

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Minutes
May 15, 2006

The regularly-scheduled meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, May 15, 2006 in the Unionville High School LGI Room.

Mr. Baker, President, called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m.

The following members were present: Curt Baker, Bruce Swayze, Kathleen Brown, Karen Halstead, Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Ed Murray, Timotha Trigg, Ed Wandersee, and Dr. Therese West. Also present were Dr. Jack Kenney, Superintendent, Clif Beaver, Robert Cochran, Jim Fulginiti, Rich Hug, Tom Marinelli, Maria Schwab, 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.

Dr. Kenney stated that he had been in the education profession for 36+ years. He spoke to the Board in mid-February and discussed this being his last contract, although he has a five-year contract currently. His decision was made but the questions were when would he retire and make this announcement? In working with Mr. Baker, he came to his decision to retire this evening effective August 31, 2006. Dr. Kenney commented that he and the Board had worked cooperatively and congenially toward this agreement. He stated that he is now 58 years-old and reflected on the morning of February 13, 2006 at 4:00 a.m. when he was checking road conditions for snow and had a Board meeting that night, along with several other meetings on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. He told himself that he didn't have to do this. Dr. Kenney spoke with his family members and decided to call it a career.

Dr. Kenney commented on the many people with whom he has had the opportunity to work. Unionville-Chadds Ford has been the highlight of it and he leaves with the fondest of memories. He stated that he wants to spend a little more time with his family and extended family around the United States, and well as enjoying leisure activities that he has put on the sidelines for about 25 years. It's time to move on and next year will be his fallow year. Subsequently, he will chart another course.

He thanked the Board and the community for the opportunity to serve. It has been a distinct privilege.

**CALL TO
ORDER**

**MEMBERS
PRESENT**

**DR. JACK
KENNEY -
RETIREMENT**

Mr. Baker provided a PowerPoint presentation. He stated that since this had been under discussion for some time now, it gave him an opportunity to go back and look at the June 20, 2002 article by Bernadette Meyers in *The Daily Courier* (Fayette County). Highlights from the article regarding Dr. Kenney's retirement after 15 years as Superintendent included:

- New district interested in his emphasis on achievement patterns and his record of data-driven decisions based on achievement;
- Kenney is pleased to have the opportunity to work at Unionville-Chadds Ford, which he describes as a crown jewel of school districts in Pennsylvania;
- We are really going to miss Dr. Kenney. He was a high-expectation, high achieving administrator. He was very good for South Moreland and we wish him the best.

Mr. Baker reviewed changes in our achievement on the PSSA test:

- 41% of our 5th graders were advanced in math; now 74% are advanced;
- 25+% in grade 5 were at basic or below basic proficiency; now we are at 3.3%;
- 40.5% of our 8th graders were advanced in math; now 70.3% are advanced;
- 19% in grade 8 were at basic or below basic proficiency; now we are at 10%;
- 44.8% of our 11th graders were advanced in math; now 55.7% are advanced;
- The number of students in grade 11 who were at basic or below basic proficiency has been reduced;
- 20.4% to 51.2% advanced with a dramatic reduction in those below basic proficiency (grade 5 reading);
- 37% to 59% advanced (grade 8 reading);
- 33% to 55% advanced (grade 11 reading);
- Percent of student population in those three years who moved to the proficient level was 33% in math and 30% in reading at grade 5; 30% in math and 22% in reading at grade 8; and 10% in math and 22% in reading at grade 11
- Students at basic or below basic:
 - 23% more were above these levels in grade 5 (math);
 - 7.9% more were above these levels in grade 8 (math);
 - 1.2% more were above these levels in grade 11(math);
 - 17.5% more were above these levels in grade 5 (reading);
 - 7.5% more were above these levels in grade 8 (reading);
 - 1.8% more were above these levels in grade 11 (reading)

On many occasions, he has heard Dr. Kenney say his goal was to make this district the best of the best. This is quite a legacy that he leaves behind. He is sad to see him go and wishes him well in his retirement.

**DR. JACK
KENNEY -
RETIREMENT
(Continued)**

Mr. Murray stated that as he recalls in going back and interviewing candidates at the time Dr. Kenney was the perfect person for that job. In conversations with Steve McClaskey, it was recognized that we needed to get test scores up, and to do that, we needed a gentleman who had success with students of lower academic means. To that degree, we were largely successful in all of those things. Dr. Kenney has served with great honor and great professionalism. He is proud of being on the committee to get him here and will always be proud of his service here.

Mrs. Trigg thanked Mr. Baker and Mr. Murray for saying that so well. She appreciates all that Dr. Kenney has done here.

Mrs. Halstead commented that Dr. Kenney had made significant contributions to the school district and whether he will be reading, running, or relaxing, she wishes him well. She hopes he will enjoy more cooking (his secret passion) and relieves Peggy in the kitchen.

Mr. Swayze echoed everyone's comments. When we interviewed the candidates, clearly he was above the rest and achieved remarkable things in a very modest school district. It was something that he brought to the district and made it work. It was an over-achieving district relative to its economic power and the education of its residents. Jack, you have brought the same things here and have made us stand out among all districts. You have done it with honor and integrity. Mr. Swayze commented that he was stunned that Dr. Kenney had not mentioned golf! He extended best wishes to him.

Dr. Sweeney stated that Dr. Kenney still had 3.5 months of work and she will reserve her comments until August.

Mr. Wandersee stated that he had worked with Dr. Kenney over 4-1/2 years. He has always found that his honesty, integrity and dedication to education have been above and beyond reproach. He has been sincere and dedicated to the education of our children. Mr. Wandersee admires him for his tenacity and capability. He wishes the best of luck to him.

Dr. West commented that she would not have missed tonight for anything. She wished Dr. Kenney good luck in all that he does next and thanked him for all he had done for us.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Dr. West to accept the retirement of Dr. John F. Kenney as Superintendent of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District, effective August 31, 2006, subject to the finalization of the Retirement Terms and Conditions. A roll call vote was taken:

Mrs. Brown -	Yes	Dr. Sweeney -	Yes
Mrs. Halstead -	Yes	Mrs. Trigg -	Yes
Mr. Murray -	Yes	Mr. Wandersee -	Yes
Mr. Swayze -	Yes	Dr. West -	Yes
Motion carried (9-0).		Mr. Baker -	Yes

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

Jose Robertson, Birmingham Township resident, commented that he has had the honor of attending many Board meetings and Work Sessions over the past six months. His conclusion is that the administration and School Board consistently fail to solicit timely and adequate public opinion on issues that impact on families in the district before these issues are put to a vote. He commented that not every decision the Board makes needs to be examined so closely by the public (e.g. hiring of faculty, transportation, etc.) but the School Board needs to take an honest and open approach to soliciting public opinion before voting on any issue that has a large impact on families. When School Board Policy No. 803 was adopted, was the public given ample notice? Mr. Robertson reminded the Board that they had been elected to represent the public in their township. He requested that they ponder their conduct and the manner in which they conduct business. Do you consistently ask yourselves whether this is what your constituents in your township want?

Mr. Robertson commented that Dr. Kenney stated that the Universal Calendar Policy was adopted on December 6, 2004. He says this policy disregards religious high holy days and is compliant with Section 1502 of the School Code. However, the problems this policy has caused have been experienced by every family in every school. It has caused difficulties for many families.

Most recently, Greg Lindner had eloquently outlined to Dr. Kenney and some Board members the current untenable situation and how other school districts handle high holy days. Policy No. 803 was adopted by the School Board without adequate disclosure. If they had checked, they would have found that they did not agree. If you have not heard it from the many families who have brought this to your attention, let me be the first to let you know. Teachers and students should not be asked to make a decision between their religious beliefs and their education.

He recommended the following suggestions:

1. A roll call vote on the calendar this evening;
2. Reverse the decision on Policy No. 803 and reinstitute the previous policy;
3. Restructure how you conduct your business before making any major policy change.

Curt Mendenhall, Pennsbury Township resident, stated that his family had moved here from Delaware nearly four years ago because of the academic excellence. His wife, Jill, works on bus notes, etc. at the school. He stated that he was not trying to be negative about Hillendale Elementary or this school district. He is here to request that the Board reinstate the Jewish high holy days on the school calendar. He understands these holy days were included in the calendar in previous years. He assumes that the number of Jewish students had reached a certain critical mass and failure to recognize their high holy days would result in denying educational opportunity and material presented to the student body.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

This seems to be a sensible and practical decision that does not endorse any particular religious beliefs but recognizes the religious makeup of the district's students to determine how best to deliver the educational opportunities to them. It's no different than the Christmas holiday. Such recognition does not mean that the government is endorsing Christianity. While it was unintended by this Board, it still sends the negative message to Jewish families and their students.

The current proposal includes the removal of Good Friday from the calendar as well to show it doesn't discriminate. It was never the intention for the Board to remove the Christian holidays and we would like both groups treated respectfully. What people may remember most from the removal of Good Friday from the calendar is that it's a response to reinstate Jewish high holy days and this was not their intention. Mr. Mendenhall thanked the Board for their time and attention.

Greg Lindner, Chadds Ford Township resident, commented that his third child would be at Chadds Ford and having been in business for a long time working in an advisory group basis with individual clients, there are always differing opinions and attitudes expressed for certain issues. Clearly they are somewhat less personal than parents, taxpayers, teachers and administrators discussing school policy.

One thing he has learned in over 25 years of business is that open processes and feedback make for a more productive and smooth environment whether or not one agrees with the points made. His business happens to be one of media research while you are concerned with having children learn, managing for future growth, and utilizing taxpayer dollars to get the job done.

He felt good about his telephone conversation with Dr. Kenney in the Fall of 2005, as well as discussions with the Board in February, 2006. They went far better than an earlier meeting in the Fall of 2005 had gone. The parents' feeling at the meeting was that the dialogue had opened up but it was clear when he would call and no responses were received following that regarding the next steps. He sent a reminder to the Board regarding the May 8th discussion and no responses have been made. It would have been respectful to have more dialogue prior to your making a decision and show an openness to learning to those on both sides. They were disappointed on May 8th. There was no prior interaction with the parents, not a word of discussion about the calendar issue, past discussions, and the reinstatement of past policy. This was not properly communicated and handled by the school district.

They have already addressed with their children input for talks with our teachers about the impact of religious high holy days. At no point did anyone ask or suggest that other religious holy days be removed from the calendar. Eight of 10 school districts that border Unionville-Chadds Ford have the Jewish high holy days off. When you put people in a box, it tends to escalate action. A little communication goes a long way and dialogue goes even further. He thanked the Board for their time.

Katy Donovan, East Marlborough Township resident, commented that she was sorry to see Dr. Kenney go. She stated that she has known Lee Krug as a teacher of her children and as a coach. He is great and she has heard from so many parents. He has done a great job over the 33 years in the district and has been a huge credit to Unionville-Chadds Ford.

It was moved by Dr. West and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the Minutes of the April 17, 2006 Regular Board Meeting (pp. 3.a.1-14).

**MINUTES
APPROVED**

Motion carried (9-0).

The following committee meeting minutes were reviewed:

1. Board Facilities Committee – April 17, 2006 (p. 3.a.15)
2. Board Curriculum Committee – May 10, 2006 (pp. 3.a.16-30)

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

The following financial statements and reports were reviewed:

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

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

Activity Account Reports – Review and File

1. Charles F. Patton Middle School Activities Accounts – January, 2006 through March, 2006 (pp. 3.c.1-3)
2. U-CF School District Cafeteria Service Profit & Loss Statements – February, 2006 through March, 2006 (pp. 3.c.4-7)

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

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the Bill List for April 20, 2006 in the amount of \$2,127,298.24 (pp. 3.d.1-16).

Motion carried (9-0).

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

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve an Architectural Consulting Contract with MM Architects, Inc. for the Pre-Design Phase of Additions and Renovations to Unionville High School and Improvements to the High School and Middle School Athletic Facilities on a Time and Materials Basis, as Proposed, not to Exceed \$46,200, Subject to Final Review and Approval by Legal Counsel. Further, this Fee will be Credited Against any Percentage Fees Established per MM Architects, Inc.'s Proposal dated May 4, 2006 (pp. 4.a.1-3).

Mr. Wandersee commented that we had worked with MM Architects, Inc. previously. They are an outstanding organization that did the air-conditioning work in the high school. After going through the Pocopson, Unionville and Chadds Ford Elementary School renovations, this is the first job we have had with an architect that has been on time and with no lawsuits.

Mr. Swayze stated that three architectural firms had been interviewed, including KCBA (who did the Facilities Study recently) and Gilbert (with whom we have also worked in the past). No one has been easier to work with, more professional, timely and on budget than MM Architects, Inc. He is delighted and thanked the several Board members for being present for the interviews.

Mr. Murray stated that having gone through the process of architect interviews, not only was MM Architects professionally sound but they certainly seem to understand the nature of how to schedule a building or construction project around students. They were very sensitive to the students, an outcome of quality, displacing students, and working with principals who will be part of the team working with us to have the process go smoothly for the students.

Motion carried (9-0).

**BILLS
APPROVED**

**BUDGET
TRANSFERS**

FACILITIES:

**Architectural
Consulting
Contract
(Pre-Design
Phase) –
MM Architects,
Inc.**

Mrs. Brown stated that there were no voting items this evening. She commented that there had been a committee of the whole meeting of the Board Curriculum Committee before the last Work Session where they had a report regarding:

- Elementary compacted math program;
- Information and discussion on the information literacy flexible scheduling;
- Surveys of middle school basic period changes;
- Update on middle school common assessments;
- Overview of textbooks for June adoption

She asked the Board members if they had any questions.

Mr. Baker stated that in conversations he has had with parents and other educators, the change in the Library to flexible scheduling has been extremely well received.

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Mr. Swayze to award the bids for art, athletics, health & physical education, general supplies, science and technology (Technology Education) for 2006-07 as on the attachments (pp. 6.a.1-2) in the total amount of \$58,776.85.

Mr. Murray stated that this was the normal yearly process through which we go to solicit bids for supplies for the curriculum next year.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mr. Swayze to award the bids for the Chester County Intermediate Unit Joint Purchasing Board for paper and computer paper (in the amount of \$43,477.76) and technology (in the amount of \$3,596.87) for 2006-07 as on the attachment (p. 6.a.3).

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to adopt the Preliminary 2006-07 Budget with Total Appropriations in the Amount of \$61,318,556 and schedule Final Adoption and the Levying of Real Estate Taxes for the June 19, 2006 Regular Board Meeting (pp. 6.b.1-2).

Mr. Wandersee inquired as to what the \$121,421 addition from the May 3, 2006 budget represented. Mr. Cochran responded that this was a combination of the reductions discussed at the May 8, 2006 Work Session and removal of debt service. Mr. Wandersee requested that Mr. Cochran send a e-mail to him regarding the movement from May 3, 2006 to May 8, 2006.

CURRICULUM

FINANCE:

**Bids – Art,
Athletics,
Health & Phys.
Ed., General
Supplies,
Science, Tech.
Ed.**

**Bids – Paper,
Computer
Paper,
Technology**

**Preliminary
Adoption –
2006-07 Budget**

Mrs. Brown asked whether a “no” vote to adoption this preliminary budget would mean a “no” vote to adopt it on June 19, 2006. Mr. Murray responded that it would not. The motion is to schedule adoption for the levying of taxes at that meeting. The budget must be posted for inspection for 30 days before final approval. We could change the budget substantially before June 19, 2006. He stated that if any member of the public or any Board member was unsatisfied, we would need to have some discussion. We need to at least have a preliminary budget adoption. Mr. Cochran stated that the entire budget is available on the district website as a .pdf document and is also available at the District Office.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mrs. Brown -	No	Dr. Sweeney -	Yes
Mrs. Halstead -	Yes	Mrs. Trigg -	Yes
Mr. Murray -	Yes	Mr. Wandersee -	Yes
Mr. Swayze -	Yes	Dr. West -	Yes
		Mr. Baker -	Yes

Motion carried (8-1).

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to approve the following personnel items (agenda items 7.a-c):

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

- b. Retirements (6)
 - 1. Accept the letters of retirement as submitted by the following individuals:
 - a. Shirley Miller – Patton Middle School Custodian, effective June 16, 2006
 - b. Suzanne Marks – Bus Driver, effective June 9, 2006
 - c. Edward Marshall – Bus Driver, effective June 9, 2006
 - d. Gwendolyn Moore – Bus Driver, effective June 9, 2006
 - e. Jana Eaton – Unionville High School Social Studies Teacher, effective June 12, 2006
 - f. Lee Krug – Unionville High School Chemistry Teacher, effective July 1, 2006

- c. Resignations (5)
 - 1. Andrea LaPira - .6 Peer Coach, effective June 12, 2006
 - 2. Kelly Kervick – Unionville High School English Teacher, effective June 12, 2006
 - 3. Katie Jones – Hillendale Elementary Secretary, effective June 9, 2006
 - 4. Robert Mozzani–Asst. Mechanic-Grounds, effective April 21, 2006
 - 5. Maria Perez – Patton Middle School Food Service Assistant, effective April 28, 2006

PERSONNEL:

Professional Conferences

Retirements:

S. Miller

**S. Marks
E. Marshall
G. Moore**

J. Eaton

L. Krug

Resignations:

**A. LaPira
K. Kervick**

K. Jones

**R. Mozzani
M. Perez**

3.a.10

Personnel (Continued)

Mrs. Halstead commented that she was very sorry to see Shirley Miller (a bus driver for years) and Sue Marks leaving. She is also very sorry to see Lee Krug leaving because he inspired her son to go for his doctoral degree in Chemistry. He has done a great job!

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the following personnel item (agenda item 7.d):

- d. Reclassification (1)
 - 1. Marcia DiGregorio – from Patton Middle School .6 Health Teacher and .4 Trainer to .4 Trainer only for the 2006-2007 school year, per her doctor's note

Mrs. Halstead stated that she felt strongly that this should be at a trainer's hourly rate so she would vote no.

Motion carried (8-1). Mrs. Halstead voted nay.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Wandersee to approve the following personnel items (agenda items 7.e., f., h, and i.):

- e. Substitutes (8)
 - 1. Shari Krug – Elementary
 - 2. Kristin Lavin - Elementary
 - 3. Tanya Rice – Early Childhood
 - 4. Bernard Rausch – K-12
 - 5. Denise Snyder – Art or K-3
 - 6. Donald Mitten – Bus Driver
 - 7. Bonnie Nilon – Support Staff
 - 8. Teresa McColey – Support Staff
- f. Supplemental Contracts (4)
 - 1. Joe Illgas – 9th Grade Baseball Coach
 - 2. John Rohde – Head Boys' Lacrosse Coach
 - 3. Paul Wolf – 9th Grade Boys' Lacrosse Coach
 - 4. Justin Smith – J.V. Baseball Coach

- h. Leave (1)
 - 1. Deni-Lyn Lane – Hillendale Elementary Grade 1 Teacher, Unpaid Child-Rearing Leave for the 2006-2007 School Year

**PERSONNEL
(Continued)**

**Reclassifi-
cation:**

M. DiGregorio

Substitutes

**Supplemental
Contracts**

Leave:

D. Lane

Personnel (Continued)

- i. Summer Transportation Employees (4)
 1. Approve the following Summer Employees for Transportation:
 - a. Robert Super (Returning)
 - b. Sharon Marrey “
 - c. Travis McEwing “
 - d. Marco Sordi (New)

Motion carried (9-0).

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

- g. Creation of Positions
 1. Approve the Professional, Support, and Supplemental Positions as per the Preliminary Budget Approval. Also, approve the .4 Speech and Language Teacher to be Funded through ACCESS Funds (as per the attachment at Board members’ seats)

Mr. Wandersee stated that it was very good that they received a summary sheet with exactly which positions were included.

Motion carried (9-0).

There were no action items for Transportation this evening. Mrs. Halstead reported that field trips abound, spring sports are winding down and Kindergarten registrations are being received. The transportation office is preparing for the Extended School Year Program that will be held at Unionville Elementary this summer. They also transport a number of other special education programs this summer.

Three of the Transportation Department’s drivers will join the ranks of retirees this year:

- Suzanne Marks – with 28 years of service;
- Edward Marshall – with 20 years of service;
- Gwendolyn Moore – with 10 years of service

We wish them a very happy and restful retirement. They have earned it.

Mrs. Halstead commented that she had attended a meeting at the Transportation Department that Gail Wolfel had with many of the drivers to discuss policy and procedures. She learned a lot and stated that it’s always good to hear the facts from the horse’s mouth.

**PERSONNEL
(Continued)**

**Summer
Transportation
Employees**

**Creation of
Positions**

**TRANSPOR-
TATION**

Dr. West reported for Communications that they are working on getting an Internet e-mail system going to communicate with parents. They have been struggling on how to communicate with those who don't have Internet access or computers. They are looking into an automated phone message system and at what is being done in other districts. She stated that one involves open forums and the other involves getting the community members into the buildings. We are committed to have the communication system up and running by the fall.

Mrs. Trigg stated that we have the second first reading of the Student Wellness Policy No. 246, revised, this evening because the state changed their mind about how they wanted this done. There have not been significant changes of content and the policy will be posted on the district's website for a month for public review. We welcome any comments from the public.

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve Board Policy No. 137.1 – Programs – Extracurricular Participation by Home-Educated Students as on the attachment (pp. 10.a.5-6).

Mrs. Trigg stated that we had the first reading of this policy last month. This is a requirement by the state that we create a new policy to come into compliance with new regulations.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Mr. Swayze to adopt the revised School Calendar for the 2006-07 School Year as on the attachment.

She stated that this proposal reflects a correction to what was adopted on May 16, 2005. The April 6, 2007 (Friday) in-service/clerkical day was moved to April 2, 2007 (Monday) to bring our calendar into compliance with our contractual agreements and provisions of the universal calendar policy, which was unanimously adopted in December, 2004.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Murray to table this motion for further discussion.

Motion carried (8-1). Mrs. Brown voted nay.

Mrs. Trigg commented that when we approved the universal calendar policy it was approved unanimously by the Board that we were interested in a secular calendar. She still supports a secular calendar and does not want to give a false impression.

Mr. Wandersee stated that he joined Mrs. Trigg in her comment. He voted to postpone in order to allow communication and dialogue so we are all on the same page. He wants to make sure it is fair and everyone has an opportunity to make their point.

COMMUNI- CATIONS

BOARD POLICY

**Policy No. 246 –
Pupils–Student
Wellness (First
Reading)**

**Policy No. 137.1
– Programs-
Extracurricular
Participation/
Home-Educated
Students
(Approved)**

**2006-2007
School
Calendar
(Tabled)**

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Mrs. Brown to adopt the School Calendar for the 2007-08 School Year as on the attachment (pp. 10.b.1-2).

**2007-2008
School
Calendar
(Tabled)**

Mrs. Trigg stated that the proposed calendar was in the Board books and requested discussion on both sides.

Mrs. Halstead commented that she likes to celebrate diversity and sat in on meetings with the Jewish community but there are also other constituents who do not approve of this calendar. She was not on the Board at that time. It was a wonderful meeting and we need to develop a world religion course in our high school. We do not know or understand one another well. She saw a letter in the *Indian Post* that included the same feeling. If she felt all of the local school districts were adoption this secular calendar, she would be right on board with it but in this instance, being number one on a secular calendar is not something in which she wants to be a part. She had a lot of telephone discussions regarding the calendar on Sunday.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Wandersee to table the motion for further discussion.

Motion carried (9-0).

Mrs. Halstead reported for Technology regarding the following items:

- Summer Project - 23 projects are ready for the Technology Department this summer. Within all of the schools somebody is getting something done from our technicians.
- Student Information – Have been discussing various programs; they have pretty much agreed to Centerpoint
- Network Security – Working on that
- Data Warehouse Training – More training is continuing on May 25th
- Technology Training Program – Working towards having classes within the buildings but they have developed a contract for 12 hours for teachers and others to learn about classroom presentations. It will be a wonderful staff development contract for our teachers for the summer.
- Long-Range Staffing Development – Mr. Hug and his staff are working on this.
- List Serves – Being developed for Patton Middle School and Unionville Elementary

Lexi Crampton, Student Representative, provided her report regarding:

1. Dr. Kenney – Wished him a happy retirement
2. Calendar – Urged the Board to assure that the calendar reflects the wishes of the community
3. Student Council Elections – were held today
4. Seniors – Have seven days left before finals
5. Prom – Will be held on Saturday – big event of the year

Mr. Baker thanked Lexi for her report.

Mr. Murray reported for the Center for Arts & Technology/ Intermediate Unit and Special Education. He stated that the I.U. would be meeting on Wednesday.

Mr. Wandersee reported for Legislation. He stated that the legislators were on election holiday so there was nothing to report. He commented regarding Special Session House Bill 39 having been passed by the Senate. The bill went through lengthy discussion in Joint Committee. The House Republican Caucus refused to vote so it died and has not been voted upon. They intend to bring it up after the election.

Dr. Kenney stated that we would begin the Superintendent's report with the elementary school report.

Clif Beaver, Unionville Elementary School Principal, provided the Elementary School Report:

- Chadds Ford Elementary –
 - Math-A-Thon – Students in 4th and 5th grades recently competed in the Math-a-thon to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. They raised over \$2,700, which is nearly twice what they raised last year (Colby Camp in Mrs. Davis' class raised the most money.)
 - Envirothon – The team (Glen Brown, Lauren Dunn, Olivia Grim, Emma Spoehr and Charlie Zorab) began preparing for the competition in late January, meeting twice a week. They reviewed mammals, birds, trees, aquatics, and outdoor safety. Eighteen teams competed on May 2nd and Chadds Ford placed 1st in the wildlife category and 4th in total points.
 - Reading Olympics – Held on 4/19 at Downingtown East High School; The team was assisted by AT Teacher Marisa Gehris, Reading Specialist Darci Giovan, Librarian Karen Carson and Kindergarten Teacher Suzanne Weltz and they earned the highest number of points possible.
 - PTO Recognized – The CF staff hosted a luncheon on 4/27 to thank all of our parent volunteers for their efforts throughout the year.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE
REPORT**

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

**LEGISLATIVE
REPORT**

**SUPER-
TENDENT'S
REPORT**

**Elementary
Report**

Superintendent's Report – Elementary Schools (Continued)

- Unionville Elementary –
 - Open House – Held on May 4th and was very well attended. Students toured parents throughout the building to enjoy and participate in our art show, science fair, and book fair.
 - Citadel Heart of Learning Banquet – My wife and I had the pleasure of accompanying Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Janet Dadds who was one of the seven elementary finalists. Governor Rendell spoke of the tremendous impact of teachers every day. Thanks and congratulations to Janet!
 - Bus Driver Recognition Event – Held on Friday and organized by 5th grade students. Drivers were greeted with refreshments, bus pins and cards made and signed by their riders. Thanks to Mr. Silknitter for helping the students to organize the event and a BIG thanks to all of our drivers.

- Hillendale Elementary -
 - Artist in Residence – 5th grade students completed beautiful murals under direction of artist, Earl Lehmann. We will decide where to display these works of art in the school and our students have left us a wonderful way of remembering them and enjoying their work for years to come.
 - Open House and Student Art Show - Held on May 11th and was exciting and successful
 - Spring Concerts – Will be held on May 22nd and 23rd. Parent and guest performances are scheduled for 1:15 each day and we look forward to enjoying these exciting performances by our young musicians.

- Pocopson Elementary –
 - Talent Show – Was met with great enthusiasm; the show closed with the traditional favorite, the teacher skit; over 100 students and 25 teachers participated; the art and garden exhibition was an exciting event. Students and classes sold the art products they created and vendors sold everything from jewelry to pillows. It was a wonderful event that helped benefit the PTO
 - Grandparents' Day – New event that was held this spring. Several hundred grandparents came to Pocopson to spend time in their grandchild's classroom, view the artwork on display and listen to a special musical presentation. It was busy and wonderful and we hope it becomes an annual event.

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

- Orientation Meetings – Completed for 5th grade and general evening meeting on April 26th; PowerPoint posted on website and letters were mailed home
- Spring Strings Extravaganza Concerns – April 27th at UHS, Grades 3-12
- Spring Chorale Concert – May 9th
- Spring Band Concert – May 10th
- Community Outreach Program – Student Council participated at Linden Hall on May 11th
- Special Chorus & Jazz Band – Performed May 11th at the Kennett Senior Center
- Science, Social Studies, Geography & Language Arts Olympiads – 6th, 7th and 8th grade students participated
- SHOC (Students Helping Other Children) Program – 8th graders will participate on May 16th.
- Hawk TV – Will participate in a workshop at CN-8 studios on May 22nd
- Regional Knowledge Bowl – 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students will compete at West Chester University on May 23rd.
- Peer Tutor Lunch – Six 7th graders and 16 8th graders will be treated on May 26th for their year of service
- Honors Celebration – May 25th, Auditorium, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- Honors Breakfast – May 26th, 7:00-8:30 a.m.
- Finals – 8th graders, May 30th, 31st, and June 1st
- 8th Grade Social – Brandywine Picnic Park, June 2nd

Mr. Jim Fulginiti provided the Unionville High School report:

- Dr. Kenney – Thanks to him for all he has done for the district. It has been a privilege and he will be missed.
- Thanks – He is proud of the entire staff at the high school. This transition year has gone very smoothly.
- Goodbye – We will miss Dr. Jana Eaton, Mr. Lee Krug, and Mrs. Andrea LaPira who are retiring/resigning this year.
- Assistant Principals – Mr. Reif and Mr. Barker are assimilating very well in the building and he appreciates their support.
- AP Testing – Has been completed and went very well
- Student Council – Elections have been held
- After-Prom – He and his wife will celebrate their anniversary with 600 kids that evening; Many thanks to the parents who do a lot of hard work for this function.
- SHOC – Will be held tomorrow for 8th graders
- Awards Night – May 24th

Superintendent's Report – High School (Continued)

- Senior Exams – They have seven days left; exams will be bracketed around the Memorial Day holiday.
- Underclassmen Exams – June 6-9
- Graduation – Will be held on June 5th at 1:30 p.m. (University of Delaware); underclassmen will be dismissed at 10:30 a.m. (no bus transportation)
- Academic Competition – Winding down
- Orchestra Concert – Was great! Others are coming up
- Congratulations to Girl's Lacrosse and Boy's & Girl's Spring Track
- Thanks to the Board and administration for their support; it has been a wonderful year.

Alicia Tamargo, East Marlborough Township resident and educator in the Kennett Consolidated School District, thanked the Board for allowing others who have concerns to comment about the secular calendar.

Willard Mann, Chadds Ford Township resident, thanked the Board for postponing their decision on the calendar and asked about the timeline for discussion.

Dr. Sweeney stated that it would have to be very soon because the school year is coming up. She feels it would have to be within the next month.

Mr. Baker thinks it would have to be on the Work Session agenda. The 2006-07 calendar that has been adopted would continue to prevail unless a determination was made to make revisions.

Mr. Swayze thanked Perk Musacchio for bringing us up to date on past occurrences regarding the calendar development. Her comments were very helpful. He also thanked the others who have commented and persisted. We have, however, spent a lot of undue time on this and the idea was to develop a calendar that would hold up under all circumstances. He is disappointed that we have not effected that idea.

Dr. Sweeney commented that the Board was unaware of the I.U. universal calendar and thanked Mrs. Musacchio for her clarification. She is wearing her academic regalia this evening because today was the University of Pennsylvania's Veterinary School graduation. It will only be three weeks until U-CF students graduate and celebrate the education they have had here. Dr. Sweeney commented regarding a speaker at graduation today whose theme was change. She stated that we should expect change and should realize we are being prepared for it and should embrace it.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Dr. West commented regarding the importance of decisions made by boards and the continuity when new Board members come on. It would be difficult to get things done if we had to rethink every decision. She appreciates the opportunity to discuss the calendar and policy.

Mrs. Brown stated that she appreciated the principals' report each month. It helps to remind us all of why we're here and is also important for the public to hear. She thanked Lee Krug and stated that he was her chemistry teacher and a fabulous one. He is a very interesting guy and certainly inspired a lot of people to be in science.

Mrs. Brown thanked Dr. Kenney for his many hours of service and she hopes we'll continue to see him in the buildings. There are a lot of things to wrap up.

She supports the idea of a universal calendar and noted four points: start as late as possible; end as early as possible; post the calendar as far in advance as possible; the administration wants as many days in school before the PSSA test date. They wanted a plan to address when school breaks would be scheduled. They discussed wording similar to what was used in Penn-sylvania. As long as we had the ability to take religious holidays off, she did not see the difficulty with the calendar. She commented that diversity is what makes us different and important people.

Mrs. Brown stated that we would revisit this, which she is happy to do, but she doesn't know what system we have in place to do this. She'll be interested to see what our School Board President and administration put together as far as a dialogue.

She commented about the very expensive cost of running schools. The most important thing we spend money on is our teachers and we cannot change that. She thinks there are places where we need to spend money. Mrs. Brown received a letter from Bruce Yelton who has a solution for everything. Mr. Yelton pointed out that businesses did not spend nearly the amount of money. She stated that we are not the highest school district in what it's costing to educate our students.

Mrs. Halstead commented regarding the budget and stated that she is still hoping the middle and high school administrations will think more creatively about detention. It would be helpful. She stated that we should find help for the nurses with scheduling, ordering of supplies and all they have to do to meet the demands of their jobs and laws.

Many people have called her and said they never knew it was such an ordeal to work on a budget. Many feelings were hurt because people feel they are just a number. She commented that we are all a team, all numbers and individual numbers who all do our best. She is confident that this team is going to grow and will find a way to work together.

Mr. Wandersee stated that he has known Bruce Yelton for many years (when working on Pocopson Elementary School). When you read his annual letter, there are sometimes little nuggets of truth.

He commented that the calendar is a difficult issue and he thinks we are finally getting to where it should get. We'll see how it develops.

Mr. Wandersee stated that it has been an honor to work with Dr. Kenney. Sometimes there were differences of opinion but he had his job fun.

He asked Mr. Fulginiti whether there was something we could put together to address the ongoing problem of theft in the boy's locker room. Mr. Fulginiti stated that they had procured containers for valuables and encouraged students not to bring in those items. Ninety-nine percent of the items that are stolen are left just laying there and people come through. Mr. Wandersee suggested a letter to parents and stated that he was concerned. Mr. Fulginiti stated that he would put the word out and implores students not to bring these items to school if they don't need them. Mr. Wandersee thanked Jim and commented that he has had a great first year.

Mr. Baker congratulated Dr. Kenney and thanked him for all he has done for U-CF. We will make sure there is an appropriate send-off. Mr. Baker commented that he was looking forward to graduation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown
Secretary

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**