



UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Minutes
April 20, 2009

The April meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, April 20, 2009 in the Chadds Ford Elementary School Gymnasium. Mrs. Brown, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present: Kathleen Brown, President, Edward Murray, Vice-President, Curt Baker (Via Telephone Conference Call), Karen Halstead, Dr. Paul Price, Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Timotha Trigg, Edward Wandersee, and Dr. Therese West. Also present were Sharon E. Parker, District Superintendent, Kenneth Batchelor, Sharon Allen-Spann, Robert Cochran, Steve Dissinger, Jim Fulginiti, Rick Hostetler, Rich Hug, Paula Massanari, John Nolen, Mark Ransford, Dr. John Sanville, Bruce Vosburgh, Marie Wickersham, Gail Wolfel, community residents, members of the press, and Denise Miller, Recording Secretary.

Mrs. Brown requested that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Ms. Parker stated that today had been a Blue Ribbon Day for Chadds Ford Elementary and for the entire Unionville-Chadds Ford school community. Especially today, students, parents, grandparents, and staff members came together in grand celebration. A visitor from the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools Office attended, and wished she could have captured this day filled with pride on film. Superintendent Parker offered her personal and professional applause to the students, staff, parents and community members.

Chadds Ford Elementary School Principal, Mark Ransford, welcomed everyone to this very special day that began with a luncheon for parents and student. It was followed by a wonderful celebration in the gymnasium that included student and adult speakers, and a representative from the U.S. Department of Education. Our students sang and the Blue Ribbon plaque was unveiled to hang on the school permanently (for which we do have a permit). Students returned to their classrooms to celebrate with their classmates.

Our generous P.T.O. provided a scrumptious appreciation dinner for Chadds Ford and District staff and School Board members. The Open House followed, and included every teacher, students, and most of our families. Mr. Ransford hopes everyone had an opportunity to tour the school tonight. He showed a short movie that highlighted the views of students and staff members as to why Chadds Ford Elementary School is so worthy of this honor. Mr. Ransford thanked everyone for all of the support they have shown.

Ms. Parker thanked Mr. Ransford for the glorious view of the wonderful school and children. She stated that Chadds Ford Elementary was one of 12 schools (including public, non-public, and parochial) to receive this national recognition!

CALL TO ORDER

MEMBERS PRESENT

SUPER-INTENDENT'S REPORT

**Chadds Ford Elementary School:
Blue Ribbon School Recognition**

Superintendent's Report - Continued

Superintendent Parker stated that a dear colleague and staff member has joined us this evening. She is deeply moved that Mrs. Carrie Dickmann is with us to share an award from the Compassionate Friends Association.

Mrs. Dickmann stated that she was here tonight as a representative of Compassionate Friends, an international, non-profit support organization, to recognize the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District as a recipient of the 2009 Compassionate Employer Award. The Compassionate Friends called to inform Mrs. Dickmann that, based upon her nomination, the U-CFSD had been selected to receive the award. This was the first time it had been given to a school district, and represents this district's support of an employee in the death of a child.

This speaks to the actions from May, 2008 that continue to this day. The organization reminded her to speak to the employer's actions and not those of individuals. This is difficult since U-CF is not a faceless entity and has become her second home. When her world fell apart on May 5, 2008, she was immediately surrounded by those who gave of their time and resources, including Kristen's classmates, teachers, and shipmates. They were here to honor a short life, and the Dickmann's have felt their support and kindness for 11 months, which will never be forgotten. Mrs. Dickmann is grateful to have this opportunity to present the District with the 2009 Compassionate Employer Award.

Ms. Parker thanked Mrs. Dickmann for her character and courage. This award will be in our hearts forever.

We join the entire U-CF school community in recognizing Cathy Cipollini as a recipient of the Citadel Heart of Learning Award. Ms. Parker hopes she can attend next month's School Board meeting. Mrs. Cipollini will attend the Citadel Award Dinner on May 5, along with other Chester County award recipients. Mark Ransford was honored as a Citadel winner several years ago.

We also congratulate parent and nursing staff member, Mrs. Julie Krause, for her award as Parent Volunteer of the Year from the Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education (PAGE). We hope to welcome Mrs. Krause at our next Board meeting.

Ms. Parker acknowledged today as the tenth anniversary of the tragedy at Columbine High School in Colorado. Much of the way we conduct ourselves in public education has changed since that date. While having just become the Superintendent at Wallingford-Swarthmore School District at that time, she learned an experience that she could not have anticipated.

Lately, there has a great deal of comment in the area press and on neighborhood streets about the Right to Know laws and how the district is interpreting them and responding to requests for information. Ms. Parker stated that she had been told early in her career as Superintendent by state, local, and national officials that it was the mandate that every district take the broadest steps to make sure that we had the safest school environment, both internally and externally.

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

***Compassionate
Friends Award***

***Citadel Heart of
Learning Award:
Mrs. Cathy
Cipollini***

***PA Assoc./ Gifted
Education Award:
Mrs. Julie Krause***

***School Safety &
Communication –
Right to Know
Requests***

While we note that the tragedy of Columbine was child violence against child, the same rules apply. We are to give every bit of our stamina to protect our children on our school sites. Lately, she has been accused both personally and professionally of being far too conservative with school district information. She offered her apology to those who were offended, but can do nothing else but that. Her training ground was ten years ago, and the lessons were well learned. Ms. Parker invited community members to come forward to be part of the problem-solving opportunities we have in the District. We suspect that you will hear much more in the upcoming days. The request for electronic copies of our architectural drawings for Unionville High School has been denied by the District. Another request for the Master Schedule (even with student names redacted) has also been denied by the District, and we will be going to an appeal process. There is no one at this table or in the District that wishes to have an adversarial relationship with the community. We hope that the community will understand that those who come here to serve will put forward their best decisions and efforts. If we offend, we apologize, although we are proud of our commitment to the children each day.

Shannon Pitt, Student Representative, provided the following report regarding:

1. M.O.R.P. Dance – Held last weekend; Profits will be donated to a local charity.
2. Student Council Elections – Several changes include the combination Parliamentarian/Treasurer position and the Student Representative on the School Board position moving to Student Congress.
3. Track – Remains undefeated; Five members from each of the boy's and girl's teams have qualified for the District meet in mid-May.
4. Amy Donovan and Lindsey Smith have been named Longstreth Female Scholar-Athletes of the Week award by phillylacrosse.com.
5. Spring Play - Will be performed on Friday and Saturday nights at 7:30 PM
6. Debate Team – over 600 students from across the state competed in 15 different events; Congratulations to Shaina Sclar – Semi-Finalist (Extemporaneous Speaking); Duncan Keller - Semi-Finalist (Radio Announcing); Valentina Parisi and Shubo Yin – Quarter-Finalists (Public Forum Debate); Cailin Hayes – Semi-Finalist (Oral Interpretation of Poetry); Savy Leiser – Quarter-Finalist (Humorous Interpretation); and Jeff Long – Quarter-Finalist (Impromptu Speaking)
7. Digital Design Competition – Bill Miller was awarded 1st Place for Curriculum-Based Web Page; Sean Robinson – 4th Place for Digital Movie; Tim Daly, Neil Sheehan, Eric Bittingham, Austin Curtis, and Rich O'Neill – 4th in Digital Movie; Savy Leiser - 3rd in Multimedia Presentations; Jennifer Hart and Jon Cohn – 3rd in the Computer Fair Logo for 2010. Students who placed 1st will proceed to the state competition at Dickinson College in May.
8. FBLA – Record number of people attended States this year (3,600 in 55 categories), and UHS students placed as follows: Brian Kamelhar - 1st/Sports Management; Brian Change - 7th/Business Calculations; Dennis Mahoney – 8th/Business Law; Bhaskar Baijaji – 10th/Intro. To Technology Concepts; Mahjob Hammond – 13th/Business Communication; Brock Allen – 15th/Cyber Security; Stephanie Zhang – 24th / Communication; Tyler Keesling – 28th /Computer Problem Solving; Jackie Thaeader – 29th /Business Procedures; Andy Romine –

SUPER-INTENDENT'S REPORT

School Safety & Communication – Right to Know Requests (Continued)

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Report (Continued)

51st /Business Procedures; Bennett Jacobs – 57th / Marketing;
Shiv Bery – 66th / Personal Finance; Jon Wang – 60th /Marketing;
Danny Takoushian – 68th / Sports Management; John Mike DiNapoli –
71st / Business Law

9. National Merit Finalists – Congratulations to Zach Bleemer, Aaron Brewer, Marianne Dreisbach, Elizabeth Evans, Brian Fieles, Alex Joseph, and Timothy Wang

Mrs. Brown requested comments from residents, limited to three minutes per person.

Bruce Yelton, Pocopson Township resident, stated that he has resided in the District for over 50 years. He commented about the two votes regarding the Referendum for the UHS Construction Project, stating that it does not address the needs of the student body. Mr. Yelton feels that the plans to finance the project and the upkeep will have disastrous effects on programs for our students.

Heidi Brown, Chadds Ford Township resident, announced that the Chester County League of Women Voters and the Chadds Ford PTO will hold a Meet the Candidates night on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 7:00 PM (UHS Auditorium). Community member will have an opportunity to ask questions (on index cards) of the candidates who are running for the four School Board seats in U-CF.

Mrs. Brown stated that ever since Sharon Parker came to our District, a breath of fresh air was ushered in. She is the real deal and when she speaks, it comes from the heart. Mrs. Brown thanked Ms. Parker for everything she has done for our children. It is really appreciated!

Carol Apicella, East Marlborough Township resident, commented regarding her recollection of several projects in the school's history that were worse (referring to Mr. Yelton's comments). She specifically referenced the air-conditioning project at UHS and the administrative space. The offices were designed in the front of the building with 12,000 ft², and comments about not needing that much space were made at that time. We presently have people working in other spaces and in inadequate spaces. Mrs. Apicella stated that she would defer to the Board members regarding growth patterns, since they have the real facts about them.

Scott Litzenberg, East Marlborough Township resident, responded to Mr. Yelton's comments, stating that making no decision or a lesser decision is easier than making a hard decision. He would much rather see us err on the side of doing the right thing instead of doing nothing. Although it may not be included in *The Kennett Paper* each week, Mr. Litzenberg stated that there is a lot of support about the project being the right thing for the District. Referendum is a whole different thing, and there was a lot of misinformation being put out there. He hopes we can get past that and do the right thing for the students.

**STUDENT
REPRE-
SENTATIVE
REPORT
(Continued)**

**RESIDENT'S
COMMENTS**

Residents' Comments - Continued

Scott Brown, Chadds Ford Township resident, stated that he hopes the artificial turf project is the first step in our journey toward the whole renovation. The facility has both public and private support. The Unionville Sports Council has reached out to the community to ask for personal donations and those from residents' employers. In looking at today's rainy weather, Mr. Brown stated that use of the athletic fields is not possible and gym classes will be moved inside. He commented about the number of people one would see at the facility every night, and hopes people will see this as the first step toward getting the whole project completed.

Patrick Clark, East Marlborough Township resident, echoed Mr. Brown's comments regarding Joe Carney's efforts with the USC and donations from Exelon and others. His last child will graduate from U-CF in 2023. Difficult decisions need to be made, and this is the first step. Mr. Clark also congratulated Chadds Ford Elementary School and the District Administration for the Blue Ribbon Award. He is proud to live here based on so many positive things.

Randy Bradley, Chadds Ford Township resident, commented regarding the fund-raising program that was launched seven to eight years ago. He complimented Joe Carney and Scott Brown, stating that is why we're putting in artificial turf today. It has been eight years in getting to this point, and Mr. Bradley urged the Board to vote on a path to improve the facilities that has been too long in coming.

Carol O'Brien, Chadds Ford Township resident, referenced Ms. Parker's comments regarding Right to Know requests that pertain to our Master Schedule at the high school.

Ms. Parker stated that the request came for the Master Schedule with student names redacted. If we take student names off and replace them with random numerical markers, one could track those students throughout the day and when students are gathered in one room or another. One could also identify children in need of special education services or gifted education. We are taking a conservative approach and will let this play out in further levels of appeal.

We understand if the Right to Know request is from a community member who may be well meaning and would never hurt a child; however, this represents children in other districts across the state. It is about anyone in the United States who could come in and ask for that information. Ms. Parker commented regarding the appeal process under the Open Records Law that became effective January 1, 2009 and did not include a well-defined appeal process.

Mrs. O'Brien stated that she wondered why anyone would even want that information. She inquired as to whether this appeal would cost additional legal fees and administrative time going to Harrisburg for another ridiculous request.

Ms. Parker stated that the appeal would be held locally but we do not know the full extent of the cost at this time.

**RESIDENT'S
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Residents' Comments - Continued

Mrs. Brown stated that she didn't feel the request was made to be a nuisance but because people think they can schedule the building better than the people hired to do so. The information requested was not for student course choices and teacher availability but for where kids were at certain times of the day. This information would not have answered their question.

Ms. Parker stated that she had extended a sincere invitation to the requesting party to work with the Administration regarding the hypothesis involved. There are many other things that can be provided.

Linda Bowen, Birmingham Township resident, clarified that one Open Records Request is up for appeal, and the other request for the architectural plans was denied by Harrisburg and Homeland Security.

David Ellsworth, Chadds Ford Township resident, stated that he is a soccer coach and is employed by Exelon. Mr. Ellsworth has been on good and bad fields. The vote tonight is imperative for our kids. He is amazed that more children have not been hurt, and urged the School Board to approve the astro-turf field.

Steve Gausch, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that he is the Director of the Boy's URA Lacrosse Team, which is a feeder program for the middle and high school programs. He expressed his support of the need for sports, stating that it has filtered down to the club teams. Mr. Gouger mentioned the availability of access to the turf fields in the West Chester and Great Valley School Districts. The fields in U-CF are in almost constant usage, and coaches from opposing teams have expressed concern for the well being of their players on our fields. Although this is a beginning, more needs to be done and can trickle down if the high school project is completed.

Rick Heiser, Pennsbury Township resident, has two daughters in the lacrosse program. They have lost three home games that have been rescheduled due to bad weather. Practice was moved into the gym, which is not the same as outdoor play. Mr. Heiser implored the School Board to vote in a positive manner for the artificial turf.

Dr. Price referenced Mr. Yelton's comments regarding our being overcrowded in five years and the project not being big enough. In the past, we have heard Mr. Knauss say the opposite in that we were planning for too much growth. We cannot tell exactly where the district population will be in five to ten years, but if we do too little, it would be more costly to add capital. The Board is doing the best it can and trying to do the right thing.

Dr. Price referenced Ms. Parker's comments regarding the Right to Know request for the building plans. He mentioned the television show, 24, stating that one could imagine what a bad person could do with the knowledge of the ventilation, electrical, and safety systems in a public building. Giving that information out freely to anyone who asked for it would be a huge security risk, which is why the State of Pennsylvania and Homeland Security have become involved. The Administration has correctly denied the request for that reason - to protect the safety of our students. Regarding the other request, if someone had ill will toward a particular student, knowing where that student would be at a particular time could be bad if given to someone with ill intent. We are trying to protect the childrens' safety, security and privacy. The Superintendent is trying to do the best she can with these requests.

**RESIDENT'S
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

Board Members' Comments - Continued

Mr. Wandersee thanked Mark Ransford and the entire staff and students at Chadds Ford Elementary School for their accomplishment and recognition today. He had an opportunity to see the fine performances and the kids' enthusiasm. Mr. Wandersee reminded everyone of the desperate battle seven to eight years ago regarding tearing down this school. It was not a popular vote, but in looking around today, we see that what we have speaks very well.

Mr. Murray referenced Mr. Wandersee's comments about the central issue in 2001. He recalls that during the time of his election to the School Board as a very contentious issue. Mark Ransford touched on it very diplomatically, but he also wanted to comment publicly about the disappointment of not having a resolution to the Blue Ribbon sign issue. Although he is fully aware of the authority of the Pennsbury Zoning Board and the job it has to do, the mere fact that the sign is not there to celebrate the school's success is a truly a loss to this community. If he were a Township Supervisor and realized that the sign could positively affect property values in the entire community for one year, it would not be difficult for him to approve a temporary variance to the zoning law. In this way, the entire community could enjoy a higher valuation. Disallowing a variance is simply the wrong decision from any imaginable point of view.

Mr. Baker followed up Ms. Parker's comments regarding Right to Know requests under the new law. Sharon Parker has been a model of decorum, which is a demonstration of her character and professionalism as an administrator. As a School Board member, he feels it is his obligation to support the Administration's work, if warranted.

Mr. Baker requested information last month regarding recent requests, and is grateful to the Administration for having provided it.

A slide presentation was provided with the following comments:

Slide 1

- Pennsylvania Act 3 of 2008 was signed into law by Governor Rendell on February 14, 2008 and became effective on January 1, 2009 (website listed on slide for full text of this law);
- Act 3 sets forth new rules surrounding access to public information in Pennsylvania
- Most significant change presumes that all records are public unless disclosure is prohibited by state or federal law, attorney-client or doctor-patient privilege, or is one of 30 exceptions set forth in the law.
- Key thing is that the burden is now 100% on the School District to show why a record is not publicly available, which was not the case in the past.

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

***Right to Know
Requests***

(Continued)

Board Members' Comments - Continued

Slide 2

- The list of 30 exceptions is generally intended to keep information that may jeopardize safety or compromise investigation confidential.
- Mr. Baker highlighted four of the exceptions:
 - Records such as building plans that may endanger physical security by disclosing the location, configuration or security of critical systems should not be disclosed (i.e. public utility systems, technology, communication, electrical, fire suppression, ventilation, water, wastewater, sewage and gas systems)
 - Records that include all or part of an individual's confidential information
 - Documents relating to negotiations for collective bargaining or arbitration proceedings
 - Records that could result in the identification of a child 17 years of age or younger.
- The intent of the law is to assure appropriate public access to information and protect distribution of what should be kept confidential.

Slide 3

- Act 3 Right to Know requests submitted to U-CFSD since January 1, 2009 - one individual responsible for almost half of the requests submitted, and 100% of the subsequent appeals.
- Of the four appeals, two have been withdrawn, one has been denied by the Office of Open Records, and one has been granted by the Office of Open Records. The District has petitioned for further review of the one request granted by the Office of Open Records.

Slide 4

- Cost of this unfunded mandate through Act 3:
 - U-CFSD incurred \$7,630 in legal fees associated with Act 3 requests during the first 60 days; Incurred \$21,545 from July, 2007 through December, 2008 (total of \$29,175)
 - These matters soak up scarce senior administrative time from Sharon Parker, Robert Cochran, Rich Hug, Ken Batchelor, and Denise Miller. They are a huge distraction from the core work of the school district – teaching and learning.
 - *The Kennett Paper* has published a highly inflammatory letter to the editor from Mr. Knauss where he exclaims that there is lot of “buzz” about his two (of eight since 1/09) Right to Know requests to the School Board. He continues to say that his requests have been challenged by the District because he is an opponent of the school construction project. This is particularly offensive because it is an assertion by a School Board candidate that the Administration has been unethical in its handling of Right to Know Law requests. He strongly infers that he has been singled out in retribution for his perspectives.

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
*Right to Know
Requests*
(Continued)**

Board Members' Comments – Continued

- As a School Board member, Mr. Baker cannot allow such a statement to stand without a public response. In his view, the Administration has conducted itself in accordance with the law and as a good shepherd of public information resources. Act 3 is not a license for Administrators to inappropriately disseminate confidential information to the public. Ms. Parker and her team have an obligation to protect the public interest by keeping confidential what should be confidential and making public what should be made public. He asked whether we would want them to release private student information in response to an Act 3 request because of a presumption under the Act that it is public information.
- The obligation of the District to demonstrate that confidential information should be kept that way doesn't change its responsibility to do its job. Mr. Knauss's suggestion to the contrary in his writing in the newspaper is unconscionable. A man of honor would publish a retraction and issue a public apology to the Superintendent and her staff.
- Mr. Knauss concluded his letter by suggesting that the District would be well served if it cut its legal expenses by simply handing over confidential documents.
- Mr. Baker is proud of the Administration's work in dealing with the steady drumbeat of unhelpful disruption that has been continuing for quite some time now. His heart goes out to them. Considering the already high level of stress associated with public school administrative management, a black hole of unproductive time can sap the spirit and takes the joy out of the educational process (which is why we all chose to work in this business).

Mr. Baker concluded by thanking Ms. Parker and offering admiration for her fortitude through all of this. In his view, she has no need to apologize and should continue to do what she has been doing. He requested that his slide presentation be included in the minutes (see Appendix A).

Mrs. Halstead thanked everyone at Chadds Ford for such a wonderful day and the glory of the Blue Ribbon award, which is not an easy thing to do. She recalled having been a teacher here for 15 years, and is delighted that the community came together today. Mrs. Halstead expressed thanks to the Unionville Sports Council, student volunteers (over 100), and teachers for their efforts in cleaning area streams. Joy was evident in the students' faces, and she applauds the fact that everyone worked together.

Mrs. Brown extended her thanks to the Chadds Ford Elementary School community for a great day. The energy is great and part of the miracle that happens here every day. Mrs. Brown recalled her fond years and memories at this school.

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
Right to Know
Requests
(Continued)**

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Minutes for the March 16, 2009 Regular Board Meeting (pp. 3.a.1-10).

Motion carried (9-0).

The following financial statements and reports were reviewed:

1. General Fund Treasurer's Report – March, 2009 (p. 3.b.2)
2. 2008-2009 GF Function Revenue Analysis with Details of 6100's and 7000's as of March, 2009 (p. 3.b.3)
3. 2008-2009 General Fund Function-Object Expenditure Analysis as of March, 2009 (pp. 3.b.4-6)
4. Category Expenditure Analysis – March, 2009 (p. 3.b.7)
5. Capital Projects Fund Report – March, 2009 (p. 3.b.8)
6. Construction Project Report – March, 2009
 - a. Unionville High School & Fields Renovation Project Budget Report – March, 2009 (pp. 3.b.9-10)
7. Outstanding Projects Summary – March, 2009 (p. 3.b.11)
8. Capital Reserve Fund Report – March, 2009 (p. 3.b.12)
9. Health Care Trust Fund Report – March, 2009 (p. 3.b.13)
10. Debt Service Reserve Fund Report – March, 2009 (p. 3.b.14)
11. Activity Account Reports
 - a. UHS Activities Balance Sheet – January-February, 2009 (pp. 3.c.1-4)

Mrs. Brown requested that the Secretary file the reports.

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Mr. Wandersee to approve the Bill List for April 14, 2009 in the amount of \$1,700,224.28 (pp. 3.d.1-13). Mr. Baker excused himself from Chester County Intermediate Unit checks #130504, #130643, #130644, and #130645, due to a conflict of interest.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Dr. West to approve the returning Summer Maintenance Employees as on the attachment (p. 4.b.1).

Motion carried (9-0).

A lottery was conducted for Interested Parties for Summer Maintenance Employment as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Carl, Corina | 10. Miller, Justin |
| 2. Rice, Jr., Rodney | 11. Bacon, Charque |
| 3. Garber, Tim | 12. Peterson, Justin |
| 4. Wiechecki, Mark | 13. Carroll, Matt |
| 5. Carroll, Greg | 14. Sheehan, Neil |
| 6. Chapman, Philip | 15. Wyatt, Justin |
| 7. Modi, William | 16. Hoopes, Larry |
| 8. Sheehan, David | 17. Moore, Alex |
| 9. Heron, Kim | 18. Newell, Brandon |

**MINUTES
APPROVED**

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

**BILLS
APPROVED**

FACILITIES:

**Summer
Maintenance
Employees**

**Summer
Maintenance
Lottery/Interested
Parties**

(Continued)

**Artificial Turf
Project**

It was moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Proposal from FieldTurf for the Artificial Turf Project in the total amount of \$1,091,646.80, as on the attachment (p. 4.b.3).

Dr. Price stated that the field cost was about \$872,000, and the total includes work for site-related project costs as well.

Mrs. Trigg stated that she agrees with the decision to put in a turf field but not with how we are going about it. The whole project is based on under-the-cap spending, which concerns her greatly. We have 60 kids sitting in study hall currently because we could not afford to hire another teacher, and are postponing the implementation of our elementary foreign language program because of budget concerns. We do not know the impact of next year's hiring limitations on class size, course selection, and special education services. We do anticipate reductions in curriculum spending, building allocations, etc., and this is before most funds are procured to fund a major construction under the cap and before the current economic downturn pushes the Act 1 index drastically lower in future years.

We will receive bids on the construction project in a few weeks and don't know until then whether or not our Superintendent will recommend proceeding with groundbreaking this summer. The turf field could be the only item to be undertaken in the near future. It was our most controversial issue during the two referendum attempts. In this Act 1 world, community goodwill is more precious than ever, yet we are on the verge of embarking on the most contentious item first, with no certainty that we'll lose existing fields this summer and no guarantee of making improvements to the building this year.

Mrs. Trigg agrees with the need to provide playable fields for this fall. She doesn't feel we've looked hard enough at how this might be accomplished, even if we lose two grass fields this summer and could probably find another way to do that if necessary.

She applauded Joe Carney's efforts with the Unionville Sports Council in doing a masterful job of raising funds in ways that bring the community together. It is great that he has committed to providing \$100,000 toward the turf field, but we are cutting his effort short by voting today to do this. Although the turf field would benefit many of our students, including her own, she has no choice but to vote no.

Dr. Price stated that we are voting tonight so the field will be ready for practice on August 19, 2009. If we delay the work further, we will lose a whole year of use by the physical education classes, the marching band, and the lacrosse, soccer and football teams.

Mr. Murray commented about the turf field. As you will recall, he was one of the votes against the high school project proceeding on procedural grounds. In regard to the turf field, Mr. Murray sees that as independent from the building process. These fields need to be better, and because of the need and justification by the community, the Administration and Joe Carney, he will vote for it. Mr. Murray continues not to support the building project on procedural grounds. In realizing that the Board will continue to move forward on the project and we will lose two fields during the construction, it seems silly not to have the fields ready for the fall.

Mr. Wandersee agreed with all three colleagues and their comments. Mrs. Trigg raised some sobering questions that we should consider in going forward as a school community. He referred to Dr. Price's comment regarding the importance of athletics and Mr. Murray's thoughts about the project having left the station. It will happen and if we have the "D" wing with classrooms started as quickly as we can, and security, safety, and science rooms, we'll have to do something with our fields. He will support this tonight since we have little alternative. The District is embarking on a bleak financial future, and we will not receive a lot of increases from the state (What will the cap be for next year?). We may not be able to do some other things we want to do, but will move forward one step at a time.

Dr. West stated that she was supportive as an active campaigner of this project before the referendum and continues her support. The referendum failed twice. When she looks at this smaller item, she thinks about the alienation of our community with Act 1 being the greatest harm. Although Dr. West would like to vote for this project, she is also looking at the bigger picture. The greater harm is the damage and alienation the School Board and District have with the broader community.

Mrs. Brown stated that she thinks members were elected to the Board to do the right thing. We were elected to look at the facts and make a decision. She commented about a bumper sticker she saw on the way to tonight's meeting about decisions being made by the people who show up. She is very happy to vote yes tonight. Mrs. Brown also announced that we received a check tonight from the Unionville Sports Council for \$100,000.

In addition to tonight's standing ovation, Ms. Parker offered heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Carney and the USC. She read a letter that was provided by Joe Carney and applauded him for his extraordinary efforts:

Since the USC began to raise funds 11 months ago, more than 260 community families, coaches, booster clubs, PTO groups, and businesses have contributed to the effort. Their mission is to highlight the importance of sports and physical activity and the corresponding facility needs in the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District. Today, they officially exceeded the \$200,000 fund-raising mark! The contributors understand that we live in an under funded school district that has the potential to do so much more for the children who attend school here. They understand that not every student is going to be a 4.0 student and that it is the community's responsibility to provide the proper environment, facility and equipment that allow a student to find and then learn his or her passion. Some students find that passion in books, and some find it on the playing field, in a music room, an art room, or a carpentry shop. The many families who have contributed to this effort are leaders in this community, and we salute them. Tonight, on behalf of Exelon Generation and community groups such as the Southern Chester County Soccer Association and the Unionville Recreation Association, we would like to donate a \$100,000 installment check to go toward building a better surface on the stadium field.

Motion carried (7-2). Mrs. Trigg and Dr. West voted nay.

It was moved by Dr. West and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Concurrent Enrollment Agreement with Immaculata University for the term from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, as on the attachment (pp. 1-5).

Motion carried (9-0).

Mrs. Trigg reported for Curriculum and Educational Technology regarding the courses for the district's Summer Enrichment Academy, which will be available on-line. She asked that interested families check the website for the courses and applications process.

She referenced an article in *Education Week* regarding a movement toward national standards that has continued for quite some time. Representative from 41 states will be meeting in Chicago regarding standards for mathematics and English. They are not discussing which states will be represented although Arizona and Florida are participating. Since these schools are not as stellar as U-CF, we may want to consider having some input from our state.

The next meeting of the Curriculum and Educational Technology committee will be held on May 4, 2009 at 4:30 PM (District Office conference room).

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Dr. West to approve the purchase of a Used 2008 Chrysler Town & Country seven-passenger Mini-Van from Sell's Truck Repair Sales & Service, Inc. at a cost of \$12,200 plus transfer and tags. The vehicle is being purchased with the \$12,300 insurance proceeds received for Van #389, which was totaled in an accident on January 30, 2009.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Dr. Price and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Chester County Intermediate Unit's 2009-2010 Core Services Budget in the amount of \$16,438,241 (Chester County School Districts' Contribution to Core is \$603,727; U-CF's share is \$43,126 – 0% change from 2008-2009 contribution).

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

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Chester County Intermediate Unit's 2009-2010 Occupational Education Budget in the amount of \$20,545,539 (Chester County School Districts' Contribution to Occupational Education is \$15,691,743; U-CF's share is \$353,418; U-CF's share for 2008-2009 was \$314,932 – increase of 12.2%).

Mr. Murray stated that the increase is due to student enrollment at the new Chester County Technical College High School.

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

CURRICULUM/ EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Concurrent Enrollment Agreement – Immaculata University

FINANCE

Mini-Van Purchase- Transportation

C.C.I.U. Core Services Budget – 2009-2010

C.C.I.U. Occupational Education Budget – 2009-2010

Mr. Murray reported for Finance regarding gambling revenues that should be forwarded to taxpayers soon. Mr. Cochran stated that in Pennsylvania, the funds are distributed to school districts and applied as a reduction on tax bills that will be issued July 1, 2009. Mrs. Brown stated that last year's reduction was approximately \$234.00 per approved homestead. In response to Mrs. Halstead's question, Mr. Cochran stated that about 80-85% of our homesteads that qualify have filed applications and received approval.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to approve personnel agenda items a. through i.:

- a. Professional Conferences (6)
 - 1. Approve the Attendance at Professional Conferences as on the attachment (p. 7.a.1)
- b. Retirements (1)
 - 1. Maryetta Clendenin – Bus Driver and Food Service Assistant, effective June 15, 2009
- c. Resignations (2)
 - 1. Susan Pacella – District Speech Therapist, effective June 15, 2009
 - 2. Jennifer Spencer – Hillendale Elementary School Grade 2 Teacher, effective March 18, 2009
- d. Reclassifications (2)
 - 1. Ann Ruhl – from Unionville High School .6 Computer Applications Teacher to 1.0 Computer Applications Teacher, effective April 13, 2009
 - 2. Kimberly Weatherill – from Bus Driver to Substitute Bus Driver, effective March 30, 2009
- e. Substitutes (2)
 - 1. Holly Schiavone - Nurse Substitute
 - 2. Victoria Hamrick - Van Driver Substitute
- f. Supplemental Contracts (1)
 - 1. Veronica Farinola - Musical – Costumes
- g. Employ (0)
- h. Leaves (4)
 - 1. Julie McGirl – Pocopson Elementary School Grade 2 Teacher – Extend Child-Rearing Leave two additional unpaid weeks through the end of the 2008-2009 school year
 - 2. Shannon Price – Chadds Ford Elementary School Grade 3 Teacher – Six-week Maternity Leave, per physician's statement, beginning approximately May 9, 2009
 - 3. Mary Schinski – Pocopson Elementary School Grade 2 Teacher – Six-week Maternity Leave, beginning approximately September 5, 2009, followed by a Six-week FMLA Leave
 - 4. Elyse Bartnicki – Hillendale Elementary School Paraprofessional – Unpaid Leave, first semester of the 2009-2010 school year

(Continued)

**Finance
(Continued)**

PERSONNEL:

**Professional
Conferences**

Retirement:

M. Clendenin

Resignations:

S. Pacella

J. Spencer

Reclassifications:

A. Ruhl

K. Weatherill

Substitutes

**Supplemental
Contracts**

Employ

Leaves:

J. McGirl

S. Price

M. Schinski

E. Bartnicki

Personnel – Continued

- i. Summer Enrichment Academy Employees (25)
 - a. Tara Anciborenko
 - b. Betsy Ballard
 - c. Jackie Battinieri
 - d. Jordan Becker
 - e. Julie Bockrath Toy
 - f. Katherine Bodensstab
 - g. Judy Broadley
 - h. Kathleen Cummins
 - i. Carrie Dickmann
 - j. Tom Durant
 - k. Ann Ferron
 - l. Suzann Jackson
 - m. Kathryn Markloff
 - n. Ken Miller
 - o. Susan Natale
 - p. Ellen Nunn
 - q. Jason Palo
 - r. Maureen Parker
 - s. Cathy Quigley
 - t. Jenna Roberts
 - u. Janis Robertson
 - v. Linda Sordi
 - w. Scott Stoltzfus
 - x. John Walsh
 - y. Adam Weisbarth

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Severance Agreement and Release dated March 27, 2009, with Professional Employee No. 11, as on the attachment.

Motion carried (9-0).

Dr. West stated that there were no action items for Communications and provided the following report:

1. E-Letter – Continuing to send out; Need to make it reach further to the community, and requesting help from the community to accomplish that expansion.
2. Community Conversation – Very large thank you to Nancy Mohr for the February 12, 2009 meeting and report; Will have a second Community Conversation on April 29 (7:00-9:00 PM in the Patton Middle School cafeteria), which will be a more focused event.

**Personnel
(Continued) -**

**Summer
Enrichment
Academy
Employees**

**Service
Agreement and
Release:
Employee No. 11**

**COMMUNI-
CATIONS**

Communications - Continued

The first meeting was an opportunity for community members to tell us their thoughts regarding very broad topics. The April 29 meeting topics came out of the first meeting and include:

- a. Communicate with us better
- b. Public use of our facilities (Should there be public use? In what fashion?)

Dr. West requested that residents invite their neighbors to participate.

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve Board Policy No. 918: Community – District-Wide Parental Involvement (pp. 1-5).

Mrs. Trigg stated that the policy was discussed as a first reading at last month's School Board meeting.

Motion carried (9-0).

Mrs. Trigg reported for Legislation and Policy regarding:

- Legislative Breakfast – Reminder for Board members who registered that it will be held on April 30
- Legislative Group from C.C.I.U. – Mr. Wandersee stated that the Pennsylvania School Boards Association asked each school district to express its position regarding the Graduation Competency Assessments (GCA's)/Keystone Exams. He feels that, although she has had a lot on her plate, Sharon Parker would be the best person to make our assessment.

Ms. Parker thanked Mr. Wandersee and stated that there was a proposed meeting regarding the GCA's that did not take place. He asked that she keep Board members notified of a rescheduled date.

Mr. Murray stated that there was no specific report for the Center for Arts & Technology/Intermediate Unit and Special Education (C.A.T. held its meeting last Wednesday).

Kathy Do, Pennsbury Township resident and U-CF Education Foundation member, thanked the School Board for the vote on the turf project tonight. She also thanked Joe Carney and the USC for its support in raising funds for the project. Dr. Do referenced Mr. Murray's comments regarding the sign at Chadds Ford Elementary School. She stated that it is Pennsbury Township's decision regarding permission for us to put up the Blue Ribbon sign for one day. We have applied for a variance with the Township through the generosity of Jeff Hunter in offering the \$700 fee. The request to remove the sign emanated from one anonymous call to the Township. The Hearing regarding the variance will be held on May 5 at 7:00 PM (Pennsbury Township Building). Dr. Do hopes students, teachers, and parents can attend the meeting to testify regarding restoration of the sign.

Bruce Yelton, Pocopson Township resident, stated that he is amazed over the comments regarding the enrollment projection. He did not make the projection, nor did he challenge it. It was stated at a public School Board meeting and included in the information that was distributed prior to the second referendum. In response to Mr. Yelton's question, Mr. Hug stated that the electronic newsletters are being sent to other townships.

**COMMUNI-
CATIONS
(Continued)**

**LEGISLATION
AND POLICY**

**Board Policy No.
913: Title I
Parental
Involvement –
Approved**

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

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

Keith Knauss, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that Mr. Baker's comments are part of the political process. He feels the budget should reflect a 0-1% increase for 2009-10 as opposed to a 4.2% increase. The data was from a bright economic time when there was no recession. In two year, the Act 1 index will be at a low (2%) at a time when the project payments will be ballooning. In response to his comment, Mrs. Brown stated that the Board is addressing that issue.

Dr. West thanked Joe Carney and the group for all of the work they are doing. We have had a series of meetings with the USC, U-CF Education Foundation, and P.T.O.'s to keep the lines of communication open. Dr. West extended thanks for the group effort in coming together for the betterment of our community.

She offered support to Sharon Parker and her team regarding the Blue Ribbon celebration/sign and the very difficult Right to Know requests. Dr. West is very proud of this District and appreciates the efforts to keep our students and staff safe and secure.

Mr. Wandersee commented regarding Mr. Carney's energy, stating that he is certainly impressed. Joe has galvanized the team and made a productive impact. The work of all participants had a big influence on how he felt about moving forward quickly with the fields.

Mr. Murray appreciated Kathy Do's clarifications and stated that she would definitely have one School Board member at that meeting. He understands why it has to be a process but also understands why it needs to be approved. In seeing Mark Ransford's presentation today, the need for the sign to be posted there is obvious. There is no reason why that variance should not be granted.

Mrs. Trigg stated that Carrie Dickmann's presentation of the Compassionate Friends award was one of the most touching things she can remember. Although it's wonderful to be acknowledged, she did not need today's celebration to know that this is a Blue Ribbon school. She feels that our other three elementary schools are "Blue Ribbon" schools.

Mrs. Halstead thanked Board members for the vote on the artificial turf. We have spent time learning about it and visiting local schools and fields. She was astonished to see the fields at other schools, and she would like to have three artificial fields. Mrs. Halstead thinks the donations from 260 families and organizations are wonderful. She stated that it would be great if every family in our District donated \$10 toward the USC or the Scholarship Fund. She thanked Joe Carney and stated that we would continue forward. Mrs. Halstead extended her thanks to everyone at Chadds Ford for a wonderful program.

Mrs. Brown seconded Mrs. Halstead's remarks and enjoys going to all of the schools. She thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting and announced the next School Board meeting at Hillendale Elementary School on May 18.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert W. Cochran
Secretary

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**

APPENDIX A

Pennsylvania Act 3 Right to Know Law

https://www.dced.state.pa.us/public/oor/pa_righttoknowlaw.pdf

PRESUMPTION OF OPENNESS: Records are Public Unless....

The most significant change to the Right-To-Know Law is that all records are presumed to be public records unless disclosure is barred by:

- 1) state or federal law or regulation, or judicial order; or
- 2) privilege, e.g., attorney-client, doctor-patient, or
- 3) one of the exceptions in Section 708 of the Right-to-Know Law.

The burden is now 100 percent on the Agency to establish why the record is not available.

Pennsylvania Act 3

Right to Know Law – Exceptions

EXCEPTIONS: Protects Certain Information From Disclosure

The law contains 30 exceptions, cited in Section 708, that permit an Agency to withhold records. An Agency may deny release of a record if it falls within one of the 30 exceptions designed to protect information that is confidential or may jeopardize safety or investigations.

Examples of Exceptions

- (3) A record, the disclosure of which creates a reasonable likelihood of endangering the safety or the physical security of a building, public utility, resource, infrastructure, facility or information storage system, which may include building plans or infrastructure records that expose or create vulnerability through disclosure of the location, configuration or security of critical systems, including public utility systems, structural elements, technology, communication, electrical, fire suppression, ventilation, water, wastewater, sewage and gas systems.
- (6) A record containing all or part of a person's Social Security number; driver's license number; personal financial information; home, cellular or personal telephone numbers; personal email addresses; employee number or other confidential personal identification number.
- (8) A record pertaining to strategy or negotiations relating to labor relations or collective bargaining and related arbitration proceedings.
- (30) A record identifying the name, home address or date of birth of a child 17 years of age or younger.

Unionville-Chadds Ford School District

Right to Know Law Requests Since January 1, 2009

<u>Knauss</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>	
8	9	17	Requests
1	7	8	Individuals Making Requests
8	1	9	Requests Referred to Legal Counsel for items not clearly covered by Act 3 of 2008
1	0	1	Requests denied because information does not exist
2	0	2	Requests denied due to information being exempt under Act 3
3	2	5	Requests Currently Open
4	0	4	Request Appealed by Requestor to Office of Open Records
2	0	2	Appeals withdrawn by appellant
1	0	1	Appeals denied by Office of Open Records
1	0	1	Appeals granted by Office of Open Records
1	0	1	Petitions for Review filed by the School District

Unionville-Chadds Ford School District

Right to Know Law – Costs

\$ 7,630	Legal fees incurred for Act 3 requests (January & February billings only)
\$ 29,175	Legal fees incurred July 2007 through February 2009 for Right-to-Know requests
???	Administrative and staff costs consumed by the number and nature of requests received to date