

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Minutes
January 26, 2009

The January meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, January 26, 2009 in the Unionville Elementary School Auditorium. Mrs. Brown, President, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

The following members were present: Kathleen Brown, President, Edward Murray, Vice-President, Curt Baker (Via Telephone Conference Call), Karen Halstead, Dr. Paul Price, Timotha Trigg, Edward Wandersee, and Dr. Therese West. Also present were Sharon E. Parker, District Superintendent, Kenneth Batchelor, Sharon Allen-Spann, Clifton Beaver, Robert Cochran, Jim Fulginiti, Rich Hug, Paula Massanari, John Nolen, Dr. John Sanville, Bruce Vosburgh, community residents, members of the press, and Denise Miller, Recording Secretary.

Mrs. Brown requested that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Superintendent Parker stated that the parents and staff members have offered a magnificent view of Unionville Elementary School this evening. She thanked Principal, Clif Beaver, for the wonderful welcome to this great school.

Mr. Beaver welcomed everyone to this terrific school tonight. He commented regarding the 2001 Unionville Elementary School cookbook (3rd edition) that was provided to him by UE Office Manager, Gail McQuiston. The cookbook was first published in 1938, with a second edition in 1980. It is part of the history of our school. He commented about the neat opportunity for the School Board to come to each location and experience the schools.

Mr. Beaver read aloud from a history of UES that was organized by Dawn Talley. He discussed the origin of the UE PTO that began as a first grade mother's club in the 1930's. The mothers wanted to cooperate with and get to know their children's' teachers better.

He extended thanks to the School Board for the opportunity to showcase Unionville Elementary School. Mr. Beaver thanked the students for their efforts and the wonderful job of showcasing UES this evening:

- Student Ambassadors – Max Camanteros-Mann, Mark Maggitti, Olivia Zubillaga, Michelle Kelly, Jaxson Gavaghan, Trevor Seidel, Hahnah Block, Lainey Duncan, Tom Thorley, Javi Memba, Alex D'Allaird, Drew Menninger, David Cadden, Megan Drohan, Ivy Elvin, and Simran Jain
- Artwork – Rachel Poe, Justine Matey, Claire Donovan, Maura Grimes, Brady Horne, Jackson Nilon, and Drew Felter
- Reading Assistant - purchased with Title 1 money – (Mrs. Wren) – Shannon O'Leary, Maggie Gaultney, Joey Caldwell, and Jill Tebay

**CALL TO
ORDER**

**MEMBERS
PRESENT**

**SUPER-
INTENDENT'S
REPORT**

**Unionville
Elementary
School:
Student
Recognition**

Superintendent's Report - Continued

- Violinists (Ms. Paula Remzas) – Adam Kimmel, Jeffrey Zhu, Angela Kodokian, Laura Head, Billy Steuteville, Jane Peabody, and Victoria Latham
- Clarinetists (Mr. Ryan Fegley) – Ellie Covert, Kaitlyn Drohan, Erin Harten and Lauren Mazur
- Vocalists (Mrs. Eileen Jennings) – Used Orff instruments - Rebecca Harten, Emily Holmes, Erin Pysher, Rebekah Taylor, Ashlyn Lauder, Justine Matey, Mikaela Taylor, Carissa Zhu, Laura Cooper, Noelle Lambert, Olivia Miller, Rebecca Stoltz, Divyan Jain, Paige Harlan, Erik Lapszynski, and Dave Starnes

Ms. Parker thanked Mr. Beaver and everyone who contributed to the warm welcome. She reflected on her initial feeling of this ancient school, after having read the information on a brick in the wall that said so much about our community. A young woman was depicted who served our country in the military. A strong message came through from this campus when she first arrived in the district.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service included over 400 members of the community who came together to serve on an extraordinary day and event. Ms. Parker outlined the service projects, including:

- Unionville Elementary School – program for senior citizens regarding assistance with technology, aided by U-CF middle and high school students;
- Anson B. Nixon Park – Curriculum Directors, John Nolen and John Sanville worked with two teams of students on this snowy day to clear trails, trim limbs, etc.;
- Friends Home – Director of Business & Operations, Bob Cochran, worked with high school students to repair and refinish chairs and furniture at the home;
- Kennett Senior Center – High school students painted an office and restored a lectern;
- Chadds Ford Elementary School – Students made craft kits (beaded bracelets, unassembled them and packed into kits) for hospitalized children at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, A. I. DuPont Hospital in Wilmington, and the Chester County Hospital in West Chester. High School students worked on a black line to assemble activity books for the youngsters;
- Hillendale Elementary School – Over 200 community members cooked and packed over 100 quarts of soup that were donated to area freezers for delivery to those in need. Students also made Valentine cards to include in the deliveries. Bagged lunches (150) were prepared and packed, including baked cookies, fruit, and hand-woven paper placemats.

People wanted to work longer, and we look forward to that at next year's MLK Day of Service!

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

**Martin Luther
King, Jr. Day of
Service**

Superintendent's Report - Continued

Superintendent Parker stated that the month of January is acknowledged as School Director Recognition month. She read several facts about School Boards in Pennsylvania, stating that these elected representatives serve without pay or gratitude. Ms. Parker also read the proclamation that was put forward from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association to demonstrate respect and honor to those who serve.

Ms. Parker announced the upcoming Community Conversation event, *One Community, Many Voices* that will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2009 from 5:30 – 9:30 PM at the Charles F. Patton Middle School. The evening will provide an opportunity for community members to openly express expectations for the school community. We hope to have a diverse group in attendance, including first responders, community servants, octogenarians, etc. Board members and members of the administrative staff will be in attendance during the program that will be moderated by Chester County 2020, and sponsored through the grace of a grant from Senator Dominic Pileggi's office. A bagged supper will be provided for everyone. Ms. Parker asked that residents please give thought to attending this program (flyers have been mailed out and information is available on the district website). She asked that anyone who is unable to attend but wishes to be part of the event send comments to the district website. You may also call Rich Hug or Jennifer DiFilippo in the Communications office.

Shannon Pitt, Student Representative, was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Mrs. Brown requested comments from residents, limited to three minutes per person.

Keith Knauss, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that the School Board held an Act 34 meeting last October, which is a legal requirement as to why the high school expansion is needed and the cost in increased millage to taxpayers. He asked five questions regarding the hearing/project:

1. Did the School Board issue inaccurate and misleading population projections to justify the proposed High School Project at the Act 34 meeting?
2. Did they issue inaccurate and misleading information about the tax impact at the hearing?
3. Is the Pennsylvania Department of Education currently conducting an investigation?
4. If yes, why hasn't the Board notified the public?
5. If there is an investigation, has the Department of Education placed restrictions on building activities?

Superintendent Parker stated that the School Board has not presented inaccurate and misleading information to this community; rather, they provided information that the administration put forward, which we believe to be wholly accurate. She stated that any information can be misleading, depending on how one chooses to wield it.

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

**School Director
Recognition
Month**

**Community
Conversation
Event – 2/12/09**

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

Residents' Comments - Continued

The Pennsylvania Department of Education, as in every other publicly-funded agency, listens to the concerns of its constituency. Mr. Knauss is aware that a member of our community has made repeated contact with the Department of Education and allegations that the District has intentionally presented inaccurate and misleading information to this community. Those are serious allegations. Any agency must respond in a thoughtful way. The Department of Education, with the full cooperation of the U-CF School Board and Administration, is engaged in seeking to find an appropriate, honest and direct response to the taxpayer's concerns. Since the beginning of December, the School District has provided every bit of information that has been requested.

The School Board President, a team of administrators, including Ms. Parker, Mr. Cochran and Mr. Hostetler, and our architect traveled to Harrisburg because we knew a taxpayer had brought concerns forward. The District continues to follow up with the Department of Education to see if there is any further information we can provide. We have invited resource staff from PDE to come, see, and make a recommendation on their own. It is a long process, and we will await their response.

If a community member thought the Department would be fair, objective, and clinical in its review, so will the District accept their final decision. Ms. Parker wishes for each of us a speedy resolution to the verification of data and to the answering of questions. She will happily stand with others and abide by the findings brought forward by the Department.

Ms. Parker stated that she will have a conference with the Secretary of Education in the coming weeks. It was initiated so that questions could be answered directly. There is nothing to hide and you are welcome to come and sit. Today, we had 24 members of our community come to the *Food for Thought* meeting. The District will be very open and direct when we have something to share.

Scott Litzenberg, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that he hopes the School Board and Administration can ask the same community member to be held to the same standard of misrepresentation to which they are being held. It's not a fair playing field, and he wishes someone at the State level would address that as well. We are taking away too much time and money to deal with these people. We support what you are trying to do.

Kathy Do, Pennsbury Township resident and U-CF Education Foundation member, commented about her regular attendance at meetings now. The Foundation, formed 10 years ago, wants to become more involved. One of its main goals is to help the district as a parent organization to supplement things outside of the school budget (i.e. Smart Boards, the rock climbing wall, etc.). They will now focus attention primarily on the high school. Mrs. Do commented about a booklet the Foundation designed last year to inform the public about itself. They also saw this as an opportunity to celebrate our students who contributed their thoughts to the task of "What does giving back/reaching forward mean to you?" The booklet was made available throughout the district, and copies were provided to Board members this evening.

Ms. Parker commented about having received a sad note today. The Education Foundation purchased a beautiful sign for Chadds Ford Elementary School in recognition of its achievement as a Blue Ribbon school. The sign is now missing

**RESIDENT'S
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Residents' Comments – Continued

from the lawn since we have been ordered to remove it due to non-compliance with the zoning of the township. We are looking at avenues to make changes with the township, and look forward to the day when the sign can be placed at the school again.

Linda Bowen, Birmingham Township resident, commented regarding the citizen's mailing that states the Board has decided to borrow the entire \$70 million. She understood the Board decided how they would finance the project but did not vote to do so. Mrs. Bowen referenced the district's insurance company review of the school that indicated concern regarding the crumbling wall in the school, the stage, and how we were going to rectify the issues. She asked about the district's response to them and whether it was completed. Mrs. Bowen inquired as to whether the cost figure for Right to Know requests was provided as requested by resident, Gregg Lindner, previously.

Ms. Parker stated that the insurance company conducted a risk assessment as part of their regulatory process. The inspection performed last April indicated concerns regarding the Auditorium (egress, stage size) and lab areas. Mr. Cochran stated that the company indicated concern about overcrowding in storage areas with inappropriate items stored in them and mechanical rooms being used as offices, etc. Our response to the insurer was that we are going through the PlanCon process to look at alleviating these issues. If not, we would have to sit down with our insurance advisors to develop an alternate plan to alleviate these concerns.

Ms. Parker stated that the insurance firm awaits our next steps. She commented about the administrative discussions regarding Plans A, B, and C, and what the district would do if the current structure is all we are able to have at this time. If PlanCon is stopped, we must still address the safety issues.

Mr. Cochran commented about the cost for Right to Know (Open Records) requests in excess of \$30,000 in legal fees alone.

Dr. Price commented about the additional cost for a day's trip to provide testimony in Harrisburg of approximately \$20,000. The citizen caused us to spend that money that could have been put toward the education of our students.

Carol, an East Marlborough Township resident, inquired as to whether the Board had ever considered year-round schooling to address overcrowding. Ms. Parker stated that there have been ongoing discussions throughout Pennsylvania, although it is not a state that has embraced that concept. This is due, in part, to very strong lobbies against having year-round school, certain economic aspects and external political concerns that are expressed. There is currently a lobby for no school until after Labor Day. Year-round schooling has been a strong movement in California, North Carolina, and Florida but has not taken hold in Pennsylvania. It is very difficult for one district to make this move without being in concert with other districts, especially within a county system where we share services. In a trying, global economy, its time may have come.

**RESIDENT'S
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

Mrs. Halstead commented about the success of the activities on Martin Luther King Day, stating that it was great to see our students spread out in many areas to help others. She is involved with the Friends Home and the Kennett Senior Center, where it was wonderful to see staff members, parents and students working together to accomplish things that would not otherwise have been completed. Mrs. Halstead acknowledged the support of the UHS staff and Assistant Principal, Kurt Barker, for organizing these projects. UES Principal, Clif Beaver, chauffeured senior citizens who sought help with technology and computers. It was a wonderful day of reaching out to the community.

Mrs. Brown stated that many Board members, Administrators and community members had been receiving letters from Mr. Charles Quinn. They are full of dislike for the Board, Administration, teachers, mothers, PTO members, and students. While the level of dislike is sad, the letters include a large amount of misinformation, which is troubling. Mrs. Brown stated that every member of this Board is always willing to speak with the public regarding the issues of the district. She has never refused to speak with anyone about how the district is attempting to fund the renovation project.

Mrs. Brown reminded everyone that we have not put this project out for bid yet. We do not know how much it will cost and, therefore, cannot give you details about funding. We have discussed many times how we would like to finance this project that would have the least effect on our budget. Our district has been operating with approximately 11% of each year's budget going to finance debt. This would continue with new debt replacing old debt. If we do not do a building project, the savings would go into account for future building projects as debt drops off. That part is not complicated and there won't be a surprise to the taxpayers with a large increase to your tax bill. Act 1 prohibits increases in taxation without voter approval. We cannot sneak anything in on the taxpayers, and no one on this Board wants to harm the District or the community. We are all serving on this Board to do just the opposite. There are many ways to get a job done, and Mrs. Brown hopes that in this new year, we can take a deep breath, resolving to work together for the good of the community. In the words of our new President, where not possible, we can agree to disagree.

Mrs. Brown announced the Unionville Sports Council program with former Philadelphia Eagles Coach, Dick Vermeil, on February 4 at UHS. Mr. Vermeil will speak regarding private funds helping public education. It is a free event, and she hopes everyone comes out. A second event will be held at Longwood Gardens on February 5. She extended thanks to the USC for the hard work in making these events happen for us.

Mr. Baker stated that he is upset with the vigorous implementation of the sign law and the complaint that precipitated it. One of the things that he is seeing every day is that probably the only boom industry of our time right now is adult education. This is because folks are vulnerable and know they must take courses to make themselves more marketable in the marketplace. He believes that our core purpose as a school district is to prepare our kids for a changing and challenging world. That can't happen without sustained commitment by our Board, our Administration, and with the support of our community. He believes that any time you take action to diminish a school system's ability to celebrate its successes, it's greatly disturbing. This is particularly

Board Members' Comments – Continued

so where you have a group taking pot shots at the school system. If this sign is considered inappropriate as a yard sign, it is certainly appropriate within the U-CF sign case, and he hopes to see it placed there. We need to celebrate our successes, help our community see the value of education spent, and make sure that message continues day in and day out.

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the minutes for the November 17, 2008 Regular Board Meeting (pp. 3.a.1-17).

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to approve the minutes for the December 1, 2008 Reorganization Meeting (pp. 3.a.18-20) and the December 1, 2008 Business Meeting (pp. 3.a.21-27).

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the minutes for the December 15, 2008 Work Session (pp. 3.a.28-31).

Motion carried (8-0).

The following Activity Account report was reviewed:

1. UHS Activities Report – September and October, 2008 (pp. 3.c.1-4)

Mrs. Brown requested that the Secretary file the report.

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the Bill List for December 18, 2008 in the amount of \$2,227,059.67 (pp. 3.d.1-15). Mr. Baker excused himself from Chester County Intermediate Unit checks #129479; #129480, and #129637, due to a conflict of interest.

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the 2008-2009 Budget Transfers for January, 2009 (p. 3.e.1).

Motion carried (8-0).

Mrs. Halstead stated that there was no report for Facilities at this time. She announced the next meeting of the Facilities Committee that will be held on Monday, February 9, 2009, 5:00-6:00 PM, in the District Office conference room. This committee will now meet on the second Monday of the month, and is open to the public. Mrs. Brown stated that all meetings, excluding Personnel, are open to the public.

Mr. Wandersee discussed the need to add the following agenda item regarding single vs. multiple prime contractors, as discussed at the January Work Session.

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**MINUTES
APPROVED**

**ACTIVITY
ACCOUNT**

**BILLS
APPROVED**

**BUDGET
TRANSFERS**

FACILITIES:

Mrs. Trigg stated that we are not moving to approve a certain dollar amount. It seems appropriate to discuss it at this time. Mr. Wandersee agreed, stating that this is not a vote to borrow but a vote on approach, with the benefit of a single vs. multiple prime contractors.

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Dr. Price to approve a motion that in bidding for the renovation and expansion of Unionville High School, the approach for a single prime contractor be utilized, as opposed to the traditional four-prime contractor approach.

Motion carried (8-0).

Mrs. Trigg stated that there were no action items for Curriculum and Educational Technology tonight. The committee meetings will be held on the first Monday of the month from 4:30-6:30 PM, which is a change from the former meeting schedule.

She commented regarding funding for technology that Rich Hug had procured. Funds were requested from the UHS PTO for additional science probes, which was granted with additional funds above those requested.

Mr. Murray reported that the Finance Committee would meet on the second Monday of the month from 6:00-7:00 PM, prior to Board Work Sessions. There were no voting items for Finance this evening. The committee met prior to the Work Session this month and reviewed routine business.

Preliminary approval for the 2009-2010 budget will occur at the Work Session on February 9, 2009 (7:00 PM, UHS Library). This schedule is based on the Pennsylvania Department of Education's time line (90 days before the Primary Election), and prior to our having knowledge of state subsidy figures. We generally revert back to our general budget cycle, with hearings held in early May.

Ms. Parker reported that the Personnel Committee of the Board meets regularly in Executive Session following Work Sessions. The Committee of the Whole met on January 12.

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the following personnel items (agenda items 7.a. through 7.g.):

- a. Professional Conferences (7)
 1. Approve the Attendance at Professional Conferences as on the attachment (p. 7.a.1)
- b. Resignations (2)
 1. Amy Ahart – Hillendale Elementary School 0.5 Learning Support Paraprofessional, effective December 19, 2008
 2. Eugene Abernethy – Transportation Substitute, effective January 5, 2009

**FACILITIES
(Continued)**

**UHS Renovation
& Expansion:
Single Prime
Contractors**

**CURRICULUM/
EDUCATIONAL
TECHNOLOGY**

FINANCE

**Preliminary
Budget
Approval - on
February 9, 2009**

PERSONNEL:

**Professional
Conferences**

Resignations:

A. Ahart

E. Abernethy

Personnel – Continued

- c. Reclassifications (6)
 - 1. John T. Adams – from full-time Van Driver to part-time Bus Driver (5.5 hours per school day), effective December 15, 2008, at a salary of \$15.15 per hour
 - 2. Heidi Ickes – from substitute Van Driver to full-time Van Driver (6.0 hours per school day), effective December 15, 2008, at a salary of \$13.50 per hour
 - 3. Danielle Morgan – from substitute P-I Bus Monitor to part-time P-I Bus Monitor (5.5 hours per school day), effective December 2, 2008, at a salary of \$12.28 per hour
 - 4. Patricia Faughnan – from District Office S-II Technology Secretary to District Office T-IV Technology Support Coordinator, effective January 27, 2009, at a salary of \$28.61 per hour
 - 5. Barbara Mashman – from part-time Bus Driver to part-time Bus Driver and part-time Food Service Assistant Floater (2.5 hours per school day), effective January 5, 2009
 - 6. Kathleen Reynolds – from District Office T-VI Database Manager to District Office T-III Database Specialist, effective January 27, 2009, at a salary of \$26.73 per hour

- d. Supplemental Contracts (4)
 - 1. Melody Black - Dance Ensemble Advisor – Half Contract
 - 2. Danielle DiNicola - Dance Ensemble Advisor – Half Contract
 - 3. Faith Gleason - J.V. Softball Coach
 - 4. Jason Palo - 8th Grade Boys' Lacrosse

- e. Terminate (1)
 - 1. Marybell Rodriguez – Unionville High School Custodian, effective December 11, 2008

- f. Employ (4)
 - 1. Noelle Nocera – District Office S-III Secretary (8 hours per day x 185 days), effective January 5, 2009, at a salary of \$14.90 per hour
 - 2. Kimberly Stively – Hillendale Elementary School Learning Support Teacher (LTS), effective January 5, 2009 through the end of the school year, at the Bachelor's Step 1 salary level (pro-rated)
 - 3. Walter Roc Ashley – Unionville High School Custodian II, effective January 26, 2009, at a salary of \$13.36 per hour
 - 4. Michelle Moser – Patton Middle School Family & Consumer Science Teacher (LTS), pending receipt of PA Certification, effective January 13, 2009 through the end of the school year, at the Bachelor's Step 1 salary level (pro-rated)

(Continued)

**Personnel -
Continued**

Reclassifications:

J. Adams

H. Ickes

D. Morgan

P. Faughnan

B. Mashman

K. Reynolds

**Supplemental
Contracts**

Terminate:

M. Rodriguez

Employ:

N. Nocera

K. Stively

W. R. Ashley

M. Moser

Personnel – Continued

g. Leaves (5)

1. Wendy Farina – District School Psychologist, Professional Development Leave for the 2009-2010 school year
2. Ian Kerr – Patton Middle School Dean of Students/Teacher, six-week FMLS Leave from February 23, 2009 through April 13, 2009
3. Lori Collins - Hillendale Elementary School 3rd Grade Teacher, six-week Maternity Leave, beginning approximately April 2, 2009 (per doctor's note), followed by a six-week FMLA Leave
4. Pamela Jordan – Patton Middle School Nurse, 3-6 month Medical Leave (per doctor's note), effective January 5, 2009
5. Michele O'Kane – Hillendale Elementary School 4th Grade Teacher, eight-week Maternity Leave, beginning approximately February 27, 2009 (per doctor's note), followed by a four-week FMLA Leave

Motion carried (8-0).

Dr. West reported for Communications regarding:

1. Video Initiative – School Board meetings will be taped and provided on the district website via a link. Tonight's meeting is the first that will be available in this new format.
2. Superintendent's Monthly Message – Will be available through a link on the district website. Sharon Parker commented about the first message that will be taped by Patton Middle School Teacher, John Walsh and several students in the next couple of weeks.
3. E-Newsletter – The Administration is working on an electronic newsletter that will be circulated to the public via e-mail. The internal newsletter to staff has been working very well.
4. Community Conversation – As Ms. Parker stated, this community event will be held on February 12 (5:30-9:30 PM) at Patton Middle School
5. Key Communicator Program – Continuing work on this initiative
6. David Voss – Communication Consultant – will provide 10 half-day sessions with us to aid in learning how we can communicate better.

Mrs. Trigg reported that there were no new policies for consideration this evening. We recently approved our Anti-Bullying and Code of Student Conduct policies. The Code of Student Conduct has been posted in classrooms as per our school solicitor.

She was unable to attend the Legislative Committee meeting but Ms. Parker and Mr. Cochran did attend that meeting. Ms. Parker stated that Tim Allwein, PSBA representative, spoke regarding projected costs of the retirement system. Mr. Cochran commented about the legislative platform that PSBA put forth relative to a two-tiered retirement system to address the long-term costs of the retirement structure. Legislative approvals would be required to establish a date when all new employees would be placed on a new system. Mr. Allwein did not discuss costs regarding the current market relative to retirement.

**PERSONNEL
(Continued)**

Leaves:

W. Farina

I. Kerr

L. Collins

P. Jordan

M. O'Kane

**COMMUNI-
CATIONS**

**LEGISLATION
AND POLICY**

Legislation and Policy – Continued

Superintendent Parker reviewed the following topics of interest:

1. Proposals for GCA's (Graduation Competency Assessments) – U-CF has not taken a position against them as have most other districts. We felt there were opportunities for members of our staff to work with PDE and the State Board of Education to bring about an assessment process that would be fair and clinically appropriate. We remain watchful and hopeful for the right outcome to come forth.
2. Inquiry was made with the Pennsylvania School Boards Association regarding their efforts with the Pennsylvania Department of Education to provide a guideline for districts to administer the Open Records Act to be responsive and comply with requests. PSBA is sending a representative to our district to review our current load of requests and see what information we can share with others appropriately.

Mr. Murray reported for the Center for Arts & Technology/Intermediate Unit and Special Education. The I.U. Board met last Wednesday where a number of proposals were germinating that will properly come to Superintendents first and then to Boards. They extended an offer to any district for the I.U. Executive Director and Business Manager to attend school district Board meetings relative to the I.U. budgets. The I.U. staff is prepared to make presentations if there are questions regarding the proposed Core and Occupational Education budgets.

Bruce Yelton, Pocopson Township resident, inquired as to whether the preliminary budget would be presented to the public before February 9. Mr. Cochran responded that it is available for review on the district website and in the District Office. It was also presented at the January Finance Committee meeting. In response to Mr. Yelton's question, it was stated that there are no plans to videotape Work Sessions.

Keith Knauss, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that as of January 1, 2009, documents, such as materials included in Board packets, are public documents. He asked the Board to comply with the letter and spirit of the law by making them available through the website or by paper copies. Mr. Knauss commented that he did not receive a response from a request made for Work Session documents that were distributed 14 days ago.

Ms. Parker stated that she understood that a response did come to him and part of that response went to him during a meeting when she indicated to him that our Board agenda and packets would be posted on the web going forward. There was no concern with him having that packet. She suggested that he obtain the materials from Mrs. Miller. Ms. Parker also understood that a letter had gone out to him and will check our records. Under the new process, we are keeping a running log regarding Right to Know requests. She stated that Right to Know requests come from our citizens and anyone else who would like materials (i.e. the *Altoona Mirror* newspaper). We also received a request for Penn State Football Coach, Joe Paterno's contract as a test of how one responds to the Open Records Act. Not only do we have our citizens requesting materials, but also tests of stamina. Ms. Parker will review her e-mail log regarding Mr. Knauss's request. We hope to have materials available on the website for any community member who wishes to have them by February.

**LEGISLATION
AND POLICY
(Continued)**

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

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

Holly Manzone, Pocopson Township resident, commented about the great beginning to tonight's meeting that is now becoming tense again. She hopes everyone will attend the Community Conversation on February 12. We all have the same goal and love of our school district. We had a fantastic *Wall of Honor* program. Mrs. Manzone suggested that we not get nasty again, and try to solve our problems.

Dr. Price asked that residents attend the Community Conversation meeting to let them know their thoughts.

Dr. West thanked Ms. Parker and the participants in the second annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service activities. She acknowledged the work of Joe Carney and the Unionville Sports Council on the renovations to the high school Weight Room. It looks fabulous! Dr. West thanked Principal Clif Beaver for hosting the Board meeting tonight, adding that she enjoys moving the meetings from building to building each month.

Mr. Wandersee thanked Mr. Beaver, staff members and students for their great welcome tonight. It was a wonderful opportunity to see a number of faces he doesn't normally see at Board meetings. Mr. Wandersee thanked Joe Carney for his work on the USC. It is a great program that is going in the right direction.

Mr. Murray offered apologies to Mr. Beaver for his lateness in arriving this evening. He is sure the children's programs before the meeting were great. Moving around to each school building and seeing new faces is wonderful.

Mrs. Trigg thanked Mr. Carney for the wonderful, upbeat effort that has produced a lot of tangible good things. She thanked Clif Beaver and the Unionville Elementary community for being such great hosts. Mrs. Trigg asked that everyone gather up their used books for the UHS Used Book Sale.

Mrs. Halstead suggested that residents bring their neighbors to the February 12 Community Conversation. Bringing the old and young together is worthwhile. She commented about having found some of the old U-CF annuals that she would like to deposit to a historical place for the whole district. Mrs. Halstead's mother graduated from U-CF. Hopefully, there will be a depository for such things at UHS.

Mrs. Halstead commented about the opening of the restaurant at the Southern Chester County Technical College High School on February 15, stating that their culinary school is wonderful. She suggested that we could, perhaps, hold a School Board meeting at that site in the future. Mrs. Halstead extended thanks to Joe Carney and members of the USC for putting the sports, arts, and performing arts under one umbrella. She commented about how great it was to be here at Unionville Elementary School tonight.

Mrs. Brown seconded comments made by other Board members to Mr. Beaver and the UES community. She really enjoyed her tour of the building.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert W. Cochran
Secretary

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**