

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Minutes
March 17, 2008

The March meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, March 17, 2008 in the Unionville High School Large Group Instruction room. Dr. West, Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present: Dr. Therese West, 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, Jim Fulginiti, Rick Hostetler, Rich Hug, John Nolen, Mark Ransford, John Sanville, Colleen Shearburn, Bruce Vosburgh, community residents, members of the press, and Denise Miller, Recording Secretary.

Dr. West requested that the group stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Dr. West announced that Mr. Murray would be late in arriving to the meeting this evening.

Superintendent Parker stated that demonstrations of student achievement were not provided prior to tonight's meeting due to Spring Break. She commended Shannon Pitt and the cast of *Pirates of Penzance*, along with the Speech and Debate team members who held a wonderful activity last Friday afternoon. Ms. Parker also applauded the Dr. Seuss Read-A-Thon, art shows, the PTO's and every day in each school as we look at the creative energies of our children.

Ms. Parker reported on the following areas:

- Cyber Safety/Dangers – Patton Middle School teacher, Robin Martin, will offer this program on March 27th at 7:00 PM in the middle school Auditorium. Chester County Detective, Joe Walton, will join Ms. Martin and review legal ramifications and what can be done for our children.
- Summer School – Enrichment classes will be offered this year. Ms. Parker credited our curriculum team on this opportunity and challenge. John Sanville, Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction, stated that over 30 different workshops would be available to K-12 learners. Most of them will run over a two-week period from June 16-27. The complete course catalog and on-line registration will be available in the next few weeks. Ms. Parker clarified that these workshops would not be offered for academic credit. They will also be offered to non-public school students.
- Town Meeting – The meeting on March 11th was an opportunity to put forth our chief comments regarding the UHS project. Additional responses to the question are being added to the website, along with the results of the community input activity.

CALL TO ORDER

MEMBERS PRESENT

SUPER-INTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent's Report – Continued

Plan C – The Administration was asked what would happen if the referendum votes continue to fail. Mr. Hostetler put together a cost estimate for a variety of interim steps (i.e. public water, fire suppression system, etc.) as a triage plan. An update was provided at the December, 2007 Board meeting. From Ms. Parker's perspective, Plan C is knowing there is a light at the end of the tunnel but not knowing how long that light would be. She referred to the chart that was so notably done and would require 2.5 to 3 years to be completed for the children. We have heard, and will hear on April 22nd, many passionate voices. The Administration will move ahead vigorously to assure that the Board has the most current information regarding needs for the children.

Ms. Parker commented about the enormous time involved in meeting with Mr. Knauss, architects and administrators regarding the UHS project. She would like the district and building administrators to be able to do what they were hired to do. We need to be about children as our primary function, although we will continue to vigorously support the project.

She has received over 10,000 e-mails in the last 13 months. It is impossible for those correspondences to be addressed personally as she is the children's Superintendent. Ms. Parker looks forward to a time when we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. She asked for the community's patience where we have a slight shift in focus from our students. Ms. Parker requested that the community continue to let the Administration know their concerns, even if a personal response is not given. Answers will be provided on the website or in another fashion. You have called administrators to work for a broader community. The children will see more of us, which is the good news.

Ms. Parker stated that Shannon Pitt was not present to provide a Student Representative report. She applauded Shannon and the students who worked diligently on the *Pirates of Penzance*.

Dr. West requested that residents limit their comments to three minutes.

Jeff Leiser, Birmingham Township resident, stated that he and his wife care deeply about Unionville-Chadds Ford. They moved here six years ago from Delaware and have no regrets. The Leisers have contributed time and money in the areas of sports, drama and music. He stated that the high school needs improvements but the process is flawed. The Board has not listened to the community and he is not convinced of the necessity for the full scope of the UHS project. Mr. Leiser suggested that the Board set up a list of needs/wants and offer walk-through tours. He also conveyed concern about funding a portion of the cost under the Act 1 cap and the areas from which it would be taken. Mr. Leiser will vote no on the referendum, and he stated that the Board has 36 days to convince him otherwise.

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

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE
REPORT**

Bruce Yelton, Pocopson Township resident, asked about a third public meeting being scheduled. Ms. Parker stated that we were looking at a variety of dates. There are some community conflicts, along with the Obama/Clinton debate that is scheduled on the night of the April 16th public meeting date. The third meeting will be set in April with the date and location advertised on the district's website.

Keith Knauss, East Marlborough Township resident representing the Citizens for Efficient Education, stated that he provided the plan that indicates second and third gymnasiums and a greenhouse to the press. He commented about funding the \$32.5 million portion of the project under the Act 1 cap. He stated that the \$2.3 million/year over 25 years would otherwise be used for teachers rather than a high school building. The Board is asking residents to choose bricks and mortar.

Tom Drake, East Marlborough Township resident, inquired about the Board member who voted no on the referendum item and asked why they did so. Mrs. Trigg stated that she has several children in the schools and is very interested in seeing that the high school renovations are done so we have the best high school our community is willing to fund. We don't have a crystal ball. She supported the referendum question and the answer was no, which tells her the community is not willing to fund that plan. Mrs. Trigg is skeptical about having the community fund half of the plan and taking half from the childrens' education. She does not support that; therefore, she voted no.

Carol Apicella, East Marlborough Township resident, has every confidence in this Board who has guided this district toward being one of the best in Pennsylvania. She is surprised that people don't think the Board has their best interests in mind. We have elected them. We would have trailers now if their past recommendation to build Pocopson Elementary School had not been made. Sixteen hundred students will be here in the next 10-25 years. Mrs. Apicella commended the Board for the current planning and commented about the 14' x 14' botany lab (which is the corner of a classroom). This will provide a better, hands-on experience for the kids. Mrs. Apicella also commented about the need to tear down the current gym in "D" wing and doing it correctly. The auxiliary gym is for students with special needs or those who don't do well in a team environment. She encouraged everyone to look at the district website for questions and answers.

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

Dr. Price commented about the compromised plan that is now on the table in response to the voters who did not want \$62.5 million of additional tax impact. We are not cutting back on the physical plans since cuts to re-engineer and delay would consume most of the savings. We're trying to address taxpayer needs with the overall cost and student needs. Trying to change things without putting the whole project together is tough and doesn't result in much saving. Dr. Price commented about bad quality staying with us forever and the need to do the project right.

Mrs. Halstead thanked the taxpayers for educating her children, the last one graduating in 1994. She has paid for previous construction/renovation projects at the middle school, high school and all of the elementary schools with never a qualm in her heart. She referred to her former Problems of Democracy teacher's philosophy that it is the job of each generation to educate the next generation, both in academics and in co-curricular activities.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**COMMENTS –
SCHOOL
DIRECTORS**

Mrs. Halstead commented about the many hours spent by the Board on the high school project. There is not one part of the project that can be eliminated. She referred to a March, 2005 article from *The Kennett Paper*, where the Board voted unanimously to purchase eight new modulares. Keith Knauss said they would provide much-needed space and provide some flexibility in the future for the high school, while providing time for the Board and Administration to work on permanent measures to alleviate the overcrowding in the building. Mrs. Halstead stated that we are now trying to solve a problem permanently. She mentioned an additional newspaper article from September, 2006 that welcomed Sharon Parker as our new Superintendent. Mrs. Halstead commented about Ms. Parker's desire to work with the children, noting that there are only so many hours in a day when one receives 10,000 e-mails.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Wandersee to approve the Minutes for the February 25, 2008 Regular Board Meeting (pp. 3.a.1-16).

Motion carried (8-0).

The following financial statements and reports were reviewed:

1. General Fund Treasurer's Report – February, 2008 (pp. 3.b.2)
2. 2007-2008 GF Function Revenue Analysis with Details of 6100's and 7000's as of February, 2008 (p. 3.b.3)
3. 2007-2008 General Fund Function-Object Expenditure Analysis as of February, 2008 (pp. 3.b.4-6)
4. Category Expenditures Analysis – February, 2008 (p. 3.b.7)
5. Capital Projects Fund Report – February, 2008 (p. 3.b.8)
6. Construction Project Reports – February, 2008
 - a. Unionville High School & Fields Renovation Project Budget Reports – February, 2008 (pp. 3.b.9-10)
7. Capital Reserve Fund Report – February, 2008 (p. 3.b.11)
8. Health Care Trust Fund Report – February, 2008 (p. 3.b.12)
9. Debt Service Reserve Fund Report – February, 2008 (p. 3.b.13)
10. UHS Activities Balance Sheet – December 31, 2007 through January 31, 2008 (pp. 3.c.1-2)

Dr. West requested that the secretary file the statements and reports.

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Bill List for February 20, 2008 in the amount of \$1,633,855.16 (pp. 3.d.1-15).

Mr. Baker excused himself from voting on the Chester County Intermediate Unit bills due to a conflict of interest.

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the March, 2008 Budget Transfers for 2007-08 as on the attachment (p. 3.e.1).

Motion carried (8-0).

**COMMENTS –
SCHOOL
DIRECTORS
(Continued)**

**MINUTES
APPROVED**

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS
& REPORTS**

**BILLS
APPROVED**

**BUDGET
TRANSFERS**

3.a.4

It was moved by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to award the Public Water Bids for Unionville High School and Patton Middle School in the total amount of \$367,585.00 as shown on the attachment (p. 4.a.1).

Mr. Wandersee congratulated Rick Hostetler on a fine job in providing the information to the Board in time to study it.

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Extended School Year (ESY) Program for Summer, 2008.

In response to Mrs. Trigg's question, Mr. Nolen stated that the scope of the program would be roughly the same as last year (including reading, math, writing, speech/language therapy, and occupational therapy). The number of students will vary. This program will be held June 23-July 24 (4 days/week from 8:30 AM – 12:00 noon) and transportation will be provided.

In response to Dr. West's question, Mr. Nolen stated that the program is provided only for U-CF students with IEP's to aid against regression during the summer. Ms. Parker stated that additional detail will come forward with staffing for the program in April.

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to approve the Summer School Programs for 2008.

Mrs. Brown stated that these programs are cost neutral. Ms. Parker noted that a list of staff members would be provided next month. This program will run through the district's accounting system. Mr. Fulginiti stated that the academies are being offered for enrichment, not for remediation.

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to approve the Strategic Planning Committees:

1. Curriculum & Instruction
2. Operations
3. Professional Development
4. Special Education
5. Student Services Team
6. Technology

Mrs. Trigg received favorable comments after having attended the first Strategic Planning committee meeting.

Motion carried (8-0).

FACILITIES:

**Public Water –
UHS & CFP-MS**

**CURRICULUM &
EDUCATIONAL
TECHNOLOGY:**

**Extended School
Year Program**

**Summer School
Programs**

**Strategic
Planning
Committees**

Mr. Wandersee announced the Budget meeting dates and the final budget adoption date:

1. Budget Meetings – 7:00 p.m. – Unionville High School, LGI Room
 - a. Monday, May 5, 2008
 - b. Tuesday, May 6, 2008 (as needed)
 - c. Wednesday, May 7, 2008 (as needed)
2. Final Budget Adoption
 - a. Monday, June 16, 2008 (Regular Board Meeting) – 7:30 p.m. - Unionville High School, LGI Room

The budget meetings scheduled for May 6th and May 7th will not be held unless needed.

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the attached Resolution No. 2008-03-17-01 adopting an official intent of the School District to reimburse itself from taxable or tax-exempt proceeds for certain capital expenditures made and to be made by the School District in connection with the Unionville High School Project.

Mr. Wandersee stated that the Finance Committee discussed this item and followed-up at the Work Session last week. This is for some interim financial needs (i.e. Legal fees for elementary school projects, a portion of the UHS initial design work, public water project, fire and smoke alarm project) that total about \$3 million we have to pay. We can incur or borrow this from the Delaware Valley Regional Finance Authority after April 9th, which is the 155th day after the last referendum.

We are required by IRS regulations to enact a resolution relative to debt repayment with the intent of the School Board to repay debt from taxes and taxable bonds for money they have borrowed to make these payments. This is strictly because the reimbursement regulations require that we adopt an official intent to reimburse ourselves from taxable or tax-exempt proceeds for certain capital expenditures that are made by the school district. Once it has been enacted, this resolution will be available at school district offices during normal hours for anyone who would like additional detail.

Mrs. Trigg requested that we add clarity that this is for \$3 million and not broad and all encompassing. The motion also includes language about the Unionville High School Project and not for other items.

In response to Dr. Price's question, Ms. Parker stated that Mr. Cochran indicated the \$3 million figure was intended to be an interim Bond issue for action in April to receive reimbursement to the General Fund for architect and legal fees as related to the UHS Project.

Dr. Price suggested revising the motion for up to \$3 million. Mr. Wandersee stated that the resolution should be specific about the intent to reimburse as opposed to spending. Mr. Baker wanted to be certain that, in defining the motion, we in no way alter or change the intent of the resolution.

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to table the motion.

Motion carried (5-3). Mr. Baker, Mrs. Halstead, and Dr. Price voted nay.

FINANCE:

Budget Meeting Dates

Final Budget Adoption Date

Resolution No. 2008-03-17-01, Reimbursement from Taxable/ Tax-Exempt Proceeds-Capital Expenditures

Motion Tabled

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Dr. Price to approve the attached Resolution No. 2008-03-17-01 adopting an official intent of the School District to reimburse itself from taxable or tax-exempt proceeds for certain capital expenditures, not to exceed \$3 million (Three-million dollars) – (attachment pp. 6.b.1-2)

Mrs. Trigg commented about her dismay in not having seen this item at the Work Session. She would have appreciated the opportunity to hammer it out prior to tonight. She has concerns about the procedures and will vote no.

Motion carried (7-1). Mrs. Trigg voted nay.

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

- a. Professional Conferences (13)
 - 1. Approve the Attendance at Professional Conferences as on the attachments (pp. 7.a.1-2)

- d. Reclassification (1)
 - 1. Audra Gavaghan – from Unionville High School Food Service Assistant (4.0 hours per school day) to Patton Middle School One-on-One Paraprofessional (6.5 hours per school day), effective March 3, 2008, at a salary of \$11.92 per hour

- e. Supplemental Contracts (5)
 - 1. Amy Hipp – Musical Choreographer
 - 2. Sharon Largent – Boys' Tennis Coach
 - 3. Ryan Rohde – Assistant H.S. Boys' Lacrosse
 - 4. Steve Tulleners – 9th Grade Boys' Basketball (1/2)
 - 5. Gerry Little – Mentor – Half Year

- f. Substitutes (5)
 - 1. Patrick Aylward – K-12
 - 2. Lauren Monterosso – Social Studies
 - 3. Stephanie Renson – Health & Physical Education
 - 4. Julia Steiner – Elementary K-6
 - 5. Amanda Yenshaw – Elementary K-6

- g. Employ (2)
 - 1. Tina Ferranto – Personal Care Assistant (0 - 2.5 hours per week), at a salary of \$11.92 per hour
 - 2. Karen Finley – Personal Care Assistant (0 – 2.5 hours per week), at a salary of \$11.92 per hour

**Finance
(Continued)**

**Resolution No.
2008-03-17-01,
Reimbursement
from Taxable/
Tax-Exempt
Proceeds-Capital
Expenditures -
Amended**

PERSONNEL:

**Professional
Conferences**

Reclassification:

A. Gavaghan

**Supplemental
Contracts**

Substitutes

Employ:

T. Ferranto

K. Finley

Personnel - Continued

h. Leaves (3)

1. Cindy-Alice Pisauro – Unionville High School French/Spanish Teacher, Maternity Leave beginning approximately May 26, 2008 (per doctor's note) through the end of the 2007-2008 school year
2. Stacy Remphrey – Patton Middle School Math Teacher – six- to eight-week Maternity Leave (per doctor's note), beginning approximately April 5, 2008, followed by a Child-Rearing Leave through the end of the 2007-2008 school year
3. Jennifer Spisak – Patton Middle School Science/Social Studies Teacher, six- to eight-week Maternity Leave (per doctor's note), beginning approximately April 5, 2008

Motion carried (8-0).

Mrs. Halstead stated that there were no action items for Co-Curricular and Student Life this evening. She heard a very informative report from the USC (Unionville Sports Council). The goal of our sports program would be a positive one for all students. Mrs. Brown stated that the USC may provide a presentation at the next Board meeting.

It was moved by Dr. West and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Contract with David Voss to complete a Strategic Communications Audit and Plan at a cost of \$7,500.00 plus travel costs as on the attachments (pp. 9.a.1-2).

Mr. Wandersee will vote on this but expressed concern that we don't get too many consultants because they add up. He researched Mr. Voss and found that he is a good attorney with a good reputation. In addition to the excellent job Dr. West has done, this should be a strengthening.

Mrs. Halstead stated that Mr. Voss has wonderful ideas to get their word out and your word in.

Motion carried (8-0).

Dr. West reported for Communications regarding the items that were mentioned at the Work Session:

1. Coffee Chats – Dwindling attendance; will have sessions at Starbuck's Dilworthtown and at Landhope on the first Tuesday of the month; This will decrease the scope slightly
2. Communications Committee – Meeting scheduled for March 24th to discuss issues surrounding the UHS Project
3. Food for Thought – Ms. Parker mentioned this meeting scheduled for March 24th from 4:00 to 5:30 PM for community members for whom an afternoon time is best; She encourages everyone to come.

Dr. West thanked the Board for their support on the communications effort. We have come a long way but still have a way to go.

**Personnel
(Continued)**

Leaves:

C. Pisauro

S. Remphrey

J. Spisak

**CO-CURRICULAR
& STUDENT LIFE**

**COMMUNI-
CATIONS**

**Communications
Audit & Plan**

Mr. Wandersee reported for Legislation and Policy regarding the Legislative Breakfast that will be held on May 8th from 8:00-10:15 AM. It is sponsored by the Chester County Intermediate Unit and includes attendance by State Representatives and Senators. Mrs. Miller will register Board members who expressed interest in attending the breakfast (Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Halstead, Mr. Murray, Mrs. Trigg, Mr. Wandersee, and Dr. West).

Dr. West reported for the Center for Arts & Technology/ Intermediate Unit and Special Education. The next I.U. Board meeting will be held on May 21st.

Bruce Yelton, Pocopson Township resident, asked if the 2008-09 budget would be presented at the April Board meeting as has been the case in the past. Mr. Wandersee responded that the budget had already been presented, with the preliminary budget being passed.

Mr. Yelton expressed the hope that communications will be greatly improved. Ms. Parker stated that this is within the full scope of her work. The day-to-day work is communication intensive. David Voss will help with the language of communication.

Mrs. Trigg expressed thanks to everyone who helped out with the Used Book Sale at the high school. It was an awesome event. She stated that, with the release of the National Math Panel's report last Thursday, Unionville High School and Patton Middle School are just where they are looking for schools to be with the inclusion of Algebra and the secondary math courses. This is something about which we should be proud. Mrs. Trigg extended wishes for a happy holiday week to everyone.

Mr. Baker commented about the importance of the next three weeks and the expectation for university offers and letters by April 1st. This is a very important time for our students and is ultimately what we are about – the future of our children. He referenced comments about the sacrifice of our educational program for the purpose of a building program, stating that he would never support such a program. The teachers are our strength and he hopes this is shared through the U-CF Education Association. Mr. Baker commented about the Girl's Rugby game with Princeton at the University of Virginia. The Boy's team went to Wake Forest University, bringing back a trophy from their tournament. They also began their season by beating Bishop Shanahan for the first time.

Mrs. Halstead stated that the musical, *Pirates of Penzance* was wonderful. She was disappointed that more community members did not come to see it. We have such talent in our Music Program. Singing is a lifelong joy. There is so much more to school, and our students are winners. She offered thanks to their teachers.

Ms. Parker commented about the school closing day due to a power failure. A team of teachers from the North Allegheny School District visited U-CF to observe in our schools. Staff members had chosen three districts to visit in Pennsylvania. They planned to see the middle school math and literacy programs and to visit the high school and elementary programs. Although we did not have students in attendance that day, it is very exciting and an honor that we were chosen for the visitation. Ms. Parker thanked the staff for their gift of time.

**LEGISLATION
AND POLICY**

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

**RESIDENT'S
COMMENTS**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

Mrs. Brown thanked the parents who were so involved with the Book Sale. It is an amazing amount of work. The musical was great. Spring sports are gearing up and many students are playing even while on break. The grounds and building are used every day. Mrs. Brown thanked the administration and faculty for showing up on their day off.

Mr. Murray arrived at 8:45 p.m.

Dr. Sweeney stated that it was a pleasure working with Dr. Price. She commented about the need to do right by the students on the high school project, and about the black and white, as well as the gray areas. She thanked Dr. Price for describing it very well.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown
Secretary

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**