

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Minutes
October 17, 2005

The October meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, October 17, 2005 in the Unionville High School LGI. Mr. Wandersee, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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

The following members were present: Edward Wandersee, Keith Knauss, Kathleen Brown, Curt Baker, Stephen McClaskey, Bruce Swayze, Dr. Corinne Sweeney, and Timotha Trigg. Also present were Dr. John Kenney, District Superintendent, Dr. Brenda O'Hern, Clif Beaver, Robert Cochran, Jim Fulginiti, Rich Hug, Thomas Marinelli, Dr. Jim Price, Maria Schwab, Bruce Vosburgh, Gail Wolfel, Lexi Crampton, student representative, community residents, members of the press, and Denise Miller, recording secretary.

Mr. Wandersee stated that the School Board met as a whole on September 26, 2005 in an Executive Session prior to the P.T.O. Advisory Committee meeting and on October 10, 2005 following the Work Session. He noted that Mr. Murray was not present tonight due to a delay in Harrisburg and stated that he would be arriving later this evening.

Katie Donovan, East Marlborough Township resident, commented regarding the Senior Recognition Night for Girl's field hockey and stated that they could not play the game against Great Valley that night because of rain. The game was delayed and played here today. They were at Avon-Grove and asked their Athletic Director about their track and stadium project. He stated that they had done an entire ground renovation project up to seven fields (field irrigation, added stadium and track, snack bar, etc.) The cost for the three artificial turf fields was \$1.2 million. He stated that he had not been contacted by anyone from Unionville-Chadds Ford. The artificial field would provide our spring sports with up to a month of practice on our fields. We currently use the parking lot, gym (limited times).

The schools that have artificial surface fields can practice because you can plow them. The Kennett, Downingtown (East and West), West Chester (Henderson, East and the new high school), Avon-Grove, Great Valley, Conestoga, Radnor, and Bishop Shanahan schools all have artificial fields. Oxford recently voted to renovate their fields (not artificial surface). Octorara's fields are already in better shape than ours. This leaves us with the worst playing fields in Chester County.

**CALL TO
ORDER**

**MEMBERS
PRESENT**

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

Mr. Wandersee thanked Mrs. Donovan for her comments and stated that they were very valid. This issue is being investigated by the School Board.

Jose Robertson, Birmingham Township resident, commented regarding an e-mail going out to Dr. Kenney, Dr. O'Hern and the U-CF School Board that was based on their meeting Friday morning. During the meeting, they learned that Dr. O'Hern scheduled the in-service days and Mr. Wandersee said he did not want to see students interrupted with a holiday in the middle of the week. With that in mind, the concerned parents challenged Dr. O'Hern, the administration and Board to institute an in-service day on Yom Kippur (Monday, October 2, 2006).

The administration and Board had already set precedent on changing the calendar, so no new ground has to be broken here. Specifically, the Board adopted the 2005-06 calendar on September 20, 2004 and then modified it on May 16, 2005. The concerned parents see no reason why the 2006-07 calendar couldn't be adjusted to add the in-service day on October 2, 2006. This would allow Dr. O'Hern to follow up with her teachers one month earlier than the November 3, 2006 in-service day. Since it falls on a Monday, there would be no interruption to the school week. Policy 803 stated that the Board reserves the right to change the calendar when it is not in the best interest of the school district. An in-service day was scheduled for Good Friday in 2006-07. Why can't we use this tactic for Jewish holy days if it is used for a Christian holy day?

Mr. Wandersee stated his e-mail address and looks forward to receiving the communication.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the Minutes for the September 19, 2005 Regular Board Meeting (pp. 3.a.1-17)

Motion carried (8-0).

The following committee meeting minutes were reviewed:

1. Facilities Committee Meeting – September 8, 2005 (p. 3.a.18)
2. Curriculum Committee Meeting – October 10, 2005 (pp. 3.a.19-24)

Mr. Wandersee requested that the Secretary file the committee minutes.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**MINUTES
APPROVED**

The following financial statements and reports were reviewed:

1. General Fund Treasurer's Report – September, 2005 (p. 3.b.1)
2. Capital Reserve Fund Report – September, 2005 (p. 3.b.2)
3. 2005-2006 GF Function Revenue Analysis with Details of 6100's and 7000's as of September, 2005 (p. 3.b.3)
4. 2005-06 General Fund Function-Object Expenditure Analysis as of September, 2005 (pp. 3.b.4-6)
5. Category Expenditures Analysis – September, 2005 (p. 3.b.7)
6. Capital Projects Fund Report – September, 2005 (p. 3.b.8)
7. Outstanding Projects Summary – September, 2005 (p. 3.b.9)
8. Construction Project Reports – September, 2005
 - a. Unionville High School HVAC Project (pp. 3.b.10-11)

Mr. Wandersee asked that the Secretary file the financial statements and the reports.

It was moved by Mr. McClaskey and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the Bill List dated October 3, 2005 in the amount of \$3,020,777.60 (pp. 3.d.1-23).

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. McClaskey to approve the Carryover Budget Transfers for 2005-2006 as on the attachments (pp. 3.e.1-6).

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Mr. Swayze and seconded by Mr. McClaskey to approve the Second Entry 2004-05 End-of-Year Budget Transfers as on the attachment (p. 3.e.7).

Mr. Cochran commented that we received our final figure from Blue Cross/Blue Shield as a result of changing from a fully-insured to a self-insured group. The transfer for benefits in this month's book for 2004-05 is to cover those additional costs that we accrued in the amount of \$350,000.

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Mr. McClaskey and seconded by Mr. Knauss to approve the 2005-06 October Budget Transfers as on the attachment (p. 3.e.8).

Motion carried (8-0).

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

BILLS PAID

**CARRYOVER
BUDGET
TRANSFERS –
2005-06**

**SECOND
ENTRY
BUDGET
TRANSFERS –
2004-05**

**OCTOBER
BUDGET
TRANSFERS –
2005-06**

It was moved by Mr. Knauss and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to rescind the approval of Change Order #EC-03 (August 22, 2005 School Board Meeting) for paving work at Unionville High School in the amount of \$46,584.52.

Mr. Knauss stated that there is a high probability of a water line going in where the paving work would have been completed. Therefore, we will complete the paving work in one to two years.

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Mr. Knauss and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the retention of Diserod, Wolff, Kelly, Clough, Bucher, Inc. (DWKCB) Architects to assist the district in developing a Long-Range Facilities Master Plan, at a fee of \$21,000.00.

Mr. Knauss commented that as part of the normal planning process, the district will address the current state of our facilities (buildings and fields), project student population growth, explore alternatives to meet the needs of our district, put tentative plans in place for the repair of our existing facilities and/or additions to our facilities. The study will be completed by the spring and ample time will be allocated for input from all interested parties (students, parents, faculty members, administrators and Board members). The Finance Committee interviewed four firms and the above was their unanimous choice.

Mr. Wandersee stated that the plan will also include a detailed examination of recreational facilities which might be improved or expanded upon as well as facilities. It's a comprehensive review to cover all the needs of the school district for at least a five-year period. This was discussed at the Work Session on October 10, 2005.

Motion carried (8-0).

Mr. Knauss reported that the new curtains are up in the high school!

It was moved by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mr. McClaskey to approve the following course revisions as detailed on the attachments (pp. 5.a.1-59):

1. 6th Grade Social Studies (pp. 5.a.1-3)
2. 7th Grade Social Studies (pp. 5.a.4-6)
3. 8th Grade Social Studies (pp. 5.a.7-9)
4. Western Civilization – Academic and First Level (9th Grade) – (pp. 5.a.10-15)

(Continued)

FACILITIES:

**CHANGE
ORDER #EC-03
RESCINDED**

**LONG-RANGE
FACILITIES
PLAN -
DWKCB
ARCHITECTS**

CURRICULUM:

**COURSE
REVISIONS –
SOCIAL
STUDIES,
GR. 6-12**

Course Revisions (Continued)

5. Foundations of Western Thought (9th Grade) – (pp. 5.a.16-19)
6. Cultural Studies – Academic and First Level (10th Grade) – (pp. 5.a.20-25)
7. American Studies (11th Grade) – (pp. 5.a.26-30)
8. U.S. Cultures – Academic and First Level (11th Grade) – (pp. 5.a.31-36)
9. Civics and Government (12th Grade) – (pp. 5.a.37-42)
10. Economics – Academic (12th Grade) – (pp. 5.a.43-46)
11. U.S. Government – Academic (12th Grade) – (pp. 5.a.47-51)
12. AP Comparative Government and Politics (12th Grade) – (pp. 5.a.52-55)
13. AP U.S. History (11th Grade) – (pp. 5.a.56-58)

Mrs. Brown stated that most of the revisions are in the 6th grade Social Studies Program. We also have a new AP U.S. History course for 11th grade. Most courses will be tied to the State Academic Standards. Mrs. Brown noted that the AP courses are not designed here; they come to us like that already.

Motion carried (8-0).

There was no report for Finance.

Mr. Baker commented about the 40 basis-point movement and the additional work with regard to reevaluating the refinancing of our bond series. Mr. Cochran stated that he doesn't have information with him tonight but Mr. Murray tracks this very closely. Mr. Wandersee commented that we were planning to take up this issue at the November Work Session.

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

- a. Professional Conferences
 1. Approve attendance at (12) Professional Conferences as on the attachment (p. 7.a.1)
- b. Retirement (1)
 1. Geraldine Nickle – Bus Driver, effective October 14, 2005
- c. Resignation (1)
 1. Lisa Lopez-Carickoff – Part-time Library Paraprofessional, Pocopson Elementary School, effective following birth of baby in December, 2005

**CURRICULUM
(Continued)**

**COURSE
REVISIONS –
SOCIAL
STUDIES,
GR. 6-12
(Continued)**

FINANCE

PERSONNEL

**PROFES-
SIONAL
CONFERENCES**

RETIREMENT

G. Nickle

RESIGNATION

**L. Lopez-
Carickoff**

Personnel (Continued)

- d. Reclassifications (15)
 - 1. Patricia Peters – from part-time to full-time Bus Driver
 - 2. David Leathem - from part-time to full-time Bus Driver
 - 3. Karen Finley - from part-time to full-time Bus Driver
 - 4. Tina Ferranto – from part-time to full-time Bus Driver
 - 5. Susan Cooper - from part-time to full-time Van Driver
 - 6. Rick Burns - from part-time to full-time Bus Driver
 - 7. Sherry Lowry - from part-time to full-time Van Aide (also employed in Food Service)
 - 8. Sheila Bittle - from part-time to full-time Van Driver (also employed in Food Service)
 - 9. Blanche Woodward – from full-time to part-time Van Driver
 - 10. Karen Reinhart – from full-time to part-time Van Aide
 - 11. Michael Pugh – from full-time to part-time Bus Driver
 - 12. Angela Marrs – from full-time to part-time Van Aide
 - 13. Marcia Hardy – from full-time to part-time Bus Driver
 - 14. Bertha Barrow – from full-time to part-time Bus Driver
 - 15. Reclassify Chadds Ford and Hillendale Technology Support Paraprofessionals to 7.0 hours per day x 185 days per year (for uniformity of hours), effective October 24, 2005
- e. Substitute (1)
 - 1. Jay Johnson – Substitute Teacher
- f. Supplemental Contracts (13)
 - 1. George Crowley - Mentor
 - 2. Joseph Sudimak - Mentor (1/2 year)
 - 3. Deni-Lyn Lane - Mentor (1/2 year)
 - 4. Frank Deady - Mentor (1/2 year)
 - 5. Joseph Sudimak - Mentor
 - 6. Sheri Edwards - Mentor
 - 7. Carolyn Harkins - Mentor
 - 8. Kevin Convery - Team Leader
 - 9. Todd Szewczyk - J.V. Wrestling Coach
 - 10. Ralph Sorrentino - Band Front (1/2)
 - 11. Brent Thorpe - Band Front (1/2)
 - 12. Ryan Fegley - Band Assistant (1/2)
 - 13. Amy Hipp - Band Assistant (1/2)

**Personnel
(Continued)**

**RECLASSIFI-
CATIONS:**

**P. Peters
D. Leathem
K. Finely
T. Ferranto
S. Cooper
R. Burns
S. Lowry**

S. Bittle

**B. Woodward
K. Reinhart
M. Pugh
A. Marrs
M. Hardy
B. Barrow**

**CF/HE Tech
Support Para-
professionals**

SUBSTITUTE

**SUPPELE-
MENTAL
CONTRACTS**

Motion carried (8-0).

Personnel - Continued

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to approve the following personnel items (agenda items 7g.1-3):

g. Employ (3)

1. Josh Thomas – Patton Middle School Social Studies Teacher, effective August 23, 2005, at the Bachelor’s Step 1 salary level
2. Julie Skipp – Chadds Ford Elementary part-time Kindergarten Paraprofessional (3.25 hours per school day), effective September 16, 2005, at a salary of \$11.23 per hour
3. Margaret Buck – Pocopson Elementary School One-on-One Paraprofessional Aide (2 hours per school day), effective October 3, 2005, at a salary of \$12.50 per hour

EMPLOY:

J. Thomas

J. Skipp

M. Buck

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the following personnel item (agenda item 7g.4):

g. Employ (1)

4. Jim Fulginiti – Unionville High School Principal, effective immediately, at a salary of \$120,000 pro-rata for the 2005-06 Fiscal Year, and under the same terms and conditions found in the Administrative Compensation Plan, July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2009

EMPLOY:

**J. Fulginiti –
UHS Principal**

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Baker -	Yes	Mr. Swayze -	Yes
Mrs. Brown -	Yes	Dr. Sweeney -	Yes
Mr. Knauss -	Yes	Mrs. Trigg -	Yes
Mr. McClaskey -	Yes	Mr. Wandersee -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0).

Mr. Fulginiti introduced his mother, Kathleen; wife, Cheryl; and children, Jimmy, Matthew and Michelle who were in attendance. He thanked everyone for their support.

Mr. Wandersee commented that he also has the enthusiasm of the Board and they look forward to his accomplishments.

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

h. Leave (1)

1. Michele Showalter – Pocopson Elementary School Teacher, 12-week Maternity Leave beginning approximately November 27, 2005, followed by an Unpaid Child Rearing Leave through the end of the 2005-06 school year

LEAVE:

M. Showalter

Motion carried (8-0).

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

- i. Create Positions (2)
 - 1. Part-time Paraprofessional Aide (2 hours per school day), at Pocopson Elementary School
 - 2. Bus Driver to alleviate crowding on certain secondary bus runs
- j. Corrections (2)
 - 1. Elizabeth Mills – Declined Paraprofessional Position at Chadds Ford Elementary School
 - 2. Kristie Regan – Unionville High School Teacher, Correct Salary to Master's Step 1
- k. Appointments (2)
 - 1. Deborah VanRenterghem – Tax Collector
 - 2. Bruce Prabel – Tax Collector

Mr. Wandersee stated that the need for the bus driver has been demonstrated due to difficulties we've had since the beginning of the year.
Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Mr. Swayze and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to award the bid for Digital Recording Equipment for School Busses to Bus Parts Warehouse in the amount of \$22,196.65 as on the attachment (p. 8.a.1).

In response to Mrs. Brown's question, Mr. Swayze stated that this purchase is for safety and security reasons. Certain buses will receive more attention than others.

Motion carried (8-0).

It was moved by Mr. Swayze and seconded by Mr. McClaskey to authorize the solicitation of bids for the acquisition of two (2) 72-passenger Busses, two (2) nine-passenger Sprinter Vans, and three (3) nine-passenger Vans as on the attached bus fleet replacement plan (p. 8.b.1) and as discussed at the October 10, 2005 Work Session. This is the configuration that the Transportation Department feels is best.

Mrs. Brown asked whether all of these buses were coming from the place that is changing how they're building their buses. Mr. Cochran stated that they were not and that the (2) 72-passenger buses are the two that were concerned. We're bidding them as a group to consolidate all of the bidding at one time. Mrs. Brown asked whether we were committed for next year once we did this. Mr. Cochran stated that the estimated cost is about what we've spent in the last 3-4 years and will be in the \$300,000 range. With a fleet of 90 vehicles, this is a small piece in keeping current. Mrs. Brown stated that her problem with it was the time of year that we're bidding them and the reason we're doing them now.

**Personnel
(Continued)**

**NEW
POSITIONS:**

**Part-time Para-
professional,
Pocopson**

Bus Driver

**CORRECTIONS:
E. Mills**

K. Regan

**APPOINT-
MENTS:**

**D. Van
Renterghem
B. Prabel**

**TRANSPOR-
TATION**

**Bid Award-
Digital
Recording
Equipment
/Buses**

**Authorization –
Bus/Van Bids**

Mr. Knauss commented that we are acquiring seven vehicles but replacing six. Mr. Cochran stated that we need some expansion of our fleet on the smaller end. That is where we are getting the highest demand and the highest additions of new runs with special needs children.

Mr. Swayze stated that we are moving up the bidding by two months but the actual purchase will not take place until the next budget year.

Mr. Baker asked if there was any reason to believe we would get a better or worse price if we segregated off the two 9-passenger and three 9-passenger vans from the bus purchase and placed them into the normal bidding cycle. Mr. Cochran responded that we have no reason to believe we would get a better or worse price.

Dr. Kenney commented that due to the bidding process and some slight cost in bidding twice, we can bid it two ways but do it at one time (bid all seven and have separate bids for the two buses and the five vans). If the Board chooses to wait until January, it's a matter of awarding the (2) 72-passenger vehicles and rejecting all bids for 9-passenger vehicles and in two months, rebidding (with additional cost). Mr. Cochran stated that if we do all seven vehicles, there would be no additional cost for the bidding process.

Mr. Swayze inquired as to whether we might get a better price by bidding it all at one time. Mr. Cochran stated that we may receive better pricing but it is not a guarantee. Mr. Wandersee stated that we would keep the above motion as it is.

Motion carried (8-0).

Mr. Swayze reported for Transportation regarding the following items:

1. National School Bus Safety Week – October 16-22; U-CF will be participating in two activities during the week.
 - a. One is the National School Bus Safety Poster Contest. In the spring, students from Chadds Ford and Unionville Elementary Schools created posters using the theme, "I See the Driver, The Driver Sees Me." Bus drivers judged the posters and five were selected and entered into the Pennsylvania contest. Winners were:
 - Olivia Young (UE)
 - McKayla Mann (UE)
 - Kelsey Walden (CF; currently Patton Middle School)
 - Julia Zhu (CF; currently Patton Middle School)
 - Haewon Jeong (CF; currently Patton Middle School)

These students' posters will be among hundreds that will be judged by the Department of Transportation. Winners will proceed to the national contest. Many other posters created by our students are displayed around the Board Room this evening.

**TRANSPOR-
TATION
(Continued)**

**Transportation
Report**

Transportation Report (Continued)

- b. Operation Safe Stop – We will also participate in this proactive approach to educating the motoring public that passing a stopped school bus when children are loading and unloading is both dangerous and illegal. On Wednesday, October 19th, law enforcement agencies, school transportation providers and the media will be on the road making observations and documenting illegal passes that occur along the school bus routes. Even though we are concerned about this every day, we hope that through the media and with help from law enforcement, the message will be clear to motorists that we take safety very seriously.
2. State Level – School transportation organizations, along with PSBA and PASBO, are taking a pro-active course on ways to help with fuel conservation. The high cost of fuel is not just a transportation concern. Heating fuel for plant operation of our school buildings is also a statewide concern. Our school district is one of the first in Pennsylvania to implement the “Anti-Idling Policy” for school buses. At this time, it is too soon to see how much of a savings we will have. Other districts are using our policy as a model to write their own.

There were no items for Policy this evening.

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

1. Mr. Fulginiti – Welcome to him as their Principal
2. Student Congress – First meeting – November 15th, 7:00 a.m.
3. Blood Drive – for National Honor Society
4. Organizational Climate Evaluation – felt it was very effective with good, honest feedback from all.
5. 50/50 Challenge – It’s about half over and we have raised approximately \$20,000
6. Fields / Facilities – Students have been coming to Lexi to express the need for better fields and facilities.

There was no report for the Center for Arts & Technology/Special Education/Intermediate Unit this evening.

Mr. Baker reported for Communications that there would be a concluding report of the Organizational Climate Study at next month’s meeting.

**TRANSPOR-
TATION
(Continued)**

**BOARD
POLICY**

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE
REPORT**

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

**COMMUNI-
CATIONS**

Mr. Wandersee reported for Legislation regarding:

1. Tax Reform – The General Assembly has over 50 individual House Bills relative to tax reform. One to two might succeed but there are two to three that are kind of interesting. The General Assembly was called for a Special Session by the Governor on September 28th specifically to come up with a program on tax reform.
 - a. House Bill 1 - Amends Act 72; All districts would receive property tax allocations, regardless of whether or not they opted in to Act 72. It relieves them of any obligation to enforce a 1% Earned Income Tax (EIT). It would allow any district that wishes to decide their property taxes beyond the amount they would get from the gambling funds in Act 72. All districts would be required to comply with back-end referendum for increases above the index. The Governor supported the Bill (most popular Bill at the moment).
 - b. Southeastern Pennsylvania Bill (Eight members of the Senate, including Dominic Pileggi, Robert Thompson, and Ted Erikson (Del. Co.) - Would freeze property taxes for seniors and reimburse districts for the lost money. Districts could have an Earned Income Tax/Personal Income Tax. It is still not well defined.
 - c. Commonwealth Plan / 5% Plan – Includes phasing out all school property taxes over three years, decreasing sales tax to 5% and substantially increasing the base for food and clothing taxes. Also increases the real estate transfer tax and includes an optional Earned Income Tax/Personal Income Tax. The State would assume the certified district's current debt and shift responsibility for most of the school's funding to the State.

In this situation where a School Board doesn't raise its funds locally through some means, regulation of the school district would move to the state.

Dr. Kenney provided the Superintendent's report:

1. *Philadelphia Inquirer* – Unionville-Chadds Ford was featured in the October 9, 2005 edition because our 5th graders were the best in Chester County and in the top of the state.
2. U-CF Principals will provide their report followed by the annual district Achievement Report.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SUPER- TENDENT'S REPORT

Elementary Report

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

- Pocopson Elementary –
 - Intramural soccer has come to Pocopson led by Dave Lichter and Megan Cromer. It provides some time for 4th and 5th grade children to spend some fun exercise time after school on Thursdays. The program has been very successful at meeting the desired goals.

- Hillendale Elementary –
 - We are pleased with the PSSA scores this school year
 - Katrina Relief – Raised over \$6,000 to date through donations, car washes and lemonade stands. Collected 50 student backpacks
 - Held our first Spirit Day on Friday

- Chadds Ford Elementary –
 - Mrs. Russell's 1st Grade Class – The class will participate in a special project incorporating technology and reading over the next few weeks. The goal of the Leap Frog project (funded by the U-CF Education Foundation) is to reinforce classroom materials, raise student achievement and integrate technology.

- Unionville Elementary –
 - Mrs. Lafferty (4th Grade Teacher) is doing some administrative work as part of her internship and will read the U.E. report.
 - The World of Jump Roping – Students and staff members were treated to a wonderful assembly on September 21st by Mark Rothstein. Everyone even went home with their very own jump rope. Thanks to the P.T.O. for funding this program!

Mr. Bruce Vosburgh provided the Patton Middle School report:

- Parent Visitation Day – was held on October 11th and was a very successful day with over 400 people in attendance.
- Magazine Drive – over \$87,000 worth of magazines were sold. The culminating activity included 31 students who went to lunch in a stretch *Navigator*.

(Continued)

Middle School Report

Middle School Report (Continued)

- School Photos – Students brought them home today
- Annual Bike Drive – was held on Saturday; community families were refurbishing over 150 bikes that will be distributed to needy families in the Kennett/Unionville area.
- Chester County – PA I.U. Migrant Education Program Congressional Awards – held on September 12th at the Philadelphia Constitution Center. Students completed the required hours in community service, personal development, physical fitness and an overnight expedition. Patton Middle School student (Joaquin Perez) and three Unionville High School students (Maria and Jose Romero and Miguel Leon) were given medals by Rick Santorum
- *Independence Day* will be shown this Friday night for our first movie night.
- Halloween – The PTO-sponsored mixer will be held for 6th and 7th graders on 10/28.
- PTO Focus Group for Parents - November 18th, 7:30 p.m. – will address the issue of Internet usage at home (presented by Robin Martin)

Mr. Jim Fulginiti provided the Unionville High School report:

- Katrina Relief – We actually raised \$25,000 for victims of the Gulf States hurricane as of the 25th day.
- Open House – 9/22 – Well attended, successful night with many positive comments from parents – much appreciated
- Homecoming – Held on 10/1 with the football game and the dance that included 1,000 students. Thanks to the parents and everyone who picked up within a half hour of the conclusion.
- Golf – SCCL Champions
- Field Hockey – Clinched the Division championship; will compete on Thursday at Avon-Grove against Oxford at 3:00 p.m. for the league championship
- Football – At 7-0 and playing outstanding ball
- Honor Society Blood Drive – tomorrow; if interested in participating, contact us.
- Process/Procedures – Looking at the course selection process and are excited about making some adjustments that will allow students and parents the opportunity to make more informed decisions for course selection. This has an impact on our staffing and master schedule but will hopefully provide a smoother way to enter the next school year.
- PSSA Testing – coming to more grades – looking at more efficiency with it (logistics, etc.)
- Formal Observations – Excited about what is happening with teachers in the classrooms!

Middle School Report (Continued)

High School Report

**ANNUAL
ACHIEVEMENT
REPORT
2004-05**

Dr. Kenney stated that he would begin the annual Achievement Report with discussion about No Child Left Behind and the yearly targets. Mrs. Schwab will discuss PSSA reading and math results in grades 3 and 5. Dr. Price will discuss PSSA scaled scores and proficiency levels in reading, math and writing, as well as S.A.T. results. Dr. O'Hern will review cohorts as students have moved through our school system (grades 8 & 11; 5 & 8). We'll discuss the top ten districts in Pennsylvania and what activities contributed to the achievement. Mr. Marinelli will review resources that we believe contribute to our pattern of achievement.

Dr. Kenney reviewed the Adequate Yearly Progress charts (2002 through 2014). We are currently required to have 45% proficiency in math (compared to 35% in 2004) and will be asked to continue at 45% through 2007. Under No Child Left Behind, all students are to be proficient by 2014. In reading, the expected proficiency rate jumped to 54% in 2005 (compared to 45% in 2004). He stated that 1% of the student population with profound disabilities would take the alternate PASA test but must be proficient on that test. An additional 2% will be able to take an alternate PSSA test this year.

He reviewed the following Achievement Goals for 2005:

- Reach or exceed PSSA scores of 1510.
- .5%, one-half percent (Elementary and Middle School) and 2% (High School) Increase in Proficiency
- S.A.T. scores exceed the prior three-year average

Mrs. Schwab reviewed the 3rd grade PSSA scaled scores and proficiency levels:

<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Chadds Ford	1590 / 98%	1550 / 96%
Hillendale	1610 / 100%	1540 / 98%
Pocopson	1590 / 100%	1540 / 98%
Unionville	1480 / 96%	1490 / 89%
District	1568 / 98%	1530 / 95%

She also reviewed the breakdowns for 5th grade:

<u>Grade 5</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Chadds Ford	1650 / 95%	1520 / 97%
Hillendale	1650 / 97%	1560 / 99%
Pocopson	1590 / 98%	1500 / 92%
Unionville	1620 / 98%	1510 / 94%
District	1628 / 97%	1522 / 94%

The district proficiency levels are very impressive and Mrs. Schwab thanked the teachers, principals and support staff in those buildings. She also thanked the parents who support the kids at home and the School Board who supports all of us in the education of the children in our community.

Dr. Price provided the secondary level report on PSSA scaled scores and proficiency levels:

<u>Grade 8</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Patton Middle	1530 / 89%	1530 / 90%

We maintained a high level of performance again this year. We will be focusing on individual students and needs to find areas of difficulty and develop interventions to improve proficiency. It's basically a diagnostic and prescriptive approach toward individual student needs. This will happen across all proficiency levels.

<u>Grade 11</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Writing</u>
Unionville High	1540 / 78%	1540 / 86%	1390 / 78%

Students in 11th grade increased 34 points in math and 5 points in reading. The writing scores have increased a slight bit. As a result, the English Department is looking at where the decreases were and is designing specific interventions to help students to overcome the problems.

Dr. Price reviewed the 2005 S.A.T. scores:

	<u>UHS</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Nation</u>
Math	580	503	520
Verbal	575	501	508
Total	1155	1004	1028

He stated that the scores were quite good compared with last year's scores and have increased 10 points overall (six – Math; four – Verbal). Students this year scored higher than the 2002-2004 average, which shows continual achievement.

Dr. Price announced the National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists (top 1% of students taking the test in Pennsylvania):

- ❖ Hannah Allen
- ❖ Erin Brady
- ❖ Gregory Cannarsa
- ❖ Nicholas Chisholm
- ❖ Jared Kemtke
- ❖ Robert Macnguyen
- ❖ Jason Trigg

2004-05 Achievement Report (Continued)

He also announced the National Merit Commended Students (top 2% of students taking the test in Pennsylvania):

- ❖ Victor Adalsteinsson
- ❖ Stephen Chun
- ❖ Ian Crampton
- ❖ Kaitlin Donovan
- ❖ Murtaza Hassonjee
- ❖ Catherine Lu
- ❖ Shannon Marcoon
- ❖ Caitlin Michener
- ❖ Stephen Pennartz
- ❖ Jeffrey Price
- ❖ Loren Wolfe

Dr. Price extended congratulations to each of these students who bring a lot of honor to the high school and middle school programs.

Dr. O'Hern stated that she would discuss what we are doing in our schools to get these results and what we need to do to get even better results.

She reviewed the District Proficiency for 2004 to 2005:

	2004		2005	
	Math	Reading	Math	Reading
Elem.	94.1%	92.9%	94.5%	97.5%
MS	90.4%	93.3%	89.9%	90.0%
HS	81.0%	87.7%	78.0%	86.0%
District	87.8%	90.8%	90.1%	91.2%

There were some increases and some decreases in looking at the one-year pattern. Overall, there was an increased proficiency in math and a slight increase in reading proficiency from 2004 to 2005. The importance for students who are not at the proficient level is the need to target those students.

Mr. McClaskey stated that we met our first achievement goal of scoring 1510 or higher on PSSA scores. We did not achieve the second goal of a 2% increase in proficiency at the middle and high school levels. This is where our work lies. We did achieve the goal for S.A.T. scores to exceed the prior three-year average.

2004-05 Achievement Report (Continued)

Dr. O'Hern reviewed the PSSA Cohort Comparison:

	2002			2005	
Grade	Math	Reading	Grade	Math	Reading
5	1410	1390	8	1530	1530
8	1460	1430	11	1540	1540

This comparison is important since it shows the same students' scores from 2002 compared with 2005 (i.e. Grade 5 – 1410/Math in 2002 compared with Grade 8 – 1530/Math in 2005). The value-added comparison was important to watch in Pennsylvania and was a way to make a great deal of difference in student performance.

Dr. O'Hern stated that our schools met the adequate yearly progress requirement. She clarified the confidence interval notation with regard to Unionville High School. Our school does fall within that range; however, we had difficulty with students with special needs and will work closely with them. We will discuss plans to address that further at a later time.

U-CF ranked third in Pennsylvania for adequate yearly progress (based on proficiency levels).

She reviewed achievement activities in the areas of curriculum/instruction, assessment/data analysis, and staff development. Current and future achievement activities were also noted:

- Data warehouse and increased data-driven decision making
- Compacted math program at the elementary schools
- Middle School Action Plan
- High School plan for increasing proficiency of non-proficient students

Dr. O'Hern commented that we are already at 90.63% proficiency and feel good about it. We will work harder with the 10%. She noted that 100% of the third graders at Pocopson and Hillendale were proficient in reading and mathematics! Dr. O'Hern also referred to the Extended School Year (ESY) Program that used funds from the Accountability Block Grant.

It's not about the numbers; it's about the kids and making sure they are proficient in standards.

Mr. Marinelli reviewed achievement activities with regard to resources:

- Continued use of PSSA coach materials and Assessment Anchors
- Funding, people and time focused on achievement of students
- Hiring experienced teachers with additional coursework or advanced degrees

2004-05 Achievement Report (Continued)

- Use of peer coaches to work with inductees on improving instruction
- Acquisition of funding from federal grants to focus on achievement goals (ESY)
- Rigorous hiring practices for classroom teachers and administrators
- Hiring and continued development and focus of the building principal as instructional leader.

He commented that we lost 500+ years of teaching experience due to the early retirement incentive. Mr. Marinelli thanked the Board for supporting the hiring of more experienced teachers to replace them. Hiring is a multi-step, multi-level process in the district. The Administrative Retreat was intensive this year on observations. Also, the use of the block grant funds for the ESY Program has made a difference with students with special needs.

Dr. Kenney reviewed the 2006 Achievement Goals:

- Increase proficiency levels on the PSSA math and reading tests in grades 3, 5, 8, and 11 by one-half of one percent at the elementary and middle schools and by two and one-half percent at the high school
- Scaled scores at 1510 or better on the PSSA math and reading in all grades
- SAT scores at the average of the mean of SAT scores received for the past three years (1139 on verbal/math sections and 1698 on new SAT)

He commented that we were at 1545 this year (well above 1510) on the PSSA scaled scores. Next year on the SAT tests, we are looking for 1139 (Verbal and Math) and 1698 (New SAT).

Dr. Kenney reported that there is a movement in Pennsylvania to make the 11th grade PSSA a requirement for graduation. The state is saying if they are taking your courses and passing, why are 40% not proficient in math and 30% not proficient in reading? The state intends to say if you're graduating all of your students and 24% are not proficient in math, then your curriculum is not aligned. This is what they are looking at in Harrisburg (proposal before the State Board right now). This is one reason we need to pay attention to students who are not proficient in grade 1, not grade 11. We seem to be very successful in convincing young people to come to tutoring programs and in the summer, K-8. We're not very successful here and in most high schools but we may have to compel that, particularly if it becomes a graduation requirement.

(Continued)

We have to look at perceptions also and processes to find answers to some of these issues. We need to focus on those who are proficient and not proficient but we don't want to leave any child behind. That is why we're adding advanced placement and honors courses, compacting, accelerating, and providing extension courses at the middle school. We're interested in all segments of our community. Dr. Kenney requested questions from the public.

A district resident asked about the test results rising and falling last year. Dr. Kenney responded that proficiency levels were the same or higher at the elementary level and there was a slight drop in scaled scores. At the middle school level, there was a slight drop in scaled scores and a slight drop in proficiency level. At the high school level, there was an increase in scaled scores and a slight drop in proficiency levels. The concern is with the special needs students sub-group (barely made it).

If AYP is not attained, we would be identified as needing improvement in the first year, with intra-district choice in the second year, and then choice outside of the district. The state may mandate inter-district choice. We are losing occasional students now to charter/cyber charter schools. This results in a loss of \$9,000 per student that we lose. It becomes pertinent to the taxpayers. This is what is coming from the federal and state governments with the issues of the PSSA's, AYP and No Child Left Behind.

Mr. Vosburgh stated that in looking at the 8th graders (current 9th graders) in math and reading, 70% were proficient or advanced in math and 20% were basic. There is a big gap between advanced and basic. In the elementary levels, we had 33 reading and 31 math students who were at the below proficient level. We may need to dictate what some kids may be allowed to take because of that. We have to deal with them and make major changes for some students.

Mr. Fulginiti commented that by the time kids take these tests, they are looking beyond high school (SAT's). This presents a real challenge at the high school level in particular. We'll continue to try to be successful.

A resident asked about programs for non-proficient students. Dr. O'Hern stated that we would develop and implement a plan as soon as possible to work with students who are not proficient. Dr. Kenney mentioned the *Classroom Plus* program that has been very successful at the elementary and middle school levels. At the high school, students say they are too busy but if it becomes a graduation requirement, there would be consequences.

Dr. Kenney commented that occasionally he hears from parents, staff members and students that there is a lot of pressure because of these tests. Having had two children go through school systems, college systems and professional school, the testing increases further. It is stressful but you will be taking a lot of tests if you are interested in furthering your career and going on to a Master's Program and professional school.

Mr. Wandersee thanked the administration for their report and congratulated the teachers, staff, principals and administration for achieving this kind of performance.

Daniel Block, East Marlborough Township resident, commented that he had received the meeting summary from the Jewish high holidays/calendar meeting. On pages 2-3, Drs. Kenney and O'Hern stated that they were not aware of a Jewish file. They discussed it at the meeting with him on September 15th in his recollection. The Board was pretty clear that they weren't interested in considering adding back the Jewish holiday. Mr. Wandersee stated that they could discuss this after the meeting this evening.

Dan Gabor, East Marlborough Township resident, asked Mr. Baker whether the November 21st release of the Organizational Climate Evaluation results was still a good date. Mr. Baker responded in the affirmative.

Sharon Gabor, East Marlborough Township resident, commented that she hopes the Facilities Master Plan will include plans to finish the air-conditioning project in addition to the athletic fields. At the last meeting, someone said we will have a plan for athletic fields similar to the air-conditioning project. She doesn't think anyone would be happy if they were only one-third or one-half completed. Mr. Wandersee stated that we have planned to study it and invited Mrs. Gabor to speak with him after the meeting.

Dana Ely, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that the staff at Pocopson Elementary was not aware of the extension of the date for surveys to be completed. Mr. Baker stated that he could not confirm this one way or another but there was an extension to the paper survey that was administered to all principals and the district administration on October 9, 2005. He can say that there is no deviation in the number of responses for each school. The response has been significant, with well over 400 participants from across the district.

Mr. McClaskey congratulated Mr. Fulginiti in his position as Principal of Unionville High School. He is looking forward to the study on facilities and fields and the climate study results in November.

Mr. Baker noted that 2/7 of the National Merit Scholars play rugby! He congratulated Jim Fulginiti and stated that in any district, especially one with only one high school, it is the flagship for the district. It sets the tone. Everyone in the system ultimately looks and derives their identity from the high school. He encouraged Mr. Fulginiti to leave his personal legacy at Unionville High School and stated that the baton is now in his hands.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

Mr. Knauss welcomed Jim Fulginiti and is glad to have him aboard. He also noted that 2/7 of the National Merit Finalists have a last name that begins with the letter “C!”

Mrs. Brown congratulated Mr. Fulginiti in his new position. She thanked the teachers and staff for working so hard with their kids in helping them to do well.

Mrs. Trigg stated that the PSSA scores are a snapshot in time. What is really important are the achievement levels that students are accomplishing. It is a fair reflection of whether they are able to do these things. Mrs. Trigg encouraged people to look at the test so they would have a better feel for what it is we’re looking for and why it is celebrated. She thanked all involved in the improvement of our proficiency levels.

Mr. Swayze offered congratulations to Mr. Fulginiti and hopes he will take us to a new level.

Mr. Murray welcomed Jim Fulginiti and congratuled him in his position as UHS Principal.

Dr. Sweeney stated that each and every encounter in working with Mr. Fulginiti in past years has been positive and she looks forward to many more.

Mr. Wandersee commented that he knows we got the best man for the job in Jim Fulginiti. We look forward to working with him in his new role.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown
Secretary

**BOARD
MEMBERS’
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**