

**UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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Web Site - www.ucfsd.org

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**Minutes**  
**September 18, 2006**

The September meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, September 18, 2006 in the Unionville High School Large Group Instruction room. Mr. Baker, President, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

**CALL TO  
ORDER**

The following members were present: Curt Baker, Kathleen Brown, Karen Halstead, Ed Murray, Bruce Swayze, Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Timotha Trigg, Ed Wandersee, and Dr. Therese West. Also present were Ms. Sharon Parker, District Superintendent, Dr. Brenda O'Hern, Robert Cochran, Thomas Marinelli, Clifton Beaver, Jim Fulginiti, Rick Hostetler, Rich Hug, Dr. Jim Price, Maria Schwab, Bruce Vosburgh, Marie Wickersham, Gail Wolfel, Lexi Campton, student representative, community residents, members of the press, and Denise Miller, recording secretary.

**MEMBERS  
PRESENT**

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

Mr. Baker welcomed Ms. Sharon Parker, our new Superintendent of Unionville-Chadds Ford Schools.

Nancy Daly, Birmingham Township resident, commented regarding the Middle School Math Program. She commented that as a parent (not a mathematician or an educator), we're sending a message to students that there is a pecking system in this district. The higher-achieving students are given the smaller classes with the more experienced teachers. Students with IEP's are given the specialized help they need. The kids in the middle range are put in large classes but our middle kids are not the average kids in most districts. The children who are not average in math don't bring the district scores down enough for you to care about them as a group. How else do you explain class sizes of 10-14 students (Honors Math), 23-25 students (Beginning Algebra), and 28 (Pre-Algebra)? As the need for individual attention in math increases, so does the class size. The kids who need the most attention are afforded the least. A basic math class includes 28 kids who all need individual attention. This includes 23 boys and 5 girls, when there is so much literature about gender issues in math classes. There are classes of two types of students – those who don't get math and those who have tested in to the group. Both groups deserve the appropriate type of instruction that is different for both groups.

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS**

Mrs. Daly discussed whether class size and the teacher made a difference. She cited her daughter's experience as an honor student, with math having been her nemesis. Last year she was put into a class of 11 students and she knew she was now capable of doing it. She scored well within the higher two levels in her 7<sup>th</sup> grade math test. Mrs. Daly asked that we not take the chance for these kids to succeed away from them. This 8<sup>th</sup> grade year is critical for math success at the higher levels. She asked why parents must be the spokespeople for educational equality and stated that she hears time and time again that things move much more quickly if a parent speaks up. They should not need to be the catalyst for change. She asked why a red flag didn't go up when these numbers were first known.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the Minutes of the August 14, 2006 Board Work Session (pp. 3.a.21-24).

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to approve the Minutes of the August 21, 2006 Regular Meeting (pp. 3.a.1-20).

Motion carried (9-0).

The following committee meeting minutes were reviewed:

1. Board Curriculum Committee–September 11, 2006 (pp. 3.a.25-31)
2. Facilities Committee – September 7, 2006 (pp. 3.a.32-33)

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 – July, 2006 (p. 3.b.1) and August (p. 3.b.16)
2. 2005-2006 GF Function Revenue Analysis with Details of 6100's and 7000's as of July, 2006 (p. 3.b.2) and August, 2006 (p. 3.b.17)
3. 2005-2006 General Fund Function-Object Expenditure Analysis as of July, 2006 (pp. 3.b.3-5) and August, 2006 (pp. 3.b.18-20)
4. Category Expenditures Analyses – July, 2006 (p. 3.b.6) and August, 2006 (p. 3.b.21)
5. Capital Reserve Fund Reports – July, 2006 (p. 3.b.7) and August, 2006 (p. 3.b.26)
6. Health Care Trust Fund Reports – July, 2006 (p. 3.b.8) and August, 2006 (p. 3.b.27)
7. Debt Service Reserve Fund Reports – July, 2006 (p. 3.b.9) and August, 2006 (p. 3.b.28)
8. Capital Projects Fund Reports – July, 2006 (p. 3.b.10) and August, 2006 (p. 3.b.22)

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

**MINUTES  
APPROVED**

**FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS**

Financial Statements & Reports (Continued)

9. Outstanding Projects Summaries – July, 2006 (p. 3.b.11) and August, 2006 (p. 3.b.25)
10. Construction Project Reports – July, 2006 and August, 2006
  - a. Unionville High School HVAC Project Budget Reports – July, 2006 (pp. 3.b.12-13) and August, 2006 (pp. 3.b.23-24)

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

The following activity accounts were reviewed:

1. Unionville Elementary School Field Trip Account – 2005-2006 (pp. 3.c.1-3)
2. Hillendale Elementary Field Trip Account – 2005-2006 (pp. 3.c.4-10)
3. C. F. Patton Middle School Activities Accounts – April-June, 2006 (pp. 3.c.11-13)
4. Chadds Ford Elementary School Field Trips – September, 2005-June, 2006 (pp. 3.c.14-16)
5. Unionville High School Activities Balance Sheets – February-June, 2006 (pp. 3.c.17-24)

Mr. Baker requested that the secretary file the reports.

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Bill List for August 24, 2006 in the amount of \$2,492,568.25 (pp. 3.d.1-23).

In response to Mr. Murray's question, Mr. Cochran stated that the bill for Penna. Leadership Charter School is for a cyber charter school that has some on-site facilities. They had done a lot of recruiting at the end of the year. The bill represents the final reconciliation for the previous year also. He commented that we had students attending eight different cyber charter schools, including about 26 students to charters and 13 to cyber charters.

In response to Mrs. Halstead's question regarding a payment to BGE Financial, Mr. Cochran stated that this bill was for the annual lease of musical equipment that we have purchased (third year of a five-year lease).

In response to Mrs. Halstead's question regarding payments to St. Edmond's, Vanguard, & the Cornwall Lebanon School Districts, Mr. Cochran stated that the bill for Cornwall Lebanon was for the mainstream portion of costs for a special education student who attends school there. The others may be the same but he would need to look at them and get back to Mrs. Halstead.

Motion carried (9-0).

**Routine  
Business  
(Continued)**

**Financial  
Statements  
(Cont'd.)**

**Activity  
Accounts**

**BILLS  
APPROVED**

Routine Business (Cont'd.)

It was moved by Dr. West and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the End-of-Year Budget Transfers for 2005-2006 (pp. 3.b.14-15).

In response to Mr. Murray's question, Mr. Cochran stated that these were year-end transfers as our audit has been completed. None of the areas are over budget but the auditor has requested these transfers.

Motion carried (9-0).

Mr. Swayze stated that there were no action items for Facilities this evening. He provided an update for the Facilities Committee regarding:

- Signage Policy – The district does not have a policy for signage placed on its properties. This will be addressed by Sharon Parker and others who will report back to the committee and the Board.
- High School Renovation and Related Projects – MM Architects are now working with administrators and teachers at the direction of the Board to get data and information about the weak points of our present facilities to better enable them to come back next month to present (will be available to the public and the full Board). We will have a committee of the whole Board (October 16 at 6:00 p.m.) since these decisions are so critical as to where we are going in the next 15-20 years. Following that meeting, Mr. Hug, Mr. Hostetler and he will be working on providing information on the website to keep everyone up to date on where we stand.
- Summer Projects – Hopefully, you have seen the benefits of the high school air conditioning. The project was finished on time and on budget. Other projects included the Hillendale roof and chiller and the Middle School kitchen. You will see a storage building going up at Chadds Ford soon. This was originally held off the construction project to come within budget.
- Fields and Usage – Mr. Swayze has not had any comments, negative or positive, as to the condition of the fields. He hopes everyone has noticed a significant improvement with the new sprinkler system, sod, etc. They are the best they have been in over a year and part of that has to do with the regulation of field usage. There is a committee in place headed by Rick Hostetler and various parents and the Athletic Director to control use of the fields into the foreseeable future until we get into our construction projects.

Mrs. Brown stated that there were no voting items for Curriculum this evening. She reported regarding the Board Curriculum Committee meeting that had been held last Monday night. They discussed K-12 language arts and science, which will be up for review in 2006-07. Dr. O'Hern will set up committees of people to review these two programs.

**BUDGET  
TRANSFERS  
(End-of-Year)**

**FACILITIES**

**CURRICULUM**

**3.a.4**

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the authorization to seek bids for the purchase of a Sprinter delivery van for the Food Service Department (funding from the Food Service Fund).

Motion carried (9-0).

Mr. Murray reported for Finance that the Board had appointed a Tax Study Commission as authorized by Act 1 during the Work Session on September 11, 2006. There are several facets to it that are immeasurably important to public education. The Commission will look at and make recommendations to the Board regarding future taxing policy and the implementation of a possible personal income tax (PIT) or an earned income tax (EIT). This will be a great shift for our community and for every community throughout Pennsylvania. We received 31 applicants for the commission and seated nine members. Their first meeting will be held on September 21, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the District Office and is open to the public. They will appoint a chairperson at their meeting. The commission will receive more information at the Pa. School Boards Association webinar, which will be held on Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. in the high school Library for anyone who is interested in attending.

Mr. Baker commented that Act 1 requires a high representation of the community at large (age, occupation, socioeconomic status). There are three participants from each of the three regions. They are balanced within the regions, work location, retirees, and all constituents. We were fortunate to be able to do that.

Mrs. Trigg commented that we were limited by law to have a maximum of nine members on the commission.

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

- a. Professional Conferences (8)
  - 1. Approve the Attendance at a Professional Conferences as on the attachments (pp. 7.a.1-2)
- b. Retirements
- c. Resignations (6)
  - 1. Ron Phillips – Unionville High School Math Teacher, effective August 21, 2006
  - 2. Helen Gallowitz – Chadds Ford Elementary School Health Room Technician, effective August 23, 2006
  - 3. George Konstantapolous – Bus Driver, effective August 28, 2006
  - 4. Maria Arango – Chadds Ford Elementary School Food Service Assistant, effective August 29, 2006 (*Still working for Transportation*)

**FINANCE:**

**Bid  
Authorization –  
Sprinter Van,  
Food Service**

**PERSONNEL:**

**Professional  
Conferences**

**Resignations:**

**R. Phillips**

**H. Gallowitz**

**G. Konstan-  
tapolous**

**M. Arango  
3.a.5**

Personnel – Resignations (Continued)

5. Cathy Gunn – Pocopson Elementary School Food Service Assistant, effective August 16, 2006
  6. Marsha Book – Patton Middle School Food Service Assistant, effective August 16, 2006 (*Still working for Transportation*)
- d. Reclassifications (15)
1. Mandy Quinn – from Patton Middle School 1.0 Health & Physical Education Teacher to .6 Health & Physical Education Teacher for the 2006-2007 School Year, per her doctor's note, effective August 23, 2006
  2. Kim Crossman – from Patton Middle School .6 (LTS) Health & Physical Education Teacher to 1.0 (LTS) Health & Physical Education Teacher, effective August 23, 2006
  3. Lisa Dunbar – from Floater Custodian to Second Shift Custodian at Unionville High School, effective September 5, 2006
  4. Michele Chesnet – from Unionville High School Second Shift Custodian (182 days) to Second Shift Custodian (260 days), effective September 5, 2006
  5. Wendy Vaites – from Unionville High School Learning Support Paraprofessional to LTL/IST Paraprofessional (7 hours per day x 185 days), effective August 23, 2006
  6. Cheryl Midiri – from Hillendale Elementary One-on-One Paraprofessional to Learning Support Paraprofessional (6 hours per day x 182 days), effective August 23, 2006
  7. Deborah Franciotti – Patton Middle School Food Service Assistant (2.3 hours per day x 5 days per week) effective September 5, 2006, at a salary of \$10.29 per hour (*is also a part-time Bus Driver*)
  8. Marcy Hardy – Unionville High School Food Service Assistant (3 hours per day x 2 days per week) effective September 5, 2006, at a salary of \$10.29 per hour (*is also a part-time Bus Driver*)
  9. Louise Kreuter – from Unionville High School Food Service Assistant to Food Service Floater (3 hours per school day), effective August 29, 2006
  10. Shelly Yarnall – Chadds Ford Elementary School Food Service Assistant (2.5 hours per day x 2 days per week), effective August 29, 2006, at a salary of \$10.29 per hour (*is also a Bus Driver*)
  11. Eleanor Buck – Chadds Ford Elementary Food Service Assistant (2.5 hours per day x 3 days per week), effective August 29, 2006, at a salary of \$10.29 per hour (*is also a Transportation employee*)
  12. Donald Mitten – from Substitute Bus Driver to part-time Bus Driver (5 to 5-1/2 hours per school day), effective August 28, 2006, at a salary of \$14.28 per hour
  13. Mildred Mozzani – from Bus Monitor to full-time Van Driver (6 hours per school day), effective August 28, 2006, at a salary of \$12.73 per hour

**Personnel-  
Resignations  
(Continued)-**

**C. Gunn**

**M. Book**

**Reclassifi-  
cations:**

**M. Quinn**

**K. Crossman**

**L. Dunbar**

**M. Chesnet**

**W. Vaites**

**C. Midiri**

**D. Franciotti**

**M. Hardy**

**L. Kreuter**

**S. Yarnall**

**E. Buck**

**D. Mitten**

**M. Mozzani**

Personnel - Reclassifications(Continued)

14. Silas Crossan – from Van Driver to full-time Bus Monitor (6 hours per school day), effective August 28, 2006
15. Janet Faccenda – from Patton Middle School .5 Social Studies Teacher to .7 Social Studies Teacher, pending approval of position creation below

e. Supplemental Contracts (10)

1. Anita Quinn – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Coach
2. Julie McGirl - Pocopson Grade Chair – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
3. Alison Holmes–Unionville High School Honor Society Advisor (1/2)
4. Jamie Byrnes – Asst. Girls' Lacrosse Coach
5. Mark Farra – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Soccer Coach
6. Mentors for New Teachers – 6 Half Year @ \$545 each, 19 Full Year @ \$1,090 each
7. Hillary Sterner – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Lacrosse Coach
8. Wendy Landry–Unionville High School Head Girls' Lacrosse Coach
9. Jesse Drelick – J.V. Boys' Basketball Coach
10. Susan Hayes – Unionville High School Forensics Advisor

f. Substitutes (11)

1. Shirley Miller – Support Staff Substitute
2. Mary Kamelhar - Elementary
3. William Parker – Elementary
4. Alexis Ozimek – Elementary
5. Rosalie O'Neil – K-12
6. Marvin Shapiro – Middle School/High School
7. Rebecca Weikel – Elementary
8. Stephanie Ranoia – Elementary
9. Emily Blackburn – Elementary
10. Paula Reynolds – Elementary & Middle School English
11. Debra Lindblade – Support Staff

g. Employ (8)

1. Erika Tessitore – Unionville High School Computer Applications/Math Teacher, effective September 11, 2006, at the Master's + 45 Step 3 salary level
2. Tricia Harlan – Chadds Ford Elementary School Health Room Technician (6.5 hours per day x 185 days), effective September 5, 2006, at a salary of \$24.77 per hour
3. Susan Figenshu – Unionville High School Learning Support Paraprofessional (7 hours per day x 185 days), effective August 23, 2006, at a salary of \$11.57

**Personnel-  
Reclassifi-  
cations  
(Continued)**

**S. Crossan**

**J. Faccenda**

**Supplemental  
Contracts**

**Substitutes**

**Employ:**

**E. Tessitore**

**T. Harlan**

**S. Figenshu**

Personnel – Employ (Continued)

4. Kathleen Hoge – Patton Middle School IST Paraprofessional (5 hours per day x 182 days), effective August 28, 2006, at a salary of \$11.57 per hour
5. Ann Salisbury – Hillendale Elementary School One-on-One Paraprofessional (6.5 hours per day x 182 days), effective August 28, 2006, at a salary of \$11.57 per hour
6. James Wanstall – Bus Driver (5 to 5-1/2 hours per school day), effective August 28, 2006, at a salary of \$14.50 per hour
7. Matthew Myers – Unionville High School Custodian (10 month), effective September 11, 2006, at a salary of \$12.59 per hour
8. Angela Puleo – District Speech & Language Teacher (LTS), pending Certification, effective October 2, 2006, at the Master's Step 5 salary level

Dr. Sweeney commented that each individual plays a role in making this school district.

Motion carried (9-0).

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

- h. Contract Services (1)
  1. Cynthia Silver – Interim Speech & Language Therapist (as needed), at \$200 per day

Motion carried (9-0).

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

- i. Create Positions (2)
  1. Create 1.0 and a .5 One-on-One Paraprofessional Position to be funded through IDEA
  2. Create a .2 Patton Middle School Social Studies position (to reduce math class sizes)

In response to Mrs. Brown's question regarding item i.2., Dr. Price stated that the current individual who is certified in math would take over one of those classes that will be split in half. That person will give up a social studies class. There are two 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes that will be divided with class sizes of 12 each in two classes and 14 each in the other two classes.

In response to Mr. Swayze's question, Mr. Marinelli stated that there is .6 reserve position left (we have used 1.4 so far of 2 positions).

**Personnel-  
Employ  
(Continued)**

**K. Hoge**

**A. Salisbury**

**J. Wanstall**

**M. Myers**

**A. Puleo**

**Contract  
Services-  
C. Silver  
(Interim Speech/  
Language)**

**Create  
Positions:**

**1.0 and .5  
One-on-One  
Parapro-  
fessionals**

**.2 Social  
Studies-MS**

Personnel (Continued)

In response to Mrs. Halstead's question, Mr. Marinelli stated that both paraprofessionals would be one-on-one positions. In response to Mr. Swayze's question regarding IDEA funding, Mr. Marinelli stated that special education funds are generally repeated. It shifts in terms of our personnel needs. Ms. Parker commented that if there were a dramatic demographic shift, we could be in danger of a loss but we should be consistent in looking at our projected future.

Motion carried (9-0).

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

- j. Correction (1)
  - 1. Sonya JoAnn Goad – Unionville Elementary School Grade Level/ Copy Room Paraprofessional (should be 6 hours per school day instead of 5.5), effective August 28, 2006

Motion carried (9-0).

Mrs. Halstead reported for Transportation regarding:

1. Transportation Meetings – There have been two meetings of all employees who wished to attend regarding the rules of the Transportation Department. She applauded Gail Wolfel for holding these meetings.
2. Start of School Year – Has been successful; Principals have reported buses arriving on time in the morning and children are loaded and leaving in a reasonable time in the afternoon.
3. Parent Concerns – Many calls are received each year regarding concerns about bus stops. Requests should be in writing to the Transportation Office (or e-mailed, faxed, mailed). Requests are taken seriously and present bus stops are evaluated for safety, as well as requested locations. Routes are examined for efficiency and the impact of changes. Parents will receive a letter regarding what decision has been made after an evaluation.
4. Buses Entering Cul-de-Sacs – A procedure is in place to address school buses entering neighborhoods that have cul-de-sacs. Buses will not be routed into cul-de-sacs less than one-half mile from the main roadway to the furthest point in the cul-de-sac. This procedure will be followed unless there is a clear safety issue at the intersection on the main roadway. The turn around area must be large enough for the school bus to transverse without having to back up in neighborhoods where buses do enter cul-de-sacs. Cul-de-sacs should be clear of garbage cans, basketball nets and cars to allow the bus to travel through safely.

**Personnel  
(Continued)**

**Correction:**

**S. Goad**

**TRANSPOR-  
TATION**

Transportation (Continued)

5. Additional Bus Stops – More time must be added to the childrens’ ride time for each additional bus stop on a route. More fuel is also consumed and there is more wear on the buses. There has been an effort to consolidate more bus stops to help make our fleet more efficient. Consideration to the childrens’ safety is given before any changes are made.

Dr. West reported for Communications regarding:

1. E-board List Serve – is up and running and the first message has been sent. Some people are not receiving it and we are still working on the system. Dr. West thinks it will be a great way to communicate about meetings (i.e. Tax Commission, Grading Scale, etc.)
2. Informal Coffee House Meetings – This was discussed at the last meeting; Dr. West has contacted the management of several establishments regarding these meetings and they were very excited.
3. Resident Comments – There are opportunities at the beginning and end of each Board meeting for comments but if you are not comfortable stating something publicly, you may fill out a note card and place it in the box at the back of the room. We will get to you with a response.
4. PTO Advisory Committee – Will hold the first meeting for 2006-07 on Monday, September 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the UHS Library Classroom. PTO Presidents meet with Board members, the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

Mrs. Trigg stated that the following item could not be discussed in public session due to the need for the confidentiality of the student. It was discussed in Executive Session last week.

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the Special Education Release and Settlement Agreement for Student No. 2006-07-3 as on the attachment (pp. 13.b.1-9).

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried (5-4).

**TRANSPOR-  
TATION  
(Continued)**

**COMMUNI-  
CATIONS**

**BOARD  
POLICY:**

**Special Educ.  
Release/  
Settlement  
Agreement  
Student  
#2006-2007-3**

Mrs. Halstead reported for Technology that more teachers have been in classes learning to be more comfortable with the computer. She applauds their efforts. The 2006-07 data has been added to the data warehouse. The new curriculum assessments will be added this year. Data access will continue to be extended to teachers to assist in improving student achievement, which is an ongoing process. Teachers have to learn how to access it and they are having classes just like the students. Plans to upgrade the Student Information System are continuing to allow on-line scheduling in the 2007-08 school year. We will be hosting the Chester County Technology Leadership Council in November, which is a consortium of the 12 Chester County school districts.

**TECHNOLOGY**

Mr. Baker commented that within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we are required to receive multiple bids for goods above \$4,000 and formal bids for those above \$10,000. The state has implemented a Mandate Waiver Program to increase those thresholds. The act of soliciting bids is time consuming and expensive for the district and bidders to carry out. Mr. Baker stated that he was pleased to report that on September 5, 2006, Dr. Gerald Zahorchak, State Superintendent, indicated that the \$4,000 threshold for quotations has been raised to \$5,800 and the \$10,000 threshold for bids has been raised to \$15,200. This approval is good news and means we're doing a good job.

**Mandate  
Waivers**

Lexi Crampton, Student Representative, reported regarding the following items:

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVE  
REPORT**

1. Student Council – Held its first meeting this week and is planning for Homecoming and the Magazine Drive, which continues through Thursday. We normally raise about \$15,000 for magazine sales but have only raised \$500 to date.
2. Middle School Math Class Sizes – Lexi believes that class sizes are high across the board. The big ones need attention (her French class has 30 students).
3. Summer Work – We give a lot of work in this district and while it's good to keep our brains active over the summer, she and other students have felt that it's too much. We should focus on the quality instead of the quantity of work.

Mr. Murray reported for the Center for Arts & Technology/ Intermediate Unit and Special Education. The I.U. will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Chester County Technical College and High School on October 5 at 11:00 AM. The new school is located in the Avon-Grove School District. Delaware County Community College will share the facility in evening and will pay for some of its costs. This will truly be a technical high school for children in southern Chester County. He hopes it will encourage students and provide

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

C.A.T./Special Education/I.U. Report (Cont'd.)

increased membership. Students will have a reduced bus time from the current transportation to CAT-Brandywine and CAT-Pickering. The I.U. Board was informed they received a \$4 million grant to offset the capital cost of this school. The I.U. Board reviewing its goals, including a laptop initiative and other items. The I.U. Board will meet on Wednesday night and Mr. Murray will find out more about Act 1.

Mr. Wandersee reported for Legislation regarding:

1. Act 1 – The Tax Commission for our community has been appointed. Shawn Weigel has published the members of the committee in *The Kennett Paper*. He requested that anyone with questions see him after the meeting. Mr. Wandersee will be our School Board representative on the committee. The committee will meet on Thursday evenings and a public meeting will be scheduled for community insights as to the direction they should take. The date will be determined after the organizational meeting of the Tax Committee.
2. School Start Before Labor Day – The legislative move on the part of some of our legislators to prohibit school to start before Labor Day still has a lot of life. This would take away a lot of instructional days. It will probably come to conclusion by a vote of the legislature this year.

Ms. Parker wished a very happy start of the school year to everyone and is delighted to be here. She provided the Superintendent's report:

1. Enrollment – 4,086 students, many of whom are here tonight sitting under the banner for the state standards for the social studies...Happy Constitution Day! You are bright, achievement-oriented and assertive. In her opportunity to have met a number of students, Ms. Parker stated that their joy is unbridled. Their spirit and fellowship also work very well in the classroom.
2. U-CF News – Whether it's good new or just news, it is delivered in many ways ...
  - *Philadelphia Magazine* article – Noted the top 40 schools in an eight-county area (public and non-public schools); Unionville High School was on that list. If you back out Masterman, which is a magnet school for academically-talented students, we are in the top 10 of comprehensive high schools, including the metropolitan New Jersey area. Ms. Parker is extremely proud for everyone involved.

(Continued)

**C.A.T./  
SPECIAL  
ED. / I.U.  
(Continued)**

**LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT**

**Tax Study  
Commission**

**SUPERIN-  
TENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Superintendent's Report (Cont'd.)

- *Chester County Life* (September/October edition) – featured UHS science teacher (and Academic Team coach and golf coach), William Anderson. He is well-known and regarded for having touched many lives. We would like Mr. Anderson to be here at the October Board meeting to express our appreciation. Ms. Parker commented that she would like the Board to consider starting our meeting by introducing members of our school community to the broader community at Board meetings.

This is also a time for us to look at the news of Unionville-Chadds Ford shared in many ways. It is also shared through progress toward goals and commitments made by the administrative team. They are usually presented at the August or September meeting. One goal was to move ahead with the administrative transition and the transition and goals could not happen simultaneously. The administrative team intends to share with the Board the performance goals for this coming school year next month.

This has been her opportunity to meet with each Board member. She has appreciated learning. It's important for her to read, hear and learn the culture of the school community, its successes and those areas where there has not been the greatest amount of success.

She has heard from parents and students in the hallways. When we meet to resolve questions around the school calendar, resolve the discussion of the grading system, especially at the secondary level, we should be sure the goals have the significance of a multi-year experience.

Ms. Parker requested that everyone utilize the box in the back of the room for comments. It is important that the community voice be heard and we all take the opportunity to make a great noise on behalf of the children.

Ms. Parker thanked Mrs. Daly who she met briefly today through an e-mail. She thinks there was a great deal of comment on behalf of children that led to adding a .2 position.

She offered her thanks to everyone in the community for their warm welcome, including the person who offered her help at the Sonoco station this weekend. Until you live in the area, you don't know what you're missing. This is a wonderful place. Thanks to the parents who told her it was a wonderful time to be a parent in Unionville-Chadds Ford

Clif Beaver, Unionville Elementary School Principal, reported on the elementary schools.

- Hillendale Elementary –
  - Constitution Day – 9/18 – Each class and grade level completed specific learning activities. The preamble to the Constitution was given to each student in a pocket-size format.
  - Bingo Night – will be held on 9/29 @ 7:00 PM, which is also our first Spirit Day
  
- Pocopson Elementary –
  - School Year – is off to a great start and students have settled into a nice routine
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Mobile – Students are greeted by this project (through Art in Action) at the playground
  - T.V. Studio – completed in its new location near the Library and is being used; serves as a home for the morning announcements and can be used for podcasting
  
- Chadds Ford Elementary -
  - School Year – We're off a very exciting school year.
  - Open Houses – Successful events were held for Kindergarten and for Grades 1-5
  - Spirit Day – first school wide day was held on 9/15
  - Future Events - Book Fair – 10/3; Spelling Bee, Geography Bee and Reading Olympics
  
- Unionville Elementary -
  - School Year – We're in full swing.
  - Open House – was held on 9/7 and was well attended
  - New Families – enjoyed pizza last week and met with help from students on the Smile Committee
  - Latino Family Night – held last Wednesday by ESL teachers, Ms. Kristen Butler and Mrs. Eileen Boensch. It was attended by middle and high school families also. Each family brought a homemade Mexican dish to share, which made for a memorable evening. Thanks to Ms. Butler and Mrs. Boensch!

Bruce Vosburgh provided the Patton Middle School report:

- Student Population – is the largest to date with 1,045 students!
- Student Council – elections were held
- School Pictures – have been completed
- Open House – will be held this Wednesday
- Magazine Drive – began on Thursday; usually \$85,000 in sales

**SUPERIN-  
TENDENT'S  
REPORT  
(Continued)**

**Elementary  
Report**

**Middle  
School  
Report**

Superintendent's Report – Middle School (Continued)

- PSSA Test Results – have been mailed for Grades 6-8 and Grade 8 writing
- Parent Visitation Day – where they shadow the students; will be held on 10/18
- Additional Position – Thanks to the Board for the additional .2 teaching position to reduce class size

Mr. Jim Fulginiti provided the Unionville High School report:

- Opening of School – Has been smooth
- Open House – held last week and was well attended
- National Merit Semi-Finalists – Congratulations to our seven students - Eric Cohen, Ethan Bunting, Elizabeth & Rebecca Stavely, Mary Jue Xu, Susannah Eckman and Jennifer Knauss. They are in the top 1% of all students who took the PSAT (~ 15,000).
- Course Offerings – There is dialog with the department chairs to make sure we stay in step with changes at the middle school, etc.
- Staffing – In response to Lexi's comment, class sizes are a priority for us. He has certain numbers in mind and that is something we are working on very closely. There are different variables involved in the process. For example, a course may have 80 students enrolled and we want to see four sections of 20 each. Those students also have other offerings that are available only at certain times of the year and it may not be possible. We have made some efforts in social studies and have received great support from the District Office. We'll continue to work on this and although the high school is one building among six, it's important to everyone and something about which we care very strongly.
- Facilities – Maryann Marotta, MM Architects, met with Administrative Council on 8/23. We have been very excited and look forward to some great things. We also had a site visit day where people gathered information. Additional meetings with Maryann and staff members have been scheduled. This will be part of what Mr. Swayze mentioned that would be reported on later in the fall.

(Continued)

**SUPERIN-  
TENDENT'S  
REPORT  
(Continued)**

**Middle  
School  
Report  
(Continued)**

**High School  
Report**

Superintendent's Report – High School (Continued)

**High School  
Report  
(Continued)**

- Sportsmanship – Our school received the sportsmanship award at the District 1 meeting. This is a credit to our athletes who are competing. They are fine young men and women.
- Sports – Next year, there will be a realignment of the Ches-Mont and Southern Chester County leagues into one league. It will look pretty similar to Ches-Mont and SCCL but with two divisions under one umbrella. All teams are competing very well. Daniel Wing scored a hole-in-one at the Kennett Country Club!

Kristin Ramsdell, Birmingham Township resident, commented regarding class sizes in Grade 1 at Pocopson Elementary. She reviewed her research of current class sizes ranging from 16-18 students at Unionville and Chadds Ford Elementary to 22 students at Hillendale and Pocopson. She stated that there is a huge difference between 16 and 22 students in one classroom. Mrs. Ramsdell commented that she had been told that disparity is inevitable in neighborhood schools. She disagrees with this comment. The numbers approached 20 students per class in mid-August at Pocopson. We could have had 16-17 students per class, which would have been closer to the Unionville and Chadds Ford Elementary numbers. She'd like the district to be more proactive and include additional students who registered at the last minute. She asked about what could be done for the children in the larger classes for the remainder of this year (i.e. pull-out for reading instruction). We need to make sure we don't squeeze more students into these classes throughout the year or next year in Grade 2.

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS**

Katy Donovan, East Marlborough Township resident, commented about the use of an 8<sup>th</sup> grade book for 6<sup>th</sup> grade compacted math this year. These children will have two empty years of math at the high school and there has been no plan or action for adding math classes. Mrs. Donovan stated that there are public districts offering twice as many A.P. courses as we are who are spending comparable dollars per student. We offer the least number of A.P. courses pretty much in the state.

Judy McClaskey, Birmingham Township resident, commented about a pilot study of reading where parents could access their child's grade at any point in the school year. In response to her question, Mr. Hug stated that this had not been abandoned. We are switching to a new student information system with a piece that is much better developed and hope to have it on-line for the 2007-08 school year.

Veronica Cepero Killackey, Pennsbury Township resident, stated that she is the parent of middle and high school students. She commented about the amount of homework for her child who has a lot of A.P. courses. Mrs. Cepero Killackey stated that studies indicate too much homework is causing kids not to pursue their activities. She also commented about studies mentioned in the news this week that indicated too much homework is detrimental to children. Balance is important and we have passed that point, not only in A.P. classes.

Carol Catanese, Pennsbury Township resident, commented about her two high school students who are receiving a modest amount of homework. Her son is taking one A.P. course. She stated that children should not take A.P. courses, which are college-level courses, if they don't want too much homework. Those are choices the students and parents make regarding summer work, etc. Initially, A.P. courses were to reduce the cost of college education and not everyone took them. Although some children feel pressure to take them, you can take them in college.

Sharon Gabor, East Marlborough Township resident, welcomed Sharon Parker to the district community. She shares Mr. Fulginiti's enthusiasm for the high school renovation project, particularly with regard to the Auditorium. She commented about how hot the Auditorium was during the Spring Musical last year.

Domingo Mancuello, Patton Middle School student, commented regarding the summer reading list. He stated that it was a bit disappointing compared to lists from other schools. The topics of the Holocaust and other depressing areas did not afford as many choices for the children.

Mrs. Trigg welcomed everyone to another school year and offered her welcome to Ms. Parker. She commented about an article in last Tuesday's edition of the *Wall Street Journal* regarding fuzzy vs. fundamental math in the K-8 years. She reassured everyone that the children do learn their multiplication tables and division in U-CFSD. Mrs. Trigg commented about Dr. Kenney's dedication, integrity, and courage as qualities she associated with him. It has been her pleasure and privilege to work with him.

**RESIDENTS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

**BOARD  
MEMBERS'  
COMMENTS**

Board Members' Comments (Continued)

Mr. Swayze commented about the Superintendent selection process as we say goodbye to Jack Kenney and hello to Sharon Parker tonight. While it was a different process, it was not that much different than when we selected Dr. Kenney. We identified an extraordinary educator. Dr. Kenney was always an overachiever in every district who had a way of bringing achievement to students in every level. He has been a gentleman, a man of great character, and someone who has done very fine things for the district. Mr. Swayze hopes he will continue to be an educator in some form or fashion. He welcomed Ms. Parker and commented that we have identified an extraordinary educator and leader of teachers, students and community. It was the Board's good fortune to have been given her name and he is delighted to have her aboard.

Mr. Murray offered his best sentiments to Maria Schwab in her new position. He welcomed Sharon Parker and commented that the Board has placed a lot of faith in the new Superintendent. As a School Board, we are mainly concerned with putting people in place to manage the school district. We are a mechanism of policy, to set forth the agenda, to listen and agree and press the goals the administration will provide to us. We're looking for Sharon to set the tone in the schools and the agenda. He hopes everyone will give the Superintendent and administration time to develop the goals. Mr. Murray thinks we have a real gem in Sharon Parker. We should tell her wholeheartedly what is on our minds and keep communicating as best as possible.

Dr. Sweeney commented that she could not extend a more sincere welcome to Sharon Parker. She is really looking forward to working with her.

Dr. West welcomed Sharon Parker and is very excited about starting this new school year.

Mr. Wandersee welcomed Sharon Parker and is sure we'll have excellent leadership.

Mrs. Halstead commented that she had attended Back-to-School nights and hopes to attend the middle school program on Wednesday night. It's good to see the parents attend them and is really what it's all about. She requested that names of the National Merit commended students also be announced. Mr. Fulginiti commented that they would be announced as soon as the names were released later in September.

Mrs. Halstead noticed that a middle school employee was taking a Wilson reading course. She wishes everyone was in touch with what kind of reading we are teaching. The middle school program in grade 8 stresses comprehension and we need to go to some comprehension program for grades 4/5.

**BOARD  
MEMBERS'  
COMMENTS  
(Continued)**

### Board Members' Comments (Continued)

Mrs. Halstead commented that in delegating teachers to go to science and language arts meetings, sometimes the older teachers have something to offer. She hopes some of those teachers were volunteers.

It was great to see the stands full of people and was a great football game on Friday night. Mrs. Halstead will attend the technology meeting on Wednesday to learn more about the student program we are starting. She commented about a problem last year with one of our fans at a visiting school and hopes the fans will be more loving when they go into other schools with a diverse population.

Mrs. Brown thanked Ms. Parker for joining the district and is looking forward to working with her. She is looking forward to seeing the goals for the upcoming year and working on them. Mrs. Brown offered her thanks to Maria Schwab and wished good luck to her in her new position.

Mr. Baker referred to his comments regarding Dr. Kenney that were made at his reception earlier this evening. He referred to the changes in our achievement on the PSSA test during Dr. Kenney's tenure in Unionville-Chadds Ford :

- 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

On many occasions, Dr. Kenney stated that his goal was to make this district the best of the best. This is quite a legacy that he leaves behind.

Mr. Baker wished Dr. Kenney well in his retirement. It was very wonderful that four former Board members attended Dr. Kenney's reception, including Herb Brown (who traveled from Virginia), Anne Michelini, Steve McClaskey, and Keith Knauss. He commented about a saying that in education your impact is like a hand in a bucket of water because once you leave, the long-term impact is no different simply because the water will settle when you go. He is not sure that is so fair and feels there is lasting impact from any leader in an educational environment. The fact that you have community members and others who will come years and years into the district's history suggests that there is a history, a current, and a long and exciting future that lies ahead. What we are doing now is important.

### **BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS (Continued)**

Mr. Baker thanked the Unionville-Chadds Ford Education Association for the annual dinner they hosted with the Board this evening. It is extremely important that the teachers, Board and community work together.

Mr. Baker welcomed Sharon Parker to Unionville-Chadds Ford.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown  
Secretary

**MEETING  
ADJOURNED**