

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Minutes
April 16, 2007

The April meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, April 16, 2007 in the Unionville High School Large Group Instruction room. Mr. Baker, President, called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

The following members were present: Curt Baker, Kathleen Brown, Karen Halstead, R. Bruce Swayze, Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Timotha Trigg, Edward Wandersee, and Dr. Therese West. Also present were Sharon E. Parker, District Superintendent, Dr. Brenda O'Hern, Robert Cochran, Steve Dissinger, 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.

Superintendent Parker read several haiku poems from the students' display this evening (Steven Annan, John Lofe, Peyton Brown, and Jillian Malone). She is thrilled for the students, staff and parents to be able to enjoy these achievements this evening that focus on Pocopson Elementary School. Ms. Parker invited Principal, Dr. Andrew McLaughlin, to discuss their achievements.

Dr. McLaughlin presented the students from Pocopson Elementary with certificates for their achievements:

Envirothon Participation ~

Gabi Bartmann, Chad Cochran, Ellie Corrigan, Jonny Gamble,
Katie Hewton, John Miller, Douglas Russo, Morgan Simpson,
Libby Wood

Geo Bee ~

Owen Steinbrech, Emily Fisher

Spelling Bee ~

Ari Bleemer

Creative Communications Poetry Contest

Ryan Grady

**CALL TO
ORDER**

**MEMBERS
PRESENT**

**SUPER-
INTENDENT'S
REPORT**

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

Superintendent's Report (Continued)

Time for Kids – Letters to the Editor ~

Spencer Hendrixson, Katie Hewton, Allison Hsu, Chris Koehler,
Jillian Malone, Amanda Pacropis, Johnny Wu

Song Fest ~

Alison Jones, Samantha Ortiz, Jackie Tremblay

Weekly Drawings for Dr. B. Well ~

Katie Lickfield

Ms. Parker stated that we also have staff members here to appreciate the student artwork and help this evening.

Superintendent Parker asked that everyone think ahead 30-50 years ahead to where these children would be at that time. They will go on to do wonderful things ... and Unionville-Chadds Ford is on the verge of the creation of a Wall of Honor. We will form a community-wide task force to work on the wall and she hopes to have it ready next year. More information will be available in the district newsletter and interested parties should let us know. It will be an exciting adventure.

Lexi Crampton provided the Student Representative Report:

1. MORP (Prom spelled backwards) – Techno dance was held this past Saturday and was a great success
2. Rugby – Saturday's night game was close ... The girls won with a 27-0 shutout!
3. Spring String Extravaganza – Fantastic event, especially Natasha Carlin's solo
4. Music Department – U-CF showed its hospitality by hosting students from a school in California this past weekend
5. WIRA Crew Team – Local team who are hosting students from England this week
6. Student Council Elections – Will be held on 4/26
7. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* – Showing 4/26-28
8. Organ Drive – Ongoing
9. Talent Competition – Several music students are traveling to Boston this week to showcase their talents.

Robert Cochran, Director of Business and Operations, provided an overview of the 2007-08 General Fund Preliminary Budget that includes:

▪ Total Revenues -	\$63,342,368	6.53%
▪ Total Expenditures -	<u>64,083,453</u>	4.54%
▪ Operating Deficit -	(741,085)	
▪ Beginning Fund Balance -	<u>3,605,968</u>	Est.
▪ Ending Fund Balance -	<u>2,864,883</u>	4.47%

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

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE
REPORT**

**2007-08 General
Fund
Preliminary
Budget**

He stated that the Board received their budget books this weekend. Mr. Cochran commented that the Board had approved the preliminary budget at the February 12, 2007 Work Session. It has been submitted to Harrisburg and approved as a preliminary budget. The information will be available on the website tomorrow.

Mr. Cochran reviewed the expenditures:

- Total Increase - \$2,782,490
- Expenditure Summary –
 - Personnel Costs - 73.10%
 - Debt Service - 11.46%
 - Special Education - 3.35%
 - Fuels/Utilities - 2.73%
 - Building Allocations - 2.03%
 - Buildings/Grounds, Transportation - 2.58%
 - Curriculum, Technology, Pupil Services - 1.97%
 - Other - 3.54%

Central Salaries were reviewed:

- 78.11% - Direct Educational Delivery & Student Services
- 12.28% - Buildings & Grounds and Transportation
- 6.88% - Administration
- 1.00% - Net New Positions

Mr. Cochran outlined the salary history from 2001-02 through 2007-08 for the above categories via a PowerPoint slide. He reviewed a chart regarding the benefits history:

- Either Contractual or Statutory
- Medical / Prescription
 - 2007-08 is the third year of self-funding medical / Rx
 - Medical up 10.00%
 - Rx up 5.00%
- PSERS (PA School Employees Retirement System)
 - 7.13% vs. 6.46% (up 10.4%)

He reviewed a slide that outlined the revenue summary:

- Local Revenues - \$54,542,223 86.11%
- State Revenues - 8,714,852 13.76%
- Federal/Other Revenues - 85,293 0.13%

Mr. Cochran reviewed the millage impact from 2001-02 through 2007-08 and the current impact as follows:

	<u>Chester Co.</u>	<u>Delaware Co.</u>
Current Millage -	20.49	18.81
Proposed Millage -	21.57	18.48
Percentage Change -	5.27%	(1.75%)
Impact on Average Home-	\$295.84	(\$77.24)

Mr. Cochran commented about the eight-figure growth that continues in Chadds Ford (the Estates at Chadds Ford). The Chester County growth has slowed for now (Riverside at Chadds Ford). He reviewed charts that depicted the market value changes in both Chester and Delaware counties from 2001-02 through 2007-08. In reviewing the millage changes, Mr. Cochran noted:

- Factor of:
 - Market Value Ratio Change
 - Assessed Value Growth
 - Expenditures Growth
 - Other Revenues Growth
 - Targeted Fund Balance
- Difference in Change Has Varied:
 - Low 0.06% Percentage Points 1997-98
 - High 8.44% Percentage Points 1993-94

He showed a chart that indicated the millage history from 2001-02 through 2007-08 for the two counties.

The following points were made in regard to fund balance:

- 2007-08 Ending at 4.47%
- Maximum budgeted ending fund balance is 8%, effective 2005-06
- Majority of budgeted deficit spending is based on conservative budgeting practices
- Fund balance consideration does not include amounts in capital reserve or construction funds

A chart depicted the ending fund balance and percent of expenditures for the period from 2001 through 2008.

Mr. Cochran discussed the following points regarding the Act 1 legislation:

- Millage Increase Limited by Index
 - 2007-08 index is 3.4%
 - Exceptions are based on dollars and are applied disproportionately in multi-county situations

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

- U-CFSD Applied for and Approved Exceptions
 - Special Education - \$158,898
 - Health Care-Related Benefits - \$325,085
 - Retirement Contribution - \$122,670
- Maximum PDE-Approved Millages
 - Chester County – 21.57 mills
 - Delaware County – 18.48 mills

He outlined the budget adoption schedule as follows:

- Budget Hearings
 - Monday, May 7 at 7:00 PM in the UHS LGI Room
 - Tuesday, May 8 (if needed) and Wednesday, May 9 (if needed) at 7:00 PM in the UHS LGI Room
- Post/Present Proposed Final Budget
 - Monday, May 14 at 7:00 PM (Board Work Session, UHS Library)
- Approve Final Budget
 - Monday, June 18 at 7:30 PM (Board Regular Meeting, UHS LGI Room)

Sara Bleemer, Birmingham Township resident, stated that the Unionville High School Academic Team would be going on to compete in Harrisburg on April 27th for the first time in 20 years ... congratulations!

Keith Knauss, East Marlborough Township resident, commented about plans for the high school project being submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for approval. This is the first time that Board members will go on record since the planning started a year ago. He stated that Citizens for Excellent Education has 357 contributing members presently.

Holly Manzone, Pocopson Township resident, stated that she appreciated Mr. Knauss's comments but while it's wonderful to live in a democracy, there is another side as well. The School Board is trying its best to be open and up front with everyone. She appreciates the gift of Sharon Parker and her openness and communication. We need to take it upon ourselves to gather information (i.e. websites, coffee chats). She attended an Open House at the recently completed Kennett High School, and saw a beautiful, new school. We have necessary work to be done here. Mrs. Manzone commented about the wonderful presentation from Ed Murray last week and stated that we are fortunate to have him. The facts will speak for themselves.

Sharon Gabor, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that her vote counts as a "yes."

Carol Catanese, Pennsbury Township resident, thanked Mrs. Manzone for her comments and stated that she is very pleased with the way information is being presented. She commented about her research that indicates \$67 million is about the going rate for renovations of this size. She hopes everyone will educate himself/herself. Our students' education is at risk here if we don't keep up with what they need to be successful. Mrs. Catanese thanked Board members for a great job.

It was moved by Dr. West and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Minutes of the March 19, 2007 Regular Board Meeting (pp. 3.a.1-10).

Motion carried (8-0).

The following committee meeting minutes were reviewed:

1. Board Curriculum Committee – April 9, 2007 (pp. 3.a.11-19)

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

The following financial statements and reports were reviewed:

1. General Fund Treasurer's Report – March, 2007 (p. 3.b.1)
2. 2006-2007 GF Function Revenue Analysis with Details of 6100's and 7000's as of March, 2007 (p. 3.b.2)
3. 2006-2007 General Fund Function-Object Expenditure Analysis as of March, 2007 (pp. 3.b.3-5)
4. Category Expenditures Analysis – March, 2007 (p. 3.b.6)
5. Capital Projects Fund Report – March, 2007 (p. 3.b.7)
6. Outstanding Projects Summary – March, 2007 (p. 3.b.8)
7. Construction Project Reports – March, 2007
 - a. Unionville High School HVAC Project Budget Report– March, 2007 (pp. 3.b.9-10)
 - b. Unionville High School & Fields Renovation Project Budget Report– March, 2007 (p. 3.b.11)
8. Capital Reserve Fund Report – March, 2007 (p. 3.b.12)
9. Health Care Trust Fund Report – March, 2007 (p. 3.b.13)
11. Debt Service Reserve Fund Report – March, 2007 (p. 3.b.14)
12. U-CF Cafeteria Service Profit & Loss Statements – January through February, 2007 (pp. 3.c.1-2)

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

It was moved by Mr. Swayze and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Bill List for April 11, 2007 in the amount of \$1,809,495.64 (pp. 3.d.1-14).

Motion carried (8-0).

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**MINUTES
APPROVED**

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

**BILLS
APPROVED**

3.a.6

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the returning Buildings and Grounds summer employees as listed on the attachment (p. 4.a.1).

Motion carried (8-0).

A lottery was conducted for the Buildings and Grounds Interested Parties for Summer Employment as listed on the attachment.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the submission of Plancon – Part A: Project Justification – Unionville High School & District Administrative Offices to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (pp. Plancon A01-A22).

Mr. Swayze stated that this is the maximum scope of the project. Mrs. Trigg commented about the necessity of this step to avoid delay since we would still be 10-12 months (minimum) from breaking ground. This is not the absolute final plan.

Mr. Cochran provided an overview of the Plancon process. It is a series of forms that the state uses to monitor and control construction in school districts. Plancon A is the schematics and scope but does not get into details and engineering concepts. Plancon B represents the actual schematic drawings that give the project footprint. Plancon C is not applicable for this project and deals with the acquisition of real estate.

We will review and justify the project with the PA Department of Education in Harrisburg and seek their input. The architects will then proceed with the detail design and engineering documents (structural piece and mechanical systems). The next step in the process is Plancon D, which is the estimate for the final design for bidding.

Mr. Wandersee stated that you'd really not have to know this high school to say that it does not need work. We have debated it but Mr. Wandersee commented that he doesn't walk away from a situation that needs change because he has been threatened.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mrs. Brown -	Yes	Mrs. Trigg -	Yes
Mrs. Halstead -	Yes	Mr. Wandersee -	Yes
Mr. Swayze -	Yes	Dr. West -	Yes
Dr. Sweeney -	Yes	Mr. Baker -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0). Mr. Murray was absent during this portion of the meeting.

FACILITIES:

**Returning B&G
Summer
Employees**

**Lottery-B&G
Summer
Employment**

**Plancon A
Submission:
Project
Justification,
UHS**

It was moved by Dr. West and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the submission of Plancon – Part B: Schematic Design to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (Level A, B, C Programming Layouts: Campus Master Plan).

A roll call vote was taken:

Mrs. Brown -	Yes	Mrs. Trigg -	Yes
Mrs. Halstead -	Yes	Mr. Wandersee -	Yes
Mr. Swayze -	Yes	Dr. West -	Yes
Dr. Sweeney -	Yes	Mr. Baker -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0). Mr. Murray was absent during this portion of the meeting.

It was moved by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Literacy in the Content Areas (Grade 7) Course as on the attachments (pp. 3.a.13-18).

Motion carried (8-0).

Mrs. Brown commented that this is related to what we're doing in Grade 6 and was discussed with everyone last week. We also talked about a Spanish course that is not on the agenda.

Ms. Parker stated that the discussion regarding the Spanish course was to look at a course adaptation for special needs learners. The course would include specially designed instruction but it would not require Board approval. There was a fine discussion at the Curriculum Council meeting and this afternoon with Dr. O'Hern and members of the Foreign Language Department. The course would keep the door open for many of our special needs learners, many of whom go on to college where two years of foreign language are required.

Dr. O'Hern stated that this is a need our World Language Department sees and they're very excited about it. It is basically a change in the delivery of the curriculum that is already in place.

Mrs. Brown reported on the very excellent presentation regarding K-12 science. A recommendation will be coming our way soon. There will be a chemistry unit that will get students ready for Honors Biology. Dr. O'Hern stated that we will work with the kids to teach some necessary lab skills to prepare them for 9th grade Honors Biology. This includes individual, on-line work with Friday tutorials during the first marking period.

**Plancon B
Submission:
Schematic
Design, UHS**

**CURRICULUM &
EDUCATIONAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**Course
Approval,
Literacy (Gr. 7)**

**Curriculum
Report**

It was moved by Dr. West and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the following personnel item (agenda item 7.b.):

- b. Retirement (1)
 - 1. Dr. James B. Price – Director of Secondary Education, effective June 29, 2007

Superintendent Parker commented about Dr. Price's retirement as Director of Secondary Education after 35 years in education. He has led our secondary curricular program for four years. Dr. Price will continue his life in higher education as coordinating student teacher placement with West Chester University. Ms. Parker thanked him for his service and wished him well. Mr. Baker congratulated Dr. Price and wished the best to him. Thirty-five years is a momentous milestone.

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the following appointment (agenda item 7.h.):

- h. Appointment (1)
 - 1. Steve Dissinger – Hillendale Elementary School Principal (220-day position), effective July 1, 2007, at a salary of \$107,000

Ms. Parker stated that when John Nolen accepted the challenge to come into district administration, there was a pause and a moment of sadness as to who could come in to be our next Principal at Hillendale Elementary School. The exciting news is that a member of our U-CF family has come forward to be our candidate. In addition to his wife and children, there are a number of people in the audience tonight in support of Steve Dissinger. Mr. Dissinger indicated his great love for his children who have built his body of expertise.

Mr. Dissinger thanked everyone for giving him this opportunity. He introduced his wife, Susan, and his son, Jacob, and daughter, Julie. Ms. Parker welcomed Mr. Dissinger and stated that we look forward to having him lead us.

Mrs. Trigg stated that she was very pleased and impressed to see the size of the fan club here for Steve. It's wonderful to see and she is sure he will be do and outstanding job.

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the following personnel items (agenda items 7.a., 7.c. through 7.g., and 7.i-j.):

- a. Professional Conferences (5)
 - 1. Approve the Attendance at Professional Conferences as on the attachment (p. 7.a.1)

PERSONNEL:

**Retirement –
Dr. James
B. Price,
Dir./Secondary
Education**

**Appointment –
Steve Dissinger,
Hillendale
Elementary
School
Principal**

**Professional
Conferences**

Personnel (Continued)

- c. Resignations (0)
- d. Reclassification (1)
 - 1. Angela Puleo – from LTS Speech & Language Teacher to TPE Speech & Language Teacher, effective March 1, 2007 (received PA Certification)
- e. Supplemental Contracts (4)
 - 1. Melody Black – ½ Dance Ensemble Coach
 - 2. Jennifer Caputo – Middle School Track Coach
 - 3. Darlene Grilliot – ½-Year Mentor
 - 4. John Ellis – High School Boys' Tennis Coach
- f. Substitute (1)
 - 1. Martha Runzer - Elementary
- g. Employ (3)
 - 1. Heather Weigner – Unionville High School Spanish Teacher (Long-Term Substitute for the 2007-2008 School Year), effective August 22, 2007, at the Bachelor's Step 2 salary level
 - 2. Arnett Lewis – Unionville High School Custodian (full-time 12-month), effective April 16, 2007, at a salary of \$12.59 per hour
 - 3. Jeremy Holmes – Floater Custodian (full-time 10-month), effective April 23, 2007, at a salary of \$12.59 per hour
- h. Sabbatical Leave Revision (1)
 - 1. Joanna Stump – Patton Middle School Math Teacher, from half-year Sabbatical (Spring, 2008) to full-year Sabbatical (entire 2007-2008 School Year)
- i. Terminate (1)
 - 1. Silas Crossan – Transportation Bus Monitor, effective April 1, 2007

Motion carried (8-0).

Mr. Murray joined the meeting via telephone voice conference at 8:50 PM.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to ratify the 2003-2008 Collective Bargaining Agreement Contract Extension for 2008-2009 between the Unionville-Chadds Ford Education and the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board as on the attachments.

**PERSONNEL –
(Continued)**

**Reclassi-
fication:**

A. Puleo

**Supplemental
Contracts**

Substitute

Employ:

H. Weigner

A. Lewis

J. Holmes

**Sabbatical
Leave Revision:**

J. Stump

Termination:

S. Crossan

**U-CFEA
Collective
Bargaining
Agreement –
Extension to
2008-2009**

Mr. Baker stated that in a new world under Act 1 where there is considerable uncertainty on a wide range of fronts, it is his personal judgment that we work hard and prudently to retain strong relations with the most important aspect of our school district. Many districts across the state will have difficulties with Collective Bargaining Agreements/Act 1, which we will avoid. The opportunity to enter into an early bird, one-year Contract extension is not just prudent but worthy of celebration. He strongly supports moving forward with this.

Mr. Murray commented about having been in each of the discussions leading up to this agreement. He stated that we do not know what the world will be like under Act 1. We need to be careful that we are not the first person into the water. He respects the teachers and the Board in getting to an amicable agreement to see exactly how things settle down. It's good for the kids, the teachers, and the taxpayers. A solid plan is important. No matter if we have a \$65- or \$67-million building, it is the teachers who are going to do the trick. This is an opportunity to be fair and equitable.

Mrs. Halstead said bravo ... for the Board, the teachers, and the children!

A roll call vote was taken:

Mrs. Brown -	Yes	Mrs. Trigg -	Yes
Mrs. Halstead -	Yes	Mr. Wandersee -	Yes
Mr. Murray -	Yes	Dr. West -	Yes
Mr. Swayze -	Yes	Mr. Baker -	Yes
Dr. Sweeney -	Yes		

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Chester County Intermediate Unit #24's 2007-2008 Core Services Budget in the amount of \$12,903,128 as on the attachments (pp. 6.a.1-7). Chester County School Districts' contribution to core is \$603,727; U-CF's share is \$43,043 – 0% increase/decrease.

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

It was moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Chester County Intermediate Unit #24's 2007-2008 Occupational Education Budget in the amount of \$18,106,108 as on the attachments (pp. 6.b.1-4). Chester County School Districts' contribution to Occupational Education is \$13,998,675; U-CF's share is \$305,357– 12.9% increase.

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

**PERSONNEL –
(Continued)**

**U-CFEA
Collective
Bargaining
Agreement –
Extension to
2008-2009
(Continued)**

FINANCE

**Chester County
IU Budget –
Core Services,
2007-08**

**Chester County
IU Budget –
Occupational
Education,
2007-08**

Mr. Baker stated that there were no action items for Co-Curricular and Student Life this evening. Considerable work is being done and there should be significant progress at the next committee meeting.

CO-CURRICULAR & STUDENT LIFE

Dr. West reported for Communications regarding:

- PTO Advisory Committee Meeting – will be held (as rescheduled from 5/7) on Wednesday, May 16th, 7:00 PM in the UHS Library Classroom.
- Communication Survey – will be available after the spring newsletter is issued (Details will be included in the newsletter.). This is an information-gathering tool that we are interested in putting out there.

COMMUNICATIONS

In response to Mr. Wandersee's question, Superintendent Parker stated that discussions were held about changing the title of the proposed Bullying Policy. Mrs. Brown noticed that a policy in Delaware was entitled, "Bullying Protection Policy." Dr. Sweeney stated that we should be consistent with the title, such as our Drug Policy. The "etc." will be removed from the top of page two. Mr. Wandersee stated that the policy includes three broad pages. He is proud that our school district is a leader in the state, specifically on a bullying policy, and puts it forth for a first reading.

LEGISLATION & BOARD POLICY

Margaret Rosenberg, Pennsbury Township resident, commented about her wonderful experience serving on the Hillendale Elementary Principal Search Committee. She has never seen a group of people so focused on selecting a person. Mrs. Rosenberg welcomed Mr. Dissinger as their new Principal and stated that he will be a great fit.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

Bruce Vosburgh, Pocopson Township resident and Patton Middle School Principal, stated that he has known Mr. Dissinger since he began teaching at the middle school. While it will be a great loss for them, he knows he'll do a wonderful job in that position – he is a great guy.

Steve Dissinger thanked the School Board for this opportunity and stated that it's very meaningful for him to accept this honor. He extended thanks to Dr. Brenda O'Hern and Tom Marinelli, as well as to John Nolen, for the foundation that Mr. Nolen established at Hillendale. Mr. Dissinger thanked the parents and staff members for their time serving on the committee. He thanked Ms. Parker and stated that she is a breath of fresh air. Mr. Dissinger thanked Bruce Vosburgh who has been his mentor for many years, teaching him to keep the interest of students first in every decision that is made. He will carry those values to Hillendale on July 1. He commented to the Patton Middle School parents regarding how they molded and shaped him; he will take that with him always. This is truly a good day and he is excited about what tomorrow will hold!

Scott Litzenberg, East Marlborough Township resident and UHS teacher, thanked the Board for their courage in moving forward with what they are doing and the way in which they have handled it. They have been above board as we go forward into the community with the high school project. He feels there are elements of the community that are using information that is inaccurate.

Louise Cleveland, U-CFEA President, thanked the Board for their efforts and time in making us a better district in moving forward with this contract extension.

Mrs. Trigg congratulated Shinauk Kishore for his qualification for the U.S. Math Olympiad that is coming up in a few weeks. She stated that it concerns her that members of the community feel they have not had a chance for input into the high school project. It is not written in stone and we still welcome your input. We need to submit our Plancon documents to begin construction in a year.

Mr. Swayze thanked Ms. Parker for leading the Board in the bullying policy and putting us out front statewide. It is much needed here and in every other district throughout the state. He commented to Mr. Dissinger that his children hold fond memories of him from 15 years ago when they attended Patton Middle School. He extended best wishes to him and stated that he will bring additional strength to the administrative team.

Dr. Sweeney commented that this was a day with sadness in saying goodbye to Jim Price but a delightful one in welcoming a new person joining us in a new role. In seeing the Hillendale parents' faces filled with delight earlier this evening, she is also thinking of the great sadness of some families who are dealing with the tragedy at Virginia Tech today.

Dr. West thanked Dr. Price for all of his hard work and wished him well. She congratulated Steve Dissinger. Dr. West seconded Mrs. Trigg's comments regarding the high school project. She thanked the Pocopson Elementary School students who provided the pre-Board meeting display. She commented that while it may have been an unfortunate thing to see our name in the newspaper regarding bullying, it's a good thing that we are developing our policy. She supports the administration's efforts wholeheartedly.

Mrs. Brown thanked the teachers for coming forward and asking for an early bird contract. She appreciates their willingness to keep things moving forward in our district and keeping everything really positive. Mrs. Brown welcomed Mr. Dissinger in his new role and is looking forward to what changes he will make at Hillendale. She thanked Mr. Litzenberg for his comments earlier this evening about things read in the press; they are totally untrue.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

Mr. Wandersee congratulated Steve Dissinger and stated that he will do a great job. He wished good luck to Dr. Price in his position with West Chester University and commented that it will be a different slice of pie. Mr. Wandersee thanked Louise Cleveland and members of the U-CFEA regarding the contract agreement. It's good for both sides and he is pleased that it was worked out in an amicable manner.

Mrs. Halstead commented about having had a lot of finance and planning meetings about the high school project although we have not had a huge audience to hear about the details. She wishes that people would come to obtain the correct information. It would be terrific if students could provide tours of the high school for people who are unaware of the facilities. Mrs. Halstead stated that it's great that we are promoting someone from within for the Hillendale Principal position. She commented about the district moving forward and making everyone aware of the bullying issue. Mrs. Halstead is proud of our school district for having done so.

Ms. Parker stated that the bullying policy is broad and general. The real work begins now with a highly developed procedure to go with this policy and our Code of Student Conduct. She thanked UES Counselor, Karen Dickinson, for convening our discussion on community development. Superintendent Parker stated that she is delighted to have Mr. Dissinger join the administrative team. Ms. Parker commented about the critical records that were ruined by water in a closet that was used as a file cabinet at UHS. We have wet boxes but anything hand signed was signed in permanent ink. This is also the unseen part of the high school structure.

Mr. Baker stated that the Bullying Policy reflects general concern for the overall loss of civility. He commented that acceptable behavior is learned and demonstrated. This should be viewed as a long-term task. He referenced his general philosophy regarding the requirement of balance in terms of the effective governance of school districts. Our time is currently being spent on extending good quality relations with our teachers, making sure we have a good administrative staff in our buildings, looking at student life and the depth of programs in the schools. He congratulated the administration for keeping them focused.

Mr. Baker announced that there would be a brief Executive Session of the Board following this meeting regarding a real estate matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown
Secretary

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**