

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Minutes
June 15, 2009

The June meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, June 15, 2009 in the Pocopson Elementary School Gymnasium. Mrs. Brown, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

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

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

Ms. Parker commented about the 342 UHS students who graduated with pride and celebration at the University of Delaware. School concluded for students on Friday, and for teachers today. Summer cleaning and moving have already begun, thanks to Rick Hostetler and his staff. The summer months are the busiest for administrators with curricular revision, refreshing our buildings, maintenance tasks, ordering supplies and materials, and repairing and cleaning our buses, etc.

Superintendent Parker stated that there has been a great deal of conversation regarding FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools) over the last year. Tonight we are presenting an answer to what is happening that is real in an immersion sense. It is a very different way than what we saw originally.

John Nolen, Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction, discussed the Spanish in the Elementary Schools Program. We decided to wait for the FLES Program for many reasons. After all of the work that everyone put into it, we wanted to do something.

The goal is to expose all elementary students to the Spanish language and to the culture of countries such as Mexico and Spain. The hope is that this is the first step toward more of a Spanish language program. It is tied to the Academic Standards for social studies and geography, as well as the National Standards for foreign language education.

The planning process included a district-wide committee of staff members and administrators. Each elementary school will form a steering committee of staff members and parents. Schools will do similar activities, with differences occurring based on existing calendars. Possible activities include:

- Spanish language signs
- School T.V. Spanish broadcasts

CALL TO ORDER

MEMBERS PRESENT

SUPER-INTENDENT'S REPORT

FLES Program

Superintendent's Report - FLES Program (Continued)

- Cultural celebrations (Music feast day in the cafeteria)
- Music, dance, and other events
- Spanish materials for classrooms (i.e. posters, listening center, research on Spanish language websites)
- Library (Purchase books, CD's/DVD's, extend hours); Target grant could provide funding of \$2,000/school
- Spanish language speaking events
 - Parent/community volunteers
 - High school students in advanced Spanish courses
 - College students majoring in Spanish
- Art lessons (vocabulary, artists, Art in Action and Artist in Residence programs)
- Adopt a Sister School – Video conferencing, Pen pals

The next steps include:

- Schools forming steering committees:
 - Recruit volunteers
 - Plan events
 - Continue to seek alternative funding
 - Explore community resources
- Contact building principal If you'd like to volunteer or have questions

Mr. Nolen concluded his comments by stating that this is an exciting beginning of a process that we hope to grow.

Ms. Parker stated that we have seen many school districts collapse their FLES Programs because they were both teacher and fiscally dependent. John Nolen's program is community dependent and includes cultural immersion. She thanked Mr. Nolen for his effort.

Superintendent Parker commented about the great time that was shared by approximately 110 attendees at the annual Community Breakfast. It was wonderful to share informal conversation with so many community members.

Bruce Yelton, Pocopson Township resident, inquired regarding the interest rate that was assumed in financing the UHS Project. Mr. Murray stated that the interest rates that were assumed were based upon market conditions plus 50-75 basis points. School construction is not done like a single interest rate for a mortgage. It has stepped coupons, based upon risk and the time and duration. For example, the first coupon might be 2% and the very longest coupon might be 5%. There is an average that, depending on the length of the loan, changed. It is not really defined, but at last pre-run, had 50-75 basis points. His guess would be approximately 4.75%.

Holly Manzone, Pocopson Township resident, thanked John Nolen for the excellent presentation. She has been very interested in getting community help within the schools. Mrs. Manzone commented regarding the Career Day at Patton Middle School, which went very well. She thanked Mr. Vosburgh and Betsy Ballard for their efforts. The day included a common theme for presenters, including NBC-10 news anchor, Aditi Roy. The kids are really sharp and have amazing questions.

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

**Community
Breakfast**

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

Ms. Parker commended Mrs. Manzone and the team for their extraordinary gift to our community. She has greater hope about a cultural immersion program and knows it will happen because of our fine community.

Mrs. Halstead commented about the growth of Holly Manzone's Career Day since it began. The whole school was involved, and the kids were really appreciative.

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the Minutes for the May 4, 2009 Budget Hearing (pp. 3.a.1-9).

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Minutes for the May 18, 2009 Regular Board Meeting (pp. 3.a.10-25, as corrected):

1. Mr. Wandersee's vote – p. 3.a.19 – change from "yes" to "no" in roll call, with total vote standing as noted.
2. Dr. West – p. 3.a.16 – change from "over" the cap to "under" the cap (paragraph two from bottom of page)

Motion carried (9-0).

The following financial statements and reports were reviewed:

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

Mrs. Brown requested that the Secretary file the reports.

It was moved by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Bill List for May 27, 2009 in the amount of \$3,047,980.76 (pp. 3.d.1-20). Mr. Baker excused himself from all checks to the Chester County Intermediate Unit due to a conflict of interest.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve PlanCon G: Project Accounting Based on Bids for the Unionville High School and UCFSD Administrative Offices Project, as on the attachment.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Dr. West to approve the Change Order for Lechmanik, Inc. in the amount of \$2,448. for sod between two of the sod fields, as on the attachment (p. 4.b.1).

Motion carried (9-0).

**BOARD
MEMBER'S
COMMENTS**

**MINUTES
APPROVED**

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

**BILLS
APPROVED**

FACILITIES:

**PlanCon G:
Project
Accounting
Based on Bids**

**Change Order:
Lechmanik, Inc. –
\$2,448.**

3.a.3

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the Land Development Agreement with East Marlborough Township regarding the Unionville High School Project, as on the attachment.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Dr. West to approve the Maintenance Agreement with East Marlborough Township regarding the Unionville High School Project, as on the attachment.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Textbooks for Adoption in the 2009-10 School Year (p. 5.a.1).

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the Applications for Federal and State Program Grant Funds for 2009-10:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| a. Title I - | \$100,175 |
| b. Title II-A - | \$72,380 |
| c. Title II-D - | \$2,400 |
| d. Title IV - | \$8,400 |
| e. Dual Enrollment - | \$41,260 |
| f. PA Accountability Block Grant - | \$97,283 |
| g. Title III - | \$10,000 |

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Resolution to Adopt the Previously Passed Preliminary Budget as the Proposed Annual Budget:

1. Pursuant to the Section 687 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949, as amended, 24 P.S. §6-687, each district is required to adopt a proposed annual budget prior to the adoption of that district's final annual budget. According to guidance issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, a district's board may act to treat the preliminary budget passed pursuant to Special Session Act 1 of 2006 as the proposed annual budget. Therefore the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District Board of School Directors hereby adopts its 2009-2010 Preliminary Budget as its 2009-2010 Preliminary Budget and Proposed Annual Budget. This Proposed Annual Budget was prepared more than 30 days prior to the adoption of the District's Annual Budget, was made available for public inspection in excess of 20 days prior to the same and the intent to adopt it was advertised to the public at least 10 days prior to the same. The president of the Board is directed to certify the above adoption and timelines to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Motion carried (9-0).

Facilities (Continued)

Land Dev.
Agreement
(UHS Project) –
East
Marlborough
Twp.

Maintenance
Agreement (UHS
Project) – E.
Marlborough
Twp.

CURRICULUM/ EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Textbook
Adoption –
2009-10

Applications –
Federal and State
Program Grants,
2009-10

FINANCE

2009-2010
Budget:
Preliminary
Budget and
Proposed Annual
Budget Adopted

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the attached budget resolutions which provide for the adoption of the proposed 2009-10 budget with total appropriations of \$69,303,453, real estate taxes of 23.58 mills per dollar (\$2.358 per hundred dollars) of assessed valuation of taxable property in Chester County and 20.68 mills per dollar (\$2.068 per hundred dollars) of assessed valuation of taxable property in Delaware County; and the 1% real estate transfer tax to be continued for the 2009-10 school year (pp. 6.b.1-35).

Mr. Murray stated that the figures were different than in the preliminary handout because of the newness of information.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mrs. Brown to table the two following agenda items:

- c. Technical College High School & I.U. Center – Downingtown, PA – Resolution #1
 - 1. Authorize and Approve the Lease between the Chester County Intermediate Unit and the Chester County School Authority to acquire and improve the certain tract of improved real estate located at 443-453 Boot Road, in Downingtown Borough, Chester County, Pennsylvania, to operate a Technical College High School, as on the attached Resolution (pp. 3.c.1-4).

- d. Technical College High School & I.U. Center – Downingtown, PA – Resolution #2
 - 1. Authorize and Approve the Selection of a Site and Authorization to Seek State Reimbursement and Other Funds for the purpose of relocating the Brandywine Campus of the Center for Arts and Technology, for use as a Technical College High School and Intermediate Unit Center, as on the attached Resolution (pp. 3.d. 1-4).

Mr. Murray stated that he was on vacation when the previous I.U. Board meeting was held and missed considerable discussion regarding these two items. He was not fully aware that the I.U. was sending them for approval. Mr. Murray stated that the building is located next to the I.U. Administration Office and is not new construction. There are a number of good reasons why the project has merit but many of them have not been described to you. Each school district in Chester County would have a vote on this proposal. We would like to schedule a representative from the I.U. to come to a meeting to discuss the project.

Dr. West stated that these items were discussed at the School Authority meeting in great detail. The I.U. had planned to describe the proposal at School Board meetings and does not need our vote until October 1, 2009.

Mr. Murray toured the warehouse facility and stated that it would be an amazing opportunity for the kids. They have been trying to work on the real estate purchase, but there is plenty of time to review all of the details. Dr. West added that the I.U. would purchase this existing facility on Boot Road instead of renovating CAT-Brandywine.

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

**FINANCE
(Continued)**

**Technical College
High School &
I.U. Center –
Downingtown:
Motion Tabled**

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Dr. West to approve the 2009 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution as on the attachments (pp. 6.e.1-5, revised).

In response to Mr. Baker's question, Mr. Cochran stated that this was the second year of tax impact.

Motion carried (9-0).

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

- a. Professional Conferences (0)
- b. Retirements (2)
 - 1. James Balchunas – Unionville High School Computer Applications Teacher, effective June 15, 2009
 - 2. Mary Crossan – Patton Middle School Food Service Cook, effective June 12, 2009
- c. Resignations (4)
 - 1. Ida Bohley – Transportation Driver, effective May 18, 2009
 - 2. Jaclyn Stull – Chadds Ford Elementary School Personal Care Assistant, effective June 12, 2009
 - 3. Lauren Wells – District Social Worker, effective June 15, 2009
 - 4. Nichole Westley – Transportation Driver, effective June 10, 2009
- d. Supplemental Contracts (152)
 - 1. Julie Krause – Spring Concert Chaperone
 - 2. 2009-2010 Supplemental Contracts as on the attachments (pp. 7.d.1-4)
- e. Leaves (4)
 - 1. Karen Amoss – Pocopson Elementary School Grade 2 Teacher, Unpaid Child-Rearing Leave effective for the first semester of the 2009-2010 school year
 - 2. Catherine Gillespie – Chadds Ford Elementary School Grade 2 Teacher, Professional Development Leave, effective for the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year
 - 3. Christina McHutchison – Patton Middle School French Teacher, Six-Week Maternity Leave, beginning approximately July 30, 2009, followed by a Child-Rearing Leave for the 2009-2010 school year
 - 4. Amy Thompson – Pocopson Elementary School Grade 3 Teacher, Six-Week Maternity Leave, beginning approximately September 29, 2009, followed by an Unpaid Child-Rearing Leave through the end of the first semester of the 2009-2010 school year
- f. Extended School Year Additional Employees (1)
 - 1. Approve the additional employees for the 2009 ESY Summer Program as on the attachment (p. 7.f.1, revised)

**FINANCE
(Continued)**

**Homestead &
Farmstead
Exclusion - 2009**

PERSONNEL:

**Professional
Conferences**

Retirements:

J. Balchunas

M. Crossan

Resignations:

**I. Bohley
J. Stull**

**L. Wells
N. Westley**

**Supplemental
Contracts**

Leaves:

K. Amoss

C. Gillespie

C. McHutchison

A. Thompson

**ESY – Additional
Employees**

(Continued)

3.a.6

Personnel – Continued

- g. Summer Transportation Employees
 - 1. Employ (4):
 - a. Lawrence Hoopes
 - b. Christopher Kachel
 - c. Donna Mattson
 - d. James Wanstall
 - 2. Delete (3):
 - a. Eleanor Buck
 - b. James Collins
 - c. Marco Sordi
- h. Employ (1)
 - 1. Jennifer Levine – Unionville High School Psychologist (Long-Term Substitute), effective August 19, 2009, at the Master’s Step 1 salary level

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to approve personnel agenda items 7.i. through 7.k.:

- i. Appointments (5)
 - 1. Approve the following appointments for the 2009-2010 school year:
 - a. School Physician - Dr. Peter Soraruf
 - b. School Dentist - Dr. Merle Saldivar
 - c. Transportation Physician - Dr. Karl Zimmerman
 - d. Solicitor - John R. Merrick, Esq.
 - e. Treasurer - Dominick V. Guiseppe
- j. Board Secretary – Election
 - 1. Elect Robert W. Cochran as Board Secretary for the new term from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2013
- k. New Hourly Rate
 - 1. John R. Merrick, Esquire, District Solicitor – Approve the increase in his hourly rate from \$140 to \$150, effective July 1, 2009

Motion carried (9-0).

Dr. West reported for Communications that the last meeting for this year had been held on June 1, 2009. Ms. Parker stated that she met with several UHS graduates last week as a focus group. We hope to have a series of opportunities to dialogue with the students regarding their valuable experience with us. Ms. Parker will meet with members of the clergy on Thursday to allow them to speak freely with one another. Subsequently, she will reach out to area business professionals. This is an effort to reach out to various demographic groups that have been unable to attend Ms. Parker’s *Food for Thought* meetings. Dr. West commented about work on the second session with David Voss in July that will focus on the Key Communicators.

**Personnel
(Continued)**

**Summer
Transportation
Employees**

**Employ:
J. Levine**

**Appointments –
2009-10**

**Board Secretary
– New Term**

**J. Merrick –
Hourly Rate**

**COMMUNI-
CATIONS**

Mrs. Brown requested that Mr. Murray provide an explanation regarding the bond financing. Mr. Murray stated that, after consulting with Mr. Cochran and Mr. Frey, PFM, there were a number of reasons to expand the scope of our credit analysis to include Standard and Poors this time. More time is needed in putting together the disclosure documents for investors and for the review process by S&P. It would have been unacceptable to everyone to move at a pace that would have been inappropriate and would not have yielded the best interest rates for the school district. The district will have a far better outcome in taking the extra time. If we don't feel a formal purchase contract can be offered at that meeting, all institutional and financial advisory disclosure documents will be completed, and we might entertain a parameters resolution at that time. This would give the President of the Board the ability to sign off on the purchase contract. It is standard in the business and we don't want to wait another month. We will review the documents and borrowing at that time.

Mrs. Brown stated that Mr. Frey had indicated he would be ready by July 6, 2009. Board members were polled regarding their availability to meet on that date. Mr. Wandersee was not sure whether he could attend. Dr. Sweeney stated a preference for daytime on July 6. The remaining Board members indicated that they could be available to meet on that date.

Mrs. Brown stated that the Board would meet on July 6, 2009 (time to be determined). After speaking with John Frey, the meeting notice will be published in the newspaper. She thanked Mr. Murray for providing the additional details regarding the bond financing.

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve Board Policy No. 201: Pupils – Admission of Students (p. 9.a.1). The policy was listed as a first reading at last month's Board meeting and has been discussed at two Work Sessions.
Motion carried (9-0).

Mrs. Trigg stated that the following policy is being provided as a first reading:

1. Board Policy No. 907: Community – School Visitors (pp. 9.b.1-3).

We will be accepting public comment regarding this new policy, which includes significant changes from the current policy. She encouraged interested Board and community members to offer their comments as soon as possible.

Mrs. Trigg reported for Legislation that the legislature has not made any particular progress on their budget. We still don't know what contribution they will be making to our budget.

Bruce Yelton, Pocopson Township resident, asked about the result for the Homestead exemption. Mr. Cochran stated that the figure is \$228.00 per qualified parcel.

Keith Knauss, East Marlborough Township resident, asked about the \$500,000 difference in the final budget. In response to his question about whether the attachment (pp. 6.b.1-35) would be made available to the public, Mrs. Brown stated that it certainly would be. She stated that the budget had been reduced in a variety of areas to reach the Act 1 index (less of a tax increase).

**Board
Comments:
Bond Financing-
Meeting Date**

**LEGISLATION
AND POLICY**

**Board Policy No.
201: Pupils –
Admission of
Students**

**Board Policy No.
907: Community
– School Visitors,
First Reading**

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

Mrs. Trigg extended wishes to everyone for a nice summer.

Mrs. Halstead commented about the wonderful Community Breakfast that was held on Saturday. The Honors night at UHS was great. The school concerts in all of the buildings show how much talent we have in all areas. The lunch to honor retirees was nice, and many staff members attended for those who have been here for such a long time. We will miss all of them!

Dr. West congratulated all of the UHS graduates. She offered thanks for finding a transition program for FLES, which will be wonderful. Dr. West thanked Mrs. Holly Manzone for the Career Day, about which her son raved. She thanked Ms. Parker for hosting the Community Breakfast. Dr. West extended her wishes to everyone for a great summer.

Dr. Sweeney commented about the Community Breakfast. She stated that she marvels at construction projects that are as simple as fields and looking at the changes that happen on an almost daily basis. We are now moving on to the track. It is almost impossible to imagine the number of things that transpire during the process. We need to keep a good eye on that.

Mrs. Brown thanked everyone for a great school year. We have made a lot of progress and learned a lot from each other. We can see the new sod rolled out; a lot is going on. Mrs. Brown wished everyone a great summer break.

Mrs. Brown announced that the Board would meet in Executive Session to discuss teacher negotiations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert W. Cochran
Secretary

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**