

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

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**Minutes**  
**May 19, 2008**

The May meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, May 19, 2008 in the Unionville High School Large Group Instruction room. Mr. Murray, President, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

The following members were present: Edward Murray, Dr. Therese West, Curt Baker, Kathleen Brown, Karen Halstead, Dr. Paul Price, Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Timothea Trigg, and Edward Wandersee. Also present were Sharon E. Parker, District Superintendent, Kenneth Batchelor, Robert Cochran, Jim Fulginiti, Dominick Guiseppe, Rick Hostetler, Rich Hug, Dr. Andrew McLaughlin, John Nolen, Mark Ransford, Dr. John Sanville, Bruce Vosburgh, community residents, members of the press, and Denise Miller, Recording Secretary.

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

Ms. Parker stated that there are many causes for celebration regarding the achievements of our children. Last Tuesday evening, we heard a different level of applause and good spirit at Kristen Dickmann's funeral service. She expressed sincere appreciation to the parents, community members, and staff of UHS who came forward to help. Ms. Parker received a call from the Commandant of the Naval Academy for the respect shown to their midshipmen and for feeding 80 of them. We saw the finest we can do as a community. Superintendent Parker extended sincere and heartfelt appreciation from the Dickmann family as well.

Dr. Andrew McLaughlin, Pocopson Elementary School Principal, recognized a group of students who are part of the Envirothon team. The two teams meet weekly to study the environment of Pennsylvania. They competed at Hibernia Park and performed well. Dr. McLaughlin introduced the team members, presented them with certificates, and thanked them for giving up their time each week:

Fourth Grade: *Kate Evanko, Allison Malone, Sarah Nam, and Karisma Pathaksti*

Fifth Grade: *Mitchell Candy, Ellie Corrigan, Ellan Dunbar, Jack Goodridge, Kathryn Hughes, and Zach Stewart*

Ms. Parker stated that we are very proud of our Envirothon students and their demonstrated commitment to a healthful environment. She commended Dr. McLaughlin and the Pocopson Elementary staff for the extraordinary Grandparent's Day program. The high-impact activities in each building create many ripples in right ways.

Superintendent Parker commented regarding the extraordinary effort and energy at the Patton Middle School Career Day. Holly Manzone and many others in this room were very supportive of this event.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**SUPER-INTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Student Recognition:  
Pocopson Elementary School  
Envirothon Students**

Superintendent's Report – Continued

Ms. Parker announced an opportunity for the Community Breakfast on Saturday, June 7 (7:30 – 10:30 AM) at Unionville High School for parents and children. A wonderful morning is planned for community fellowship. Please come and enjoy.

She announced that John Sanville, Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction, became Doctor John Sanville since the last Board meeting!

Dr. Sanville provided a presentation regarding the UCFSD Grading Policy and SAM (student information system). This has been a hot topic since he arrived mid year. Dr. Sanville reviewed the timeline and key transition points (*see attached PowerPoint slides*).

The decision to round grades (vs. truncating them) was made after a meeting with parents, high school and district administrators. Teachers were notified of the clarification and the SAM default was set to round all grades (end of quarter and end of year).

Dr. Sanville reviewed the calculation method for Honor Roll and GPA (grade point average) and the eligibility guidelines. The eligibility format goes back to a time when the weighting of grades did not exist (Distinguished = 4.0 or above; High Honors = 3.60 to 3.99; Honors = 3.0 to 3.59).

The 1<sup>st</sup> marking period honor roll GPA was calculated correctly. The incorrect honor roll level was printed on a few report cards, which was corrected on a case by case basis. Dr. Sanville reviewed an error where the credits for students who took the Entrepreneurship course were entered into the next schedule. The 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period honor roll was initially incorrect due to a user error that led to the 1<sup>st</sup> marking period honor roll being repeated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period report cards. Colleen Shearburn, Assistant Director of Technology, has checked each single course for anomalies and corrections were made. The 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period honor roll was calculated correctly. In response to Ms. Parker's question regarding the opportunity for repetition of errors, Ms. Shearburn stated that we have sanitized the course history records and set up the report cards for calculation each marking period.

The cumulative GPA reports and calculations were reviewed by Dr. Sanville. He noted that the GPA calculations given to NHS were not inaccurate, although there was a delay. Having a new Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction, a new NHS Advisor, and a new system all led to the delay. Dr. Sanville stated that a worksheet would be provided for students and parents to calculate their GPA (in the summer). He also reviewed the calculation method for In Progress GPA. This figure is used at the end of each marking period for NHS eligibility or continuing membership in NHS and for the community scholarship.

Dr. Sanville discussed blended GPAs for courses completed for the classes of 2008, 2009 and 2010. He explained that courses completed prior to 2007-08 are calculated using the old grading policy. New grade point values and the change in weighting for AP and Honors courses are two primary changes. The formula and samples are provided in the FAQs.

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

**Grading Policy  
& SAM  
Presentation**

Cumulative GPA's from the end of the junior year are included on transcripts for colleges. Decile rankings are calculated at the end of the junior year, based on cumulative GPA's (comparison to your respective class only). School profiles are sent to colleges to clarify the changes in assessment at UHS.

Dr. Sanville reviewed an issue with semester report cards for seniors that are sent to colleges. If a course did not give a mid-term exam, a "0" appeared in the column but was not calculated. The Guidance Department caught the error and whited out the zeros before mailing them to colleges. Sixteen colleges with deadlines were contacted and were told there were no problems for our students. Ms. Shearburn explained that a stock report card in SAM produces the "0." We have purchased a report writer to implement customized report cards in 2008-09.

The solutions and steps moving forward were reviewed:

- A Frequently-Asked Questions handout has been compiled to address parent concerns.
- A review committee will be formed to address the growing pains of our new policy.
- Mid-year reports will be sent for seniors.
- Draft transcripts will be accessible on SAM each summer for students to review them for accuracy. A student-specific GPA calculation worksheet will also be provided.
- All GPA calculations will be published to facilitate understanding of how they are used and determined.
- Spot checks on Honor Roll and GPA calculations will be conducted prior to publication.

Ms. Parker thanked Dr. Sanville, Mr. Fulginiti, Mr. Hug and Ms. Shearburn for working on this issue. She extended thanks to the parents for brining their concerns forward. We are grateful for the solutions to correct errors in the process.

The process will be reviewed at the PTO Advisory Committee meeting. A number of parents have contacted and met with Ms. Parker individually.

In response to Dr. West's questions, Dr. Sanville stated that a review committee would be formed sometime after the end of the school year. He asked that interested persons contact him.

Mrs. Brown asked whether the old committee would be reconvened. Dr. Sanville stated that it would be a crossover of original people and new people.

Superintendent Parker commented about the enjoyable evening at the UHS Prom on Saturday. She acknowledged the countless hours offered by our community members on the wonderful after-Prom party. The students were so well-behaved and it was an honor to spend the spectacular night with them.

Shannon Pitt, student representative, reported that the Prom and after-Prom party were a huge success. It was an honor to spend the evening with Ms. Parker. The Valley Forge Convention Center looked gorgeous. She announced the Talent Show (free admission) and invited everyone to attend. Ms. Pitt commented regarding the project being completed by Spanish IV classes to reduce energy costs throughout the community.

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS**

Mr. Murray requested that residents limit their comments to three minutes.

Bruce Yelton, Pocopson Township resident, stated that the Board has not acknowledged that the community is split. He feels that Mr. Baker has become totally detached from our community since working in Roanoke and should resign or be removed from the Board. The referendum has failed twice and if other members of the Board feel they cannot represent their electorate, they should also resign. We need a plan that has a wide range of voter support and should use the talent of our community to devise a new plan that everyone can support.

Mr. Murray stated that the School Code is very specific in describing what Board members can and cannot do. In looking at the Pennsylvania School Code, there is no reason why Curt Baker would have to step down. Mr. Yelton stated that this was his interpretation of the law.

Bob Leipold, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that the Board should listen to the public, but to the voice that put them in office. They have spent thousands of hours on this project. With 8,000 votes in the last referendum, about 5% of them have been to a Board meeting in the last several months. The Board has spent time on this, and if it can be done under the cap, he sees no reason why they should not do that. The audience applauded.

Dan Heitzenrater, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that we have been deadlocked. He asked that the School Board think outside of the box. Mr. Heitzenrater wants the project to go forward and asked about the possibility of building a new high school. He requested that viable options be explored. His concern is that if we bring the same plan forward, it will fail.

Holly Manzone, Pocopson Township resident, mentioned several huge awards that were received by District students (i.e. Cappies – Drama; Band – Gator Bowl, etc.). She thanked Superintendent Parker for her leadership. One of her finest achievements is in the selection of key personnel. Mrs. Manzone commented about the accomplishments of Ken Batchelor, stating that he is a talented, hard-working, and decent man. She stated that John Nolen is amazing and doing a fantastic job with the elementary schools and carries the facts in his head. Dr. John Sanville also approaches his job with the same kind of energy and is fantastic. Sharon Allen-Spann is a woman who can run a meeting, combining four different ideas into one item. In conclusion, Mrs. Manzone stated that things are not so bad in this district. Our kids are in good hands.

Mr. Hadi, East Marlborough Township resident, reiterated what Mr. Leipold stated. The Board was elected and has completed hours of research. He hopes they do the job in ways they know are best for children to deliver the curriculum.

Jean Conary, Pocopson Township resident, commented about becoming interested following the first “no” vote. She referred to Dr. Price’s handout at a Work Session about what is the best plan going forward. Ms. Conary feels that our school needs renovation but the vote was not to placate the voters. She is appalled at the bickering within the Board and the community. Ms. Conary referenced a comment made by Dr. West, “My way or the highway.” Our community is distressed. We are doing a wonderful job of educating our children. The Citizens for Efficient Education

Residents' Comments - Continued

is not a group that does not support any decisions and she finds agreement in their letters. Ms. Conary commented about talk of a \$40 million plan where some things were not built. If we don't talk about it, nothing happens, we don't move forward, and our kids and our community suffer.

Scott Litzenberg, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that the Act 1 focus has turned from community approval of a building to approval of how to fund it. The intent of Act 1 is not to have people saying why they would like tile, etc. If the community doesn't want to fund the project, fine. The Board still has a right to fund the whole project or half of it to do it within the normal course of our budgeting. The taxpayers do not have to approve everything that is done. Mr. Litzenberg strongly encouraged the Board to do what they have to do. He agreed with Mrs. Conary's comments about the distress in the community. Mr. Litzenberg echoed Ms. Parker's comments about the Memorial Service for Kristen Dickmann being a wonderful time to see the community come together in a horrible situation. He stated that the vote is on how we will pay for the project; we need to be one voice. The audience applauded.

Shannon Pitt, Student Representative, commented about the UHS performance of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. It became part of the Cappies Program (encompassing all of eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey) where shows are reviewed and rated. Our school received the second amount of nominations and won four awards.

Dr. West clarified that she never made the comment about "My way or the highway" as stated by Ms. Conary. Rather, there was some discussion about phasing the plan for \$40 million. She finds that we have worked very hard on this project. It is the right one that meets our needs. Given the last two referendum votes, we may not be able to have it all at the same time. Dr. West also stressed that given the "animosity and bickering", she perceives them as discussions and figuring it out (which is done in a fish bowl). We have come to a place to figure out what the least-damaging path will be.

Mr. Wandersee agreed with Dr. West's comments. One of the principles of democracy is to have honorable debate and have different points of view to come to a conclusion. In reference to the Declaration of Independence, he stated that a lot of debate occurred before its completion. Everyone here still likes each other but we still have an obligation to explore issues and come to consensus. We cannot please everyone out there but have a responsibility for all constituencies.

Mrs. Halstead stated that this is a family. You have not raised your children without raising your voice and we do it in front of you. She is not embarrassed – we are friends. Mrs. Halstead equated what we are doing to her own personal life. One of her children attended college on a free ride. Her other child attended college after the death of her husband, when she worked part-time. She went "under the cap" to pay the college costs while perhaps not going out to dinner or the movies. She lived under the cap and knows we can do it. It may not be easy but it can be done. In June, 2005, she was again told that she had to live under the cap. Mrs. Halstead will guide us along because she knows how to do it.

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

**COMMENTS –  
SCHOOL  
DIRECTORS**

It was moved by Dr. Price and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Minutes for the April 21, 2008 Regular Board Meeting (pp. 3.a.1-11).

Motion carried (9-0).

Mr. Murray requested that Mrs. Miller file the minutes for the following committee meetings:

1. Board Facilities Committee – April 14, 2008 (pp. 3.a.12-13)
2. Curriculum Council – May 1, 2008 (pp. 3.a.14-16)

The following financial statements and reports were reviewed:

1. General Fund Treasurer's Report – April, 2008 (pp. 3.b.2)
2. 2007-2008 GF Function Revenue Analysis with Details of 6100's and 7000's as of April, 2008 (p. 3.b.3)
3. 2007-2008 General Fund Function-Object Expenditure Analysis as of April, 2008 (pp. 3.b.4-6)
4. Category Expenditures Analysis – April, 2008 (p. 3.b.7)
5. Capital Projects Fund Report – April, 2008 (p. 3.b.8)
6. Construction Project Reports – April, 2008
  - a. Unionville High School & Fields Renovation Project Budget Reports – April, 2008 (pp. 3.b.9-10)
7. Outstanding Projects Summary – April, 2008 (p. 3.b.11)
8. Capital Reserve Fund Report – April, 2008 (p. 3.b.12)
9. Health Care Trust Fund Report – April, 2008 (p. 3.b.13)
10. Debt Service Reserve Fund Report – April, 2008 (p. 3.b.14)
11. C. F. Patton Middle School Activities Account Report – January, 2008 through March, 2008 (pp. 3.c.1-3)

Mr. Murray requested that the secretary file the statements and reports.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Bill List for April 17, 2008 in the amount of \$2,055,932.60 (pp. 3.d.1-15). Mr. Baker excused himself for any checks related to the Chester County Intermediate Unit.

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

Mr. Baker stated that the first five items for Facilities are somewhat bundled together. The sixth item has to do with the modular classrooms.

It was moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve Unionville High School Project, Motion 1, stating that the District Administration be directed to re-engage MM Architects, Inc. ("MM") to conduct architectural and engineering design work for the renovation and expansion of Unionville High School and its campus. The terms and conditions of the reengagement shall be constrained by the following assumption and/or restriction:

- The scope of the renovation and expansion of Unionville High School and its campus shall be consistent with the proposal made by the U-CFSD Administration at the August 27, 2007 Facilities Committee Meeting of the Whole.

**MINUTES  
APPROVED**

**FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS  
& REPORTS**

**BILLS  
APPROVED**

**FACILITIES:**

**UHS Project,  
Motion 1 –  
Reengage MM  
Architects**

Mrs. Trigg referred to the last discussion when we decided not to reengage MM Architects before we knew the results of the referendum. She is surprised about this agenda item barely one month after the vote, before we've had much change for discussion. It is premature to engage the architect before deciding on a plan forward. We are frequently reminded that school boards have a history of making decisions in haste, and later regretting that decision.

Our Board President, Ed Murray, did a nice job presenting a variety of options for ways to proceed after the April referendum. We haven't had much time for discussion and reflection and need to give his ideas a chance while trying to find a path forward that would be supported by most people. Several Board members and our superintendent have said we should be sure we're not being reactive during this difficult time and she agrees with that. Since the decision we reach will impact our kids and community for a long time, we owe it to them to take a little more time on the decision of how to proceed before reengaging the architect. Mrs. Trigg will vote no on this motion.

Dr. Price stated that we are at a crossroad because of interim measures that would need to be done at the high school for \$5-10 million minimum. Delaying the plan would only raise the cost. Proceeding with the plan is the right thing because the needs would still be there. The partial plan did not include the auditorium, weight room, or razing of the "D" wing. The \$40 million plan is not a solution because it is part of a deal that would prohibit the rest of it, causing increased cost and project delay. Dr. Price hopes the voters will have the wisdom at a later date to pass a referendum but, as Mrs. Halstead stated, it can be done. It is the taxpayers' discretion to give us the funding we need to run the school district correctly.

Mr. Wandersee expects the motion to pass because of current popular favor within the Board, no matter how he votes. He believes a school district and its community are intertwined and affect each other. Some people even used the term "community center" as an engine to promote high school expansion and renovation. Yet now we're close to a point of seriously alienating a significant portion of the community.

His main points of concern are that he does not believe this motion, at this time, helps the effort to improve community relationships. Approving it tonight is not truly going to complete the renovations one to two months earlier. Secondly, it's a classic example of putting the cart before the horse. We have no specific payment plan on how to go forward except to infer that we're going to go on with the same old under the cap. Mr. Wandersee wants to see academics, classrooms, safety and security proceed as soon as practical, leading to total renovations. But there is no payment plan and just vague words referring to an under-the-cap program. It ignores the risky financial bind that will impact future needs. We need a specific plan to share with the community.

Dr. Sweeney stated that since she began to serve on the Board in December, 1993, she has tried to base her decisions on what is best for the community. In May of 2008, she must do that again. She has struggled with this and spent time with calls and conversation. Dr. Sweeney supports this motion as what is best for all.

**FACILITIES:**

**UHS Project,  
Motion 1 –  
Reengage MM  
Architects  
(Continued)**

Mr. Murray commented about the crafting of a position for what needed to be done for this community. It is a disappointment for some people. He stood at the polls two times and heard the commonality for the cafeteria and classrooms. We brought the architect in to do a review. It was thought that a third round of referendum could be popularized and facilitate community dialogue. He has also come to the belief that may not be possible but would like to give it a chance.

Dr. West commented about the damage that is being done. She agrees with Mrs. Trigg that it is somewhat premature. She suggested at the Facilities Committee meeting that it would be favorable to have a Town Hall meeting to get information from the community. We had a similar kind of meeting and it was said that it was very poorly timed. Going forward with this negates that. The determination is not only financing with a phased project but also the harm in the relationships the community has with this administration. She will have to vote no.

Dr. Price stated that for people who voted no and said they wanted to pay less money, making them pay more money seems ridiculous. Dr. Price does not see any justification for delaying this project. You should be hoping that we are going to vote yes tonight.

Mrs. Brown commented about the need to protect property values and the impact on buyers if we don't continue with the project. She is happy to pay taxes if it assures her home retaining its value. The other issue is our responsibility to take care of our children's education. She will vote yes for the taxpayers, and hopes they will see in time that this was a better time for us to get this done. Mrs. Brown commented about the care that the West Chester School District is taking of its schools.

We don't have a lot of spare money because we haven't asked for more money where some districts have done so. As a Board, we have done a pretty decent job of not asking for more than what we needed. She agreed with Mr. Knauss regarding keeping money in the taxpayer's pockets when he was on the Board. Mrs. Brown no longer believes the taxpayers will vote yes on a project. We could cut the project but there will always be people who say we could do less. She would be very sorry if it were a terrible project. The project has to be done and we must do this under the cap. She will vote yes.

Mr. Wandersee commented about this motion having nothing to do with the project. It has been decided but the issue is putting the cart before the horse with regard to paying for it.

Mrs. Trigg stated that she disagreed with Dr. Price regarding how much money would be wasted if there were a delay in the project. This is a complicated question that merits complicated analysis.

**FACILITIES:**

**UHS Project,  
Motion 1 –  
Reengage MM  
Architects  
(Continued)**

Unionville High School Project (Continued)

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried (5-4).

It was moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve Unionville High School Project, Motion 2, stating that the Finance Committee of the Board be directed to evaluate, on an ongoing basis, the merits of seeking voter approval for an electoral debt referendum relating to the renovation and expansion of Unionville High School and its campus. The Finance Committee, if it deems seeking voter approval for an electoral debt referendum to be in the interest of the District, shall bring forward a recommendation for review and possible approval of the Board regarding election timing and amount sought.

The Board explicitly notes that the scope of the renovation and expansion of Unionville High School and its campus is not contingent upon voter approval for an electoral debt referendum.

Mr. Wandersee stated that the heart of this issue is how to proceed with the needed renovations and expansion program at UHS, specifically, how to pay for it. He expressed his clear belief that it is not in our best interest to pursue under-the-cap funding, ignoring any role for voter referendum. This action would be the extreme of management imprudence and financial irresponsibility. It places future unpredictable financial burdens and operating restrictions on the school district. Mr. Wandersee reviewed the following practical points with “under the cap” financing:

- It limits management scope of this and future school boards and could severely impact flexibility in decision making.
- It limits the Administration in introducing valuable new or expanded teaching programs, and could put even current programs in jeopardy.
- It limits flexibility in upcoming union/association contract negotiations.
- It limits spending on future building needs or major replacements/repairs.
- We may have a heavy reliance “on capitalized interest.” This is paying interest on money needed to pay the interest on money we have borrowed.
- Such Board action to avoid voter approval, while not specifically illegal, is a clear violation of the intent of Act 1, showing our intent to circumvent the purpose of the legislation.
- It reflects a clear slap in the face to a majority of taxpayers voting in two elections and reinforces the belief of many that this Board is stubborn or possibly arrogant.

**FACILITIES:**

**UHS Project,  
Motion 1 –  
Reengage MM  
Architects  
(Continued)**

**UHS Project,  
Motion 2 –  
Finance  
Committee  
Evaluation of  
Merits of Future  
Electoral Debt  
Referendum**

Unionville High School Project (Continued)

- It gives no assurance of a steady, predictable tax increase as some maintain. We developed a 2008-2009 budget under the cap, and through no fault of our own, gave Chadds Ford Township a 14.4% tax increase. So much for consistency.

Prudent, responsible, and thoughtful fiscal management are not found in total reliance of “under the cap” spending policies.

Mrs. Trigg stated that Mr. Wandersee made some good points. She definitely thinks we need a referendum prior to going forward with work on the high school. Mrs. Trigg applauded Mr. Murray for trying to find a compromise that a majority could be comfortable supporting. He is right that a majority of community members want to vote “yes” to a somewhat smaller project, and she is confident that a solid majority would support some kind of compromise. Having one or two children at the high school in the foreseeable future, Mrs. Trigg is as eager as anyone to begin but not in a way that puts our kids and teachers at risk and increases the disharmony in the community.

She believes strongly that we need a referendum and that we cannot meet all the students’ needs without one. Mrs. Trigg is in agreement with someone who stated that this would create a budget crisis in the future. It would also antagonize and alienate the very people whose votes would be needed to resolve the crisis.

With Act 1, our budgets (and therefore, our kids) are at the mercy of the voters. In the past, we could protect the children from an angry electorate because we would only be voted out of office. Now they have the ability to impact the kids and teachers directly by refusing to approve budget increases. It’s often said that if you want to know what the future holds in education, look at what’s going on in California. Now that the taxing authority of Pennsylvania school boards has been limited, it’s just a matter of time before districts in our state face similar challenges as those in California. Mrs. Trigg read excerpts from an article sent to her from a friend in California (*Sacramento area districts will lay off fewer teachers than planned*, by Laurel Rosenhall, Sacramento Bee, 5-11-08.):

- *“Local [Sacramento area] school district administrators said they’ve been able to scale back the number of [teacher] layoffs by making other cuts, encouraging older teachers to retire or dipping into reserve funds ...”*
- *“Even if the number of teachers laid off is smaller than originally expected, many children are likely to feel the impact: Fewer teachers means larger classes.”*
- *“Elk Grove Unified decided to keep kindergarten teachers who were previously on the chopping block. But high school students will feel the pinch. With layoffs concentrated at the secondary level, Elk Grove’s ninth grade math and English classes will have 35 students instead of 20, said spokeswoman Elizabeth Graswich.”*
- *In Folsom Cordova, third grade classrooms will have 30 students instead of 20, sixth grades will rise from 30 kids to 32 or 34, and high school classes will have 35 students instead of 30, said Deputy Superintendent Debbie Bettencourt.”*

This is the kind of dilemma that concerns Mrs. Trigg about under-the-cap spending.

**FACILITIES:**

**UHS Project,  
Motion 2 –  
Finance  
Committee  
Evaluation of  
Merits of Future  
Electoral Debt  
Referendum**

Dr. West stated that she had no difficulty with the first part of the motion for the Finance Committee to look into the electoral debt question being brought forth again. The second part of the motion is a little troubling. We can go under the cap but that doesn't mean we should do so. She will vote no, regrettably.

Dr. Price stated that this does not restrict us in any way.

Mr. Wandersee also expressed concern over the last sentence in Motion 2.

Dr. Sweeney said that is why she will vote for this motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried (5-4).

It was moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve Unionville High School Project, Motion 3, stating that the District Administration be directed to engage Public Financial Management ("PFM") to prepare, working in conjunction with the District Administration, a strategic financing plan ("Plan") that provides for full funding of the renovation and expansion of Unionville High School and its campus.

The Plan shall be constrained by the following assumptions and/or restrictions:

- Total debt service payments will be less than or equal to 11.5% of total District General Fund expenditures in every fiscal year;
- Millage rate increases will never exceed the Act 1 Index, adjusted for allowable exceptions;
- The scope of the renovation and expansion of Unionville High School shall be consistent with the proposal made by the UCFSD Administration at the August 27, 2007 Facilities Committee Meeting of the Whole.

The Plan shall include an assessment of the implications of a capital campaign raising \$0, \$2.5 million, \$5 million, \$10 million, and \$20 million in support of the renovation and expansion of Unionville High School and its campus.

The Plan shall also include an assessment of the implications of full funding of future capital improvements and/or expansions at District facilities other than Unionville High School (at a time and of a scale to be recommended by the Administration). It is specifically noted that the Board is making no commitment at this time for such subsequent work. Rather, it is directing that the Plan offer insights into the implications that funding decisions relating to the renovation and expansion of Unionville High School and its campus might have on the scope and timing of any future work at other District facilities.

**FACILITIES:**

**UHS Project,  
Motion 2 –  
Finance  
Committee  
Evaluation of  
Merits of Future  
Electoral Debt  
Referendum  
(Continued)**

**UHS Project,  
Motion 3 –  
Engage PFM –  
Strategic  
Financing Plan**

Dr. Price commented that it will be good to receive the details and know exactly what we are looking at.

Mr. Wandersee stated that this is an under-the-cap approach, and is not appropriate at this time. He will vote no.

Mrs. Trigg agrees that it would be a good idea to obtain unbiased information and analysis about the financial implications. She doesn't see how we could ask them to assume that millage rates will never exceed the Act 1 index. Mrs. Trigg referred to the budget trouble this year in the Tredyffrin/Easttown and Radnor School Districts. The *Daily Local News* featured a story about a month ago that focused on Tredyffrin/Easttown's budget shortfall where they're struggling to patch a \$6.2 million hole. Radnor is facing a similar challenge. One of these years, it will be our turn, and what will we say to voters when we ask them to approve a budget increase? She asked how we would respond to inevitable claims that such a large increase would not have been necessary if we had worked out a compromise that a majority of voters would approve.

In reference to the directive to assume that millage rates will never exceed the Act 1 limits, Mrs. Trigg retold a story about a lesson she was taught by a science teacher many years ago. After handing in a lab report stating that the purpose was to prove ... something or other, the teacher took off enough points that she will never forget the message. The point was that you never set out to prove that something is true; your goal must always be to determine whether or not something is true. Otherwise, your findings are biased and no one will find them to be credible. If we tell PFM to prove that we can do this, they will do so. The budget cuts under discussion in California show that it is possible to cut a school budget when you have to do so. We could have class sizes of 30-35 here also. What we need to know is not if this is possible but if it is advisable. Just how ugly would it be? Mrs. Trigg doesn't see how PFM could help much in finding an answer to this question.

Mr. Wandersee commented about the statement in this motion indicating that the millage rate increase will never exceed the Act 1 increase. The rate increase for Chadds Ford Township has exceeded the index this year. There are a lot of assumptions in here that will not be really useful.

Dr. West sees this motion as an information gathering item that will be good for thinking. She will vote yes.

Dr. Price stated that we're saying we will never spend more than we are allowed to collect. We cannot exceed that by law.

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried (7-2).

**FACILITIES:**

**UHS Project,  
Motion 3 –  
Engage PFM –  
Strategic  
Financing Plan  
(Continued)**

It was moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve Unionville High School Project, Motion 4, stating that the District Administration be directed to negotiate, on a subject to final Board approval basis, an agreement to engage EHL Consulting Group, Inc. to assist with the design and implementation of a capital campaign to raise funds in support of the renovation and expansion of Unionville High School and its campus. The capital campaign shall have a goal of raising \$20 million within five years.

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve Unionville High School Project, Motion 5, stating that the Board direct the District Administration to develop a recommendation, for Board review and possible approval at the June, 2008 voting meeting, that sets forth all improvements and alterations to Unionville High School that the District Administration believes are necessary to facilitate effective instruction and student safety for the period commencing at the opening of the 2008-09 school year and continuing through the completion of the renovation and expansion of Unionville High School and its campus. The Administration's recommendation shall take into account Motions 1, 2, 3, and 4 above.

Mrs. Trigg supports the Administration working on the recommendation but did not support the prior motions.

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried (8-1).

It was moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve Unionville High School Project, Motion 6, to approve the acquisition of six (6) modular classrooms under State Contract from Vanguard Modular Building Systems, and authorize the Administration to execute all documents, as appropriate, concerning this award, as on the attachments (pp. 4.d.4-5).

Rick Hostetler, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, commented about looking at the need for six modular classrooms to get us through the next couple of years. Pricing was obtained for leasing the modulars with a payback for a purchase of four to five years. We do not believe we will need them for that long.

**FACILITIES:**

**UHS Project,  
Motion 4 –  
Negotiate  
Agreement –  
Capital Campaign  
to Raise Funds**

**UHS Project,  
Motion 5 –  
Administrative  
Recommendation  
- Improvements/  
Alterations,  
2008-09 through  
Completion of  
Project**

**UHS Project,  
Motion 6 –  
Modular  
Classrooms**

The Board has a quote of \$69,222 for the delivery, set-up, and lease of the modulars plus an additional \$40,000 to \$50,000 for electric, decks, ramps, footings, PA system, and skirting. We are looking at possible locations around the high school without impacting fields. The modulars will be three two-classroom units, and we hope to have them setup and available for next school year, depending upon approvals from the state. The flexibility of three units will be helpful to angle them better.

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried (9-0).

Mrs. Brown stated that the following agenda items were discussed at the Board Curriculum and Educational Technology meeting last week.

Mr. Batchelor reviewed the following motion that is a recipe for problem solving and not a new curriculum. We are bringing the training on-site for staff development.

It was moved by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to approve the contracts between Staff Development for Educators and the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District in the total amount of \$4,712.00 for two (2), six-hour (6-hour) sessions, and authorize the Administration to execute all documents, as appropriate. The staff development is focused on *Singapore Math*, grades 1-6 (pp. 5.a.1-6).

Mr. Batchelor stated that the following agenda item formalizes the process for athletic student teaching experience with West Chester University.

It was moved by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the contract between West Chester University College of Health Sciences, Department of Sports Medicine, Athletic Training Education Program and the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District for clinical student teaching experience at Unionville High School in the field of athletic training, effective for the 2008-2009 school year (pp. 5.b.1-6).

Motion carried (9-0).

Mrs. Brown reported that the Administration has been looking at a foreign language program for the elementary schools. We've come up with a FLES program that we'd like to try at the elementary schools. She inquired about the will of the Board regarding interest in pursuing this idea further and developing a curriculum for a later date.

Mr. Batchelor commented that the World Language Committee indicated a strong recommendation to adopt a FLES program at the elementary level. Design possibilities were included in the documentation that was distributed last week. We would work between now and November on the formalized details and cost via a task force.

**FACILITIES:**

**UHS Project,  
Motion 6 –  
Modular  
Classrooms  
(Continued)**

**CURRICULUM &  
EDUCATIONAL  
TECHNOLOGY:**

**Staff  
Development –  
*Singapore Math***

**West Chester  
University –  
Clinical Student  
Teaching  
Contract**

Mr. Wandersee is very enthused about the program and heard the presentation at the Curriculum meeting. The teaching staff did a fine job. This would be a real addition to our program. Mr. Wandersee would support it and looks forward to some review of the cost.

Mrs. Brown asked whether anyone was really opposed to it.

Mrs. Halstead commented regarding the removal of the FLES program in the West Chester School District recently. Mr. Batchelor stated that a lot of districts developed their elementary program and did not develop a K-12 sequence. West Chester did not have a plan to deal with it.

Mrs. Trigg stated that she has been asking for a program for more than a decade.

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to award the bids for science, art, athletics, technology education, health & physical education, and general supplies for 2008-09, as on the attachments (p. 6.a.1).

Mr. Wandersee reviewed the totals for the awards:

Middle School:

- Science - \$ 1,528.84
- Art - \$250.45
- Athletics - \$ 4,074.48

High School:

- Technology Education - \$ 7,318.66
- Art - \$ 6,794.12
- Health & Physical Education - \$ 1,610.12
- Athletics - \$34,056.68
- Science - \$12,580.10

General Supplies:

- All Schools - \$20,570.96

Mr. Cochran clarified that specifications are put together by each department in each building. They are mailed to specific vendors, finalized, and sent back to the buildings for review. Valerie Harlan summarized them for the lowest responsible bids.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to award the bids for the Chester County Intermediate Unit Joint Purchasing Board for copy paper and technology supplies for 2008-09 in the total amount of \$64,263.63, as on the attachment (p. 6.b.1).

Motion carried (9-0).

**Curriculum and  
Educational  
Technology -  
Continued**

**FINANCE:**

**Bid Awards –  
Science, Art,  
Athletics,  
Technology  
Education, Health  
& Phys. Ed.,  
General Supplies**

**Bid Award –  
Copy Paper and  
Technology  
Supplies**

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Dr. West to approve the following personnel items (agenda items 7.a. through 7.i.):

- a. Professional Conferences (5)
  - 1. Approve the Attendance at Professional Conferences as on the attachments (pp. 7.a.1)
- b. Retirements (0)
- c. Resignations (2)
  - 1. Jary L. Hernandez, Unionville High School Night Supervisor Custodian, effective May 2, 2008
  - 2. Gladys Taggart-Watson, Bus Driver, effective May 6, 2008
- d. Substitutes (9)
  - 1. John Croce - Health & Physical Education
  - 2. Ciro DeSaro - K-12
  - 3. Andrea Gosselin - K-12
  - 4. Veronique Liska - K-12
  - 5. Marcella Lynch - K-12
  - 6. Hiver McKnight - K-12
  - 7. Zane Soderberg - Math
  - 8. Catherine Tauskey - Speech & Language
  - 9. Emery Taylor - K-12
- e. Leaves (4)
  - 1. Michelle Showalter – Pocopson Elementary School Third Grade Teacher, Maternity Leave beginning approximately September 19, 2008 for six to eight weeks, based on her doctor's recommendation (pending)
  - 2. Diana Brannon – District School Psychologist – Unpaid Child-Rearing Leave for the first semester of the 2008-2009 school year
  - 3. Megan Cromer – Pocopson Elementary School Teacher, Maternity Leave beginning approximately July, 2008, followed by an Unpaid Child-Rearing Leave through the end of the 2008-2009 school year
  - 4. Jennifer Spencer – Hillendale Elementary School Teacher, Unpaid Child-Rearing Leave for the 2008-2009 school year
- f. Employ (1)
  - 1. Luz Cruz – Unionville High School Food Service Assistant (4 hours per school day), effective April 28, 2008, at a salary of \$10.60 per hour
- g. Extended School Year Employees (24)
  - 1. Approve the employees for the 2008 Extended School Year Program as on the attachment (p. 7.g.1)

**PERSONNEL:**

**Professional Conferences**

**Resignations:**

**J. Hernandez**

**G. Taggart-Watson**

**Substitutes**

**Leaves:**

**M. Showalter**

**D. Brannon**

**M. Cromer**

**J. Spencer**

**Employ:**

**L. Cruz**

**Extended School Year Employees**

Personnel - Continued

- h. Summer Enrichment Academy (4)
  - 1. Approve the following U-CFSD employees for the 2008 Summer Enrichment Program:
    - a. Katherine Bodestab
    - b. Kathryn Markloff
    - c. Kenneth Miller
    - d. Kelly Ross
- i. Summer Transportation Employees (30 + 1 alternate)
  - 1. Approve the employees for Summer Transportation (p. 7.i.1)

Motion carried (9-0).

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

- j. Creation of Positions
  - 1. Approve Professional, Support, and Administrative positions as noted on the preliminary budget as proposed on May 12, 2008 (pp. 7.j.1-3)

Motion carried (9-0).

Mrs. Halstead reported for the Co-Curricular and Student Life Committee:

- Unionville Sports Council – We're thinking out of the box and will support them
- Kennett Senior Center Prom – May 31, 5:30-9:00 PM; U-CF and Kennett students are working together regarding a DJ and will come dressed for the prom or for serving; food is being brought in by a lovely catering service
- Community Fair Committee – Has told us they are moving the fair to the Stroud property since they feel the U-CF property will not be ready; We did not initiate this change.
- Community Breakfast – Everyone is invited; Saturday, June 7; 7:30-10:30 AM - UHS Cafeteria

Dr. West reported for Communications regarding the following items:

- PTO Advisory Board – Meeting date changed to June 5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday); Reminder will be sent for agenda items.
- Coffee Chats – Last date for this year – June 3<sup>rd</sup>
- David Voss – Started process with him re: Communications Audit; He met with the focus groups last week and will be communicating with us soon.

Mr. Wandersee stated that there were no action items for Legislation and Policy this evening.

Mr. Batchelor reported that the public comment period has begun for the Graduation Competency Assessments (GCA's). Superintendents provided testimony last week. Ms. Parker stated that we have notified Harrisburg that we would have personnel available for committees going forward. Mr. Batchelor conveyed our concerns and the concerns regarding the 11<sup>th</sup> grade PSSA's with the person hired to do the GCA's.

**Personnel  
(Continued)**

**Summer  
Enrichment  
Academy  
Employees**

**Summer  
Transportation  
Employees**

**Creation of  
Positions**

**CO-CURRICULAR  
& STUDENT LIFE**

**COMMUNI-  
CATIONS**

**LEGISLATION  
AND POLICY**

Mr. Wandersee stated that this is a hot item. The General Assembly is trying to pass action to disallow any action until they say it's okay. Ms. Parker said it would be difficult to say we oppose what would be considered to be a higher level of accountability. Mr. Wandersee also feels it's important to note the possibility of the weakening of local control. Ms. Parker referred to another dimension of this, stating that more information has come forward. She spoke with a representative from Andrew Dinniman's office and mentioned that perhaps the Board would like to reopen this discussion.

Mr. Murray reported for the Center for Arts & Technology/ Intermediate Unit and Special Education that the I.U. meeting will be held this Wednesday.

Carol Catanese, Pennsbury Township resident, thanked Dr. Sanville for the presentation tonight. As a parent who has been very interested in this policy, she was surprised and quite disappointed that the presentation was being made to the Curriculum group at the Work Session. Many interested parents would like to have been there. Mrs. Catanese stated that taking SAM (student accounting program) to an infinite decimal point takes us to a place that does not exist. Taking that number and rounding it to a whole number will only hurt our students. She is thinking this is inappropriate. The prom was a great event last weekend.

Jane Conary, Pocopson Township resident, stated that her previous comments regarding bickering were meant in great seriousness. She has observed rudeness from the Board toward the Citizens for Efficient Education.

Bob Leipold, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that the public referendum process is seen as the pinnacle of democracy, which it is not. It takes the ability out of the hands of our government (referring to Mrs. Trigg's comments about the state of California). He asked who in the public would be well-informed about any and all of those questions. If you don't like it, talk to your state representatives.

Lou Minella, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that the Board's and the Administration's hard work is truly appreciated. He is a proponent of the project scope that has been voted down twice. This is still a democracy with very respectful discussion of everyone's feelings. Mr. Minella encouraged the Board and Administration to keep working. He doesn't think they are that far apart. This is very tough stuff.

Vic Dupuis, East Marlborough Township resident, referred to Dr. West's comments about the path of least harm. This is a Board project, not a community project. Now it is a representative government of those with the loudest opinions, not those who were elected to represent people. If the state had to get public approval to raise the tax rate, they would not get any votes.

Mr. Wandersee congratulated Dr. John Sanville on his doctoral degree.

Mrs. Brown thanked the parents and teachers for everything they have been doing to help the students through the end of the year. The prom was a great and safe event. She is looking forward to a nice ending for this year.

**LEGISLATION  
AND POLICY  
(Continued)**

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

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS**

**BOARD  
MEMBERS'  
COMMENTS**

Mr. Baker congratulated the graduates and thanked the teachers and staff for quite a great year. He was favorably impressed with the After-Prom party. It was a great job on everyone's part.

Mrs. Halstead stated that the family got through another crisis and thanked the Board for being at all of the meetings they have had to attend. When she sat in the audience in previous years, people always said it was a rubber stamp. We don't have that now! This has been a process and she has learned so much about Act 1 and how undemocratic it is.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown  
Secretary

**BOARD  
MEMBERS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

**MEETING  
ADJOURNED**