

**UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**740 Unionville Road**  
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**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**Minutes**  
**February 25, 2008**

The February meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, February 25, 2008 in the Unionville High School Large Group Instruction room. Mr. Murray, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

The following members were present: Edward Murray, Dr. Therese West (via telephone conference call), Curt Baker, Kathleen Brown, Karen Halstead, Dr. Paul Price, Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Timotha Trigg, and Edward Wandersee. Also present were Sharon E. Parker, District Superintendent, Kenneth Batchelor, Robert Cochran, Jim Fulginiti, Rick Hostetler, Rich Hug, John Nolen, John Sanville, Bruce Vosburgh, Shannon Pitt, student representative, community residents, members of the press, and Denise Miller, Recording Secretary.

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

Mr. Murray commented about the district's long history of inviting public opinion. There have been certain insults recently to Board members that will not be tolerated. We will ask that people respect the Board and the process while keeping feelings they may have to themselves.

Previous Board Presidents have been very liberal with the three-minute public comment rule. People come to speak from the heart about issues that concern them. With regard to prepared comments, we will try to limit them to three minutes.

Superintendent Parker stated that one of the joys we have as we come to our Board meeting is the children who are sharing what they are learning. Tonight we celebrate Hillendale Elementary School.

Principal Steve Dissinger thanked the students and teachers who came out tonight for the awesome show of support. He commented about the Ambassadors of Good Work and their theme writing across the grade levels. They are wonderful examples of our elementary students' hard work. Mr. Dissinger presented those students with certificates of achievement: J. B. Bowers, Alex Berger, Jillian Brislin, Matt DiPaolo, Haley Flores, Micayla Flores, Jimmy Fournier, Megan Fournier, Hana Graybill, David Haggerty, Ariana Matafius, Jenna Meyerson, and Taylor Themes. Band students from the Brass Quintet were also presented with certificates: Quinn Benetende, Adam Burich, Jacob Heiser, Ben Krause, and Jeff Stautberg. Mr. Dissinger extended his thanks to teacher Ryan Fegley for the wonderful job tonight.

Ms. Parker stated that these are the best of times in Unionville-Chadds Ford in so many ways. In trying to project ahead 5-15 years into the future, she hopes people will say, "Those were the days when we worked together to move mountains." Today we set the standard for all that is to come.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**COMMENTS - BOARD PRESIDENT**

**SUPER-INTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Hillendale Elementary Students Demonstrations**

Superintendent's Report – Continued

Ms. Parker acknowledged that our children bring joy to us as well as challenges. She commented about the recent publicity brought upon us, emphasizing that the Administration wants to work very closely together with families. The spotlight came squarely in our faces and illuminated people who care deeply for children. Our role is to teach them well. If you are concerned about what is on a cell phone, please contact us for support.

Ms. Parker is extremely proud of our students and believes the same is true of everyone in this room. She announced a program for parents and community members to be held on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Patton Middle School teacher, Robin Martin, will present on the topics of cyber safety and looking at the healthful uses of technology. Details will be posted on the district website and information will be sent home to families.

Superintendent Parker commented about having worked in two districts with two groups of very fine educators at Wallingford-Swarthmore and Unionville-Chadds Ford. They are devoted, loyal and committed to children. During her recent medical leave, members of the U-CF Education Association received information regarding referendum and the building project and the impact it would have on teachers, their credibility and our program. She is confident in the teachers' ability to comprehend the needs of the school district. In looking ahead 5-15 years, she is confident that we can see that these were the best of times as we worked through them honorably.

Ms. Parker introduced Robert Evans from EHL Consulting, Inc. who provided a report regarding a capital campaign.

Mr. Evans stated that their firm started in 1991 in Willow Grove, PA. They have worked with more than 300 not-for-profit organizations in raising amounts ranging from \$2-3 million to \$50-60 million. They also address leadership planning and issues that are confronting non-profits today and into the future.

Their review addressed how the community might respond to a major capital campaign and what might be the next steps. Mr. Evans stated that tonight's report was preliminary with regard to where this district needs to look for voluntary giving. EHL began its pre-campaign assessment by meeting with a targeted group in the community whose talent, resources and vision would make this successful. The group of 50-55 households in the district agreed to total confidentiality.

Mr. Evans reviewed the selection criteria that included 60% of the individuals who could be major donors. The other 40% represented people in the community who have influence, current and past Board members, faculty and staff. Gifts were not being solicited but their candor about where things are was needed. They met with 27 very interesting people, 82% of whom have or had children previously in this district. Two-thirds consider themselves part of the current or past leadership of Unionville-Chadds Ford.

Mr. Evans provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding:

- Perceptions of Leadership – Administration praised for being at a zenith; good understanding of needs and priorities of the people living in this area (62%)

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

**Report, Capital  
Campaign –  
EHL Consulting**

- Strengths – Superb academic performance, faculty and staff; Living on a good reputation that has taken years to develop.
- Weaknesses – Facilities (17%); Lack of community involvement (17%); Financial challenges (15%)
- Support - A major campaign in a public school system is an unusual concept. Many districts have created charitable foundations but very few approach it via capital funding. They were very pleased and surprised that 70% of the interviewees with whom they met would be donors and accept leadership positions. One-third would be willing to ask others to be donors in a campaign.
- Recommendations – Embark on a campaign with a \$20 million goal over five years (with four sub-categories, each with a \$5 million goal); Sub-Categories – Performing Arts; Athletics; Academic Excellence; and Science & Technology (in no order of priority)

Mr. Evans reviewed giving trends in recent years, stating that it increased about 8% in 2007 and is projected to increase 5-8% this year. Decreases in giving are due to calamity historically, not because of the economy.

He commented about the campaign theme that would center on excellence in every way possible. Unionville-Chadds Ford is one of the top districts in the state, and the hope is to go forward with enhanced facilities in the next 5 to 15 years. Mr. Evans mentioned differences in several of the U-CF communities and hopes in-roads can be made. The Board, Superintendent, staff and faculty need to be advocates for what is about to happen. We need to create a very proactive communication plan to facilitate understanding of what will be the end result.

Mr. Evans discussed the need to review the facilities plans, especially in light of what could be campaign concentrations. Some individuals expressed concern about the environment and adopting the term LEED Certified.

A review of organizational charts for a campaign concluded Mr. Evans' report. He reviewed the configuration that included one chairperson supported by a coordinating chairperson. The chairperson would require many people to support him or her. An Executive Committee of about eight men and women would also be needed. Finally, four subcommittees for each area would be formed. Mr. Evans requested questions from the Board.

Superintendent Parker stated that this has been a look at the climate thus far. The next phase with EHL would be to engage the services of their firm or another firm in leading the exercise. In response to Ms. Parker's question, Mr. Evans stated that when they complete a study like this (80% of the time) they normally end up within 10% of the target figure.

Dr. Sweeney inquired as to whether any pledges had been made at this point. Mr. Evans stated that we are in the beginning phase to determine if there is a capacity for the campaign. The next phase would be the recruitment of leadership, assembling donor opportunities, and campaign management software to achieve up to half of the pledges. After we meet that mark, we enter the public phase of the campaign where we try to touch every corner of the district.

Mr. Wandersee commented about the familiarity of such campaigns with colleges and churches. In response to his question about responses for school districts, Mr. Evans mentioned a very major campaign embarked upon by Philadelphia. They produced \$55-60 million in a short period of time for one school in their district. There is precedent in other suburban districts around the country and campaigns for smaller projects in other districts in Pennsylvania. Mr. Evans commented about a two-year time period to achieve the \$20 million goal.

Ms. Parker stated that the Board is pre-decisional at this point. Members will receive additional information from Mr. Evans and should direct questions to him through Bob Cochran. Discussions can occur at committee meetings during the month.

Dr. West commented about the fairly proactive communication plan that would be involved in such a campaign. She asked Ms. Parker about the connection of this plan to the communication plan/audit that is being proposed later tonight and how they would co-exist. Ms. Parker stated that whether the hope is for a \$20 million campaign or community engagement, we are talking about many of the same strategies. Mr. Hug stated that the latter plan/audit is an overall communications plan for the district. Mr. Evans is referring to a very specific plan.

Shannon Pitt, Student Representative, reported on the following items:

1. Mardi Gras Dance – 500+ students attended the dance
2. MORP Dance – Will be held In the spring; Padua Academy will have their first MORP Dance this spring
3. Student/Faculty Basketball Game – March 6<sup>th</sup>
4. Prom – Meeting tomorrow with the UHS administration about a miscommunication regarding prom that caused the location to change to the Valley Forge Convention Center
5. NHS Blood Drive–Very successful; more than both drives last year combined
6. Daffodil Days– just completed fund-raiser for American Cancer Society
7. Debate Team – Sent eight students to Harvard recently (Shaina Sklar made it to semi-finals); Will advance to state tournament late March and national qualifiers, in the hope of competing in Las Vegas and Wisconsin
8. Dance-a-thon – April 18-19; will benefit four diamond organization
9. *Pirates of Penzance* – March 13-15; Tickets on sale this Wednesday

Mr. Murray requested that residents limit their comments to three minutes.

Louise Cleveland, U-CF Education Association President, commented about her normal role at Board meetings as a silent observer. She felt the need to respond for the record regarding a comment that was made at a Work Session regarding striking teachers. The U-CF Education Association has always entered the negotiations process with a high level of integrity. Common understanding is found in that process. Past Boards have always approached the negotiations process in the same manner and met with the same level of integrity, honesty and fairness, including the most recent contract extension. Both groups have always worked together for the betterment of our students and the whole educational community. She knows this Board and would not expect anything less in our next negotiations process.

**Report, Capital  
Campaign –  
EHL Consulting  
(Continued)**

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVE  
REPORT**

**U-CFEA  
COMMENTS**

Residents' Comments - Continued

Jeff Leiser, Birmingham Township resident, read a prepared statement and commented about his frustration due to the lack of progress on the UHS Project. He and his wife have tried to work toward that behind the scenes. Mr. Leiser referred to the defeated referendum vote, stating that the Board was ignoring the will of the Electorate and trying to find a loophole to make it happen. The mistake followed many months of planning and execution. He asked how we can be sure the path forward is not a mistake. It is troubling that the Board is no closer to understanding why people voted no and what it will take to pass a referendum. Mr. Leiser suggested reaching out to the no voters and extending a welcome to key constituents to ascertain what they would support. We could then move forward with much-needed improvements and begin the healing process in the community to put the "union" back in Unionville.

Keith Knauss, East Marlborough Township resident, invited community members to view the Citizens for Efficient Education website. Mr. Murray cautioned him regarding political statements, stating that our rules are very specific in not lobbying the public for political gain from this statement. He reminded Mr. Knauss of having requested him not to lobby months ago, stating that it was inappropriate in this forum. There are other avenues he could pursue (i.e. the newspapers).

Mr. Knauss cited from Board Policy 903 regarding participation in public meetings and asked whether his statement was too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. Mr. Murray stated that his comments were abusive and irrelevant. Mr. Knauss handed a copy of the policy to Mr. Murray and stated that a majority of the Board could overrule Mr. Murray.

Mr. Murray stated that his comments were becoming lengthy. He offered Mr. Knauss the opportunity to speak to the Board regarding the issue of dissention or to comment regarding any other issue he had. In response to Mr. Knauss's request to have the clock reset at three minutes, Mr. Murray stated that he would provide reasonable time if he had a specific comment to make regarding his dissention or another issue. Mr. Knauss stated that he would not comment further about the dissention.

Mr. Knauss commented about the defeated referendum vote in November and the Citizens for Efficient Education's campaign. He stated that the project before us tonight is the same campaign with the loan amount having been cut in half. The community will be asked for a \$30 million loan on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and another \$30-\$40 million will be borrowed without public approval. The other \$35 million loan must be paid under the Act 1 cap (about \$2.5 million for 20 years) and is money that would otherwise have been spent for teachers, books, art, and athletics. We should be concerned about the greenhouse, the two-story gymnasium, the recording studio, and the added office space and whether they are good trades for extracurricular activities, increased class sizes or labor strikes (similar to what just occurred in Downingtown). We should cut the excesses and return to the electorate with an affordable plan.

Ms. Parker stated that there is no greenhouse in the plans for UHS. There will be a new gym, although we are not having multiple gymnasiums. She would like the community forum to continue where we can all sit and walk through the plans. Ms. Parker looks forward to making that connection.

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

Residents' Comments - Continued

Bruce Yelton, Pocopson Township resident, suggested that we should think about our students rather than arguing.

Gregg Lindner, Chadds Ford Township resident, discussed the time spent on what the school district plan was when he ran for the Board last fall. It is fiscally responsible and there will always be items to quibble over with a \$62.5 million plan. Given that this is the first time we've had an opportunity to go through this, he suggested giving it another vote. Many other communities have had to go through this a number of times. Mr. Lindner expressed disappointment over not going down that same path. He asked that Board members give the reason as to why they are voting yes or no this evening so that everyone here, including the press, will understand their respective position.

Scott Litzenberg, East Marlborough Township resident, commented about misinformation and personal beliefs vs. what the professionals worked on to balance the opportunity for children. He referenced innuendoes about being union teachers and asked that the Board not become entangled in it. The rules have been changed and are different than they were two years ago. We would not be in that position if previous Boards had looked at doing things differently. Mr. Litzenberg appreciated the presentation this evening. We need positive support, and he thanked the Board for taking the high road on most of that discussion.

Jean Connery, Pocopson Township resident, stated that the community voted no to the high school plan because there is obviously something they don't like about it. They don't disagree with the new safety measures needed in our schools. She wants a change in what is being put forward.

Heidi Brown, Chadds Ford Township resident, encouraged area taxpayers to tell the district why they voted no. Some of the reasons she has heard indicate that people were misinformed.

Mrs. Connery stated that she went to the website and could not find information about what each item would cost her or the district. She stated that this is a wealthy district with fantastic teachers. The middle school is going to need repairs also and there is a finite pot of money. We should settle for what is best within our means.

Lele Galer, Pocopson Township resident, commented about the great plan that everyone has put together. In reference to Mrs. Brown's comment, she stated that there are many reasons why the referendum was voted down. We have lowered the referendum cost and done some creative financing. Bravo, let's move on.

Carol Fisher, Birmingham Township resident, commented to Mrs. Connery that we are in the position we are because things had been put off in the past. She agrees that we could be clearer on the website regarding the cost to the taxpayers but do not need to nickel and dime the project. We need to do this right this time to last into the future.

Mr. Murray stated that there would be a second opportunity for comments from residents at the end of the meeting.

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

**COMMENTS –  
SCHOOL  
DIRECTORS**

Dr. Price commented about having lowered the amount of the referendum from \$62.5 million in the fall to less than half that amount. That is possible because the Board will be asked to cut \$1.5 million out of the annual budget in future years. Dr. Price stated that it can be done and gave examples of how one could do this in their own life. He senses that the current plan is what is needed. The capital campaign could also offset some of the costs.

Dr. Sweeney commented about the Board's involvement in big building projects in the past. They are always relatively expensive. She stated that Mr. Knauss and Mr. Hellrung had both served very respectfully and honorably on the Board, making tough decisions at times. She sincerely feels that if they were sitting here on the Board, they would be rallying for the project and not against it.

Mr. Wandersee commented about the need to do something regarding the trailers, science rooms, security and safety. We should move forward soon to avoid being stuck with a lot more down the road.

Mrs. Brown stated that Dr. Price said it perfectly for her. It is the right thing to do and will never cost less. There is nothing that she feels can be cut out and although it will not be the easiest to fund, it is possible. We need to work on the capital campaign.

Mrs. Halstead commented about unacceptable and unsafe areas such as the trailers, the weight room, and the science labs. She stated that, although Abraham Lincoln learned to read by the light of the fire, it does not mean that is great or acceptable. The Chester County Pops Orchestra concert was wonderful, although she expressed concern about the people walking to and from the wings of the stage falling off the edge. Mrs. Halstead commented about the inadequate size of both the stage and the gym. She supports the whole project and invited everyone to come tour the building with her.

Dr. West commented about having spoken with an elderly resident regarding the balance of what is right for students and what is right for people who struggle with tax bills. She referred to the discussions with MM Architects about phasing the project, deleting the second gym and the artificial turf field. The Board met and looked at what was left and she doesn't see what else could be cut. We are not just building for today's students but for those who will attend our school 5-10 years from now. She thinks this is the right path and we need to do it right the first time. Dr. West stated that the capital campaign is very exciting.

Mr. Baker stated that there is the appearance of calm on top of activity above water but there is a dark underside that is happening here that needs to be mentioned. An individual from the U-CF area has commenced a campaign to discredit him in Roanoke, Virginia anonymously. Mr. Baker referred to the day when his father was a School Director in California. He commented about school district employees who took action against him personally for things his father said. Mr. Baker's children have been briefed that if it ever happens here, they should let him know about it. It's his problem to deal with, not theirs.

Although his first reaction was to take this campaign against him, he has taken more than his share. His concern is where the activity would cease if there are individuals who would reach across two states. Mr. Baker is not sure what his course will be but he will not jeopardize his career. He commented about the harm to the Board, the Superintendent and the children of this community. Cowardly individuals should have the decency to identify themselves and state their complaints in a public forum. Mr. Baker wants to do what is right for the children of Unionville-Chadds Ford.

Mr. Murray thinks this is the right plan and needs to be comprehensive. We have paired down what needs to be eliminated. Cutting more means cutting programs. He trusts the administration and the architect in what was put together correctly.

This Board has never overbuilt. When a 1991 project was cut, the cost to correct the mistake was high. He reviewed the contentious issue of the Chadds Ford building project before he became a Board member. Dr. Sweeney was the fifth vote to move forward with that project. There was a great feeling that Chadds Ford could wait or be done a little differently (if population figures changed slightly).

In reviewing the minutes, he asked what would have happened if that Board did not vote to do the Chadds Ford project. It would not have been a \$16 million project but a \$29 million plan. There were four votes against the project. As quoted from one of the presenters at a 1991 meeting, the main concern was that it would be cheaper to build a new school now while construction companies are begging for rates and rates are low. The presenter agreed but stated that any accountant could tell you it makes poor sense to buy a depreciating asset before it's needed. Adopting the *it's cheaper now* argument would lead the Board to consider undertaking immediate additional building projects to cover space needs 10-20 years into the future.

Mr. Murray commented about imagining the construction of a school once for your needs over twenty years instead of costing \$13 million more to phase what you did not do. He will rest well tonight knowing this is the best project we can do for the children here.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Wandersee to approve the Minutes for the January 14, 2008 Work Session (p. 3.a.1) and the January 28, 2008 Regular Board Meeting (pp. 3.a.2-26).

Motion carried (9-0).

The following financial statements and reports were reviewed:

1. General Fund Treasurer's Report – January, 2008 (pp. 3.b.2)
2. 2006-2007 GF Function Revenue Analysis with Details of 6100's and 7000's as of January, 2008 (p. 3. b.3)
3. 2006-2007 General Fund Function-Object Expenditure Analysis as of January, 2008 (pp. 3.b.4-6)
4. Category Expenditures Analysis – January, 2008 (p. 3.b.7)
5. Capital Project Fund Report – January, 2008 (p. 3.b.8)
6. Construction Project Reports – January, 2008
  - a. Unionville High School & Fields Renovation Project Budget Report – January, 2008 (pp. 3.b.9-10)
7. Outstanding Projects Summary – January, 2008 (p. 3.b.11)

**COMMENTS –  
SCHOOL  
DIRECTORS  
(Continued)**

**MINUTES  
APPROVED**

**FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS  
& REPORTS**

**3.a.8**

Financial Statement (Continued)

8. Capital Reserve Fund Report – January, 2008 (p. 3.b.12)
9. Health Care Trust Fund Report – January, 2008 (p. 3.b.13)
10. Debt Service Reserve Fund Report – January, 2008 (p. 3.b.14)
11. Unionville Elementary School Field Trip Account – 2007-08, through February 7, 2008 (p. 3.b.15-16)

Mr. Murray requested that the secretary file the statements and reports.

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the Bill List for January 30, 2008 in the amount of \$2,955,923.97 (pp. 3.d.1-17).

Mr. Baker excused himself from voting on Checks No. 122446 & No. 124620. Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the February Budget Transfers for 2007-08 as on the attachment (p. 3.b.1).

Motion carried (9-0).

Mr. Wandersee provided the following update for Facilities:

1. Public Water (High School & Middle School) – Project for conversion is currently out to bid; Bids due 3/11; Anticipate award at the March meeting
2. Fire Alarm System (High School) – Bid documents currently being drawn up for replacement system; Anticipate award at the April meeting
3. Telephone System (Middle School) and partial Roof Replacement (Hillendale) – Bid documents being developed for replacement systems; Anticipate awards in March or April
4. Other Summer Projects – Considering new coating on High School track; new PA system at Hillendale; two new playing fields on the Stevens property; Anticipate Board approval in next few months

Mrs. Brown stated that there were no action items for Curriculum and Educational Technology tonight. The Curriculum Committee met prior to the Work Session and reviewed the many things being done every day with curriculum at the schools.

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to award the bid for six passenger buses to Wolfington Body Co., Inc. in the total net amount of \$389,259.00.

Mr. Cochran stated that the bid is for two full-size, three mid-size, and one handicapped accessible bus. The total includes five trade-in vehicles and is in line with last year's net bid. Following Board discussion of having received only one bid, Mr. Cochran stated that this may be due to our fleet specifications. Other companies may feel they would be offering a different vehicle and could not be competitive. Due to some mechanical concerns with the new buses purchased last year, our bus mechanics recommend staying with the International chassis and Wolfington bodies. This will also allow for consistency with other fleet vehicles.

Motion carried (9-0)

**FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS  
& REPORTS  
(Continued)**

**BILLS  
APPROVED**

**BUDGET  
TRANSFERS**

**FACILITIES**

**CURRICULUM &  
EDUCATIONAL  
TECHNOLOGY**

**FINANCE:**

**Bus Bid  
Award -  
Wolfington**

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the attached Resolution No. 2008-02-25-01 authorizing the Referendum Language for Electoral Debt for renovations and additions to Unionville High School and its campus, and authorizing all necessary advertising and notices as required by law, as on the attachments (pp. 6.b.1-5).

Mr. Wandersee read content from the resolution as follows:

*The Board of School Directors (the "Governing Body") of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District, Chester and Delaware Counties, Pennsylvania (the "Local Government Unit") hereby RESOLVES that:*

- 1. The Governing Body of the Local Government Unit hereby determines that it is advisable to make an increase in the debt of the Local Government Unit in the amount of up to Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000,000) with the assent of the electors thereof for the purpose of providing funds for the Local Government Unit to make renovations and additions to Unionville High School and its campus.*
- 2. A public election be and the same is hereby called for April 22, 2008, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing local time, at the places for holding municipal elections in the Local Government Unit for the purpose of obtaining the assent of the electors of the Local Government Unit to the increase in the debt of the Local Government Unit as stated above.*

Mrs. Trigg commented about having one of her children in the high school for each of the next nine years. This extends beyond her family to all families over 25-30 years. Act 1 makes it difficult as it has done in many other states (i.e. program cuts, class sizes, outdated textbooks, etc.). She stated that we would tie the hands of future Boards if we resort to under the cap spending. We have to find creative ways to fund this without mortgaging Boards into the future. Although she is as eager as anyone to see needed improvements to the high school, she has no choice but to vote no on this referendum proposal.

Dr. West commented about the timeline for the referendum vote. Mr. Cochran stated that we are within the election window requirements. If this were considered at the April meeting, we would be outside the window and would need to set a special election to be held on our own date at a cost of \$45,000-\$50,000 (Chester County) and \$10,000-12,000 (Delaware County).

Mr. Baker reiterated the mistake in views about Act 1, stating that it doesn't affect the Board's authority to decide on the funding plan. We are only restricted to the millage rate that is permitted. It is wrong to use an electoral resolution to serve for proxy support. Mr. Baker commented about discussion at the Finance Committee meeting of the whole regarding the April election date being too soon. If we are putting forward an electoral debt resolution with vigorous opposition, we're putting ourselves in a position to lose. If our goal is to do a comprehensive project, we should not move forward at this time without a vote to do the entire project. Mr. Baker will vote no. He is the strongest proponent for a comprehensive program but this is not the way to get there.

**Finance  
(Continued)**

**Referendum for  
Electoral Debt**

Mrs. Halstead commented about being on a fixed income. She likes going under the cap because she is assured of her payment each year for 25 years. She referred to some building projects that have not been good (i.e. UHS stadium where we nickel and dimed it to death). She is supportive of this project and is willing to live with a compromise. Mrs. Halstead hopes we have enough time to combat the “greenhouse effect” and the “domed stadium effect.” There is too much misinformation out there.

Mr. Wandersee stated that not everyone on the Finance Committee felt that April 22<sup>nd</sup> was too early. This is a compromise that includes aspects about which some are not pleased, but we need to get something started. He hopes this passes so we can move forward with the project for classrooms, security and safety.

Mrs. Brown commented about the difficulty in selling the project so quickly with less than 60 days remaining until April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Dr. West commented about previous discussion regarding a \$55.7 million (phased project) referendum on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. When we moved away from that figure to a \$30 million figure with the hope of the remainder under the cap, the tenor of the conversation changed as to how the vote would go on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Dr. Price commented about the idea of compromising on the money. The project is going forward with the full \$62 million cost. One guarantee is the savings to the Board of at least \$60,000 by holding the election on the Primary date. We will have a true feeling of the voters since this will occur at the Primary Election with expected high voter turnout. He stated that this project could be done by tweaking the budget and utilizing a capital campaign. He does not believe we could do it fully under the cap without the \$30 million and would crippling programs and the operation of the school district.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mrs. Brown -	Yes	Mrs. Trigg -	No
Mrs. Halstead -	Yes	Mr. Wandersee -	Yes
Dr. Price -	Yes	Dr. West -	Yes
Dr. Sweeney -	Yes	Mr. Baker -	Yes
		Mr. Murray -	Yes

Mr. Baker revised his original vote from no to yes to allow for the motion to duly pass.

Motion carried (8-1).

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

- a. Professional Conferences (10)
  1. Approve the Attendance at Professional Conferences as on the attachments (pp. 7.a.1-2)

**Finance  
(Continued)**

**Referendum for  
Electoral Debt**

**PERSONNEL:**

**Professional  
Conferences**

Personnel (Continued)

b. Retirements (10)

1. Dan Burgess – Pocopson Elementary School Librarian, (ERIP), effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year
2. Elaine Burgess – Unionville High School German Teacher (ERIP), effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year
3. Catherine Campbell – Unionville Elementary School Pre-First Teacher (ERIP), effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year
4. Kathleen Grugan – Unionville High School Social Studies Teacher (ERIP), effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year
5. Gail Humes – C. F. Patton Middle School Family & Consumer Science Teacher (ERIP), effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year
6. Maryanne Mullen - Unionville High School Biology Teacher (ERIP), effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year
7. Don Silknitter – Unionville Elementary School Grade 5 Teacher (ERIP), effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year
8. Kristin Webb – Unionville High School Social Studies Teacher (ERIP), effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year
9. Dennis White – Unionville High School Health & Physical Education Teacher (ERIP), effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year
10. Niamh Crossman – Unionville High School Office Manager, effective July, 2008

c. Resignations (4)

1. Linda Demrick – Unionville Elementary School One-on-One Paraprofessional, effective January 25, 2008
2. Kimberly Crossman – Patton Middle School One-on-One Paraprofessional, effective February 8, 2008
3. Melanie Lewis – Chadds Ford Elementary School Learning Support Teacher, effective February 8, 2008
4. William Moss – Unionville High School Emotional Support Teacher, effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year

d. Reclassifications (2)

1. Audra Gavaghan – from Unionville Elementary School Food Service Assistant (2.5 hours per school day) to Unionville High School Food Service Assistant (4.0 hours per school day), effective January 14, 2008
2. Carol Stem – from Patton Middle School Special Education Teacher (Long-Term Substitute) to Special Education Teacher (Temporary Professional Employee), effective January 22, 2008

e. Supplemental Contracts (7)

1. Kim Hisler – Middle School Track Coach
2. Timothy Murphy – Middle School Track Coach
3. Lisa Dougherty – Mentor – Half Year
4. Erin Grubb – Mentor – Half Year
5. Judy Hurley – Mentor – Half Year
6. Christine Ilgenfritz – Mentor – Half Year
7. Marlene Kugler – Mentor – Half Year

**Personnel  
(Continued)**

**Retirements:**

**D. Burgess**

**E. Burgess**

**C. Campbell**

**K. Grugan**

**G. Humes**

**M. Mullen**

**D. Silknitter**

**K. Webb**

**D. White**

**N. Crossman**

**Resignations:**

**L. Demrick**

**K. Crossman**

**M. Lewis**

**W. Moss**

**Reclassifica-  
tions:**

**A. Gavaghan**

**C. Stem**

**Supplemental  
Contracts**

- f. Substitutes (10)
  - 1. Scott Taylor - Biology
  - 2. Mark Hauck – Elementary
  - 3. Michael Kelisek - Elementary
  - 4. Jaclyn Litwa – Elementary
  - 5. Kristie Spina – Elementary
  - 6. Jacqueline Haegele – English
  - 7. Kevin Mehr – Custodial Sub
  - 8. Susan Greenholt – K-12
  - 9. Mary Heffelfinger – K-12
  - 10. Richard Schreep – K-12
  
- g. Employ (7)
  - 1. Julie Block – Unionville Elementary School Library Paraprofessional (6 hours per day x 185 days), effective January 29, 2008, at a salary of \$11.92 per hour
  - 2. Kimberly Handy – Unionville Elementary School Food Service Assistant (2.5 hours per school day), effective January 14, 2008, at a salary of \$10.60 per hour
  - 3. Michael-John McGarvey – Unionville High School 0.5 Special Education Teacher (TPE), effective January 17, 2008, at the Bachelor’s Step 1 salary level, pending receipt of PA Certification
  - 4. Michelle Parrett – Chadds Ford Elementary School 0.5 Special Education Teacher (TPE), effective January 28, 2008, at the Bachelor’s Step 1 salary level, pending receipt of PA Certification
  - 5. Brian Powers – Unionville High School Custodian (8 hours per day x 260 days), effective February 4, 2008, at a salary of \$12.97 per hour
  - 6. Elizabeth Quillman – Unionville Elementary School One-on-One Paraprofessional, effective February 4, 2008, at a salary of \$11.92 per Hour
  - 7. Katherine Takoushian – Patton Middle School Special Education Teacher (TPE), effective January 22, 2008, at the Bachelor’s + 24 Step 1 salary level
  
- h. Leaves (2)
  - 1. SeungHee Hwang – Unionville High School Math Teacher, six-week Maternity Leave beginning May 5, 2008 through the end of the 2007-2008 school year
  - 2. Jennifer Sarno – Unionville High School Math Teacher – six-week Maternity Leave beginning July 4, 2008, per her doctor’s note
  
- i. Sabbatical Leaves (6)
  - 1. Professional Development Leave, Full Year – 2008-2009:
    - a. Christine Dempsey – Hillendale Elementary School Teacher
    - b. Christine Gregori - Hillendale Elementary School Teacher
    - c. Mary O’Connor - Unionville High School Learning Support Teacher
    - d. Cindy-Alice Pisauro - Unionville High School French/Spanish Teacher
    - e. Laboure Rafferty - Patton Middle School IST Teacher
  
  - 2. Professional Development Leave, Second Semester – 2008-2009:
    - a. Frank Mitchell - Patton Middle School Guidance Counselor

**Personnel  
(Continued)**

**Substitutes**

**Employ:**

**J. Block**

**K. Handy**

**M. McGarvey**

**M. Parrett**

**B. Powers**

**E. Quillman**

**K. Takoushian**

**Leaves:**

**S. Hwang**

**J. Sarno**

**Sabbatical  
Leaves:**

**C. Dempsey**

**C. Gregori**

**M. O’Connor**

**C. Pisauro**

**L. Rafferty**

**F. Mitchell (2<sup>nd</sup>  
Semester)**

Mrs. Brown offered thanks to the ten retirees for all of their service to Unionville-Chadds Ford. Ms. Parker stated that we would be getting together formally to celebrate their fine careers.

Motion carried (9-0).

Mr. Baker left the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Mrs. Halstead reported for Co-Curricular and Student Life regarding the Unionville Sports Council (USC). Ms. Parker stated that the USC booster leaders have held fine conversation in looking at a capital campaign and procedures for athletics. She reviewed the formation of the Co-Curricular and Student Life Committee to look at all extracurricular programs offered to our children in the same manner that Curriculum Council brings together instruction in our district. Ms. Parker met with the group and looks forward to continuing discussion with the USC representatives at the next Co-Curricular Committee meeting.

Mrs. Halstead commented about inappropriate student behavior with cell phones. Our role has not been a punitive one but an effort to protect our students. She mentioned the presentation for parents that will be held on March 27<sup>th</sup> with Patton Middle School teacher, Robin Martin and a county detective.

Ms. Parker mentioned the need to discuss the Board committee meeting schedule due to competing meeting times on Work Session nights.

It was moved by Dr. West and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the contract with David Voss to complete a Communications Audit and Plan at a cost of \$7,500.00 plus travel costs.

Mrs. Trigg asked if his expenses could be paid up to a certain dollar figure. Dr. West stated that she would want something a little more solid and feels it is reasonable to ask Mr. Voss for what his role and work would entail. Mr. Hug stated that this information had been requested but was not received to date.

It was moved by Dr. West and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to table the above motion until the March 17, 2008 meeting.

Motion carried (8-0).

There were no action items for Legislation and Policy this evening.

Mr. Murray reported for the Center for Arts & Technology/ Intermediate Unit and Special Education. He reviewed construction of the Southern C.A.T. campus, stating that the project was on-time and under budget. They are beginning the enrollment process for the new school, which includes a partnership with Delaware County Community College. DCCC will utilize the facilities after the regular day for college classes. High school students who attend may also enroll in college-level classes.

Carol Apicella, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that it would be a great idea to have information on the district's website to indicate where items from the UHS project had been honed down from the original \$100 million proposal to the \$62.5 million proposal.

**CO-CURRICULAR  
& STUDENT LIFE**

**COMMUNI-  
CATIONS**

**Communications  
Audit & Plan -  
Tabled**

**LEGISLATION  
AND POLICY**

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

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS**

Bruce Yelton, Pocopson Township resident, asked how the 1.5% annual cuts to the budget would be achieved with regard to the UHS project. Dr. Price stated that they would have to be budgeted over the next 20 years. We would have to deal with the money we have and decisions would have to be made in the future.

Mr. Yelton commented about discussions having begun in 2002, taking another five years to plan for the expansion. We knew we needed this in 1995 and the poor planning is why we are where we are today. He reviewed the state's recommendation of 200 ft<sup>2</sup> per high school student and the plan recommendation of 220 ft<sup>2</sup> per high school student. Mr. Yelton asked if anyone could address the 12% excess. He also inquired about who is managing the Southern C.A.T. project.

Keith Knauss, East Marlborough Township resident, commented about being sorry to have seen Mr. Baker leave the meeting. They disagree on a lot of issues but he has not encouraged anyone to attack him personally. Their citizen group signs its name to anything it does.

Jean Connery, Pocopson Township resident, inquired about the cost for EHL Consultants. Mr. Wandersee stated that it had not been discussed. They are just providing the Board with a proposal. In response to her question about a flat rate, Ms. Parker stated that it would include a monthly fee for services. The initial feasibility study was approved by the Board for a certain amount up to this point.

Carol O'Brien, Chadds Ford Township resident, referred to Mr. Yelton's statement about the state's recommendation of 200 ft<sup>2</sup> per high school student. She stated that this is the same governing body that recommends 13 in. per student on buses. We should pay attention to that figure.

Heidi Brown, Chadds Ford Township resident, commented about having toured the high school building along with several other parents. She feels that now, more than ever, this plan needs to go forward. She expressed concern over recruiting new teachers to the facility (with such science rooms, weight rooms, the faculty lounge, stage, etc.) to replace the many retirees. Mrs. Brown witnessed employees working in utility closets with electrical cabinets. She offered her congratulations to the school staff for doing their best even though the school is bursting at the seams.

Dr. West welcomed Ms. Parker back from her medical leave. She offered thanks for allowing her to participate in this evening's meeting via telephone.

Mr. Wandersee referred to Mr. Yelton's comments, stating that the definition of budgets cuts and mandatory belt tightening had been given. There would be sacrifices but we must get this started. Mr. Wandersee offered thanks to Heidi Brown who has been a good supporter all along.

Mrs. Brown will be happy to see this behind us. There are a lot of things going on in the district upon which we are not focusing. We need every student and person out there talking about why it is not being spent foolishly.

Mrs. Trigg commented about the retirees, particularly Don Silknitter, who was a special teacher to her son as mentioned in his college applications.

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

**BOARD  
MEMBERS'  
COMMENTS**

Mrs. Halstead saluted all of the teachers who are leaving, stating that her children had most of them. She hopes the new teachers will be as strong as those who are leaving. No one can replace them. Mrs. Halstead commented about apprehensiveness toward the current referendum and all of the hard work that was done during the last referendum. She believes in the project; it's for the children and not her. She would like the supervisors and leaders of the community to form a comprehensive collaboration of truth in going forward. Many of our township supervisors did not know all that was going on with the project. We need everyone to get together and need to get together as a Board. She knows Mrs. Trigg will support the group as a Board in getting this passed even though she voted no.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown  
Secretary

**BOARD  
MEMBERS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

**MEETING  
ADJOURNED**