

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
740 Unionville Road  
Kennett Square, PA 19348  
Telephone: (610) 347-0970; FAX: (610) 347-0976  
Web Site - www.ucfsd.org

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**Minutes**  
**March 20, 2006**

The March meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, March 20, 2006 in the Unionville High School Auditorium. Mr. Baker, President, called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

The following members were present: Curt Baker, R. Bruce Swayze, Kathleen Brown, Karen Halstead, Ed Murray, Timotha Trigg, Edward Wandersee, and Dr. Therese West. Also present were Dr. John Kenney, District Superintendent, Dr. Brenda O'Hern, Robert Cochran, Thomas Marinelli, Maria Schwab, Jim Fulginiti, Rick Hostetler, Rich Hug, John Nolen, Dr. Jim Price, Chris Pollock, Gail Wolfel, Lexi Crampton, student representative, community residents, members of the press, and Denise Miller, recording secretary.

Mr. Baker stated that the Board had discussed at some length efforts to create the right environment in which to receive public comments. The challenge is for the Board to conduct its own business and the public is positioned as looking into a fish bowl while we do our work. That is how the meetings are set up to be conducted. On the other hand, what we want is a situation in which we have meaningful public commentary. This is not a question and answer session but if you do have questions, identify yourself and give us a way to get back to you. We are truly listening

Mr. Baker requested comments from any residents who wished to provide them this evening.

Louise Cleveland, Patton Middle School Librarian, inquired as to whether comments could be published so that situations could be stopped that might occur. She asked why we should go through it 15 times instead of once and suggested a link on the district web page. Mr. Baker thanked Mrs. Cleveland for her thoughts and comments.

John Thaeber, East Marlborough Township resident, commented regarding the Facilities Study presentation at the March Work Session. He stated that it was rather interesting but also intimidating regarding all of the things the Board and administration might want to toss in front of themselves. It is evident when looking at facilities that it would be nice to take a small piece of the puzzle that we know we are going to change and not tie it into that large project that is going to have quite a while before you can sort through all of the things you want on the facility study.

**CALL TO  
ORDER**

**MEMBERS  
PRESENT**

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS**

If you do the stadium, all of the teams really benefit from that. Mr. Thaeuder also commented regarding another student having broken his foot on the fields last week. He would really like to see the Board and administration move forward and find out what it would cost to do the stadium. It would be nice to find a number rather than going in a guessing pattern. He has heard numbers from \$600,000 to \$1.5 million.

Mr. Baker stated that a suggestion was made at the conclusion of the Work Session that the Board should communicate about the great deal of community interest in the fields issue and the amount of discussion regarding the grading scale.

He commented that the facilities study was something of a seminal event for us because it placed context around the go forward work that we intend to contemplate. The Board has not decided to do it but has decided to look at it very carefully, seek public input and take this in the right manner. To that end, there will be a significant public session that will be held. The original target date had a conflict and he is reticent to put it out there until it's firm. The Board will engage the faculties, the community, and the parents with the intent of pursuing this, including the stadium and fields, with all due speed.

Mr. Baker stated that over the course of the dialogue, it became clear that there were some complexities with how to proceed. Also, it's important if you look at the counselors, the staff and the building administration, this needs to be an inclusive process and that process would be ill conceived if we moved ahead without building the sorts of consensus necessary and receiving the input from the various interest groups before we went ahead and made the move.

Consequently, since this is the end of the year and the focus is on the PSSA's, this will become a core objective for next year with a resolution during next year. It will come in its appropriate course and the Board feels that is the appropriate timing.

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to approve the Minutes of the February 21, 2006 Regular Board Meeting (pp. 3.a.1-23).

Motion carried (8-0).

The following committee meeting minutes were reviewed:

1. Curriculum Committee – March 13, 2006 (pp. 3.a.24-29)

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

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

**MINUTES  
APPROVED**

The following financial statements and reports were reviewed:

1. General Fund Treasurer's Report – February, 2006 (p. 3.b.2)
2. 2005-2006 GF Function Revenue Analysis with Details of 6100's and 7000's as of February, 2006 (p. 3.b.3)
3. 2005-2006 General Fund Function-Object Expenditure Analysis as of February, 2006 (pp. 3.b.4-6)
4. Category Expenditures Analysis – February, 2006 (p. 3.b.7)
5. Capital Projects Fund Report – February, 2006 (p. 3.b.8)
6. Capital Reserve Fund Report –February, 2006 (p. 3.b.12)
7. Outstanding Projects Summary –February, 2006 (p. 3.b.9)
8. Construction Project Reports – February, 2006
  - a. Unionville High School HVAC Project (pp. 3.b.10-11)

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

The following activity account report was reviewed:

1. Unionville High School Activities Balance Sheet – December 31, 2005 to January 31, 2006 (pp. 3.c.1-2)

Mr. Baker requested that the secretary file the report.

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the Bill List for March 1, 2006 in the amount of \$1,958,705.86 (pp. 3.d.1-20).

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the 2005-06 March Budget Transfers as on the attachment (p. 3.b.1).

Motion carried (8-0).

Mr. Swayze reviewed the recommendation to reject all bids for the high school/middle school incoming water service and reconsider this project at a later time. Our original estimate was \$255,000 and the lowest bid came in at \$544,115. This is a reflection of the small scale of the project and that contractors right now have too much to do with bigger projects. It appears it is not the right time to do this and we might roll it into a significant high school project to come up several years down the road.

It was moved by Mr. Swayze and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Bid Recommendation to Reject All Bids for the High School/ Middle School Incoming Water Service and reconsider this work at a later date (p. 4.a.1).

Motion carried (8-0).

**FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS**

**BILLS  
APPROVED**

**BUDGET  
TRANSFERS**

**FACILITIES:**

**Reject Bids –  
UHS/MS  
Incoming  
Water Service**

Mr. Swayze called attention to the revised page 4.b.1 at each Board member's seat that included a change in the total amount. Mr. Wandersee also noted that the cost would be taken out of the Capital Reserve budget for this year.

It was moved by Mr. Swayze and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to award the bids for the Chiller Replacement at Hillendale Elementary School to Arrell & Snow (Electrical Contract) and Mechanical Piping Corp. (Mechanical Contract) as on the attachment (p. 4.b.1-revised) in the total amount of \$178,227.00.

Motion carried (8-0).

Mr. Swayze stated that there was a presentation for Board members last week by the professionals who completed the Facilities Study. As Mr. Baker had indicated, the Board wishes to have a public presentation on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>. Board members discussed these dates and decided to pursue scheduling the public presentation on: 1) April 4; 2) April 6; and 3) April 5, based on the architect's availability. The date of the public meeting will be posted on the website.

In response to Mrs. Brown's question, Mr. Hostetler stated that he would re-send the electronic mail and attachment that included a hard copy of the Facilities and Fields Master Plan to her and other Board members who did not receive it.

Mr. Swayze commented that the professionals indicated last week that the timing would not allow the football fields to be redone by next season so we need another timeline on whatever is to be done. He wanted the public to know there will be processes, including top dressing, fertilizer, and aerating to make the most of what we have. The facilities employees will be making a very conscious effort to make the fields the very best they can be in the interim.

Mr. Baker asked Board members about one, fairly time-sensitive item that was not on the Work Session agenda regarding a facilities request. Dr. Kenney suggested that it could be considered at a special meeting on the same evening as the architect's presentation. After some discussion, the Board agreed to consideration of this request on the same evening as the facilities and fields presentation.

**Bid Award –  
Hillendale  
Chiller  
Replacement**

Mrs. Brown stated that the following item had been discussed at length in other meetings and is attached in Board members' books.

It was moved by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Dr. West to approve the Literacy in the Content Area course to replace 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading as on the attachment (pp. 5.b.1-5).

Mrs. Trigg commented that it looks to be a significant change from the course that we have currently. The teachers and administrators have worked very hard and she appreciates the work that everyone has done.

Motion carried (8-0).

Mrs. Brown stated that there were no other items for approval tonight.

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Swayze to award the Chester County Intermediate Unit Joint Purchase Bid of Fuels for the 2006-2007 Fiscal Year for #2 Fuel Oil and Propane Items as on the attachment (p. 6.a.1).

Mr. Murray commented that we reviewed a series of bids where we could not get fixed pricing but are accepting those we received with fixed pricing.

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to award the Chester County Intermediate Unit Joint Purchase Board Custodial Supplies Bid for 2006-2007 as on the attachment.

Mr. Murray stated that these are the low bids for Chester County purchasing.

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Dr. West to approve the Lease Order Agreements with Lanier Worldwide, Inc. for the lease of photocopy equipment for the C. F. Patton Middle School and the District Office as on the attachments (pp. 6.c.1-5).

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Lease Agreement with Corrigan-Manning Co., Inc. for the lease of photocopy equipment for Chadds Ford Elementary School as on the attachments.

Motion carried (8-0).

## **CURRICULUM**

**Literacy in  
the Content  
Area Course  
(Grade 6)**

## **FINANCE:**

**Chester Co. I.U.  
Joint Purchase  
Bid of Fuels –  
2006-07  
(#2 Fuel Oil &  
Propane)**

**Chester Co. I.U.  
Joint Purchase  
Bid of Custodial  
Supplies –  
2006-07**

**CFP-MS &  
District Office  
Photocopy  
Equipment**

**CF Photocopy  
Equipment**

Mr. Murray commented that this is the time of year where we get into the budget process. On April 10, 2006 at 7:00 p.m., we will have the first presentation of the budget. Board members should expect to see a large packet on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Cochran will provide the presentation on the 10<sup>th</sup> and anyone who wants to know what the Board is going to review should attend this Work Session meeting.

Mr. Baker stated that Dr. Sweeney was not in attendance this evening due to work obligations.

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the following personnel items (agenda items a., c. through h. and j.):

- a. Professional Conferences
  - 1. Approve attendance at (4) Professional Conferences as on the attachment (p. 7.a.1)
  
- c. Resignations (2)
  - 1. John Davis – Skilled Mechanic, Grounds Department, effective March 3, 2006
  - 2. Jary Hernandez – Unionville High School Custodian, effective March 10, 2006
  
- d. Substitutes (14)
  - 1. Amy Williams - Elementary
  - 2. Danielle DiFilippo - Special Education
  - 3. Kelly Kanara - K-12
  - 4. Kimberly Moroz – Elementary
  - 5. Kristin Bergner – Elementary
  - 6. Brian Culver – K-12
  - 7. Allison Proper – Art
  - 8. Kenneth Steinbrech – K-12
  - 9. Kate McHale – K-12
  - 10. Kevin Ham – Elementary
  - 11. Elizabeth Freeman – Social Studies
  - 12. Elizabeth Scargle – Support Staff Substitute
  - 13. Louise Leipold – Support Staff Substitute
  - 14. Tanya Rice – Early Childhood K-3
  - 15. Cynthia Silver – Speech & Language Impaired

**Finance  
(Continued)**

**Budget  
Presentation -  
4-10-06 Work  
Session**

**PERSONNEL:**

**Professional  
Conferences**

**Resignations:**

**J. Davis**

**J. Hernandez**

**Substitutes**

Personnel (Continued)

- e. Supplemental Contracts (9)
  - 1. Jeff Hammond – J.V. Softball Coach
  - 2. Kristie Regan – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Lacrosse Coach
  - 3. Curt Barr – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Chairperson
  - 4. Joseph Herman – H&PE Dept. Chair (Half Year)
  - 5. Linda Brodeur-Cangi - Mentor
  - 6. Molly Scott – Mentor (Half Year) - (replacing full-year contract)
  - 7. Dennis White - Mentor (Half Year)
  - 8. Jen Spisak – Mentor (Half Year)
  - 9. Heather Wanner – Mentor (Half Year)
  
- f. Employ (3)
  - 1. Kathleen Reynolds – Pocopson Elementary School Office Manager, effective approximately March 20, 2006, at a salary of \$15.50 per hour
  - 2. Jennifer DiFilippo – District Office Special Education Office Manager, effective approximately March 20, 2006, at a salary of \$15.50 per hour
  - 3. John Rohde – Patton Middle School One-on-One Paraprofessional, at a salary of \$11.30 per hour
  
- g. Leaves (2)
  - 1. Shannon Tate Freehart – Patton Middle School Team Teacher, six-week Maternity Leave, effective approximately May 12, 2006, followed by a Child-Rearing Leave for the first semester of the 2006-07 school year
  - 2. Joseph Sudimak – Patton Middle School Team Teacher, effective for the second semester of the 2006-2007 school year.
  
- h. Reclassifications (2)
  - 1. Brad Bowman, Jr. – from M-III Assistant Mechanic Grounds to M-II Skilled Mechanic Grounds, effective February 27, 2006, at a salary of \$17.74 per hour
  - 2. Marcia Hardy – from part-time Bus Driver to full-time Bus Driver, effective January 2, 2006
  
- j. Correction (1)
  - 1. Amanda Combs – Unionville & Hillendale Elementary School Science Paraprofessional, from 185 days per year to 182 days per year

Motion carried (8-0).

**PERSONNEL  
(Continued)**

**Supplemental  
Contracts**

**Employ:**

**K. Reynolds**

**J. DiFilippo**

**J. Rohde**

**Leaves:**

**S. Freehart**

**J. Sudimak**

**Reclassifi-  
cation:**

**B. Bowman, Jr.**

**M. Hardy**

**Correction:**

**A. Combs**

Personnel (Continued)

It was moved by Dr. West and seconded by Mr. Wandersee to approve the following personnel item:

- i. Extended School Year Program
  - 1. Approve the Extended School Year Program for the Summer of 2006 as on the attachment (p. 7.i.1)

Motion carried (8-0).

Mrs. Halstead reported for Transportation regarding:

- 1. Spring Trips – The Transportation Department is getting ready for a large number of athletic events, field trips and academic competitions.
- 2. In-Service Program for Transportation Staff – March 24<sup>th</sup> training will include a mock drill involving a school bus on fire, a review of bus evacuation drill procedures, a review of accident procedures, a recap of the events of the January accident that involved one of our buses, a mid-year review of the Transportation Procedures Manual, questions/answers and suggestions to improve our department.
- 3. Spring School Bus Evacuation Drill – Will be held on April 5 for elementary students and on April 6 for secondary students. The drill was postponed from March due to PSSA testing.
- 4. Diesel Fuel – There is real concern among school transportation professionals around the Commonwealth about future costs. The answer is still unclear about what those costs will be at this budget time of year.

Dr. West stated that that were no action items for Communications this evening. She announced that the PTO Advisory Committee meeting would be held on Monday, April 3, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the Unionville High School Library Classroom.

Mrs. Trigg stated that we had the first reading of Policy No. 210 last month. This is a slight revision of our medication policy with the difference being parental forms being attached. If anyone wants to have their child carry an Epi-Pen, they need to follow this procedure and see the school nurse.

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and Seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the revised Board Policy No. 210 – Pupils - Use of Medication (inclusive of the Parental Request for Administration of Medication to Student) as on the attachments (pp. 10.a.1-5).

Motion carried (8-0).

**PERSONNEL  
(Continued)**

**Extended  
School Year  
Program - 2006**

**TRANSPOR-  
TATION**

**COMMUNI-  
CATIONS**

**BOARD  
POLICY**

**Policy No. 210  
revised –  
Pupils-Use of  
Medication**

Lexi Crampton, Student Representative, provided her report regarding:

1. Student Council Events – “Mr. UHS “– Will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2006, followed by the Talent Show, Pride Week, and Prom
2. *Beauty and the Beast* – Was fantastic!
3. Spring Sports – have begun and the students look forward to better fields
4. Ceiling in Locker Room – Is being addressed by Mr. Fulginiti
5. PSSA Testing – Begins tomorrow

Mr. Murray reported for the Center for Arts & Technology/ Intermediate Unit and Special Education. He attended the Chester County I.U. meeting on March 15, 2006. This is the time that they roll out their budget for the 2006-07 school year. He will leave a copy of it for anyone who needs it. Their Core Budget is going up 6% but our contribution to it has not moved from last year's level. The Occupational Education Budget will go from \$213,000 to \$270,000 (+\$57,000) for factors such as the debt service for the new vo-tech and enrollment. If anyone has questions, there is a very nice PowerPoint presentation that he will make available to you. We will vote to approve these budgets at the April Board meeting.

Dr. West reported that she received notice of the Act 34 hearing that would be held on April 5, 2006 to discuss the Southern Chester County Vo-Tech School. The hearing will be held in the Board Room of the Chester County I.U. in Downingtown and will include:

- Description of the new facilities
  - Estimated construction cost, financial need and estimate of local impact
  - Opportunity for residents to comment (If you cannot attend, please contact Dr. West or write/fax to Joseph Lubitsky at Chester County I.U.; call her if you need contact information.)
- Mr. Baker stated that you could also obtain information on their website: [www.cciu.org](http://www.cciu.org).

Mr. Wandersee reported for Legislation regarding:

1. Special Session – We're moving into the seventh month of this special session called by the Governor relative to property tax reform and there is still no further progress. Last week, the Governor appointed three Senators and three members of the House of Representatives to work on compromised wording for Act 39.
2. House Bill 185 – The only other thing that was reported out of the Education Committee was this Bill that sets forth requirements concerning nutrition guidelines, wellness policies, student health screening, local health advisory councils, curricula for physical education and hygiene. We are all interested in those subjects as we have been following it in our own school.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVE  
REPORT**

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

**Act 34 Hearing  
for So. Chester  
Co. Vo-Tech –  
April 5, 2006**

**LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT**

Dr. Kenney provided the Superintendent's report:

1. Health Initiative – Superintendents and the Chester County Intermediate Unit Executive Director have agreed to participate in a community health initiative to encourage families to move more and eat smart. They are participating in a step challenge to demonstrate the importance of being physically active in developing health minds and bodies.

Each participant is wearing a pedometer and Dr. Kenney is currently at 17,307 steps. The daily steps are posted on the Internet at [www.activatechestercounty.org](http://www.activatechestercounty.org). The winning superintendent receives a super "Y" prize for the district, which features an Open House party for students, staff and families at the YMCA plus free giveaways for a family membership. Dr. Kenney will be at the YMCA on April 10<sup>th</sup>. He is currently in third place right now. Dr. Massaro at Avon-Grove is thumping him.

John Nolen, Hillendale Elementary School Principal, provided the Elementary School Report:

- Health Initiative – We are rooting for you, Dr. Kenney!
- Unionville Elementary –
  - Citadel Heart of Learning – Congratulations to Mrs. Janet Dadds and Mr. Don Silknitter who have been nominated for this award. Mrs. Dadds is now one of the 15 finalists and she has been invited to the awards ceremony in May!
  - Read-A-Thon - A portion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade wing and much of the school has been transformed into a beautiful garden scene. That area and much of the school was put to good use on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> as our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students enjoyed a Read-A-Thon overnight event that was organized and sponsored by our PTO. Students were treated to stories from special guest readers, ate plenty of healthy snacks, and hardly slept at all.
  - PSSA's – Students are prepared and eager to do their best on the tests.
- Pocopson Elementary –
  - Early Literacy Night – They sponsored their first year of this program that included non school-age children (ages 3-5) who came to school with a parent to visit the Library. They were treated to a real, live story by our Librarian and some pre-reading skill activities by our Reading Specialist. The children then selected books to borrow from our library. It was also a wonderful way to introduce future students to our school. It was an exciting night and we plan to continue this event. The children who attended were both siblings of students and children with no connection to our school.

## **SUPER- TENDENT'S REPORT**

## **Elementary Report**

Superintendent's Report – Elementary Schools (Continued)

- Chadds Ford Elementary -
  - Read-A-Thon – Was held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> for third graders and was very enjoyable. A storyteller, games, food and fun were enjoyed by all.
  - We are proud of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade lip sync performers who took 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Pocopson Elementary Oldies Lip Sync Contest for their performance of *Soul Man*.
  - P.T.O. Art Show – Students will have an opportunity to work with local artist, Paul Scarborough as he leads an Assembly on his life as an artist. He will demonstrate sketching and painting techniques for students. Mr. Scarborough will be the featured artist at the March 31-April 2 Art Show.
  - School Nurse Helen Gallowitz will have an informational meeting to discuss body mass index (BMI), the relationship between health and learning, and the importance of making healthy choices for our children on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Chadds Ford Elementary School Library.
  
- Hillendale Elementary –
  - PSSA's – Students in grades 3-5 are preparing for the tests and we wish them well, as well as all of our students in the district.
  - Penny Drive – Over \$3,000 has been raised; bagged lunch program to make lunches for the hungry in our community. This program gives our students a real opportunity to help in our community.
  - Read-A-Thon – Was enjoyed by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students on March 10<sup>th</sup> with the theme of African Safari. They didn't sleep much either!

Mr. Bruce Vosburgh provided his report for Patton Middle School:

- Harlem Wizzards – Were hosted on February 23<sup>rd</sup>; the game was a sell-out and enjoyed by everyone!
- Chester County Science Research Competition – 10 projects (12 students) participated on March 9<sup>th</sup> and the following students placed:
  - Morgan Harbert (7) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Biochemistry
  - Tess Schiavello (7) - 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Botany
  - Mike Agnew (8) - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Botany
  - Andy Romine (6) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Microbiology
  - Kristen Nunn(6) & Krista Diehl (6) - 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Team Project as well as Best of Show

These are tremendous honors! The students who placed will compete at the Delaware Valley Fair in Fort Washington on April 5-6.

**SUPER-  
TENDENT'S  
REPORT –  
Elementary  
Schools  
(Continued)**

**Middle School  
Report**

Superintendent's Report – Middle School (Continued)

- The following students received Honorable Mention:
  - Natalie Guarino (7) – Physics
  - Zander Adams (8) - Physics
  - Craig Johnsen (8) - Physics
  - Joanas Raider (7) & William Miller (7) - Team Project
- District Middle School Honors Band – was hosted by Mr. James O'Rourke on Saturday night, 3/18 with 16 Patton Middle School students in attendance
- CCIU Middle School Computer Fair – March 16<sup>th</sup>; three students qualified for this:
  - Sarah McWilliams (7) - Multimedia PowerPoint
  - Eric Nordstrom (7) - Graphic Design
  - Domingo Mancuello (7) - Digital Movie (he placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the County)
- PMEA District 12 Middle School String Fest – Held on 2/28 at ET Richardson Middle School in Springfield with eight students representing us. This festival was started by teacher, Mrs. Janene Bostwick, who was honored at the performance.
- Chester County Shakespeare Festival – We have 33 students attending on March 29<sup>th</sup>
- Who's Who Among America's Teachers – Mrs. Louise Cleveland, Library Media Specialist, has been included in the 10<sup>th</sup> edition!
- Internet Safety – Robin Martin, Technology Teacher, has provided two presentations for parents. A third presentation will be provided on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at UHS. It should be an interesting program and has been well received; we are getting good write-ups in the newspaper.
- Chester County Forensics Competition – 10 students participated at Immaculata on March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Open Forum – Mr. Vosburgh will host this for 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents regarding the transition to our middle school on March 28<sup>th</sup> in the Middle School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.
- Spring Open House/Special Area Showcase – Was held on March 8<sup>th</sup> and was well attended by parents of 5<sup>th</sup> grade and middle school students. Additional informal question/answer programs will be held at the elementary schools on April 4<sup>th</sup> (Pocopson), April 17<sup>th</sup> (Chadds Ford), April 18<sup>th</sup> (Hillendale), and April 19<sup>th</sup> (Unionville).
- Basketball – The middle school men's faculty defeated the 8<sup>th</sup> grade boy's basketball team in a close match on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**SUPER-  
TENDENT'S  
REPORT –  
Middle School  
(Continued)**

## Superintendent's Report – High School

Mr. Jim Fulginiti provided the Unionville High School report:

- Academic Competition – The team took 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the County; Jason Trigg is the team captain.
- Winter Sports - Boy's basketball, swimming, ice hockey, and high school wrestling are all doing well; Indoor Track - Paul Springer took 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the mile statewide (4.17 mins.) – phenomenal!
- *Beauty and the Beast* – We had four, great performances! The students, Mr. Jason Throne, Mr. Scott Litzenberg, and Mr. Mike Berkeihiser are all to be commended.
- HVAC Project – Commendations to Rick Hostetler, Jim McLimans, and the HVAC contractors for the smooth process on this projects since last spring!
- PSSA & TerraNova Testing – Begins tomorrow
- Used Book Sale – Grows every year; this year, we raised \$26,000 for the School & Home Association. Thanks to everyone.
- Assistant Principal – Mr. Kurt Barker started on March 13<sup>th</sup>; Mr. Rudy Reif will probably begin in early April.
- Course Selection Process – is underway and we are crunching the numbers
- John Thaeder – Has take on the position of parent representative for the District 1 PIAA athletic association for the state. Thanks to John.
- Theft Issue – Thanks for Lexi Crampton for bringing up this issue; we will try to address it in the short term and try the long term but it's a twofold issue. How can we do a better job in the building to address this physically? Why is this happening?

Dr. Kenney thanked Jason Throne, Scott Litzenberg, Susan Beach, Brian Kelley, students and members of the cast for the enthralling performance of *Beauty and the Beast*. He also thanked Bill Anderson for his work with students on the Science Research Competition. All seven students will move on in the competition. Mr. Anderson offers his time for this program gratis.

Dr. Kenney announced that Mrs. Joyce Reeves, former Principal of Unionville Elementary School, has completed her Doctoral defense last week. He publicly thanked her and congratulated her for her accomplishment!

## **SUPER- TENDENT'S REPORT – High School**

## **RESIDENTS' COMMENTS**

Keith Knauss, East Marlborough Township resident, commented regarding:

1. Budget Binder – It is very important information but the public does not have access to it. He asked if the administration would make that available in PDF format or in a three-ring binder format on Friday, 4/7.
2. Grade Distributions – Dr. Kenney provided them for the high school and Mr. Knauss asked whether they could be provided for the middle school grades as well.

Patti Ciuffetelli, East Marlborough Township resident, commented regarding completion of a fields project by the beginning of the sports season. Mr. Swayze stated that there is a process through which we must go and those decisions have to be made. If we started in the very near future, we could do that but the decisions have to be made on a timetable for various projects. This is not a stand-alone item and there is insufficient time to deal with that before the fall. In response to Ms. Ciuffetelli's question about the water issue last summer on the fields, Mr. Hostetler commented that this was a misstatement and that the fields were watered all summer. Mrs. Ciuffetelli commented that some fields were in really bad shape.

Dan Gabor, East Marlborough Township resident, commented that the athletic programs are a very important part of the school community, as well as the Music Department. The small closet is getting to be too small for a dressing room, with a cast of almost 70 students, 55 of whom were females. He thinks it is unfortunate that the stadium is unfit now because it sustains such active use but stated that we should not ignore the Music Department to re-do what was done incorrectly.

Mrs. Trigg commented that we received quite a bit of correspondence on the grade scale and the fields issue. She appreciates the parents' comments but stated that we have not heard from the teachers. They are the experts and we have not done grading personally. We need their input and should recognize they do have our students' best interests in mind and they have many important insights.

Mrs. Trigg stated that she also received a lot of e-mails asking for the turf fields but also calls regarding safety. We will need to look at that as a first point for our student athletes. She is amazed by the success of the Used Book Sale and thanked everyone who made that possible!

Mr. Swayze praised Mr. Hostetler and Mr. McLimans for their work on the high school HVAC project that went so smoothly. Hats off to them for making it work the way it did.

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

**BOARD  
MEMBERS'  
COMMENTS**

Mr. Murray stated that this is the time of year that precious few people come to budget meetings in April and May. It really is the driving force and the core of how we begin the year. We need to be responsible to the taxpayers. It's important and everyone is invited to attend on April 10 to see how the budget meshes with the district's academic goals. He hopes to see everyone on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. in the District Office Large Conference Room.

Dr. West seconded Mrs. Trigg's remarks regarding both issues. Regarding the fields, athletics are a very important part of what goes on in our district but it's not the only thing that goes on. She thinks the Facilities Study put that in clear relief for us. Dr. West is really looking forward to diving into that process with the Board, parents, staff and teachers to try to put together a plan that is coherent and rational. It should address all of those issues in as timely a way as we can manage without putting too great a burden on the taxpayers. It's going to cost some money to get this done.

Mr. Wandersee stated that they are certainly conscious of the budget but when they have the review on May 1-3, they will be embarking on a truly potentially long-term financial commitment. It will make our track flush with the commitment we are going to have to talk about in terms of total dollars for this district. We still have a long way to go and many things to consider before the day is done.

Mrs. Halstead thanked everyone who sent an e-mail (about 400 people). She has not answered them but is trying to do so. It's important for them to read them because not everyone is for something; sometimes they are against it. She has had some very thoughtful e-mails about health issues more than just the stadium and the turf. She thanked everyone to had written to her.

Mrs. Halstead requested a list of children who attend charter schools, along with their grades and ages from Mr. Cochran. Mr. Cochran stated that he could provide the list (without student names) tomorrow morning.

She attended the Wizards basketball game. It was not only packed with students having a good time but when the lead player came out, she found out that he was about four years younger than her.

Mrs. Halstead inquired about receiving a list of employees with their assignment, caseload, and part-time/full-time status. Dr. Kenney stated that lists are shown in the Personnel Directory but would not include the caseloads. Mr. Marinelli stated that the information would be retrieved.

She acknowledged the work of two volunteers:

1. Sue Hayes – who is leading the Debate Team in the high school on her own time. They are going up and down the east coast. Sue has gone way above what anyone could do for time!
2. Karl Krause – who is working with the Lego robotics group as a volunteer.

Mrs. Halstead commented about where we would be without them.

She is delighted that FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) has returned to the high school – great! Mr. Fulginiti stated that 14 students are moving on to the state competition and he applauds the supervisors of that group also.

Mrs. Halstead thanked Jim McLimans for his hard work during the HVAC project. He is a great person but sometimes we don't thank people enough.

She has received many phone calls and e-mails regarding the stress of the PSSA's on the students and teachers. We know that it's a stressful time and she hopes everyone is taking time to smell the flowers; it's the most important thing in life.

Mrs. Halstead commented that Mr. Hostetler had sent all of them an e-mail telling them what has been done to the fields over the year. They have been active and it's not that they don't need to look at them but they have been working on them.

She commented about *Beauty and the Beast* being absolutely fantastic! She sat two rows behind Dr. Kenney but he returned from intermission without his coat; it was a little hot in there.

She congratulated Mrs. Janet Dadds and stated that the Citadel Heart of Learning award is wonderful for someone we all wish we had in Kindergarten. She is a true advocate for students and loves kids. She is delighted!

Mrs. Brown thanked everyone for the e-mails and stated that she has enjoyed reading them, particularly those that are original. She commented that the grading system is not working out the way she had hoped it would but that is not a Board project; it is a project for the teachers and administrators. Mrs. Brown stated that facilities are going to be a major discussion that we need to have as a Board. She is hopeful that we can come up with solutions that are kind to our taxpayers and also satisfy the needs of our school community.

Mr. Baker commented regarding the budget cycle, stating that when you take on and begin to look at the budget, it's a little more than the expression of the district's program in educational dollars. It reflects the priorities and philosophy of the district because where the money goes is where the activity occurs. It's a particularly important time when the Board considers its priorities. Mr. Baker encouraged everyone to get involved in that process.

He congratulated Mrs. Joyce Reeves on the completion of her doctoral defense and stated that she has many friends in at least two school districts!

Mr. Baker was extremely pleased that Mr. Hostetler brought forward the recommendation to turn down the bid for the water project. It's easy enough to identify priorities and go after them spending the money necessary to get them done. There is a degree of prudence that is required to know when it's right to say no and when we should wait for another day. He is grateful that it was brought forward to the Board in that manner.

The PSSA's are important and he does recognize the degree of stress that permeates all districts at this time. We are grateful for the effort and certainly hope for good results.

Mr. Baker commented that Unionville Rugby beat Coatesville 40-3 (Boy's); the Girl's team went down 10-7 to Great Valley, with a highly controversial call. We are having a lot of fun with this thriving program.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown  
Secretary

**BOARD  
MEMBERS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

**MEETING  
ADJOURNED**