

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Minutes
January 22, 2007

The January meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, January 22, 2007 in the Unionville High School Large Group Instruction room. Mr. Baker, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

The following members were present: Curt Baker, R. Bruce Swayze, Karen Halstead, Ed Murray, Timotha Trigg, Edward Wandersee, and Dr. Therese West. Also present were Sharon E. Parker, District Superintendent, Dr. Brenda O'Hern, Clif Beaver, Robert Cochran, Jim Fulginiti, Rick Hostetler, Rich Hug, Thomas Marinelli, Dr. Andrew McLaughlin, John Nolen, Dr. Jim Price, Rudy Reif, Bruce Vosburgh, Marie Wickersham, Gail Wolfel, Lexi Crampton, student representative, community residents, members of the press, and Denise Miller, recording secretary.

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

Ms. Parker recognized the elementary students who were present that represent the 4,084 students in Unionville-Chadds Ford. She commented regarding the new process from 7:00 to 7:30 PM at each School Board meeting where students would demonstrate their learning and work in the high school lobby area. This is a chance for the community to interact with them and to see the displays. Ms. Parker thanked Chadds Ford Principal Charlene Stone who coordinated this month's features.

Mrs. Stone stated that the display included a cross-section of work from K-5 students in regular and art classes, as well as items from the T.V. studio. It's hard for teachers to share a small sampling of what their students have been doing all year. You will see work that aligns with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards and the products represent written and illustrated work from language arts and mathematics. The students' work is labeled by name and grade. Mrs. Stone extended her thanks to Sheryl Kolakowski, CF Office Manager, for organizing all of the items.

**CALL TO
ORDER**

**MEMBERS
PRESENT**

**SUPER-
INTENDENT'S
REPORT**

**Student
Demonstrations
and
Recognition**

Superintendent's Report (Continued)

Ms. Parker presented certificates of achievement to each of the violinists from our elementary schools that performed prior to the Board meeting this evening:

- Chris and Laura Barthold, Chadds Ford Elementary
- Mary Umbs, Anne Bigler, and Jack Haley, Hillendale Elementary
- Rachel Stoltz, Deepthi Aravind, and Lauren Mitchell, Unionville Elementary
- Jodi Robertson and Avery Stivale, Pocopson Elementary

She stated that Ms. Paula Remzas had schooled them well and extended thanks to her. She also thanked their parents for the wonderful gift they give to us each day.

Superintendent Parker stated that January is National School Board Recognition month. She stated that Superintendents and Boards in every district will use terms like "Oh what a thankless job." Every one of us will have a thankless job at some point in our lives. Some of us have the opportunity for community governance and volunteerism in the way that decisions will be viewed with a form of critical acclaim. One thing she knows is that there will be good folks who will disagree with her every day. Members of the Board face such challenges daily.

Board members gathered at 6:45 PM with members of the administration, and we expressed our appreciation on behalf of the school community. They received an antiquarian children's book that was approximately 100 years-old. The Board members stand as a reminder to us that many years before we were in this place, children were about teaching, learning, playing and having the celebrations of childhood. There were good people who accepted that sometimes thankless job of serving to make education possible. With appreciation, we thank the Board of School Directors for their courage, character and for getting up every morning and doing their best.

Certificates from the PA School Boards Association were provided to Board members, thanking them for *creating opportunity and inspiring dreams*. Ms. Parker thanked the School Directors for their continued service and devotion to the children of Unionville-Chadds Ford.

Ms. Parker stated that when we talk about that which we do best, it is focused on the needs of our students. That is expressed in many ways, and the next few agenda items will speak to the needs of our students.

She announced the January 24 open interest meeting (7:00 PM, Patton Middle School Auditorium) for parents and non-parent community members to talk about concerns for at-risk behaviors. We will have a variety of community members present and representatives from COAD (Chester County Council

SUPER- INTENDENT'S REPORT

U-CF Students Honored

National School Director Recognition Month

Community Forum – Cyber-bullying

3.a.2

Superintendent's Report (Continued)

on Addictive Diseases). There will be an opportunity to discuss, to plan, and to offer community members the occasion for volunteerism. The goal will be to establish a district-wide task force that will network from community group to community group. Communities That Care will lace together many current groups, including FOCUS, church groups, PTO's, and athletic associations that are all working to serve children. This is a time for broader community voice. She encouraged those who are available to join in this interest meeting and to make a decision if they would like to be part of that broader community initiative or whether they would offer support in their own way where there is an occasion.

Lexi Crampton, Student Representative, provided her report regarding:

1. Mid-Term Exams – Were completed on Friday and we are beginning the second semester today.
2. Course Selection – Books are out for next year
3. Debate Team – Did extremely well at their tournament, bringing home a large trophy. Participation on the team has grown a lot in recent years from almost nothing to being a wonderful, national program.
4. Other Groups – From music to sports are faring quite well in their competitions.
5. New Scoreboard – Has been installed in the gymnasium
6. Grading System – She hopes the new system is effective and meets the district's needs.

Ms. Parker stated that we would have a presentation from the Grading Committee whose work stems back an entire semester. It's her pleasure to greet them this evening. She introduced Dr. Jim Price, Director of Secondary Education.

Dr. Price stated that we would review the actual content of the committee's review to make their recommendation this evening. We are on time to implement the changes in September, 2007 and look forward to things progressing to meet that goal. He reviewed the list of committee members including:

- Clif Beaver - UES Principal
- Frank Deady - UHS Guidance Counselor
- Jim Fulginiti - UHS Principal
- Janet Jennings - CFP-MS Language Arts Teacher
- Sharon Kittle - UHS Mathematics Teacher
- Michelle Lafferty – UES Grade 4 Teacher
- Jerry Little – CFP-MS Social Studies Teacher
- Scott Litzenberg – UHS Music Teacher
- John Nolen – Director/Elementary Instruction & Curriculum
- Brenda O'Hern – Assistant Superintendent
- Jim Price – Director of Secondary Education
- Shannon Price – CFES Grade 3 Teacher

**SUPERIN-
TENDENT'S
REPORT –**

**Community
Forum –
Cyber-bullying
(Continued)**

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE
REPORT**

**Grading
Presentation**

**Committee
Members**

Grading Presentation - Continued

- Rudy Reif – UHS Assistant Principal
- Sue Thomas – UHS English Teacher
- Bruce Vosburgh – CFP-MS Principal
- John Walsh – CFP-MS Technology Teacher
- Barb Williamson – PES Grade 5 Teacher

The group represents every facet of the school district. We included a span of grades and subject areas to allow for input in making these decisions.

Dr. Price reviewed the committee's process to:

- Develop a statement of purpose
 - To measure and communicate student progress
- Review surrounding districts' information
 - Including Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties
- Review college admissions processes and policies
 - 31 Colleges and Universities, including Brown, Bucknell, University of Pennsylvania, Penn State University, etc.
 - Found no set of policies used by every school in the U.S.
- Obtain input from the K-12 teachers
- Conduct an on-line survey of the community
 - Including Students, Parents, and Community Members
- Develop an equitable system for all students.
 - Inclusive of educational integrity

Scott Litzenberg reviewed the Executive Summary that included their recommendations for action to the School Board:

- Adopt a Ten-Point Grading Scale
 - A (90–100); B (80–89); C (70–79); D (60–69); F (Below 60)
- Adopt Guidelines for Reporting Grades
 - Marking period, mid-term exam, and final exam grades will be reported as percentages
 - Year-end grades will be reported as letter grades on report cards and transcripts
 - Pluses (+) and minuses (-) will be used to indicate the student's standing within each letter grade range (end of year and on transcripts)
 - | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| A ⁺ = 97 – 100 | C ⁺ = 77 – 79 |
| A = 93 – 96 | C = 73 – 76 |
| A ⁻ = 90 – 92 | C ⁻ = 70 – 72 |
| B ⁺ = 87 – 89 | D ⁺ = 67 – 69 |
| B = 83 – 86 | D = 63 – 66 |
| B ⁻ = 80 – 82 | D ⁻ = 60 – 62 |
| | F = Below 60 |

Grading Presentation

Committee Members - Continued

Process

Executive Summary

Grading Presentation - Continued

- Adopt a Course Weighting System Based on:
 - One (1) quality point added to the year-end grade earned in an Advanced Placement Course
 - A - $4 + 1 = 5$
 - B - $3 + 1 = 4$
 - C - $2 + 1 = 3$
 - D - $1 + 1 = 2$
 - F - $= 0$
 - One-half (.5) quality point added to the year-end grade earned in an Honors Course
 - A - $4 + .5 = 4.5$
 - B - $3 + .5 = 3.5$
 - C - $2 + .5 = 2.5$
 - D - $1 + .5 = 1.5$
 - F - $= 0$
 - No additional quality points added to the year-end grade earned in an Academic, First Level, or Non-leveled Course
 - A - 4
 - B - 3
 - C - 2
 - D - 1
 - F - 0
 - Adopt guidelines for calculating **Grade Point Average (GPA)**; Year-end letter grades will be converted to Quality Points and the average will be calculated.
 - $A^+ = 4.3$ $C^+ = 2.3$
 - $A = 4.0$ $C = 2.0$
 - $A^- = 3.7$ $C^- = 1.7$
 - $B^+ = 3.3$ $D^+ = 1.3$
 - $B = 3.0$ $D = 1.0$
 - $B^- = 2.7$ $D^- = 0.7$
 - $F = 0$
 - Adopt guidelines for reporting Class Rank and Grade Point Average
 - Information concerning a student's standing within the class will be reported to post-secondary institutions in the form of deciles.
 - Individual class rank will not be reported to post-secondary institutions.

Rudy Reif reviewed the grading scale rationale:

- 10-Point System Impact on GPA Calculation:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>10 Point</u>
○ Student A	4.284	4.284
○ Student B	2.937	3.129
○ Student C	2.600	2.710

**Grading
Presentation**

**Executive
Summary -
Continued**

**Grading Scale
Rationale**

Grading Presentation - Continued

- Grading Scale will be consistent grades 3 through 12

He stated that elementary students have been using a plus and minus system.

Michelle Lafferty stated that this work was a labor of love for the group. She commented regarding grade reporting:

- Elementary School
 - Kindergarten through Grade 2: No change (3, 2, or 1 evaluation using the Academic Standards)
 - Grades 3 through 5: Letter grades will be reported on the report card (Stays as is with a plus/minus system but with a new grading scale)
 - Middle School
 - Each marking period grade will be reported as a percentage.
 - Year-end grades will be calculated based on percentages.
 - Year-end grades will be reported on the report card as a letter grade.
 - High School
 - Each marking period grade, mid-term exam, and final exam will be reported as a percentage.
 - Year-end grades will be calculated based on percentages.
 - Year-end grades will be reported on the report card and transcript as a letter grade. (Many colleges and universities do this anyway.)

Frank Deady reviewed Course Weighting:

- Current System
 - Advanced Placement - 1.25 Multiplier
 - Honors - 1.25 Multiplier
 - Academic/First Level - 1.0 Multiplier
- Proposed System
 - Advanced Placement - 1.0 Quality Point
 - Honors - .5 Quality Point
 - Academic - No Additional Quality Points
 - First Level - No Additional Quality Points

Dr. Deady commented about the switch from a multiplier to adding to the 4.0, etc. He explained that with a multiplier, a student with a grade of "A" in an A.P. course received a full-point bump vs. one who scored a "B" and received a .75 bump. This should be consistent and will now be effected by adding a full-point bump for A.P. courses.

Grading Presentation

Grade Reporting

Course Weighting

Grading Presentation – Continued

Dr. Deady reviewed the Course Weighting Rationale:

- Proposed System Gives Greater Weight to A.P. Courses
 - National Curriculum
 - National Standardized Assessment
 - Potential College Credit

He stated that A.P. courses are college level courses with a national curriculum. Honors courses are enriched high school courses. The Grade Point Average (GPA) should tell the level of achievement of a student.

The following information was provided regarding Grade Point Average Calculating and Reporting:

- Maintain current method of averaging year-end grades to calculate GPA
- Report deciles on college applications

The Board changed our method from individual ranking to decile ranking, which was a good thing. We will continue to report deciles, which are acceptable to the vast majority of colleges and scholarship programs. Dr. Deady stated that if not reporting an individual rank would hurt a student, we would make a report to that college. This is a very rare occurrence.

Jim Fulginiti discussed the Implementation Recommendations:

- Implement proposed changes in Fall, 2007
- Maintain all grades earned prior to Fall, 2007
- Policy Adoption
 - First Reading: January 22, 2007
 - Second Reading & Possible Adoption: February 26, 2007
- Communication Plan to be developed.

Mr. Fulginiti stated that they are working with technology to blend the two systems. Communication will be early and often through the many means that are available.

Ms. Parker stated that Board members received an ecru copy of the proposed Board policies with a slight correction. She thanked Dr. Price for getting them to us today.

Dr. Price solicited questions from the Board and community members.

Keith Knauss, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that when a student receives a “B,” for example, to communicate accurately to parents how the child has done in that course, it is sometimes helpful to know if the teacher is an easy or a hard grader. In response to his question regarding the availability of grade distribution lists, Dr. Price stated that they were monitored by administrators. Grade distributions can be dependent upon the group of students and their interaction with the teacher but it is something we take care of administratively.

**Grading
Presentation**

**Course
Weighting -
Continued**

Implementation

Questions

Grading Presentation - Continued

Carol Catanese, Pennsbury Township resident, inquired as to whether a student who received a 90 (“B”) this year in AP Physics, for example, would receive an “A” next year. Dr. Price responded that the student would receive an A- with a grade of 90 in 2007-08.

Brad Gabor, Pocopson Township resident, applauded the committee for a great job. He has a student who is a junior and asked whether two grades would be sent to colleges next year.

Dr. Price stated that the GPA would be a blending of the two systems. The grades prior to the changes will not indicate a plus or minus but the senior-year scores would include the plus/minus designations in this case. If there are questions, the Guidance Department will interact with the admissions system. You would still see the GPA and the level of the courses the student had taken (i.e. AP, Honors).

Mr. Gabor inquired about the difficulty in having the numerical equivalent listed to homogenize the reporting. Dr. Price stated that a comment would be made in the profile that accompanies the transcript. They will only see the final letter grade, which was part of that decision. Mr. Litzenberg also commented that it would be more confusing to show the numerical grades from one grading scale for three years and from the new grading scale for the fourth year. Mr. Gabor stated that he is still concerned but appreciates all of the hard work.

Mrs. Trigg inquired about the possibility of teachers completing a confidential survey to see if they were on board with each of these points. Dr. Price stated that responses from all of the faculties have been positive.

Mr. Fulginiti stated that the grading presentation was provided at a high school faculty meeting. There were very few comments forthcoming but very positive feedback from some people who are real thinkers. They understand that there isn't a perfect system but the recommendations seem as equitable as they could be.

Sue Thomas, UHS English Department Chair, commented about the healthy dialogue among staff members through e-mails. The conversation has been ongoing and will continue as they work to tweak some of the in-house policy issues.

**Grading
Presentation**

**Questions -
Continued**

Grading Presentation - Continued

John Walsh, Patton Middle School Technology Teacher and Grading Committee member, commented regarding the very positive feedback from everyone. Bruce Vosburgh concurred and stated that the same presentation was given to his faculty. He stated that there was approximately a 95% participation rate in the first survey and it extended across all subjects.

Mrs. Trigg asked whether there was concern over any changes in the grading scale procedures. She would like to see some tangible evidence.

Louise Cleveland, Patton Middle School Librarian and U-CF Education Association President, stated that she had mentioned this at the Executive Board meeting. If there was an issue, she would have heard about it at that time.

Superintendent Parker stated that she meets with the Association group each month and people know they could share concerns district-wide. Some people will be uncomfortable with this change and we want to be sure there is an opportunity for their voice to be heard. She feels confident that the teachers have been supported and she has taken it back to the Association. If we hear of any who come forward, we can have this discussion.

The recommendation has come to the Board and they will not take action until next month. We will continue to use this month to gather information from parents, students, and staff, leaving the door wide open for people to come forward.

Dr. Price commented about the very intense conversations that took place where committee members did not always agree with one another. He extended his thanks to everyone who participated on this committee.

In response to a resident's question, Dr. Price stated that the PowerPoint presentation would be posted on the district's website tomorrow.

In response to Vic DuPuis' question regarding when we changed to the current grading policy, Dr. Deady stated that he was told we studied every district in the area and went to that system because no one else used it.

Nick O'Neill, East Marlborough Township resident, inquired about the difficulty in indicating grades with the new plus and minus system on this year's report cards. Dr. Price stated that an "A" is now a 93 or above but there is a different range with the new system.

**Grading
Presentation**

**Questions -
Continued**

Grading Presentation - Continued

Bruce Vosburgh stated that in the presentation examples for Students A, B, and C, hundreds of student records were reviewed (not just three). We pulled representative ones based on lists from high, middle and low levels, chosen randomly.

Dr. West expressed concern over the lack of specificity for the reporting out of grades in Policy No. 214. Dr. Price commented that they tried not to make the policy cumbersome with administrative detail. Ms. Parker stated that a blue paper would come out with the policy.

Mr. Baker stated that the committee's work was magnificent and congratulated them. He expressed a concern about the language in Policy No. 214 since we are willing to provide actual class rank from time to time.

Superintendent Parker thanked Dr. Price and the fine team for their commitment to data-driven decision-making. There has been a response and call to look at what we have in place. Their work is deeply appreciated.

Mr. Baker stated that there was a box in the back of the LGI room for anyone who wished to leave a comment or question for the Board.

Dan Gabor, East Marlborough Township resident, commented on the wonderful work of the Grading Committee and other items going on in the district, including Facilities. He commented about having read articles in the newspapers recently regarding the immediate impact and negative consequences of a construction project. He feels that the positive benefits for the next generation of U-CF students will definitely outweigh the immediate impacts and will be the legacy of this Board, administration, faculty and student body.

Lydia Bartholomew, East Marlborough Township resident, commented regarding her experience with a tenant in the district. She was surprised about the district's willingness to start a student. Ms. Bartholomew explained that the tenant was assuming guardianship of a girl from the Gettysburg area. The family wanted her to have a U-CF education. After she called the district regarding the family's lease, the whole thing did not work out. She wanted to the Board to realize that they need to put some things in place so that students could not start right away without a lease.

Ms. Parker stated that our public schools are governed by the McKinney Act for children who are homeless. We are also governed by the Pennsylvania School Code for children who are accepted within a family (residing with a family in the district). The child would be able to attend school here. This is an interesting marriage of state and federal law. People know the good news about this good district. She extended her thanks to Ms. Bartholomew for bringing this matter to our attention.

**Grading
Presentation**

**Questions -
Continued**

**Comment/
Question Box**

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

Bruce Yelton, Pocopson Township resident, commented about the Board investigation and great deal of time and expense to provide plans for needed high school facilities. He mentioned the lack of the middle school's inclusion in the investigation and asked why the Board refused to make alternate solutions to the district's facilities needs. Some alternates could be up to 50% less expensive than the plan the Board is currently pursuing and would provide the facilities needed at all grade levels. The plans are for a site that KCBA Architects identified as seriously undersized with the facilities it currently holds.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Mr. Yelton asked to review a study done by Dr. Kenney regarding a K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12 grade configuration. This study was mentioned by Mrs. Brown at the October 31 Facilities Committee meeting. In response to Ms. Parker's question, Mrs. Miller stated that we would research his request and provide a response to Mr. Yelton within a week. Mr. Baker stated that the Board would respond to Mr. Yelton's first question.

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Minutes of the December 4, 2006 Reorganization Meeting and the December 11, 2006 Regular Board Meeting (pp. 3.a.1-24).

**MINUTES
APPROVED**

Motion carried (7-0).

The following committee meeting minutes were reviewed:

1. Tax Study Commission – December 7, 2006 (pp. 3.a.25-26)
2. Board Curriculum Committee – January 8, 2007 (pp. 3.a.27-38)

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

The following financial statements were reviewed:

1. General Fund Treasurer's Reports – November, 2006 (p. 3.b.1) and December, 2006 (p. 3.b.15)
2. 2006-2007 GF Function Revenue Analyses with Details of 6100's and 7000's as of November, 2006 (p. 3.b.2) and December, 2006 (p. 3.b.16)
3. 2006-2007 General Fund Function-Object Expenditure Analyses as of November, 2006 (pp. 3.b.3-5) and December, 2006 (pp. 3.b.17-19)
4. Category Expenditures Analyses – November, 2006 (p. 3.b.6) and December, 2006 (p. 3.b.20)
5. Capital Projects Fund Reports – November, 2006 (p. 3.b.7) and December, 2006 (p. 3.b.21)
6. Outstanding Projects Summaries – November, 2006 (p. 3.b.9) and December, 2006 (p. 3.b.22)

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

Financial Statements - Continued

7. Construction Project Reports – November & December, 2006
 - a. Unionville High School & Fields Renovation Project Budget Reports – November, 2006 (p. 3.b.9) and December, 2006 (p. 3.b.23)
 - b. Unionville High School HVAC Project Budget Reports – November, 2006 (pp. 3.b.10-11) and December, 2006 (pp. 3.b.24-25)
8. Capital Reserve Fund Reports – November, 2006 (p. 3.b.12) and December, 2006 (p. 3.b.26)
9. Health Care Trust Fund Reports – November, 2006 (p. 3.b.13) and December, 2006 (p. 3.b.27)
10. Debt Service Reserve Fund Reports – November, 2006 (p. 3.b.14) and December, 2006 (p. 3.b.28)

Mr. Baker requested that the secretary file the financial statements and reports.

The following activity account reports were reviewed:

1. Chadds Ford Elementary School Field Trips – Profit & Loss Statement – July through December, 2006 (pp. 3.c.1-2)
2. Unionville High School Activities Balance Sheet – November – December, 2006 (pp. 3.c.3-4)

Mr. Baker requested that the secretary file the reports.

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Bill List for December 22, 2006 in the amount of \$1,726,721.85 (pp. 3.d.1-19).

Motion carried (7-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the one-time request for building use on Sunday, March 18, 2007 from the Chadds Ford Elementary School PTO as the snow date for the Chadds Ford Art Show.

Mr. Swayze stated that March 18th was the back-up date for the Art Show the day before. This is a PTO-sanctioned event for the benefit of our students. The Board policy states that we will not make use of school facilities on a Sunday unless it's a school-related activity. The situation would be a bad weather issue where we might have to have an event on a Sunday with custodial help. Mr. Swayze made it clear that if we needed special snow removal for this activity, it would be cancelled. The determination would be made by the Central Administration and not at a lower level.

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS -
Continued**

**BILLS
APPROVED**

FACILITIES

**One-Time
Building Usage
Request – CFES
PTO Art Show**

Mr. Wandersee commented about the reason for the policy due to payment of the custodial employees and asked whether we were waiving it. Mr. Swayze stated that we would absorb the cost of this contingency situation.

In response to Dr. West's question, Mr. Hostetler estimated the costs to be \$300-\$500 for custodial help and building costs. Mr. Swayze commented that the building would have to be heated anyway if the event were held on Saturday. Mr. Hostetler stated that the only additional cost would be the overtime for a custodian on Sunday.

Heidi Brown stated that the Art Show is earlier and this problem would be alleviated next year because of the calendar. Seventy artists are coming, along with musicians and food caterers. Mrs. Halstead stated that she was well aware of the many requests for Sunday building use previously, having taught at Chadds Ford Elementary. Ms. Brown commented about the difficulty in canceling the event. She hopes this will never occur again but stated that they were forced to schedule the event early this year.

Ms. Parker commented that we would look forward to good weather.

Mr. Swayze stated that Mr. Hostetler brought this to the Board's attention and it's clear that this is a school-sponsored activity for the benefit of the students. If there would be a significant amount of snow that required special removal for the activity, the administration would most likely have to cancel the program.

Mr. Hostetler stated that this would be a one-time variance from policy.

Motion carried (6-1). Mrs. Halstead voted nay.

Mr. Swayze reported for Facilities regarding the significant committee of the whole meeting held last Thursday for several hours regarding the new building project. There was considerable input from the Board and a call for modifications and a broadened menu to be presented on January 31 (7:00 PM, UHS LGI room). This will be a public presentation and he hopes everyone will be able to be there. The meeting will be open for questions from the public. The Board and public will be presented with some significant changes and this will be a very important meeting for the public.

Mr. Baker stated that Mrs. Brown was traveling and unable to be here this evening. Dr. Sweeney could not attend the meeting due to work obligations.

Dr. O'Hern commented about the number of initiatives this year. She is delighted with the way the Grading Committee worked and provided the policy recommendations. Language arts and science are other areas on which we are working (K-12 committees). The middle school is continuing to do the

FACILITIES - Continued

FACILITIES REPORT

CURRICULUM

Curriculum – Continued

common assessments. Reports will be provided during the second marking period from middle school staff members and they will be reviewed administratively.

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the 2007-2008 Building Budget Allocations as on the attachments (pp. 6.a.1-4).

Mr. Murray commented that the proposed allocations were reviewed at the January Work Session, noting the increase at the CPI (3.4%).

Motion carried (7-0).

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Swayze to award the bids for music equipment for the Elementary Program as on the attachments (total amount of \$14,608.74).

Mr. Murray commented that bid tabulations were delivered by Mr. Cochran, indicating four winners for various instruments.

In response to Mrs. Trigg's question as to whether there were any surprises, Mr. Cochran stated that costs were \$3,500 lower than without bidding.

The Proposed Preliminary Budget for 2007-2008 was posted this evening for information.

Mr. Murray stated that Board members were provided with copies of the preliminary budget this evening from Mr. Cochran. The Board will vote on the preliminary budget at the February 12, 2007 Board Work Session.

Mr. Wandersee commented that the preliminary budget was up for public discussion. Mr. Baker stated that it would not be posted on the district website but would be available for public review at the District Office. Ms. Parker stated that this would be noted on the website.

In response to Mrs. Trigg's question regarding the availability of copies, Ms. Parker stated that the district could make copies available and would look at that time turnaround.

**CURRICULUM -
Continued**

FINANCE

**2007-08
Building
Budget
Allocations**

**Music Bid
Awards –
Elementary
Program**

**2007-2008
Proposed
Preliminary
Budget Posted**

Mr. Cochran stated that we should keep in mind that it is January and is extremely early. The budget will have significant changes very quickly. There will be changes from this proposal to the February 12 Work Session. They are predicated on changes under Act 1 and state time lines. The Governor has not even issued his budget, which impacts ours. He would prefer to sit down with residents and explain it to them.

Mrs. Trigg commented that we should not receive droves of requests.

Mr. Baker stated that any perception that this is indicative would be wrong. This procedure is part of the process and is not significant at this point.

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Wandersee to approve the resolution accepting the Tax Study Commission's recommendation as presented in their report at the December 11, 2006 School Board Meeting (p. 6.c.1).

Dr. West inquired about the Tax Study Commission's recommendation and the formula listed on the attachment. She inquired as to whether the actual dollar amount for residents was known yet. Mr. Cochran stated that the attachment contained a typographical omission and should have indicated the same amount of reduction for residents (\$1,178) as indicated for qualified farm buildings.

Mr. Cochran stated that there would be a separate resolution to adopt the exact language under the Local Tax Enabling Act. The Board must hold a public hearing to hear any comment that anyone might have to offer.

In response to Mr. Baker's question, Mr. Cochran stated that we need to act to approve the Commission's recommendation this evening but there would be a separate resolution for the language.

Mr. Baker commented regarding the Tax Collection Board in Lancaster that is trying to demand the same language across School Boards.

Mr. Cochran stated that this language did not lock this Board in but is to understand the nature of the language that the resolution (by March 13th) will have to follow. He stated that the Lancaster County Tax Collection Bureau represented districts in Lancaster and a few in Dauphin County but none in Chester County. We are getting information from Berkheimer Associates and the Central Tax Bureau, and there does not seem to be any common language.

Motion carried (7-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the following personnel items (agenda items 7.a. and c. through k.):

- a. Professional Conferences (10)
 - 1. Approve attendance at Professional Conferences as on the attachment (p. 7.a.1)
- b. Retirement
- c. Resignations (2)
 - 1. Timothy Hayworth – Unionville High School Second-Shift Custodian, effective December 29, 2006
 - 2. Matthew Myers – Unionville High School Custodian, effective January 11, 2007
- d. Reclassifications (4)
 - 1. Jenny Steinen – from Patton Middle School Language Arts Teacher, first semester LTS to full-year LTS
 - 2. Michele Boreman – from Patton Middle School LTS Teacher, 1st semester LTS to Reading/IST LTS, second semester
 - 3. Kristin Carroll – from Patton Middle School Language Arts LTS, 1st semester to LTL Teacher, 2nd semester LTS
 - 4. Jary Hernandez – from Unionville High School 10-month Custodian to 12-month Custodian, effective January 2, 2007
- e. Supplemental Contracts (6)
 - 1. Christine Ilgenfritz – Concert Chaperone
 - 2. Gail Harting – Concert Chaperone
 - 3. Janet Schuster – Concert Chaperone
 - 4. Brenda Cook – Concert Chaperone
 - 5. Roxanne Seidel – Fall Cheerleading
 - 6. Roxanne Seidel – Winter Cheerleading
- f. Substitutes (3)
 - 1. Ted Sacher – Elementary/Social Studies/English
 - 2. Judy Schmidt – Support Staff
 - 3. Lisa Lopez-Carickhoff – Library/Media Specialist

PERSONNEL:

Professional Conferences

Resignations:

T. Hayworth

M. Myers

Reclassifications:

J. Steinen

M. Boreman

K. Carroll

J. Hernandez

Supplemental Contracts

Substitutes

Personnel (Continued)

g. Employ (5)

1. Patricia Hunt – Pocopson Elementary School part-time Copy Room Paraprofessional (5 hours per day x 92 days per year), effective January 2, 2007, at a salary of \$11.57 per hour
2. Wayne Ferrell – part-time Bus Driver (5.5 hours per school day), effective January 2, 2007, at a salary of \$14.28 per hour
3. Joseph Grello – Patton Middle School Science Teacher (LTS), effective January 2, 2007 through the end of the 2006-2007 school year, at the Bachelor's Step 1 salary level
4. Kimberly Parra – Patton Middle School Guidance Counselor (LTS), effective January 19, 2007 through the end of the 2006-2007 school year, at the Master's Step 1 salary level
5. Emilie Conover – Pocopson Elementary School 5th Grade Teacher (LTS), PA Certification approved 1/1/07, at the Master's Step 1 salary level, effective January 2, 2007

h. Leaves (2)

1. Kathleen Reynolds – Pocopson Elementary School Office Manager, Eight-Week Maternity Leave, beginning January 2, 2007
2. Jenna Roberts – Chadds Ford Elementary School Grade 5 Teacher, Maternity Leave, beginning approximately May 4, 2007 through the end of the 2006-2007 school year

i. Termination (1)

1. Sharon Massey – Van Driver, effective January 2, 2007

j. Sabbatical Leaves (5)

1. Christine Bailey – Patton Middle School Spanish Teacher, 2007-2008 School Year
2. Bonnie Bergen-Borda – Unionville High School Spanish Teacher, 2007-2008 School Year
3. JoAnna Stump – Patton Middle School Math Teacher, Second Semester of the 2007-2008 School Year
4. Pamela Jordan – Patton Middle School Nurse – First Semester of the 2007-2008 School Year
5. Doren (Stan) Leathers – Unionville High School Math Teacher, Second Semester of the 2007-2008 School Year

k. Contract Services (1)

1. James McIntosh – Personal Care Assistant for Student, effective January 1, 2007, at \$24.00 per hour

**PERSONNEL
(Continued)**

Employ:

P. Hunt

W. Ferrell

J. Grello

K. Parra

E. Conover

Leaves:

K. Reynolds

J. Roberts

Termination:

S. Massey

Sabbatical

Leaves:

C. Bailey

**B. Bergen-
Borda**

P. Jordan

S. Leathers

**Contract
Services:**

**J. McIntosh
3.a.17**

Superintendent Parker stated that there were questions raised in Executive Session that were addressed in Executive Session after the January 18, 2007 Facilities Committee meeting. She raised the questions regarding two personnel items and is extremely confident that the appropriate procedure was followed by personnel.

Mrs. Halstead stated that one of the so-called people was in the audience and is a good friend and teacher. She welcomed her to the community.

Motion carried (7-0).

Mrs. Halstead reported for Transportation regarding two laws that have gone into effect recently. They are important for our transportation staff as well as all motorists:

- PA Headlight Law – Effective January 29, 2007, all motorists must turn on their headlights whenever they use their windshield wipers in inclement weather. This law applies when wipers are fully on or in the intermittent mode. Violators will be fined \$25.00 but fees and other costs increase the amount to \$100.00
- House Bill 121, Section 3720 – Snow and ice dislodged or falling from moving vehicle: When snow or ice are dislodged or fall from a moving vehicle and strike another vehicle or pedestrian causing death or serious bodily injury, the operator of the vehicle from which the snow or ice is dislodged or falls shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$200.00 nor more than \$1,000 for each offense. This law is already in effect.

Dr. West reported for Communications regarding:

1. Coffee Chats – Have been held on the first Tuesday each month at Starbuck's (Dilworthtown and Glen Eagle) and Harrington's in Kennett Square. The February chats will be held at these three locations as well as at Hood's Deli in Unionville. The March chats will be held at the two Starbuck's locations and Hood's Deli. We have had feedback regarding difficulty in parking at Harrington's.
2. E-Board List Serve – We sent our first successful message last week. We're shooting for two to three postings per month. Post cards will be mailed out to community residents so they may join the list serve.
3. Board Information Flyers–New flyers are available in the back of the room that include the changes in Board committee structure.
4. Communication Plan – We have begun a series of administrative meetings to discuss the district-wide Communications Plan and are setting a date of March to get this work completed. At that point, they will come back to the Communications Committee, the Board, and the public with a preliminary plan and will open it up for work.

**PERSONNEL
(Continued)**

**TRANSPOR-
TATION**

**COMMUNI-
CATIONS**

Communications (Continued)

5. Grading Scale – Mr. Fulginiti spoke previously about the communication plan for the grading scale. A letter will be going out to all parents to let them know that there are proposed changes to the grading policies. We plan to repeat tonight's presentation one more time in the buildings for parents in the district.

Ms. Parker stated that as we look at the calendar between now and the next Board meeting, there is a very slim window of opportunity for a meeting. We may not be able to have everyone attend but are looking at February 7th. We're considering reducing the team who made the presentation this evening. It may be presented with a few of the team members and copies of the PowerPoint presentation. In speaking with Dr. O'Hern and Dr. Price, we will also include information in the community newsletter. We are looking for confirmation of the February 7 date by checking calendars and room availability. It will be publicized on the website.

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve Board Policy No. 712 – Property – Use of Wireless Communication Devices by Employees (pp. 10.a.1-2).

Mrs. Trigg reported that we had the first reading of this policy last month.

Motion carried (7-0).

Mrs. Trigg stated that the following proposed policies were being presented for first readings tonight. She anticipates that they will be action items for next month:

1. Board Policy No. 213 – Pupils – Assessment of Student progress (pp. 10.b.1-2)
2. Board Policy No. 214 – Pupils – Class Rank/Grade Point Average (p. 10.b.3)

It was moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Dr. West to amend proposed Policy No. 214 (Pupils, Class Rank/Grade Point Average) to remove Item 4. from Section 3. – Guidelines, regarding GPA to rank students by decile for college and scholarship applications as needed.

Motion carried (7-0).

Mr. Baker stated that the Board would not act on agenda item 10.c. (Release and Settlement Agreement – Student No. 2006-2007-4) this evening. Ms. Parker stated that she expects we'll see it next month and are awaiting the advice of counsel. Mrs. Trigg stated that it was reviewed in Executive Session following the Work Session on January 8, 2007.

**COMMUNI-
CATIONS
- Continued**

**BOARD
POLICY**

**Policy No. 712:
Use of Wireless
Communication
Devices by
Employees**

**Board Policies
No. 213:
Assessment of
Student
Progress &
No. 214: Class
Rank/Grade
Point Average –
First Readings**

**Release &
Settlement
Agreement –
Tabled to
February**

3.a.19

Mrs. Halstead reported for Technology regarding:

1. Training - Teachers are being trained on *Power School*, which will replace SASI for scheduling in all of the schools. We are working on having on-line scheduling this year.
2. Data Warehouse – We are working with the data warehouse and the new release was brought to the district. Colleen Shearburn is working on input into the *Power School* database.
3. List Serves – Are up and running and there is a list of them on the district’s homepage.
4. Data Back-Up – The Technology Department is working to back up all of our data in case of a disaster. This is a critical issue.

Mr. Baker stated that this would be the last time the agenda would following this sequence by virtue of the Board committee reassignments. The new Co-Curriculum and Student Life Committee will encompass athletics, music, band, issues regarding bullying and student life within the district. This committee will be chaired by Mr. Baker. The Curriculum Committee will include Instructional Technology now, and Mrs. Brown will continue as its Chair. Dr. West will continue as the Chair of the Communications Committee. Mr. Murray will remain Chair of Finance Committee. Board Policy will be combined with Legislation, and include Mr. Wandersee continuing as Chair. Dr. Sweeney will remain the Chair of the Personnel Committee and Facilities Committee with Mr. Swayze as Chair.

Mr. Murray reported for the Center for Arts & Technology/ Intermediate Unit and Special Education regarding:

1. I.U. Board – Met on January 17 and reviewed a lot of information around the great progress being made at the Southern Chester County Technical High School. Construction is well ahead of pace due to the warm weather we have had, making for a very positive situation.
2. Head Start – Busing for this program had to stop (436 children) due to budget constraints. The I.U. is happy to report that 431 children were enrolled and attending last month.

Mr. Wandersee stated that there was no report for Legislation this evening.

Bruce Yelton, Pocopson Township resident, inquired as to whether the January 31 public presentation regarding the construction project would include Board action. Mr. Swayze stated that there would be no Board action that evening. The meeting will be held at 7:00 PM in this room.

TECHNOLOGY

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

**LEGISLATIVE
REPORT**

**RESIDENTS’
COMMENTS**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

Dr. West thanked the members of the Grading Scale Committee and stated that they did a fabulous job. She is looking forward to the Communities That Care meeting on January 24th. It has been long in coming and will be really great. The Facilities Committee is looking at administrative recommendations tying the building to the programs.

Mr. Wandersee thanked the staff and administration for a nice job on grading. They made a good recommendation and the professionals have spoken as far as he is concerned.

He stated that he personally feels that Communities That Care is the most important initiative this district has begun in years. The bullying in this district must stop. He hopes we will have some procedures and policy out of it that will pay off. Sharon Parker has his support in anything he can do toward this effort. Ms. Parker commented that the parent concerns have centered around the topics of at-risk behaviors for students.

Mr. Wandersee commented that this is the biggest single thing he has heard at the coffee chats. He knows from having four children in this district that it's not something new and time to have a well-organized approach to mitigating the problem.

Mrs. Halstead echoed Mr. Wandersee's comments regarding Communities That Care. As a teacher and parent in the district, she has seen the bullying and harassment. She's happy to see a concerted effort to stop it. It's not acceptable to see young children grow up and bully. We've started efforts in the elementary buildings with our guidance programs and need to go to the middle and high school levels. We hear bullying in the grocery stores, etc. from child to parent and parent to child, etc., and we were all taught better behavior.

She stated in reference to Mrs. Trigg's comments (grading policy changes) that when there is a new adoption of texts, not every teacher is always on board but the majority does rule. Most of the teachers will adjust because they have done it before. Our teachers are strong and will rise above it.

Mrs. Trigg agreed that is true and stated that it's really important that the teachers know we value their voices. If by some quirk they do not agree, this is the time to hear it. She does understand that not everyone will agree. Mrs. Trigg thanked the Grading Committee and commented about the super job they did. She is very appreciative of their efforts. She thanked Ms. Parker for the interesting book on numbers (coming up with decimal notation).

Mr. Swayze complimented the Grading Committee for their fine work. Several committees have been formed this year (i.e. Tax Study Commission) and he has been impressed. He complimented Mr. Cochran for the

Board Members' Comments (Continued)

preliminary budget because the state has thrust something into our hands to do. He has done a wonderful job. Mr. Swayze thanked Sharon Parker for the book, *Diary of a Western Schoolmaster* that was published in 1900. He looks forward to reading it.

Mr. Baker thanked Sharon Parker for bring the students here prior to the Board meeting with the work going on around the district. It's too easy to become distant and he is grateful. He also thanked her for the book, *Healthful Sports for Boys* and read several excerpts aloud. We cannot learn too early that good health is easily lost and hard to regain.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown
Secretary

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**