

**UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**740 Unionville Road**  
**Kennett Square, PA 19348**  
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**Web Site - www.ucfsd.org**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**Minutes**  
**March 15, 2004**

The March meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, March 15, 2004 in the Unionville High School LGI.

Mr. Wandersee, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. He requested that the group stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The following members were present: Edward Wandersee, Edward Murray, Kathleen Brown, Curt Baker, Keith Knauss, Stephen McClaskey, Bruce Swayze, Corinne Sweeney, and Timotha Trigg. Also present were Dr. John Kenney, District Superintendent, Dr. Brenda O'Hern, Robert Cochran, Thomas Marinelli, David Dickens, John Nolen, Solny Adalsteinsson, student representative, community residents, members of the press, and Denise Miller, recording secretary.

There were no comments from residents. Mr. Wandersee announced that there would be a second opportunity for resident comments later in the evening.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the Minutes of the February 17, 2004 Regular Meeting. Motion carried (9-0).

The following committee meeting minutes and financial statements were reviewed:

1. Construction Committee Meeting – February 5, 2004 (pp. 3.a.12-13)
2. Curriculum Committee Meeting–March 8, 2004 (pp.3.a.14-15)
3. General Fund Treasurer's Report dated February, 2004 (p. 3.b.1-3)
4. Term Investment Report dated February, 2004 (p. 3.b.4)
5. Capital Reserve Fund Report dated February, 2004 (p. 3.b.5)
6. Capital Projects Fund Report dated February, 2004 (p. 3.b.6)
7. Construction Project Reports dated February, 2004 (pp. 3.b.8-15):
  - a. Unionville Elementary School Project
  - b. Chadds Ford Elementary School Project
  - c. Pocopson Elementary School Project
  - c. Track & Stadium Project
8. Cafeteria Report dated February, 2004 (pp. 3.c.1-2)

Mr. Wandersee requested that the secretary file the reports.

**MEMBERS  
PRESENT**

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS**

**MINUTES  
APPROVED**

**FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS**

**3.a.1**

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the Bill List dated February 26, 2004 in the amount of \$1,112,238.11 (pp. 3.d.1-18). Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. McClaskey to approve the Budget Transfers dated March, 2004 as on the attachment (p. 3.b.7). Motion carried (9-0).

Mr. Wandersee stated that Martin Reber, District Energy Education Consultant, provided a short presentation at the Work Session on March 8, 2004. Mr. Reber stated that we can save considerable monies for some common, easy energy adjustments. He hopes to give a full report on the scope of those first-year savings as soon as he gets some bills for comparison.

Mr. Knauss reviewed the following additional agenda item that requires action this evening. The motion would grant Edward Wandersee, John F. Kenney, and Rick Hostetler permission to participate in mediation that will be held on March 23, 2004 with our attorney, Joseph Battapaglia. The mediation is regarding the general contractor on the Pocopson Elementary School Project. This motion would also include granting Mr. Wandersee permission to bind the district to a financial settlement for the amount agreed to by the full board at the Executive Session on February 9, 2004. Mr. Wandersee asked whether anyone had questions regarding this motion and there were no responses. It was moved by Mr. Knauss and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the motion as stated above. Motion carried (9-0).

Mrs. Brown stated that there had been several meetings this month with curriculum committees to discuss piloting a new math program in grades six and seven. This pilot will be offered in the 2004-05 school year and replace the current text with McDougal Littell's math text (selected by the Patton Middle School Math Department). Several different programs were reviewed. This change will hopefully allow our teachers to do all the things we ask them to do with Differentiating Instruction and will give more children an opportunity to take Algebra at an earlier time.

It was moved by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mr. Knauss to approve the Math Pilot in Grades 6 and 7 for the 2004-2005 school year, using the McDougal Littell textbook. Motion carried (9-0).

Mrs. Brown commented regarding two items that will be reviewed by the Curriculum Council next year: Honors English (Grade 12) and a course in Statistics at the high school. If approved, these courses would probably be available in the 2005-06 school year.

**BUILDINGS &  
GROUNDS:**

**Energy  
Management**

**Mediation –  
Pocopson  
Elementary  
School Project**

**CURRICULUM:**

**Math Pilot –  
Grades 6-7,  
McDougal Littell**

Mr. Murray stated that the following agenda item had been reviewed at the Work Session on March 8, 2004. This bid is through the Chester County Intermediate Unit for joint purchasing, utilizing the low bids. It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Knauss to approve the bid award recommendation for Chester County Intermediate Unit Joint Purchase Bids of Fuels for the 2004-2005 Fiscal Year as on the attachment (pp. 6.a.1-2). Motion carried (9-0).

Mr. Murray reported that the 2004-05 budget would be presented by the administration on April 13, 2004 at the Board Work Session. This will be our first opportunity to see what it looks like.

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

- a. Professional Conferences
  1. Approve attendance at Professional Conferences as on the attachment (p. 7.a.1)
  2. Retirement
    - a. Carol Cox – Bus Driver, effective at the end of the 2003-2004 school year, June, 2004
  3. Resignations
    - a. Elizabeth Mills- Hillendale Elementary Learning Support Paraprofessional, effective March 5, 2004
    - b. Wendy Adams – Pocopson Elementary One-on-One Paraprofessional, effective at the end of the 2003-2004 school year, June, 2004
    - c. Patrick Morrison – Pocopson Elementary Custodian, effective February 27, 2004
    - d. William Heck – Chadds Ford Elementary Custodian, effective February 6, 2004
    - e. Patricia Heck – Unionville High School Night Supervisor Custodian, effective March 2, 2004
    - f. April Howe – Unionville High School Second Shift Custodian, effective March 3, 2004
  4. Discharge
    - a. Wilfredo Hernandez – Unionville High School Custodian, effective February 24, 2004
- b. Reclassifications
  1. Veronica Pryce – from part-time Bus Driver to full-time Bus Driver, effective February 17, 2004
  2. Joan Sielke – Unionville Elementary School Food Service Assistant – additional 2.5 hours per school day (in addition to Bus Driver assignment)
  3. Sandra Graves – Pocopson Elementary Paraprofessional, from 25 hours per week to 28 hours per week, effective immediately, through the end of the 2003-2004 school year (at current hourly rate)

**FINANCE:**

**Bid Award –  
CCIU Joint  
Purchase/Fuels**

**2004 Budget  
Presentation**

**PERSONNEL:**

**PROFES-  
SIONAL  
CONFERENCES**

**RETIREMENT:  
C. Cox**

**RESIGNATIONS  
E. Mills**

**W. Adams**

**P. Morrison**

**W. Heck**

**P. Heck**

**A. Howe**

**DISCHARGE:  
W. Hernandez**

**RECLASSIFI-  
CATIONS:  
V. Pryce**

**J. Sielke**

**S. Graves**

Personnel (Continued)

c. Substitutes

1. Colleen MacLean – Music
2. Linda Laird – Early Childhood
3. Sarah Higgins – Early Childhood
4. Joanne Griffin – Health & Physical Education
5. Glenda Brown – K-12

d. Supplementals

1. Gary Yovanovich – Head Softball Coach
2. Carol Cramer – J.V. Girls Lacrosse Coach
3. James Hunter – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Lacrosse Coach
4. Joanne Griffin – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Lacrosse Coach
5. Thomas Hoesch – Track Coach
6. Lisa Yackel – Mentor (Half Year)

e. Leaves

1. Judy Jordan-Roney – District Speech & Language Teacher, Six-week Maternity Leave, beginning approximately April 18, 2004
2. Christine Bailey – Middle School Foreign Language Teacher, Eight-week Maternity Leave, beginning approximately April 28, 2004
3. Lisa Winnick – Pocopson Elementary half-day Kindergarten Teacher, Six-week Maternity Leave, beginning approximately May 2, 2004
4. Andrea LaPira – Unionville High School English Teacher, effective May 10, 2004 to the end of the 2003-2004 school year

f. Correction

1. Donald Cornelius – Bus Driver – Correct hourly rate to \$13.06, retroactive to the beginning of the 2003-2004 school year

g. Employ

1. Deborah A. Barnett – Van Driver (5 to 5-1/2 hours per day), effective March 1, 2004, at a salary of \$11.59 per hour
2. Jennifer L. Frank – Van Driver (5 to 5-1/2 hours per day), effective February 23, 2004, at a salary of \$11.59 per hour

In response to Mrs. Brown's question regarding the loss of a lot of custodians, Mr. Marinelli responded that people make employment decisions all the time and sometimes with new leadership and new expectations, those things happen. Sometimes people move away, get married, etc.

Motion carried (9-0).

**PERSONNEL  
(Continued)**

**SUBSTITUTES**

**SUPPLE-  
MENTALS**

**LEAVES:  
J. Jordan-  
Roney**

**C. Bailey**

**L. Winnick**

**A. LaPira**

**CORRECTION:**

**D. Cornelius**

**EMPLOY:  
D. Barnett**

**J. Frank**

Mr. Swayze stated that there was no report for Transportation this evening.

Mrs. Brown reported that there were no action items for Communications this evening.

Mrs. Trigg reported that there were no action items for Policy tonight.

Solny Adalsteinsson, Student Representative, reported regarding:

1. High School Musical – will be held this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m.
2. Report Card Changes – Students are interested in the new changes and while they understand that the Standards are mandated, they are concerned about how they will be evaluated. The kids don't want to see percentage grades on their report cards. In theory, this is okay, but in practice, it will take the focus off of learning and place it upon who is making the most points. A percentage system would also be very demoralizing to students. Solny commented about relatives in Europe who have used a percentage system and they've been discouraged by the time they were 15 years old. Students hope the Board will consider their perspective on this issue.

Mr. Baker reported for the Center for Arts and Technology, Intermediate Unit that the I.U. Board approved a policy on building at its last meeting that provides for a two percent discount for those districts who pay their bills for I.U. services within 60 days. The policy also included a 10% penalty for those districts that pay their bills late. The implication for us as prompt payers is consequently a good thing.

Mr. Wandersee reported for Legislation that the Governor stated that he would have a budget completed by late February, which has not been accomplished. Also, there has been no action to date on school subsidy, property tax reduction, or the gaming philosophy – not a lot to report at this time.

Dr. Kenney provided the Superintendent's Report:

1. Solny Adalsteinsson – He received information regarding Solny's designation as a semi-finalist in the Coatesville Coca-Cola Scholarship Program. In April, 250 students from across the United States will be invited to Atlanta, Georgia to determine who will be the national winner of \$20,000 and the regional winner of \$4,000. Ms. Adalsteinsson was also a finalist with the Daughters of the American Revolution. Compliments are due to her parents and teachers. Congratulations, Solny!

**TRANSPOR-  
TATION REPORT**

**COMMUNI-  
CATIONS**

**BOARD POLICY**

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVE  
REPORT**

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

**LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT**

**SUPER-  
INTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Superintendent's Report (Continued)

2. Jason Trigg - Is a Finalist in the Math Contest at Lehigh University where he tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place. He answered 37 of 40 questions, along with another student, and he had to share the prize of \$212.50. Congratulations!
3. Science – U-CF students placed in the Chester County Science Fair for middle and high school students as follows:

Middle School:

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Amanda Auger -  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Place– BehavioralSocial Sciences |
| Jessica Olson - | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place – Physics                  |
| Sarah Kirk -    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Place – Zoology                  |
| Brian Fieles -  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Place – Consumer Sciences        |

High School:

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Rob Nelb -        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place – Sr. Zoology Division                    |
| Andrew Anderson - | 1 <sup>st</sup> Place – Sr. Zoology Davison and<br>Best of Show |
| Brian Bostwick -  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - Microbiology                            |
| Sunny Zhu -       | Team Competition  |
| Sean Zeng -       | Division Winners  |

Congratulations to all of those students!

4. Chester County Computer Fair – A UHS student had a 1<sup>st</sup> place win in the Curriculum Web Page Category. Charlie Laudenbach won and will be going to competition at Dickinson on May 25, along with other students from across the state.
5. State Audit – He received a copy of a letter from Penna. Secretary of Education, Vicki Phillips, to Mr. Wandersee that congratulated the administration for their accomplishments. There were no findings in the recent audit of fiscal years 1999-2000 through 2002-2003.
6. U-CF Education Foundation – Congratulations to all who were involved in the Valentine Dinner Dance/Auction that was held on February 21, 2004, particularly to Lynn Evans, Chair, and to her committee.
7. No Child Left Behind – New web site – schoolresults.org will review proficiency levels of students in grades 5, 8 and 11 for reading and math. You can compare the results of our schools with schools all over the United States if you wish to do so. Since proficiency levels are very different across state borders, it's probably most accurate to compare us with schools across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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

Superintendent's Report (Continued)

Unionville-Chadds Ford:

Grade 5	Math -	90.2%	proficient (highest in PA)
	Reading -	88.2%	“ (two schools higher)
Grade 8	Math -	78.9%	“ (16 schools higher)
	Reading -	88.2%	“ (7 schools higher)
Grade 11	Math -	78.4%	“ (8 schools higher)
	Reading -	86.9%	“ (5 schools higher)

Dr. Kenney mentioned an earlier report in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* regarding U-CF not having met attendance requirements for AYP (adequate yearly progress). The District filed an appeal since Chadds Ford Elementary did not exist at that time and Pocopson Elementary was not open for the year in which they were calculating attendance patterns. The District was then removed from the list. The preliminary report from PDE indicates that an average of more than 95% of our elementary and middle school students were in attendance. The state does not look at attendance at the high school level but reviews graduation rates. Our rate is 99.26% of students who graduate.

8. PSSA – Scaled scores for Writing came in recently as follows:

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Grade 6 -	1380	1447
Grade 9 -	1500	1578

These scores represent statistically significant increases over past years. They are the result of a great deal of hard work by the students and staff, as well as the seriousness with which the test is taken. Scores are now included on transcripts and an increased number of states across the U.S. are administering these types of tests because of No Child Left Behind. Dr. Kenney encouraged all students to take the tests very seriously on March 22<sup>nd</sup>; colleges are looking at the scores.

Dr. Sweeney stated that at this point in time, SAT scores are what drive college admissions. At some point, will there be a correlation between PSSA and SAT scores? Dr. Kenney responded that universities are asking why certain things are excluded on the transcript and students should take the courses that colleges are looking for, do well in them, take the SATs very seriously, and give colleges no excuse to deny acceptance.

With regard to the PSSAs, if you take courses in which the material is being taught and tested, you will be doing better in responding to the material tested on the PSSA.

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

Jessica Nelson, UHS Senior and Student Representative on the Curriculum Council, stated that she had spoken with a lot of people whose general consensus is that students do not want to see percentage grades on report cards. Students are concerned more about the grade than if they are learning what they need to know.

Mr. McClaskey extended thanks to Drs. Kenney and O'Hern, Mr. Bertrando, Mrs. Schwab and the middle school math teachers for putting together the new pilot in grades 6 and 7. He commented about an outstanding letter that was written in the latest *Hillendale Happenings* regarding the great job that John Nolen is doing as Principal of Hillendale Elementary School. He wanted to echo that sentiment. Mr. McClaskey also stated that there is a Middle School Boardwalk Festival scheduled for the beginning of May. Part of it includes a sumo-wrestling contest - if any board or staff members are interested.

Mr. Baker congratulated the Pocopson Elementary folks on the Read-A-Thon and suggested that we soften the hardwood floors in the gym. It was a terrific event and a job well done!

Mr. Knauss extended his thanks to the Podium Club (the parent organization that raises funds for student musicians in the district) for bringing Maynard Ferguson to the district. He can make that trumpet squeal!

Mrs. Brown commented that the board looks at numbers/test scores a lot but stated that nobody on the board loses sight of why we are here – to educate kids. She thanked members of the public for sending letters to the board. They appreciate receiving them and are interested in their thoughts regarding budget items, etc. Mrs. Brown stated that this is a complicated issue since we need classrooms with the right number of students in them and the right teachers and facilities. The board tries not to make decisions that will cost the taxpayers money and will adjust the numbers where they are able to do so.

Mrs. Trigg stated that she looks forward to the new math curriculum in grades six and seven next year. She thanked Solny Adalsteinsson for sharing the students' thoughts regarding percentage grades on report cards. Mrs. Trigg would be very interested in hearing the students' comments and stated that her phone number is listed in the Student Directory.

Mr. Swayze discussed comments that he has received from parents over the last few years. Most of them relate to middle school mathematics, and he is delighted that we have adopted the pilot program in grades six and seven. He thinks the faculty is very excited about it and added that we should be, too.

**RESIDENT'S  
COMMENTS**

**BOARD  
MEMBERS'  
COMMENTS**

Mr. Murray echoed Dr. Kenney's comments regarding the U-CF Education Foundation's annual dinner dance. It was a very enjoyable evening for a good cause.

Mr. Wandersee stated that following Dr. Kenney's reports about the performance of students and teachers, he is proud of our community!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown  
Secretary

**BOARD  
MEMBERS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**