - 7. Elizabeth Altman – K-6
 - 8. Kimberly Lender – Elementary & Special Education
 - 9. Susan Gore – Support Staff
- d. Supplementals
 - 1. Matt Harris – Assistant Track
 - 2. Matt Harris – Indoor Track (Winter)
 - 3. Syd White – Assistant Track
 - 4. Tabatha Bray – Assistant Track
 - 5. Tabatha Bray – Indoor Track (Winter – 3/4)
 - 6. Amy Hipp – Musical Choreographer
 - 7. Jason Throne – Musical Director

PERSONNEL:

**PROFES-
SIONAL
CONFERENCE**

RESIGNATIONS

R. Eldreth

G. Ticknor

J. Frank

**RECLASSIFI-
CATION:**

R. Super

SUBSTITUTES

**SUPPLE-
MENTAL
CONTRACTS**

Personnel (Continued)
e. Employ

1. Sara Ernst – Chadds Ford Elementary School Librarian Intern, effective January 24, 2005 to the end of the 2004-2005 school year, at the Bachelor's + 24 Step 1 salary level, pro-rated
2. Paula Drumheller – Unionville High School Consumer Science Paraprofessional (7 hours per day x 185 days), effective January 3, 2005, at a salary of \$11.00 per hour
3. Bernadette Hutchison – Chadds Ford Elementary part-time Paraprofessional (3.25 hours per school day), effective January 3, 2005, at a salary of \$10.90 per hour
4. Gladys Watson-Taggart – Bus Driver (5 to 5-1/2 hours/school day), effective January 3, 2005, at a salary of \$14.00 per hour

f. Leave

1. Amy Thompson – 8-week Maternity Leave beginning approximately February 2, 2005, followed by a Child-Bearing Leave for the remainder of the 2004-2005 school year

Motion carried (7-0).

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

g. Board Appointment

Approve the appointment of Edward Murray as the representative for the Center for Arts and Technology, Special Education, and Chester County Intermediate Unit Board to fulfill the unexpired term of Curt Baker through June 30, 2005.

Motion carried (7-0).

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee to nominate Mr. Murray for the election of the Representative to the C.A.T./Special Education/I.U. Board.

It was moved by Mr. Knauss and seconded by Mr. Wandersee to close nominations for the Representative to the C.A.T./Special Education/I.U. Board.

It was moved by Mr. Knauss and seconded by Mr. Wandersee to appoint Edward Murray to stand for election to the Center for Arts and Technology, Special Education, and Chester County Intermediate Unit Board for a term beginning July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2008. Elections will be conducted by mail ballot to all Chester County School Board members on or before February 1, 2005.

Motion carried (7-0).

**PERSONNEL
(Continued)**

EMPLOY:

S. Ernst

P. Drumheller

B. Hutchison

**G. Watson-
Taggart**

LEAVE:

A. Thompson

**BOARD
APPOINTMENT:**

**E. Murray –
Representative
for C.A.T./
Special
Education/
I.U. Board**

Personnel - (Continued)

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

h. Board Committee Appointments

1. Approve the Board Committee Assignments for 2005 as on the attachment

Motion carried (7-0).

It was moved by Mr. Swayze and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to authorize the solicitation of bids for the acquisition of five (5) 72-passenger buses as on the attached bus fleet replacement plan (p. 8.a.1).

Mr. Swayze commented that this was the annual request in the normal process of keeping our fleet of buses on the scheduled rotation. In response to Mr. Knauss's question, Mr. Swayze stated that these are one-for-one replacements as part of the normal 10-year rotation.

Motion carried (7-0).

It was moved by Mr. Swayze and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the resolution for application to the Clean Buses for Kids Retrofit Program Grant of \$298,300 to retrofit 34 school buses with diesel particulate filters as on the attachment (p. 8.b.1).

Mr. Swayze stated that Unionville-Chadds Ford was one of 62 school districts in the U.S. who were selected to receive a grant for this funding out of a total of 423 eligible school districts who applied for it. The monies are provided by Toyota's Clean Buses for Kids Program. The grant will allow the school district to purchase emissions-reducing filters and ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel for the buses. A funding application must now be completed and submitted for final approval in February of this year. Additional information is available on the Internet at www.cleanbusesforkids.com.

Motion carried (7-0).

Mr. Swayze reported for Transportation regarding the following items:

1. New Van – approved for purchase by the Board for students who are attending schools located out of the district because of their special needs. It should be available by the end of January.
2. Parent Reminder – to check the radio or television stations that are listed on the district web page for weather-related information. Hopefully, Mother Nature will be easy on us this year.

**PERSONNEL
(Continued)**

**BOARD
COMMITTEES -
2005**

**TRANSPOR-
TATION:**

Bus Bids

**Clean Buses for
Kids Retrofit
Program Grant**

Mrs. Brown reported for Communications that Dr. Kenney would be providing a report regarding boundary adjustments this evening.

Dr. Kenney stated that the district had 10 operational and 17 curriculum and instruction goals this year for a total of 27 goals. Options for the redistricting goal, number 17, were presented to the Board in November. The educational structure of the district was reviewed, along with capacities in our current grade structure of K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. We had some students and individuals coming to the board meetings who were concerned about over capacity at the high school, possible over capacity at the middle school, and underutilized capacity at the elementary schools. As a result of that, we've produced seven options and iterations of those options for consideration.

The Board asked us to do a little more homework and consider the possibilities of going to a K-6, 7-8 or 7-8-9, and 10-12 configuration. We presented more information to the Board that we believe would not allow us to go K-6. Two of our schools would be overcrowded at the elementary level. We also believe that given the future developments that are planned in the community, in three to four years all of the elementary schools would be overcrowded. The administration recommended adjusting the attendance boundaries within the school district. When we went K-5, it was mentioned that we would need to adjust attendance boundaries within 3-5 years because of enrollment and class size inequities in those schools.

We also recommended that in the process of renovating the high school we purchase vs. rent four modular classrooms for use while the bubble is going through the high school and find an alternate place for the district administration. This would free up about five classrooms. We are also asking them for a decision in February or March regarding the boundary change recommendations. Some of the Pocopson Elementary students would move to either Chadds Ford or Hillendale Elementary School.

Dr. Kenney provided a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed three reasons why we are considering this attendance boundary change:

1. Rebalance building enrollments and class sizes
2. Address building capacities given future housing starts
3. Provide appropriate instructional groupings at all elementary buildings.

He reviewed the enrollment projections at the four elementary schools for 2005-06 based on current attendance boundaries and with the proposed changes:

	<u>No Change</u>	<u>With Change</u>
Chadds Ford -	284	325
Hillendale -	361	430
Pocopson -	541	429
Unionville -	476	476

COMMUNI- CATIONS

Report – Elementary Boundary Adjustments

Dr. Kenney also outlined building capacities and room utilization:

	<u>No Change</u>	<u>With Change</u>	<u>No./Rooms</u>
Chadds Ford -	15	18	18
Hillendale -	18	21	21
Pocopson -	26	21	27
Unionville -	23	23	24

He reviewed maps of the current attendance boundaries and indicated the suggested changes. A group west of Pocopson Elementary would be going to Hillendale and a group east of Pocopson Elementary would attend Chadds Ford. He stated that the suggested changes were made with the intention of keeping neighborhoods together. Additionally, the two areas are contiguous to the existing boundaries for the receiving schools and in close proximity to them.

Dr. Kenney reviewed the future housing developments in the district that include eight scheduled developments and six on the books. They include the Girl Scout camp (Chadds Ford – 120 homes), the Johnson Farm (Hillendale – 29 homes), Pennsbury Town Center (Hillendale - 30 homes; 64 town homes; and 60 apartments; could be delayed-presently in litigation), Toll Brothers (Pocopson - 108 homes), and the Bailey Farm (Pocopson – 65 homes). Based on the U-CF cohort retention rate, it is estimated that there would be .64 additional students per house built. This factor is based on our study of the rate and from developers as well.

Dr. Kenney commented that after the boundaries are adjusted now, they would still need to be readjusted in three to five years. This is what the previous Board said to the community in 1999-2000. The current proposal includes 94 students who would move from Pocopson Elementary to either Chadds Ford Elementary (37 students) or Hillendale Elementary (57 students). Orientation activities are being planned for students who might be leaving Pocopson. Letters will be mailed to parents of students who will be affected on January 19, 2005, and there will be a meeting for the affected parents as well as other Pocopson parents on February 8, 2005 in the Pocopson Elementary School gymnasium. Comments and information will be posted on the district's website at www.ucfsd.org/attb. The Board will be asked to vote on this proposal at the regular meeting on February 22, 2005 or the regular meeting on March 28, 2005.

Mrs. Trigg reviewed the first reading of School Board policies regarding tobacco use and tobacco control (No. 222-Students; 323-Administrative Employees; 423-Professional Employees; 523-Support Employees; and 904.1-Community). She commented that they are not revisions to the policies but a consolidation of them to reference Policy No. 819.

Mrs. Trigg stated that there is a slight revision to Policy No. 201 – Admission of Students. It will change the entrance age cut-off for kindergarten from a date that varies from year to year to a cut-off date before September 1.

**COMMUNI-
CATIONS**

**Report –
Elementary
Boundary
Adjustments
(Continued)**

BOARD POLICY

First Readings

Tim Minella, Student Representative, stated that he hoped everyone had a safe and relaxing winter break. He reported that teachers and students have come to him regarding the Universal Calendar policy with many concerns, specifically the religious holidays that are going to be changed. There is an editorial in the *Indian Post*. Tim stated that students are concerned about it and many people have problems with it. He encouraged the Board to look at the policy again. Tim also reported that District Band was a great success with many families volunteering to house students. He thanked Mr. Litzenberg for hosting this event.

There was no report for the Center for Arts and Technology/ Special Education/Intermediate Unit this evening.

Mr. Wandersee reported for Legislation regarding the following items:

1. General Assembly – Goes into full session on January 24, 2005. Most of the activity is centering around finding money to fund the transit system in Philadelphia.
2. Act 72 – Continues to be the major issue today. There are two major questions facing this school district and everyone in the audience who is a taxpayer in this district. Unionville-Chadds Ford is a two-county school district, with six townships in Chester County and one in Delaware County. Each county has differences in their assessments and market value determinations. Consequently, when we do our tax increases, they are done by taking the amounts of revenue and distributing them based on a calculated formula basis and inevitably, there would be a difference in the tax rates for the two counties.

Last year, Chester County's tax increase was at 2.8% (within the index for Act 72; no referendum. Delaware County was at approximately 8%. How does the District reconcile this difference? None of our political representatives have been able to provide an answer to us yet. If we do opt into Act 72, we are obligated to enact a .1% (one-tenth percent) Earned Income Tax. There is a debate between the Pa. Department of Education and the legal minds about how much of the estimate to declare in the first year.

Mr. Wandersee reminded everyone that the Board is obligated to opt in or out of Act 72 by May 30, 2005. We have many unanswered questions about what is in the best interest for our students and the community – not easy. This is a major decision facing us today. He asked that anyone who had questions see him after the meeting.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE
REPORT**

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

**LEGISLATIVE
REPORT**

**SUPER-
 TENDENT'S
 REPORT**

Dr. Kenney provided the Superintendent's report regarding:

1. Tsunami Fund Drive – Congratulations to Meghan Manning, Student Council President, Ashley Burslem, UHS English Teacher, and all who contributed to raising funds for the American Red Cross relief efforts for victims. CVS Pharmacy will match the \$17,000 that has been raised!
2. NAEP Assessment – All 4th grade students at Unionville Elementary will participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress in the areas of reading and mathematics on January 27, 2005.
3. Girl's Cross Country – UHS was ranked 20th in the nation as a team. Congratulations to the team and to coach, Mark Lacianna.
4. AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) – All six U-CF schools were recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for having achieved AYP over the past two years. Dr. Kenney is happy that we've made it and stated that the Department's emblem would be displayed in our elementary schools as a result of having made AYP.
5. Coca-Cola Scholars Program – Congratulations to Michaela Cohen (UHS), who has been designated as a semifinalist.
6. National School Director Recognition Month – Dr. Kenney presented certificates to each Board member and thanked them for their service to the community. We celebrated the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on Monday whose birthday was on behalf of service to the community. You ladies and gentlemen are emblematic of what Dr. King talked about because of the time you spend here and discussing issues like a \$52 million budget, HVAC projects, transportation and personnel issues, the Middle School Study, and the elementary attendance area reconfiguration. Thank you for your willingness to support the community.
7. PSSA/Grade 3 – Scores were received prior to Christmas
 - a. Math – U-CF placed 1st in the entire state at 1585! The second place district scored 1531 (54 scaled score points lower; 50 points is considered statistically significant)
 - b. Reading – U-CF placed 1st in the state for reading also at 1505! The second place district scored 1453 (52 scaled score points lower).

Dr. Kenney stated that there are 1,857 elementary schools in Pennsylvania with third grades. Following are the placements for our schools within the state:

<u>Grade 3 PSSA</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Math</u>
Pocopson Elementary	1 st	2 nd
Hillendale Elementary	2 nd	3 rd
Unionville Elementary	17 th	22 nd
Chadds Ford Elementary	49 th	100 th

Dr. Kenney reminded everyone that even though we're the top district in the state, we will not make AYP in 2012 if the law remains unchanged. Since the third grade scores have now been returned, Unionville-Chadds Ford as a district has met their goal of being the number one district in the state (grades 3,5, 8, and 11)! This is quite an accomplishment.

Mr. Wandersee stated that this is truly remarkable and thanked the students, teachers, parents and administrators. Every board member takes pride in being part of the district and it's all because of your parts collectively.

Bruce Vosburgh, Principal, C. F. Patton Middle School, commented that our 8th graders will also participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress testing on January 26, 2005 (second year in a row).

Amanda Combs, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that she resides on Doe Run Road. Three years ago, they were at Unionville Elementary and their son's classroom was moved to a shared classroom in the Auditorium. The next year, they were moved to Pocopson Elementary mid-year. The following year, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the school came in and was new. They also lived pretty far from the kids who went to Pocopson. Now (2-1/2 years later), they finally feel a part of this group and will now go to a third school this year. Mrs. Combs would like some special concern for the small area that is being taken from Pocopson to Hillendale. She asked that the Board consider keeping them there or moving them to Unionville Elementary, which is closer.

Mr. Wandersee thanked Mrs. Combs for her comments. He recalls having been on the board during the renovation of Unionville Elementary. He stated that Dr. Kenney would note her comments. Mr. Wandersee suggested that this is more of an adjustment rather than an actual redistricting. We looked at changing the structure of the school grades (to K-6). We also looked at how to balance the class sizes and are forced to restructure attendance areas. He understands that there could be some hardships. They did try to mitigate this to the lowest possible impact and hope not to do this for years ahead. The Board has thought a lot about this and spent many hours late into the night discussing it at committee meetings.

Mrs. Combs thanked the Board for having the administration do it versus parents who had some self-serving aspects previously. Dr. Kenney stated that the administration does not like doing these things either.

Kristin Ramsdell, Birmingham Township resident, asked whether the PowerPoint slides could be shown again. Dr. Kenney stated that they would be available on the district website tonight and would be shown at the meeting at Pocopson on February 8, 2005.

**SUPER-
TENDENT'S
REPORT
(Continued)**

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

Katie Donovan, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that the students who would be reassigned to Chadds Ford or Hillendale have been to three schools with four to five principals. If the district waited one more year for this grade that has been so hard hit to get to the middle school, the issue would not be as strong.

Linda Fisher, East Marlborough Township resident, commented regarding moving 3rd graders from Pocopson to Hillendale (with 26/class), which would lead to an increase to 29 students per class. Dr. Kenney stated that with the shift in classes from Pocopson to either Hillendale or Chadds Ford, staff members would also be moved (a staff neutral change). However, it's unknown how things will change between today and when we start school next year with regard to enrollments.

In response to Mrs. Fisher's question, Dr. Kenney stated that he and the administrative team would be present at the meeting for parents on February 8, 2005. The Board will be making the ultimate decision regarding changes to the attendance boundaries.

In response to her question regarding the necessity for changing these attendance boundaries, Dr. Kenney stated that we are concerned about balancing enrollments and class sizes, providing appropriate instructional groupings at all elementary buildings, and getting into a crisis situation (e.g. art on a cart, overcrowded situation, IST/AT in rooms not designed for that purpose).

Linda Bowen, Birmingham Township resident, commented regarding Chadds Ford Elementary being overcrowded because there would be no additional classrooms. She stated that her development would be the swing development between Pocopson and Chadds Ford Elementary Schools. Dr. Kenney stated that he wished he could answer the question definitively. What if certain developments don't come on-line? The board will have some difficult decisions if we get that kind of growth. We just don't know who will move in. The other issue is transition housing, since we are looking at new housing only. The future in that sense cannot be predicted with any certainty. This leads to the need for reviewing boundaries every three to five years as was said previously here.

Katie Donovan, East Marlborough Township resident, commented about the high school being at its capacity. She asked whether there were plans to move the District Office. Mr. Wandersee stated that this has not been discussed or decided. The Board recognizes that there is a need to do something with the District Office but the first step is to address the K-5 situation. We don't have a long-term solution yet.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Carol Apicella, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that she resides on a road that could be shifted to another attendance area. She commented that during the last redistricting, their road was back and forth between two schools. She has heard over and over that they can't predict where people will be. However, it is tremendously disruptive to be the one or two new kids in the school over and over and it has distracted her son's learning. If it's hard to predict, why can't we carve out the new developments into those areas? Why disrupt all of these families if it's not a problem yet?

Mr. Wandersee thanked Mrs. Apicella for her input. He stated that we have to take a look at the management and how we transport the kids around, etc.

Kim Haggerty, Pocopson Township resident, asked that special attention be paid to the 3rd grade bubble at Hillendale Elementary School.

Melissa Jacono, Birmingham Township resident, asked whether there was a list of the committee members for the Middle School Study on the website. Dr. O'Hern responded that this was posted on the website.

Kristin Ramsdell, Birmingham Township resident, commented regarding pulling a number of third grade students from Pocopson Elementary to 4th grade at Hillendale Elementary. This leaves Pocopson looking at 25-26 again next year. She stated that there are inconsistent standards from one K-5 school to another. Mr. Wandersee thanked Mrs. Ramsdell for her comments and stated that this is what we are trying to avoid. Dr. Kenney added that the problem occurs when people move in September through November and we end up where we are now.

Liz Scargle, East Marlborough Township resident, inquired regarding the percent of Act 72 responses that were being received. Mr. Cochran stated that prior to the second mailing, we were at about 60% in Chester County. We have no information available from Delaware County as to their response rate. Mr. Wandersee asked that everyone respond to the mailing. In response to Mrs. Scarborough's question, Mr. Wandersee stated that the Board must decide on opting in or out of Act 72 by May 30, 2005.

Melissa Jacono, Birmingham Township resident, commented regarding the chart that indicated room utilization now and after the proposed boundary changes. She asked whether we were trying to move students from Pocopson because we expect more children there. Mr. Wandersee stated that we need to take a look at the chart. Mrs. Brown added that the chart was received tonight and this was the first report from the administration with suggestions as to what we should do. Mr. Wandersee stated that the first step is to readjust the boundaries, which will be studied.

In response to Mrs. Jacono's question, Mr. Wandersee stated that one month may not be enough time to study the information. Mrs. Brown stated that she would like to decide as soon as possible to give people time and to adjust the staff. Mr. Wandersee added that we are trying to balance the schools.

Mr. Knauss stated that his e-mail address and phone number were listed in the directory if anyone had questions. He congratulated Mr. Litzenberg for hosting District Band which included districts in Chester and Delaware Counties and Philadelphia. There was also a wonderful conductor from Messiah College. Mr. Knauss stated that the third grade PSSA scores were great for students and parents but were also a plus for the community at large and a premium for homeowners in our district. He stated that in speaking with developers, they effect an approximately 15-30% premium on our prices.

Mrs. Brown commented that the Middle School Study was not a secret and everything has been available to the public. It has been discussed at committee meetings and at Board meetings on several occasions. At the elementary level, she stated that we are trying to look at a solution that places students more evenly in our buildings so we can have more sections in some of our grades where we've had this problem. We will continue to have this problem with our smaller elementary schools. It's not something that we want to adjust every year. Unless you shift individual students from school to school every year, that is going to happen every three to five years.

Dr. Sweeney stated that it's a privilege to work with and learn from her eight fellow School Board members.

Mr. Murray referred to the large gap in the PSSA scores at grade 3 between the number one and number two school districts. He stated that everyone should share in that great accomplishment to have achieved number one school district in the Commonwealth!

Mr. Swayze echoed Dr. Sweeney's comments about serving on the Board. He stated that the results of the 3rd grade PSSA scores are something that each and every Board member has looked forward to achieving. There is also a lot more than test scores but it is certainly indicative of educational progress. Mr. Swayze commended the past Board in their selection of small schools and feels there may be some correlation to the 3rd grade scores.

Mrs. Trigg thanked the Middle School Study Steering Committee and Dr. O'Hern for their large investment of time. She stated that her children range from a high school Junior to a Kindergartener. This year's PSSA scores are phenomenal and with the changes that she has seen in the elementary reading and math programs, it's very impressive.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

Mr. Wandersee thanked the staff members and parents who come out to these meetings. He stated that their input is respected and needed since we cannot exist in a vacuum. Mr. Wandersee encouraged everyone to talk to their neighbors and the PTO leadership regarding Act 72. This is a crossroads for education in our district and we don't know quite where to go with it. We really want to study this and want to make sure that everyone is aware of it.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown
Secretary

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**