

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Minutes
March 19, 2007

The March meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, March 19, 2007 in the Unionville High School Large Group Instruction room. Mr. Baker, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

The following members were present: Curt Baker, Kathleen Brown, Karen Halstead, Timotha Trigg, Edward Wandersee, and Dr. Therese West. Also present were Sharon E. Parker, District Superintendent, Clif Beaver, Robert Cochran, Jim Fulginiti, Rick Hostetler, Rich Hug, Thomas Marinelli, John Nolen, Dr. Jim Price, Bruce Vosburgh, Gail Wolfel, Lexi Crampton, student representative, community residents, members of the press, and Denise Miller, recording secretary.

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

Ms. Parker stated that we were welcoming a strong group of children from Unionville Elementary School tonight. It is now our custom to have a demonstration of the teaching, learning and all that is happening in right ways in our hallways.

Mr. Beaver expressed his thanks for the opportunity to show all of the good things happening at Unionville Elementary. The walking tour was organized K-5. He thanked Mr. Scott Duggan for his work on the looping video technology for the program. UE's Star Ambassador students were here tonight. They were selected by their teachers as 4th grade students for demonstrated spirit and great leadership. He thanked the students' parents for bringing them out tonight. Mr. Beaver presented the students with certificates from Superintendent Parker:

- Minori Akiba, Clark Bingol, Ethan Buckley, Jack Duncan, Emily Kornig, Melissa McGrory, Sam Patrone, Bobby Viens, and Sydney Wallenhorst

Ms. Parker thanked Mr. Beaver and all of the staff members. She shared her personal delight with all of the demonstrations.

**CALL TO
ORDER**

**MEMBERS
PRESENT**

**SUPER-
INTENDENT'S
REPORT**

**Student
Demonstrations
and
Recognition –
Unionville
Elementary
School**

Superintendent's Report (Continued)

Superintendent Parker stated that the world was alive with the sound of PSSA tests. She presented a plaque that was awarded to each of our schools for having achieved AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) on the PSSA testing in 2004-05 and 2005-06. It is relatively rare that each school in a district is accorded this honor and we are thrilled and proud of our children's' achievement and the commitment of our professional staff.

Ms. Parker commented regarding the following items:

- UHS Musical – Many fine things happened this weekend to allow the *High School Musical* to be performed. Thank you to everyone who worked on snow removal and rearrangements. It was a wonderful event and Mr. Fulginiti still had standing room only.
- Academic Team – Our team took top honors in the county!
- Debate Team – Members are going on to national competition!
- Swimmers – Are extraordinary!

Lexi Crampton, Student Representative, reported about the following items:

1. UHS Musical – Was a great success despite the weather and enjoyed by all
2. PSSA's – Continue making AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) something to be proud of without sacrificing aspects of a U-CF education that cannot be quantified by numbers.
3. Chadds Ford Art Show – included pieces by student, Dave Ferron, who is a talented artist.
4. Swim Team and Debate Team – Have found success at the state and national levels.
5. Spring Sports – Have just begun
6. Mr. UHS – Will be held on Thursday
7. Talent Show – Will be held on Friday
8. Spring Blood Drive – Will be a competition between Unionville, Avon-Grove and Kennett to see who will collect more blood (in mid-April)

Mr. Murray arrived at 7:50 PM.

Mr. Baker stated that Dr. Sweeney was unable to be here this evening due to a work-related meeting. He reported that the Board had met in Executive Session following the February Board meeting regarding personnel and real estate matters.

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

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE
REPORT**

Hannah Christopher, East Marlborough Township resident, requested that the Board support a Cross Country Program for Patton Middle School for the Fall of 2007. The financial impact would be minimal (i.e. team would wear the same uniforms, use the perimeter of the fields, utilize parent volunteers for meets and practices) and the program would include three home and two away games per year. Benefits of a program would include:

- Providing two sports for boys and girls and for those who get cut from other sports
- Parents prefer that kids are kept busy after school with an activity
- Obesity, self-esteem, team camaraderie
- Cyber-bullying – no idle time to be on the computer
- Social interaction – boys and girls can be on the same team
- Self-improvement and working together – personal success

Mrs. Christopher stated that an e-mail communication would be sent to them soon.

Mr. Baker thanked Mrs. Christopher for her comments and recommended that we allow this to come through the district's administrative request process. It would then proceed to the Board Co-Curricular and Student Life Committee in April and then to the Work Session in May.

Ms. Parker concurred and stated that there had already been preliminary conversation in sub-committee. She remembers a time in Delaware County when young women were not allowed to run; to even see these pictures of boys and girls running together is truly wonderful.

Keith Knauss, East Marlborough Township resident, announced the formation of the Citizens for Efficient Education group that would be led by Jeff Hellrung and him. Mr. Baker cautioned Mr. Knauss regarding solicitation for membership during the School Board meeting.

Jeff Hellrung, East Marlborough Township resident, commented regarding Act 1 and the EIT (Earned Income Tax) being placed on the Primary ballot. He stated that retirees would save about \$1,200 from year two and beyond in property taxes.

Holly Manzone, Pocopson Township resident, commented about the recent meeting with Congressman Pitts regarding the reauthorization of NCLB (No Child Left Behind) held at Unionville Elementary School. It was interesting to hear what people from other schools had to say. She commented about Haverford High School's ranking as #1 in *Philadelphia Magazine* recently (U-CF was ranked #38). They invested in on-line reference materials that our library has taken to use (their old hard copies). Mrs. Manzone feels that this is the time to look at our school and the potential of our kids based on the investment we make in them. As our students sang in their performance of *High School Musical*, we're all in this together.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

M.S. Cross
Country Program
Requested

Bruce Yelton, Pocopson Township resident, stated that he was pleased with the turnout at the Facilities Committee meeting. He commented about the necessity of providing for 335% more space for the district over 30 years. There are currently over 7,000 square feet of administrative space and the current plan shows 20,000 square feet, which he feels is too much.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to approve the Minutes of the February 12, 2007 Work Session (p. 3.a.1) and the February 26, 2007 Regular Board Meeting (pp. 3.a.2-14).

**MINUTES
APPROVED**

Motion carried (7-0).

The following committee meeting minutes were reviewed:

1. Board Curriculum Committee – March 12, 2007 (pp. 3.a.15-25)

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

The following financial statements were reviewed:

1. General Fund Treasurer's Report – February, 2007 (p. 3.b.1)
2. 2006-2007 GF Function Revenue Analysis with Details of 6100's and 7000's as of February, 2007 (p. 3.b.2)
3. 2006-2007 General Fund Function-Object Expenditure Analysis as of February, 2007 (pp. 3.b.3-4)
4. Category Expenditures Analysis – February, 2007 (p. 3.b.5)
5. Capital Projects Fund Report – February, 2007 (p. 3.b.6)
6. Outstanding Projects Summary – February, 2007 (p. 3.b.7)
7. Construction Project Reports – February, 2007
 - a. Unionville High School & Fields Renovation Project Budget Report– February, 2007 (p. 3.b.8)
 - b. Unionville High School HVAC Project Budget Report– February, 2007 (pp. 3.b.9-10)
8. Capital Reserve Fund Report – February, 2007 (p. 3.b.11)
9. Health Care Trust Fund Report – February, 2007 (p. 3.b.12)
10. Debt Service Reserve Fund Report – February, 2007 (p. 3.b.13)

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

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

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Bill List for February 23, 2007 in the amount of \$1,335,982.49 (pp. 3.d.1-14).

**BILLS
APPROVED**

Motion carried (7-0).

Mr. Baker stated that Mrs. Swayze was absent this evening. He reported for Facilities that the information from the January 26, 2007 and the March 8, 2007 meetings was posted on the district's website. Superintendent Parker stated that some community members have called with questions and she spoke with two community members today. If there are additional requests, we will follow up on those questions.

Mr. Baker stated that as part of our ongoing communication, there will be a public meeting on Monday, April 9, 2007 (7:00 PM, UHS LGI room). This will be a Finance Committee meeting with public comment.

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to approve the Extended School Year (ESY) Program for the Summer of 2007.

Mrs. Brown reported that the Board Curriculum & Educational Technology Committee met on March 12 and discussed the Extended School Year (ESY) Program. We have held the program for four years and it will be held June 25-July 26 (Mon.-Thurs. mornings). Reading, math and written language are included for approximately 70 special education students. The Accountability Block Grant covers all of the costs except for Brenda O'Hern's time.

Mr. Wandersee commented about the positive approach to use the block grant funds for this program. He stated, however, that there was a movement in the Senate to remove these funds.

Motion carried (7-0).

Mrs. Brown reported about the following items:

- Summer World Language Academy – The district is looking into offering a program this summer (for credit or just enrichment). We would appreciate people completing the survey that is available on the website. Possible languages include conversational Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, and Latin.
- K-12 Science Curriculum Committee – John Nolen gave an excellent presentation about what we are doing with science this year (streamlining some courses and offering much more choice at the high school level).

Mr. Murray reported for Finance that the timeline was much different this year because of the Act 1 process. Mr. Cochran will distribute budgets on April 13, 2007. The current schedule for budget meetings is:

- Monday, May 7 (7:00 PM, UHS LGI Room)
- Tuesday, May 8 (as needed)
- Wednesday, May 9 (as needed)

Final budget adoption will occur at the Regular Meeting on June 18, 2007 (7:30 PM, UHS LGI Room).

FACILITIES REPORT

CURRICULUM & EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

ESY Program – Summer, 2007

FINANCE

Budget Meeting Dates

Final Budget Adoption Date 3.a.5

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Mr. Wandersee to award the Chester County Intermediate Unit Joint Purchasing Board Bid of Fuels for the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year for #2 Heating Oil, Gasoline, Propane, ULSD Diesel, and B20 Biodiesel Items as on the attachments (pp. 6.b.1-2).

Motion carried (7-0).

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

- a. Professional Conferences (11)
 - 1. Approve the Attendance at Professional Conferences as on the attachments (pp. 7.a.1-2)
- b. Retirements
- c. Resignations
- d. Reclassifications
- e. Supplemental Contracts (3)
 - 1. Thomas Grawe – 9th Grade Baseball Coach
 - 2. Paul Wolf – 9th Grade Boys' Lacrosse Coach
 - 3. Joseph Grello – 8th Grade Boys' Lacrosse Coach
- f. Substitutes (8)
 - 1. Caitlin Allen – K-12 Art
 - 2. Karen Grandell – Elementary
 - 3. Courtney Waring - Elementary
 - 4. Susanne Collander – Elementary
 - 5. Julianne Besznyak – Support Staff
 - 6. Jeanine McCloskey - Support Staff
 - 7. Eugene Abernethy – Substitute Bus Driver
 - 8. Leo Zumpetta - Music
- g. Employ (6)
 - 1. Helena McGinnis – Unionville Elementary School Pre-First Paraprofessional, Long-Term Substitute (3 hours per day through the end of the 2006-07 school year), effective February 21, 2007, at a salary of \$11.57 per hour
 - 2. Catherine Harris – Unionville Elementary School Paraprofessional (6.5 hours per day x 3 days per week), effective February 22, 2007, at a salary of \$11.57 per hour
 - 3. Sonia Lizardi – Patton Middle School Custodian (8 hours per day x 260 days, Second Shift), effective February 12, 2007, at a salary of \$12.59 per hour

PERSONNEL:

Professional Conferences

Supplemental Contracts

Substitutes

Employ:

H. McGinnis

C. Harris

S. Lizardi

Personnel – Employ (Continued)

4. Charles Thompson, III – Unionville High School Custodian (8 hours per day x 260 days, Second Shift), effective February 12, 2007, at a salary of \$12.59 per hour
 5. Wilson Ruiz – Unionville High School Custodian (8 hours per day x 260 days, Second Shift), effective February 20, 2007, at a salary of \$12.59 per hour
 6. Viola Ann Yeatman – Patton Middle School Food Service Assistant (3 hours per school day), effective February 16, 2007, at a salary of \$10.20 per hour
- h. Discharges (2)
1. Billy Rasberry – Unionville High School Custodian, effective February 27, 2007
 2. Joel Durborrow – Unionville High School Custodian, effective March 2, 2007
- i. Leave (1)
1. Christine Dempsey – Hillendale Elementary School Grade 2 Teacher, Maternity Leave effective April 13, 2007 through the end of the 2006-2007 school year
- j. Appointment (1)
1. Susan Snyder and Susan Natale – Co-Energy Educator/Manager, effective March 20, 2007, at a salary of \$20,000 total per school year, pro-rated

Motion carried (7-0).

Mr. Baker reported that the Co-Curricular and Student Life Committee met and is continuing to move down the pathway of two tracks. Substantial work will be done here over the next month regarding athletics. We will work on removing impediments (i.e. cyber-bullying, bullying) to student life and are pursuing a number of programs. He expects us to see some action items coming out of this committee soon.

Dr. West reported for Communications regarding:

- Rapid Dialing System – Would allow us to send information to families quickly. After reviewing three products, the committee recommends Global Connect. It was the most inexpensive system, with no start-up cost until July.

**PERSONNEL –
Employ
(Continued)**

C. Thompson, III

W. Ruiz

V. Yeatman

Discharges:

B. Rasberry

J. Durborrow

Leave:

C. Dempsey

Appointment:

**S. Snyder/
S. Natale,
Energy
Educator-Mgr.**

**CO-
CURRICULAR &
STUDENT LIFE**

**COMMUNI-
CATIONS**

Ms. Parker stated that we would go forward on a free trial basis and then come back to the Board. She commented about the capability of the system to contact the entire district in about 25 minutes (with up to four numbers per child). This is a safety measure as well as its helpfulness in getting information out. Last Friday, we had to contact each Kindergarten family individually to let them know we were keeping children later for dismissal.

- PTO Advisory Committee – Meeting rescheduled from May 7th to May 16th (Wednesday) at 7:00 PM, UHS Library Classroom
- Next Committee Meeting – March 23rd at 9:30 in the District Office (Finalization of the Communication Plan for reporting in April)

Mr. Wandersee reported for Legislation:

- Annual Legislative Breakfast – Will be held on April 20th at the Great Valley Sheraton, 8:00 AM (sponsored by the Chester County I.U. and the Chester County Legislative Council); Board members should contact Denise Miller for registration.
- Bullying Policy – Senator Greenleaf’s proposal, SB-71, includes a provision to delineate disciplinary consequences for bullying. He commented that it’s great to see that Ms. Parker has taken the bull by the horns regarding this topic. She stated that there would be a first reading of a policy at our April Board meeting. Interested parties have been contacted and will meet in two sessions this week for policy review and drafting.

In response to Mr. Baker’s question about the specific ballot language regarding the front-end referendum, Mr. Cochran stated that there was no legal decision about use of the state’s specific language at this point. The language we submitted to Chester and Delaware Counties will be posted on our website.

Mr. Murray reported for the Center for Arts & Technology/ Intermediate Unit and Special Education that the I.U. Board will meet on Wednesday evening. He commented about the concern for the Commonwealth’s under-funding for the Early Intervention Program. We don’t have a lot of those kids here but it is a big problem in the county. The program would have to close on or about May 8th. Those children would have no program to attend if the Commonwealth does not provide additional funding.

The Chester County I.U. did a good job of providing a good program for about the lowest cost per student in Pennsylvania but because it’s so efficient, it gets the least amount of funds. You are actually paid to be inefficient to receive more money. The I.U. cost was about one-third of the cost in Montgomery County. We will discuss how to restore funding for Early Intervention on Wednesday.

**COMMUNI-
CATIONS
(Continued)**

**LEGISLATION &
BOARD POLICY**

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

Bruce Yelton, Pocopson Township resident, urged the Board to add 400 seats to the proposed UHS auditorium at a cost of just over \$900,000. The current planned 1,200 seats serve our kids at this time but it would quickly become outdated. This could generate rental income over the years to cover the cost of construction. He also expressed concern about the planned capacity for the high school (would reach 100% of capacity within six years, which is not acceptable). Another concern is the overcrowding at the middle school that is not being addressed.

Dan Gabor, East Marlborough Township resident, complimented the Board, community, Mr. Hug, Mrs. Halstead and the maintenance staff for their efforts in assuring that the *High School Musical* performances could be held this weekend.

Dan Bloch, East Marlborough Township resident, sent information to Mr. Baker and hopes those questions can be answered at the next meeting.

Dr. West stated that she was unable to obtain tickets to the high school musical and was sorry that she couldn't see the show.

Mrs. Trigg thanked everyone who worked on the Science Committee. It looks like we will be seeing some improvements. She thanked the employees who worked on the Art Show and the UHS musical. Mrs. Trigg congratulated the Academic Team and wished luck to them at the state competition.

Mrs. Brown enjoyed the Chadds Ford Art Show and the high school musical very much. She stated that she reviewed the tape from the March 8th Facilities Committee meeting since she was unable to be present. One thing that was removed from the plan that she would like to lobby for is the middle school track. If you are out at track when the high school is on the track, you will see that it's a very busy place. We should put in a six-lane track while the equipment is here and should find funds to put that back into the plan.

Mrs. Halstead received her postcard and asked that everyone follow the directions when they receive their card. She extended her thanks for the Pre-1st Paraprofessional at Unionville Elementary School. Mrs. Halstead thanked Mr. Hostetler and the employees for their huge effort on the snow removal.

Mr. Wandersee thanked everyone at Chadds Ford for the outstanding 58th Annual Art Show. Skip Barthold did a great job and the program has become quite sophisticated. He also congratulated student, David Ferron, for his wonderful artwork. David is going to New York City to study further.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

Mr. Baker stated that he had attended the Chadds Ford Art Show or a number of years but it was particularly joyous to see Dave Ferron at his first full art show. David is the son of Patton Middle School Art Teacher, Ann Ferron.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown
Secretary

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**