

**UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**Minutes**  
**March 28, 2005**

The March meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, March 28, 2005 in the Unionville High School LGI. Mr. Wandersee, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

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

The following members were present: Edward Wandersee, Keith Knauss, Kathleen Brown, Curt Baker, Stephen McClaskey, Bruce Swayze, Corinne Sweeney, and Timothea Trigg. Also present were Dr. John Kenney, District Superintendent, Dr. Brenda O'Hern, Robert Cochran, David Dickens, Rick Hostetler, Thomas Marinelli, John Nolen, Dr. Jim Price, Maria Schwab, Bruce Vosburgh, Tim Minella, student representative, community residents, members of the press, and Denise Miller, recording secretary.

Mr. Wandersee thanked everyone who came out this evening to attend the meeting in the midst of the road flooding.

Mr. Edward Murray arrived at 7:40 p.m.

Mrs. Sharon Silverman, Birmingham Township resident, stated that she has youngsters in grades 4 and 6 at Pocopson Elementary School. She is here to talk about Communication this evening. Communication has two parts: content (what is being said) and process (which is everything else). In looking back at the boundary adjustment proposal, a lot of the high energy and intense emotions that were created were a result of the process more than the content. She thought it would be useful to go over a few principles that we could take forward in all of those communications to strengthen our participation.

When the letter was sent originally to Pocopson parents, it was on letterhead stationery and signed. This was great and didn't always happen in the past administrations. It was unclear in its inclusion of the words, "recommendation," and "your child will be affected," and clarity is important in any communication. The distribution was problematic since it was sent to only those families who would have been affected. It rapidly became apparent that people at their school and at other schools received no information. Almost the next day, parents from other schools were saying "hey, you are coming," and were upset when they said they were questioning the sense of

**CALL TO  
ORDER**

**MEMBERS  
PRESENT**

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS**

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

this proposal. The timing was also troublesome. Although there was a special session for parents, there was no Board meeting between the time the proposal came out and when the vote took place. They felt they needed to correspond quickly via voluminous e-mails. The follow-up website did not work and no comments were posted. Mrs. Silverman feels that it would have been helpful to let people know what was happening with this problem.

In conclusion, Mrs. Silverman stated that the parents need to take more responsibility in getting to know all board members and administrators. The most helpful thing for her was to have attended the Work Session and seeing everyone talk and bring their expertise and discussion with the administrators. She commented that things run so smoothly and everything is great but it's also appalling that we don't take the time to know each other. She suggested a get to know your board member coffee and stated that parents need to take some more responsibility on that. We all know that boundary changes will be coming and it may be helpful to put it on the agenda every few months. This would inform people when information is obtained from the townships about development, etc. so it's not a shock and to keep in mind the principles of the process.

Mr. Wandersee thanked Mrs. Silverman for her comments and time in putting her thoughts together for the Board. He stated that good communication and confidence in each other go a long way to build a good school program. He complimented her for her letters to him and stated that the suggestion for the board to get together with the community is not a bad idea as well. Mr. Wandersee encouraged her to come to more Board meetings; specifically, the important budget meetings on May 2 and May 3 (as needed) at 7:00 p.m. in the Unionville High School LGI Room. He stated that he accepted Mrs. Silverman's comments with much appreciation.

Jack McDonough, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that he has attended almost every Board meeting since September. He has spoken with Dr. Kenney who has been very open and forthright in spending plenty of time talking with him. He's not sure that the Board and Superintendent view the serious problem of overcrowding here at the high school as such a priority as some of the rest of them. The teachers are such professionals and don't complain often. He sees both space and added staff as problems that should be corrected. Mr. McDonough learned that the high school budget requests included:

- 1 English teacher
- 1 Social Studies teacher
- 1 Industrial Technology teacher
- .5 Math teacher
- 1 Guidance Counselor (second year requested)
- 1 Reading Specialist
- 1 Special Education teacher

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

The modular classrooms are a great start but the staffing requests should be fully funded. The “nomad” teachers/classrooms on carts (i.e. science w/ chemicals) are not appropriate. Mr. McDonough stated that he had suggested we talk with the teachers since September. He has done that over the last six weeks. The staff across the departments is under tremendous strain and doesn’t know how much more they can take. He did have three teachers come out who were fearful of speaking, but they love their jobs, are loyal, and want to see things change. Specific comments included the following:

- English – reading a novel (gray, red, and blue books) and each book has different page numbers. He understands there is a five-year curriculum cycle that was suspended for three years and we are getting back to that now. In that case, it could be eight years for some areas to be reviewed.
- Science – Textbooks are out of date; in comparison with Tredyffrin/Easttown, Lower Merion and Radnor School Districts for equipment and facilities, it is laughable. Even private schools that historically struggle for funds have more money budgeted for science. A lack of funds is restricting instruction. Students are not experienced in hands-on technology and they are ill prepared for college labs. Equipment and supplies are under funded and equipment is used longer than it should be because we can’t afford to replace it.
- Geology – Students are frequently asked to imagine a particular scene or situation referring to overheads. Earth and Space Science is a visual science and without models to work with, the needs of all those are not met.
- Physics – It’s possible to teach on a shoestring but it means that when expensive equipment breaks down, the students must deal with larger lab. groups or an indirect way of experiencing a phenomenon. This means that fewer students have the opportunity to develop the understanding.
- General comments – the former guidance counselor stated that the current administration greatly underemphasized the stress that people are under.
- Parents
  - Family who relocated here - friends who withdrew from class because of behavior problems with so many kids in the class; also mention of comments from parents in other schools about problems in U-CF.
  - Safety issues in son’s classroom

Mr. McDonough asked that we consider fully the needs at Unionville High School. Emphasis has been on the elementary level but it has caused the high school to be put on hold for two to three years and we need to get back to these needs.

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

Mr. Wandersee thanked Mr. McDonough for his comments. He has received all of Mr. McDonough's e-mails and has discussed them with Dr. Kenney and the Board. He recognizes the sincerity of the concerns. As a School Board, we recognize that there is growth in the high school that we need to address and are not ignoring it. We would also like to see the District Administration move to another location and that cannot be done quickly or easily in order not to squander the taxpayers' money. We also want to do a proper job.

The Board also recognizes some of the problems he sees relative to staffing, and Dr. Kenney has a solution that he'll bring forward into the budgetary program. We probably have more teachers coming into the budgeting program than many of our other citizens would like to see. We have the uncomfortable balance of finding a way to accommodate needs, professionalism, and the resources in the community as well.

Some things should be addressed with the high school principal and some should be addressed by him as well. We are not neglecting or overlooking the high school. Mr. Wandersee assured Mr. McDonough that he is not being ignored and that the Board is studying it. He encouraged Mr. McDonough to attend the upcoming budget meetings. Mr. Wandersee stated that we're sometimes coming across increases we don't like to have. He feels we're doing a fairly effective job in trying to satisfy the demands and needs to continue to have this as a prime flagship high school in Chester County.

Mr. McDonough stated that he appreciates Mr. Wandersee's efforts.

Bill Fieles, East Marlborough Township resident, commented that he thinks the school does a great job. He is representing the Fielder's Club, which is a parent organization that supports the hockey teams. He has noticed that most schools have an assistant varsity coach on the sidelines during the sporting events. He has raised concerns to Mr. Dickens, which he included in his budget requests. Mr. Fieles thinks it's a real safety issue at times when we play away games and the junior varsity and varsity teams could be at two different locations. We have had some pretty serious injuries at times. This becomes problematic for the safety of the kids. Also, he has a senior going to college next year and stated that as much as reading / academics are important, the colleges are looking for well-rounded kids (music, sports, etc.). We have great, dedicated coaches who could use assistance.

Mr. Wandersee thanked Mr. Fieles for his comments. He agreed that we do have dedicated coaches and stated that the requests will be put into the hat and considered with the other requests during budget deliberations.

Scott Litzenberg, East Marlborough Township resident and Unionville High School teacher, stated that he attended the January Board meeting regarding the decision on the HVAC project at the high school. He was told that “B” and “C” levels would be completed and that if anything else was added, it would delay the timeline of the project. We now find out that the cafeteria was added to the project. Why were they told that this was not possible? As a teacher who works here over the summer and has an opportunity to effect the kids over the summertime, he has to look outside the district for those (i.e. Octorara, Great Valley) programs. We can’t offer programs here in the summer or put kids in the building then because of the reality of the heat. The lack of the ability to offer programs like that is very frustrating. He hopes that whatever plan is being done next, some people are looked at and some suggestions considered about future growth. He wants to make sure that people here who have a lot of interest can have input to help down the road.

Mr. Wandersee thanked Mr. Litzenberg and asked that he speak with him following the meeting tonight. We’ve struggled a long time to get to where we are on the HVAC project now. We got there because we are all concerned about the best interest of the students. He stated that the cafeteria was added to the project because it was an option that came in so well under priced that we would be fools not to accept it. That program was evaluated, studied, and restudied.

Mr. Litzenberg stated that his whole point is that a lot of them would like to have some input. Mr. Wandersee asked that he talk with him about it after the board meeting.

It was moved by Mr. McClaskey and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Minutes of the February 22, 2005 Regular Meeting (pp. 3.a.1-14) and the March 14, 2005 Work Session (p. 3.a.15).

Motion carried (9-0).

The following committee meeting minutes were reviewed:

1. Curriculum Committee Meeting – March 14, 2005 (pp. 3.a.16-17)

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

The following financial statements were reviewed:

1. General Fund Treasurer’s Report – February, 2005 (p. 3.b.2)
2. Year-to-Date Summary of Revenues – February 28, 2005 (p. 3.b.3)
3. Year-to-Date Summary of Expenditures – February 28, 2005 (p. 3.b.4)

**RESIDENTS’  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

**MINUTES  
APPROVED**

**FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS**

Financial Statements (Continued)

4. Capital Reserve Fund Report – February, 2005 (p. 3.b.5)
5. Capital Projects Fund Reports – February, 2005 (p. 3.b.6)
6. Construction Project Reports – February, 2005 (pp. 3.b.7-14)
  - a. Unionville Elementary School Project (pp. 3.b.7-8)
  - b. Chadds Ford Elementary School Project (pp. 3.b.9-10)
  - c. Pocopson Elementary School project (pp. 3.b.11-12)
  - d. Stadium/Track Project (pp. 3.b.13-14)
7. Activity Account Reports
  - a. Unionville Elementary School Learning Account – September, 2004 – March 4, 2005 (p. 3.c.1)
  - b. Unionville High School Activities Balance Sheet – November-December, 2004 and December, 2004-January 31, 2005 (pp. 3.c.2-5)
  - c. C. F. Patton Middle School Activities Account – November, 2004 and December, 2004 (pp. 3.c.6-7)

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

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Baker to approve the Bill List dated February 28, 2005 in the amount of \$1,417,025.94 (pp. 3.d.1-19).

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Swayze and seconded by Mr. McClaskey to approve the Bill List for Collegium Charter School dated February 28, 2005 in the amount of \$23,280.91 (p. 3.d.20).

Motion carried (8-0-1). Mr. Murray abstained.

It was moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mr. Knauss to approve the budget transfers for March, 2005 as on the attachment (p. 3.b.1).

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Knauss and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the bid for the C. F. Patton Middle School Rock Climbing Wall Construction and Installation as on the attachments.

Mr. Wandersee stated that finances for this project were being taken care of by parents. Mr. Cochran clarified that the finances were provided by parents' fund-raising efforts and from Mr. Vosburgh's allocation. Mr. Knauss stated that the total cost was ~\$29,000. Mr. Baker stated that the district's contribution through the principal's allocation is ~\$1,500. Mr. Baker fully supports the project but was under the impression that all funding was going to be from external sources.

**FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS  
(Continued)**

**BILLS PAID**

**BUDGET  
TRANSFERS**

**FACILITIES:**

**Middle School  
Rock Climbing  
Wall**

In response to Mr. Wandersee's question, Mr. Vosburgh stated that the funding is committed. We have researched these walls at a number of schools and surrounding districts have these walls that are very well constructed.

Mr. Wandersee commented that this is a horizontal vs. a vertical type of rock wall. Mr. Cochran stated that it will be 18 ft. high x 40 ft. wide. Typically, you see 24 ft. high walls but our facility does not lend itself to that configuration. This project was also reviewed with the Curriculum Committee. There are safety features in it and Mr. Hostetler's department will be setting up an annual safety inspection of the wall.

Dr. Sweeney understood that this would be funded using all external money. She stated that it's justified within the curriculum and is valid but that does not justify that the rest cannot be raised externally. It's the principle behind it. Mr. Cochran responded that we could require the parents to come up with that money (~\$1,500) after the project is started.

Mr. Wandersee stated that he still thinks it is a worthwhile cause and a lesson learned for next time. He would like to see the exact figure of how much is being supported by the budget. Dr. Sweeney commented that it's not an objection to why this would be done but a matter of the funding. Mr. Knauss asked whether we needed to move on the project this month. Mr. Vosburgh responded that we came short but he would like to see it go through and installed before the end of school, along with the training.

Mrs. Brown stated that his budget is still taxpayer funds. This was not decided by the School Board but we are now actually funding it with taxpayer money. She needs clarification because we're changing this. Mr. Vosburgh stated that he does not see the difference in purchasing bicycles out of his budget – this came through the teachers. In response to Mr. Wandersee's question, Mr. Cochran stated that he would obtain the figure from Mrs. Quinn and forward it to him tomorrow via e-mail.

It was moved by Mr. Swayze and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to amend the motion to award the bid for the C. F. Patton Middle School Rock Climbing Wall Construction and Installation as on the attachments. Approximately \$1,500 will be advanced from school district money to be reimbursed by the parent organization's fund-raising efforts.

Motion carried (8-1). Mr. Knauss voted nay.

Dr. Sweeney asked whether this would kill the project. Mr. Vosburgh responded that if it's approved, we would come up with the money.

It was moved by Mr. Swayze and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approved the amended motion to award the bid for the C. F. Patton Middle School Rock Climbing Wall Construction and Installation.

Motion carried (9-0).

## **FACILITIES (Continued)**

### **Middle School Rock Climbing Wall**

It was moved by Mr. Knauss and seconded by Mr. McClaskey to approve the Mediation Settlement Agreement and Release entered into between the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District and Frey Lutz Corporation, Mechanical Contractor on the Chadds Ford Elementary School Construction Project as on the attachment (pp. 4.b.1-4).

Mr. Knauss stated that this is a settlement with Frey Lutz Corporation for approximately \$114,000. The Chadds Ford construction project was not the smoothest construction project. We had to change general contractors very early in the project and that caused delays and extra costs. Whenever that happens, there is negotiation between the contractor and the district to determine what is fair and reasonable for the extra costs and the work they put into the project. We will also recoup a large portion of that money from Traveler's Insurance Company who covered the dismissed contractor.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Knauss and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the purchase of eight (8) modular classrooms per the Pennsylvania Education Joint Purchasing Council at a price not to exceed \$425,000.00.

Mr. Knauss stated that they had hoped this would occur at the next Board meeting but in contacting the companies that make these modular classrooms, Mr. Hostetler found out that if we want them to be installed for next year, we have to act now due to the lead-time.

In response to Mr. Wandersee's question, Mr. Knauss stated that there would be eight additional rooms for a total of 12. This will cover our space needs for this year and next year and will allow us to have room to look for a longer-term solution.

In response to Dr. Sweeney's question, Mr. Hostetler stated that the fee does not include furniture and the infrastructure. Furniture for four rooms would come from within as we use the existing rooms for flex space. We need to get four rooms of furniture and then next year when we finish the project, we would need furniture for the remaining four rooms. The electric and plumbing will be done with our own forces. We would be looking at next month for the first four ('05) and the remaining four next year ('06). Mr. Baker stated that we would be using four rooms now until the construction is completed and will then request furniture for those four classrooms.

In response to Mrs. Brown's question, Mr. Knauss stated that four modular classrooms were not included in the HVAC bid. Dr. Kenney added that we need to separate the bid from the amount of money we are going to borrow. There was a discussion about borrowing \$6.5 million and the question was would four additional rooms be included in the \$6.5 million? We haven't settled on the amount we're going to borrow for this project. If we're going to

**FACILITIES  
(Continued)**

**Mediation  
Settlement  
Agreement-  
Frey Lutz Corp.**

**UHS – Modular  
Classrooms**

Facilities (Continued)

go with the additional eight, what we were going to do is to take a look at whether that would fit into the \$6.5 million. One was the discussion about the HVAC bid and the other was how we were going to borrow. We always said we were going to need additional classrooms; the question was four or eight additional rooms. With the growth in the high school, we need eight for the short term. We have a decision between now and next month as to how much we are going to borrow. The Board will then have to make a decision based on the needs and then the budget.

Mr. Knauss stated that the \$5.9 million that he talked about at Work Session did not include modular classrooms because we wanted to keep the cost under \$6 million and we did not know how many rooms we would need in the future. Mrs. Brown stated that the \$6 million was the cutoff where we had Board approval. Mr. Knauss commented that we expected that the administration would come back next month with that number between four and eight classrooms. Due to the long lead-time for the modulares, we are coming back tonight.

In response to Mrs. Brown's question, Dr. Price stated that some of the classes that are now being taught in sub-standard spaces would be moved into those classrooms. With regard to having additional classrooms, he commented that we will gain some out of it but we can't exactly respond until we go through the scheduling process. Mrs. Brown stated that she wants to know that we are adequately approving a space for next year. Having this come on with no discussion at a Work Session previously, she can't feel comfortable with what we're putting in these rooms and has not seen anything that tells her that.

Dr. Kenney commented that we would have four more rooms than we had this year. Now we'll have to dictate how we use those spaces appropriately. The point is what realistically can we do given the spaces we have available and the site itself. We can't get any more modulares in here with the space we have available. We're looking at a pod of six and one module of two additional rooms. We originally talked about \$400,000 but we were hoping to get a pod of eight and cannot fit that in the space. If you wanted additional ones, we have no current space for them. This is a short-term solution unless as a result of finances or outside forces being imposed on the Board it becomes a long-term solution. He sees it as a short-term solution.

Mr. Wandersee stated that we've talked for some time about four more rooms to substitute for the loss due to construction. Then we talked about the need of additional class space and part of the objective was to have four additional classrooms available for next school year in September, 2005. He looks to the Superintendent to tell him how we are going to utilize those four new rooms that we don't have today. When the project is over, we'll have eight new classrooms.

**FACILITIES  
(Continued)**

**UHS – Modular  
Classrooms**

In response to Mr. Baker's statement, Mr. Cochran confirmed that we are not required to bid the modular classrooms because we are piggybacking on the Pennsylvania Education Joint Purchasing Council bid. We are able to do this without going to a competitive bid and production timelines would have put us in a precarious position. He also stated that this would ultimately come out of the bond issue.

In response to Mr. Baker regarding the possible purchase of used or reconditioned modular classrooms, Mr. Cochran stated that the amount of work in getting the used modulares into a usable condition would not be worth it (cost prohibitive). The life span for a new modular classroom is about 20 years and even with refurbishing, the life span for a used one is about seven years. It's not advantageous to go that route.

Mrs. Trigg stated that four classrooms will be taken out of use for the air-conditioning project. Once it's completed, all four will be returned to use. A teacher commented that her classroom would be taken out of service and used for a boiler room. Mr. Hostetler responded that this was discussed in the early stages of design but is no longer valid.

Mr. Knauss stated that with eight modular classrooms, we have some flexibility for the future. He is comfortable with it and we need to do it now.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Middle School Action Plan as on the attachments (pp. 5.b.1-4). Mrs. Brown stated that this was discussed at numerous work sessions previously.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mr. Knauss to approve the Extended School Year (ESY) Program for the Summer of 2005 as on the attachment (p. 7.g.1). Mrs. Brown commented that this is the same as last year's program, which worked very well. Dr. Kenney added that it is being funded by the state Block Grant of about \$78,000 in the school district budget.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Bid Award Recommendation for the Chester County Intermediate Unit Joint Purchase Bids of Fuels for the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year as on the attachment (pp. 6.a.1-2).

Motion carried (9-0).

**FACILITIES  
(Continued)**

**UHS – Modular  
Classrooms**

**CURRICULUM:**

**Middle School  
Action Plan**

**Extended  
School Year  
Program - 2005**

**FINANCE:**

**I.U. Fuel Bid for  
2005-2006**

Mr. Murray announced the upcoming budget meetings:

1. April 11 Work Session – Budget Preview, 7:00 p.m., District Office Conference Room
2. May 2 – Budget Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Unionville High School, LGI Room
3. May 3 and May 4 (as needed) – Budget Meetings, same time and location as May 2 meeting

Mr. Baker commented that since the P.T.O. Advisory Committee meeting on May 2 would conflict with the Budget Meeting, P.T.O. is tentatively rescheduled to April 25, 7:30 p.m. in the Unionville High School Library Classroom. He will confirm this date with those who are involved.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the following personnel item (agenda item 7.a):

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

Motion carried (9-0).

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

- b. Retirements (2)
  1. Donna Muller – Unionville Elementary School (5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher) – effective June, 2005 – (E.R.I.P.)
  2. Janet Greene – Unionville High School (Computer Applications Teacher) – effective June 20, 2005 –( E.R.I.P.)

Dr. Sweeney emphasized that the people who do everything are the heart and soul of the school district.

- c. Resignations (2)
  1. Marie Mademann – S-II Special Education Office Manager, effective March 11, 2005
  2. James Allison – Unionville High School Custodian, effective March 18, 2005
- d. Reclassifications (2)
  1. James Joyner – from part-time Bus Driver to full-time Bus Driver, effective January 3, 2005
  2. David Talley – from District Maintenance Skilled Mechanic to Interim Head Mechanic for the duration of the Unionville High School HVAC Construction Project (approximately 14 months), effective May 1, 2005, at his regular hourly rate plus \$1.50 stipend

**FINANCE  
(Continued)**

**Budget  
Meetings**

**P.T.O. Advisory  
Committee  
Meeting  
Rescheduled**

**PERSONNEL:**

**PROFES-  
SIONAL  
CONFERENCES**

**RETIREMENTS**

**D. Muller**

**J. Greene**

**RESIGNATIONS**

**M. Mademann**

**J. Allison**

**RECLASSIFI-  
CATIONS:**

**J. Joyner**

**D. Talley**

**3.a.11**

Personnel (Continued)

e. Substitutes (5)

1. Leah Cannon – Elementary
2. Lindsay Brown – Elementary
3. Casey Neal – Elementary
4. Deborah Falgowski – Support Staff
5. John Horn – Bus Driver

f. Supplemental Contracts (6)

1. Erika Jennings – Middle School Track Coach
2. Joseph Sudimak – M.S. Boys' Lacrosse Coach
3. Jamie Byrnes – J.V. Girls' Lacrosse Coach
4. John Coombe – Tennis Coach
5. John Rohde – H.S. Boys' Lacrosse Coach
6. Louise Cleveland – Mentor (1/2 year)

g. Employ (2)

1. R. John Lane – Custodian, Unionville High School, effective February 14, 2005, at a salary of \$11.86 per hour
2. Karen Finley – part-time Bus Driver, effective February 22, 2005, at a salary of \$14.00 per hour

h. Appointment (1)

1. Jim McLimans – Appoint as Clerk of the Works for the Unionville High School HVAC Construction Project, effective May 1, 2005 for the duration of the HVAC Project (approximately 14 months), at a salary of \$72,000

Motion carried (9-0).

Mr. Swayze reported for Transportation regarding the grant from the Clean Buses for Kids Program. Gail Wolfel, Transportation Supervisor, has just received an e-mail today announcing that we have been approved for the grant.

Mrs. Trigg stated that there were no items for Policy tonight.

Tim Minella, Student Representative, reported regarding the following items:

1. Spring Break – Hopes everyone had a nice, relaxing break.
2. Student Council – Mrs. Brown met with them and was very helpful with expressing her views on how they could comment to the Board. The theme running through the comments tonight

(Continued)

**PERSONNEL  
(Continued)**

**SUBSTITUTES**

**SUPPLE-  
MENTAL  
CONTRACTS**

**EMPLOY:**

**R. John Lane**

**K. Finley**

**APPOINT-  
MENT:**

**J. McLimans**

**TRANSPOR-  
TATION**

**BOARD POLICY**

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVE  
REPORT**

### Student Representative Report (Continued)

is communication. The teachers are a bit disillusioned with the School Board and there seems to be a lack of communication between the upper administration and the teachers. The students hope that it will include almost the entire community – parents, teachers, and other employees in the district, etc. to discuss things relative to the district. If any Board member has suggestions as they are going through the process, he would welcome them.

Mr. Murray reported for the Center for Arts and Technology/ Special Education/Intermediate Unit. He attended the meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> regarding their initial budget and then came to the district's Act 72 meeting. He will report further on the CAT/Special Education/I.U. meeting at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Wandersee reported for Legislation regarding the following items:

1. Act 72 Meeting – The March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting was relocated to the Patton Middle School Auditorium but unfortunately, only ~75 people attended the meeting. Gina Ralston, *The Kennett Paper*, did a great job in reporting the meeting. State Representative Chris Ross and Senator Dominic Pileggi were at the meeting to share their views. Senator Barrar did not attend. Approximately 75% of those in attendance were opposed to Act 72 and a few people did support it.

Act 72 continues to be the highlight of what is going on in legislation. There are a number of organizations that are in the process of challenging Act 71 (that is the driver for Act 72). This is the Gambling/Gaming Bill. Their arguments are in the State Supreme Court and the ruling on the legality of Act 72 is expected sometime in early May. If stricken down, there would be no more gambling money. Also, the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) has filed an opposition to Act 72 with four to five different reasons such as:

1. Vague – regarding the effects on multi-county school districts (like Unionville-Chadds Ford);
2. Distribution of the gaming revenue – if someone does not opt in, what will it be used for? There are different points of view in Harrisburg.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVE  
REPORT  
(Continued)**

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

**LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT**

Legislative Report (Continued)

2. House Education Committee – There are other bills that do not affect U-CF but two others that could affect us are:
    - a. House Bill 403 – gives taxpayers the vote on referendum if their School Board doesn't opt into Act 72. The Bill would ask districts to increase their earned income tax by at least .1% (one-tenth of a percent) and this would have to place the issue on the November ballot this year.
    - b. House Bill 217 – Richly – Basically does the same thing by saying if school districts don't know what they are doing, we are hoping to force them into it.
- Rep. Barrar has signed on as a co-sponsor of both of these bills.

Mr. Wandersee mentioned that he has it on good authority that no legislative action will be taken by the General Assembly until June 1<sup>st</sup>. They may go somewhere in the summertime when the situation is clearer as to how many districts opt in to Act 72.

Dr. Kenney provided the Superintendent's report:

1. Middle School String Festival – for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades was held for the first time ever. Bruce Vosburgh and Jeanine Bostwick – hosted the festival that included 17 of our students and eight students from other middle schools. Congratulations to Jeanine and the middle school students!
2. Boy's Basketball, Girl's Basketball, Swimming and Wrestling had a very successful season. Some of the teams went on to compete in playoff competitions and some of the individuals did well. Chester County also assigned their all-league selections in a variety of sports:
  - Boy's Basketball – Kevin Hovde (1<sup>st</sup> team), Ryan Ackerson (2<sup>nd</sup> team), and Matt Engle and Brian Guest (Honorable Mention)
  - Girl's Basketball – Deana Gineitis (1<sup>st</sup> team), Britt Keesling and Victoria Schils (2<sup>nd</sup> team)
  - Wrestling – Scott Ely, Dave Musacchio, and C. J. Picard (2<sup>nd</sup> team), and Ian Crampton (Honorable Mention)
  - Boy's Swimming – 1<sup>st</sup> team: Bryan Brumbaugh (200 IM), Jon Wertz (100 Fly and Back), George Bennett (100 Breast Stroke); 2<sup>nd</sup> team: George Bennitt (200 Free), Dan Kolakowski (200 IM & 100 Back, Bryan Brumbaugh (100 Fly), John Austin (100 Free); Honorable Mention: Blair Allen (500 Free), John Austin (100 Back), Brett Sanderson (100 Breast Stroke).
  - Girl's Swimming – Honorable Mention: Krysta Moraczewski (50 Free)

Congratulations to all of them! Dr. Kenney is convinced that the athletes and coaches have given everything they had and that's all you can really ask of them.

**LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT  
(Continued)**

**SUPER-  
TENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Superintendent's Report (Continued)

3. Middle School Forensics Tournament – 6<sup>th</sup> Grader, Savy Leiser, was 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of 24 other county students in a prepared speech event at our school. Congratulations!
4. State Geography Bee – 8<sup>th</sup> Grader, Greg Manning qualified for it (April 1<sup>st</sup> at Shippensburg University). Congratulations!
5. Spelling Bee – 7<sup>th</sup> Grader, Jesse Kober, won the school spelling bee and will represent Patton on Monday, March 7 at the CCIU county bee.
6. American Scholastic Achievement League – 21 of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders took part in this competition and answered 100 questions (in general knowledge, language and literature, history, geography, science, logic, problem solving, and math). We will receive the results in early May.
7. Westminster Presbyterian Church – We received a letter regarding 21 of our students who went to Mexico on a mission trip during Spring Break. They participated in construction projects, vacation bible school, preparing meals, practicing their Spanish, and participating in cross-cultural faith experiences. Great job!
8. Chester County Computer Fair – Ms. Jean Stevens commented regarding 15 of our students who participated in the fair. Tim Seistrich – 1<sup>st</sup> place for Curriculum-Based Web Page Design; Matt Jacquot – 1<sup>st</sup> place for Information-Based Web Page; entire PhotoShop class – 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Graphic Design; Leah Walton – 3<sup>rd</sup> place for Multimedia Presentations; Alysin Cwyk – Honorable Mention for Multimedia Presentations. First place winners will go to the state competition on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Good luck and congratulations!
9. Seussical He attended on Friday evening (both nights were sold out) and congratulated Jason Throne, Susan Beach, Scott Litzenberg, Amy Hipp (Choreographer), and the students. In response to Dr. Kenney's question, Mr. Litzenberg stated that only three of the musicians were not our students (playing for those who were performing on stage).
10. Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) – we received information from the Pennsylvania Department of Education regarding our last student who will get a 1600 on the SAT before the test was revised. Congratulations to Jason Trigg (a Junior) – this is quite a compliment to him!

Deirdre Wielgus, Pocopson Township resident, commented that we are fortunate to have the Speech and Debate Club. We have ten students who are going to states this month (two years into it) and this is really great!

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

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS**

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

Lou Minella, East Marlborough Township resident, commented regarding the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazz on the Brandywine Festival that Scott Litzenberg will hold this Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Unionville High School Auditorium. He stated that it's a great event that could use more attendance and doesn't receive enough publicity. He also thanked Mr. Dickens for hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Unionville Track Invitational on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. We had about 500 athletes at last year's event, which utilizes the faculty fully for the day. It's a wonderful event for anyone to attend.

Scott Litzenberg stated that as a person who has taught here for six to seven years, he and his wife decided to move here. Although they would like to work with everyone on the other things, the reason they came here is because of what we already have here. Mr. Wandersee stated that he appreciated Scott's communication.

Lele Galer, Pocopson Township resident, asked about the length of the May 2<sup>nd</sup> budget meeting and whether there would be an opportunity for questions and comments. Mr. Wandersee stated that there would be an opportunity to take comments and ideas at a particular, given time during the course of the meeting. Basically, this is the Board's opportunity to present questions as well and a chance for residents to see the budget presentation and hear the deliberations. In response to Mrs. Galer's question, Mr. Wandersee stated that discussion items should be communicated to the Board by e-mail as early as possible. They may or may not happen, however.

Vic Dupuis, East Marlborough Township resident, thanked the Board for holding the Act 72 meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>. He stated that it's remarkable how little our legislators knew about the legislation, which speaks to its complexity. As a financial advisor who works with taxpayers in our district, he sees the spectrum of scenarios and stated that Act 72 is the wrong thinking for our district. He does not think it will materialize to near the level they think it will. The state's expectation of ~50% will not occur in Bucks, Chester, and Montgomery counties. It will force a complete reconfiguration of this thing. Mr. Dupuis thinks it will be a very serious problem for us to limit our capital collection system to what Act 72 prescribes. Reflecting on Mr. Murray's eloquent comments at that meeting, Mr. Dupuis stated that this does not get into how we spend money. He encouraged the Board not to opt in to it. In response to his suggestion, Mr. Wandersee stated that we would make the PSBA file available on the district website.

Mr. McClaskey thanked everyone who was involved at the elementary level with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Read-A-Thons. He announced the Chadds Ford Art Show that will be held this Friday night. Mr. McClaskey wished success to the sports teams in their spring season.

**BOARD  
MEMBERS'  
COMMENTS**

Mr. Baker stated that the Boy's Lacrosse Coach led to a win against Malvern Preparatory School and he thanked Bruce Vosburgh for his role in that as well. He commented that the Girl's Rugby team squashed Cumberland Valley 19-0. Mr. Baker requested that Communications be added back under the Reports and Comments section of the Board agenda.

He stated that Mr. Marinelli has distributed a district newsletter that includes an excellent article by Mr. Knauss regarding Act 72. A great deal of pressure will be placed on school boards regarding this debate. He also commented regarding the nice job that Gina Ralston, *The Kennett Paper*, did on her Act 72 article and encouraged others to write about it. Mr. Baker stated that the Book Sale was magnificent and he enjoyed it immensely.

Mr. Knauss commented regarding the Unionville High School Musical, *Seussical*, that was a great performance and sold out on two nights. He stated that Act 72 is a complicated piece of legislation and he is surprised by the silence regarding it. Mr. Knauss reported that many states have had to struggle with finances over the last two decades. Unfortunately, our legislators have not looked at any of those articles.

Mrs. Brown expressed her thanks for the ads about the schools. It's great to hear about everything that is going on. She thanked the parents for coming out tonight. Mrs. Brown assumes that information comes from the teachers to the parents and to the Curriculum Directors so they can act on what they hear. She needs to do a better job in getting her education and asked the parents to do a better job in letting them know. She stated that everything cannot be provided for everyone due to financial resources. We needed a classroom for every teacher in the old days when they taught all day in one room but it's not necessarily a problem if the teacher teaches five classes in that one day.

Mrs. Trigg thanked Tim Minella for his work in finding out how to bring more input to the Board from the students. She encouraged their efforts to find a mechanism to do that and encouraged them to call her. She values the input that she receives from the students and also from the parents. Mrs. Trigg appreciates the comments and looks forward to hearing from them as well.

Mr. Swayze thanked Dr. Kenney for his letter of thanks to Representative Ross. He stated that it included good, original thinking and brings out some very important points and enhances the debate in the district on that subject. It would be good to place it on the web site. Dr. Kenney commented that he was asked by Representative Ross to provide his comments but prefers that they remain private.

Mr. Murray commented that we will continue to discuss Act 72. In response to his comment regarding the flooding on Rt. 926 this evening, Mr. Cochran stated that at 8:45 p.m., it was less than one-half foot below flood stage.

Dr. Sweeney stated that it's always a pleasure and had no further comments this evening.

Mr. Wandersee commented regarding a celebrity in our midst – Mr. Curt Baker. Mr. Baker was featured in the *Lancaster Sun Times* where he is the Business Manager for the Lancaster School District. Congratulations! He also thanked everyone for their comments and stated that we do appreciate and consider them. He wished a safe ride home to everyone tonight.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown  
Secretary

**BOARD  
MEMBERS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

**MEETING  
ADJOURNED**