

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Minutes
October 19, 2006

The October meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, October 19, 2006 in the Unionville High School Large Group Instruction room. Mr. Baker, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

The following members were present: Curt Baker, R. Bruce Swayze, Kathleen Brown, Karen Halstead, Ed Murray, Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Timotha Trigg, Edward Wandersee, and Dr. Therese West. Also present were Sharon E. Parker, District Superintendent, Dr. Brenda O'Hern, Robert Cochran, Thomas Marinelli, Dr. Andrew McLaughlin, Jim Fulginiti, Rich Hug, Dr. Jim Price, Bruce Vosburgh, Gail Wolfel, Lexi Crampton, student representative, community residents, members of the press, and Denise Miller, recording secretary.

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

Mr. Baker stated that the meeting would begin with the Superintendent's Report, which will be a presentation. He commented regarding the Sunday, October 15, 2006 edition of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* that featured Sharon Parker's interview. Mr. Baker is proud of the article and stated that he had copies available for anyone who would like to read it.

Ms. Parker commented about the recognition that much information comes after we have taken action at meetings. It is October and the theme has truly been one of fine treasure – discovered, cultivated, buried and that which is still undiscovered. She is in that state of discovery. Ms. Parker couldn't envision the Community Fair until she was there herself. It is a product of 82 years of community celebration, history and culture. Her two granddaughters had a very nice time and milking the cow gave her another appreciation of the community heritage and tradition.

Ms. Parker stated that she has renewed the calendar discussion. A committee has been formed that includes a variety of community members. The calendar initiative is in full force and she expects that the Board could share it at the November meeting.

**CALL TO
ORDER**

**MEMBERS
PRESENT**

**SUPER-
INTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Community Fair

**Calendar
Committee**

The Grading Scale Committee has now been formed. Dr. Price has confirmed their meeting on October 25, 2006 and a recommendation will be provided to the Board no later than January, 2007.

Ms. Parker commented that tonight also held another Board treasure – binders on the table. They are the modest beginning of a data portfolio to share with the community and will be updated by the administration on a regular basis. Sharon extended her thanks to Rich Hug and the technology staff for moving forward on this project.

In the spirit of all that is good and right, we're also talking about another treasure – the body of achievement of our children. Ms. Parker introduced the District's Achievement Report and commented that in the past year, there has been an examination of all that is right in the community and things we can do better. When looking at the graciousness of the pearl, it is created with irritation and she'd like us to be able to appreciate that irritation. Whether we can appreciate former teachers and past experiences, we have been agitated in offering a continually better product for our children. Next year she will feel more excited that she has had a hand in it. She is extremely appreciative of the parents, staff, students, and the community.

Dr. O'Hern stated that when we look at a student, we look at a whole photo album. Tonight we are looking at a few snapshots of the PSSA and SAT results. They don't tell the whole picture of students in this district.

She stated that by 2014, 100% of students must be proficient in math and reading on the PSSA exams (federal mandate). The next significant jump occurs in 2008 in how many students must be proficient (56% in math; 63% in reading). We must keep moving forward, although we are in very good shape to achieve that 100% by 2014.

Dr. O'Hern reviewed the 2005-06 achievement goals:

- Reach or exceed PSSA scores of 1510
- .5% (Elementary, Middle School) and 2% (High School) increases in proficiency
- SAT scores exceeding prior three-year average

She stated that it's not about the numbers but about the kids and kids reaching proficiency in our Pennsylvania Academic Standards and going above and beyond them as do our students.

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

**Grading Scale
Committee**

**Board Data
Portfolios**

**District
Achievement
Report**

Dr. Price, Director of Secondary Education, reported the third and fifth grade PSSA scores:

Grade 3	Math	Reading
CFES	1620 / 100%	1550 / 96%
HES	1750 / 100%	1580 / 95%
PES	1610 / 96%	1530 / 95%
UES	1670 / 100%	1550 / 98%
District	1663 / 99%	1553 / 96%

Grade 5	Math	Reading
CFES	1570 / 90%	1450 / 83%
HES	1610 / 96%	1520 / 96%
PES	1640 / 95%	1480 / 87%
UES	1620 / 93%	1500 / 93%
District	1610 / 93%	1488 / 90%

He stated that a writing test was added at the eighth grade level and reported scores for that grade level:

Grade 8	Math	Reading	Writing
CFPMS	1570 / 94%	1610 / 94%	1500 / 89%

We have already exceeded the proficiency levels for the year 2012.

Dr. Price reviewed the eleventh grade scores:

Grade 11	Math	Reading	Writing
UHS	1530 / 78%	1530 / 87%	1640 / 97%

He commented regarding the math and reading scores, stating that if you consider the 660 high schools in the state, we rank 25th in math and 28th in reading.

Dr. O'Hern reviewed the 2005 SAT scores:

	UHS	State	Nation
Math	585	500	518
Reading	572	493	503
Total	1157	993	1021
	UHS	State	Nation
Writing	554	483	497
Total	1711	1476	1518

She stated that we had exceeded our average and were considerably above the state and nation in math, reading and writing scores.

Dr. O'Hern reported the SAT three-year averages:

	2002-2004	2005
Math	574	585
Verbal	568	572
Total	1142	1157

The 2005 scores exceeded the three-year averages in both the math and verbal areas.

Dr. O'Hern reviewed the PSSA cohort comparison that indicates scores for the same class of students over a two-year or three-year period:

2003			2005		
Grade	Math	Reading	Grade	Math	Reading
3	1579	1500	5	1610	1488

2003			2005		
Grade	Math	Reading	Grade	Math	Reading
5	1530	1510	8	1570	1610
8	1480	1480	11	1530	1530

She stated that gains of more than 50 points were considered statistically significant by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

All of our scores have met the AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) requirement, which is not true of every school. Some schools that were listed in the *Philadelphia Magazine* article regarding the top 40 schools did not achieve AYP.

Dr. O'Hern reviewed the achievement activities for curriculum and instruction:

- Standards-based curriculum alignment in K-12 language arts, math, science and social studies
- New Math, language arts, science and social studies programs at the elementary level
- Project Read and MegaWords programs at the elementary level
- Individual reading and math instruction at the middle level
- Continuation of parent waivers for higher-level courses at the high school
- Continued addition of AP and honors courses at the high school
- Continuation of the SuccessMaker program for special needs students at the middle school
- Increased use of data to drive instructional decision making and related staff development
- Extended School Year (ESY) Program for special needs students

She stated that we focused on the core and elective areas (i.e. music impact on math), early intervention at the K-2/3 years to remediate difficulties; individual instruction in math and reading at the middle school. We are now at the 94-95% range at the middle school level.

Dr. O'Hern reviewed achievement activities for assessment and data analysis:

- Annual study of achievement results with formulation of building action plans and faculty study group goals
- Development of Elementary Literacy Assessments and use of data (DIBELS)
- Data warehouse and increased data-driven decision making
- Compacted math program at the elementary schools
- Common assessments, reading and math pre and post assessments at the middle level for all students
- High school proficiency courses in reading and math

Mr. Marinelli, Director of Pupil Services & Personnel, reviewed achievement activities with regard to resources:

- Continued use of PSSA coach materials and focus on Assessment Anchors
- Funding, people and time focused on achievement of students
- Hiring experienced teachers with additional coursework or advanced degrees
- Use of peer coach 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 about the multi-level process regarding the hiring of teachers. It could be a new teacher or someone with an advanced degree. Mr. Marinelli stated that we've seen a lot of results with students who have participated in the ESY program.

Ms. Parker stated that the 2006-07 achievement goal had been revised from what was shown on the PowerPoint slide to "met and exceed local SAT and PSSA performance levels" since we are already functioning above state goals.

She is ready to take a road trip, whether real or virtual, to see what other very bright children in very forward-thinking school districts are doing and to look at the cultures in which they are doing it. Ms. Parker stated that

she knows one of the high-performing high schools that did not meet AYP and it had a lot to do with the lack of progress for special needs students. In response to the question of where that irritation could move us, she stated that it's string of pearls time.

Ms. Parker thanked the administrators for the fine work, as well as the teaching staff, Board and parents. Clearly, when we are at such a fine level of achievement, every step becomes more of a challenge.

In response to Mr. Swayze's question, Mr. Marinelli stated that we have reached the 100% level for highly qualified teachers.

Mr. Baker thanked the administration, faculty, staff and the students themselves for putting points on the board for this year's academic achievement. Our performance is extraordinary and he is very proud.

Carol Catanese, Pennsbury Township resident, thanked the Board for inviting the public to the presentation tonight on the new high school project. She would like to have had full access to the PowerPoint program. Mrs. Catanese commented about a facilities study meeting that she attended last year where they indicated the middle school was most in need. She expected to see both schools included in this presentation. Mrs. Brown and Mr. Swayze stated that this was a misnomer and the high school was mentioned in that study.

Mr. Baker stated that the Board would answer questions from residents but they may respond at a later time. In general, this is a comment period. He also reminded everyone about the box in the back of the room for those who would like a question answered subsequently.

Pat Muller, Pennsbury Township resident, attended the architect's meeting. She expressed concern over the possible cost reduction of the performing arts areas and auditorium. These areas have taken a cut before. Music is important and has been lauded as improving math scores. Also, we have no town center and this could become destination point that paid for itself if it could be rented out to other local production companies.

Sharon Gabor, East Marlborough Township resident, echoed Mrs. Mueller's comments. She does not want the Music Department to be cut once again to save a few dollars. Mrs. Gabor encouraged the Board to consider alternative ways of fund raising (e.g. grants).

**District
Achievement
Report
(Continued)**

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Jeff Hellrung, East Marlborough Township resident, commented about the article last winter in *The Kennett Paper* where Dr. Kenney said he was going to retire. He thought it was odd that he'd retire in four years of a five-year contract. The Board President told us he was retiring but it turns out it was an Employment Agreement. A Freedom of Information request was made to obtain a copy of the agreement. We are paying Dr. Kenney \$278,000 not to work this year. He would have been entitled to about \$48,000 in his prior contract. Mr. Hellrung wondered why we weren't keeping him employed this year. There will be another Assistant Superintendent with no duties other than to be on call for a few days this year. The School Board President says there is no pay for sick days and we need to make major changes in the way the district is run. His faith in the Board President, in particular, is very shaken. He knows that most Board members are competent and have great integrity and honesty. Mr. Hellrung stated that it's not okay to keep all of this secret. He hopes the Board will do its best to monitor construction project costs, etc. and regain the public's trust.

Mr. Baker thanked Mr. Hellrung and stated that he would have comments at the conclusion of the public comments.

Jean Kountz, Pocopson Township resident, commented that she was proud to see the progress in the numbers but there is still more progress needed for special needs students. She supports the performing arts and it's especially great for special needs kids to participate in the music program.

Jack Greenwood, East Marlborough Township resident, inquired as to whether Mr. Baker would comment directly to Mr. Hellrung's comments. Mr. Baker stated that he would respond directly.

Denise Grier, Birmingham Township resident and Co-chair of the UHS Podium Club, thanked all of the parents who were here in support of the building renovation presentation. She asked that everyone keep in mind that it's been many years since this wing of the building had been overlooked. They are 240 students strong and incorporate every student with no tryouts or auditions. She asked that we continue to look at their program and at the schools around us. This is a vital part of supporting their educational experience. We have seen the benefits of music education for our students, as well as all of the social and personal skills. Mrs. Grier thanked them for supporting their curriculum.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Juliana Eisele, Birmingham Township resident, commented that her oldest daughter graduated in 2005. She is one of the students who helped to boost the scores that were shown and she believes a lot is because of the music program. They have been short-changed here in the high school. She asked that we consider the full extent of the plan that was proposed so that other students will benefit from it.

Lou Minella, East Marlborough Township resident, commented that he was surprised and thrilled to see Unionville Elementary's PSSA scores exceeding Chadds Ford's. He is in full support of the performing arts but stated that no one had spoken about fields. The field being used for varsity soccer is in the best shape it has been in many years. We have to join the rest of the world but also expending time and energy on the natural fields is great.

Mr. Minella stated that this Board was incredibly supportive of adding a guidance counselor. He asked that the Superintendent look at what they do in guidance. The challenge is to make the SAT scores compare the students to the top schools. It doesn't compare if you relate them to where they are going. He asked what Tredyffrin Easttown and Lower Merion were doing. Mr. Minella encouraged Ms. Parker to look into that area in her journey.

He commented regarding Dr. Kenney's retirement and stated that sometimes the cover-up is worse than the crime. He cited the ugly Climate Study. Mr. Minella is happy to see the change in administration and sometimes it costs money. He feels the right thing was done and it's an easy call.

Mrs. Brown commented that one of the goals this year is to look at guidance. Ms. Parker stated that if the goals were approved this evening, they would be on-line and could be viewed.

Holly Manzone, Pocopson Township resident, commented about concerns in the community about how we compare to other schools. She is personally very glad that we compare to private schools. We need to ask our alumni to help us and we're putting together a community resource group, which you will hear about very soon.

Ms. Parker thanked her for her excitement in this area.

Nick O'Neill, East Marlborough Township resident, commented that he is delighted that Dr. Price is starting a Grading Scale Committee. He inquired as to whether any external members were included. Ms. Parker stated that she would follow up on that question more extensively at a later time. There is a full body of information, including parent e-mails and Mr. O'Neill's PowerPoint presentation, is extensive and the first part of the work must be done with staff members.

Lathie Gannon, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that she is happy with the changes of the Superintendent. She cited Ms. Parker's commented in *The Kennett Paper* last month, "The voice of the child should be the heartbeat of the district." She feels that is where our focus needs to go and she welcomed Ms. Parker.

Mary Valiante, East Marlborough Township resident, commented about performing arts and the auditorium being the first thing that could be cut down. She stated that *Beauty and the Beast* rivaled a Broadway musical.

Erin Kershaw, Birmingham Township resident, stated that she moved here a year ago from Plano, Texas and chose U-CF without question. Her older daughter is a band member at UHS and they are so impressed with the level of achievement. Her younger daughter in 4th grade is taking music now. Ms. Kershaw commented about the performing arts center in Plano where they attended some events. She supports keeping a performing arts center in the construction proposal.

Mr. Baker stated that it is with considerable sadness that he is sharing this response to Mr. Hellrung's oral comments this evening and the past written comments from Mr. Knauss and him. He wishes he understood their comments and false assertions. They are leading to a level where they are now questioning integrity, which is sad for this Board and unfortunate for this community.

They have disclosed information at the minimum at legally required levels and have gone well beyond that point to date. Tonight his comments will extend substantially further and cannot really go much further because we're speaking about personnel matters and certain items cannot go into the personal domain. Each time we have responded to a litany of charges, it has encouraged another round of accusations. Mr. Baker does not want to continue this discussion indefinitely. He believes it's a waste of Board and community time, as well as a distraction of the good work that is being done in this district.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**COMMENTS –
BOARD
PRESIDENT**

Mr. Baker provided the following facts as he knows them:

1. In the autumn months of 2005, the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board engaged three consultants to conduct an organizational climate assessment of the District. Although U-CF had enjoyed a long history of providing an outstanding educational experience for all children, significant changes in staffing and curriculum in the prior two years appeared to be affecting the overall culture of the District. Consequently, the Board wanted to proactively find out if “all team members are satisfied, engaged, and rowing efficiently in the same direction.”

The assessment identified significant concerns in the areas of District leadership, trust, communication, curriculum development, and overall morale.

2. In January and February 2006, the Board discussed at length the findings of the study. The Board recognized that the District had come a long way under Dr. Kenney’s leadership. We had met important goals and achieved impressive academic successes. The sense of the Board, however, was that significant changes were necessary to (a) sustain the academic improvements achieved under Dr. Kenney’s leadership and (b) address the significant trust, communication, and morale issues that had been documented.
3. The Personnel Committee of the Board was dispatched to meet with Dr. Kenney to begin to chart a path forward and to communicate concerns with Dr. Kenney candidly and in the spirit of partnership.

The timing of these discussions was critical, since Dr. Kenney’s contract, which was about to enter its final year, contained a one-year notice regarding renewal or cancellation.

4. It is fair to say that the discussions with Dr. Kenney were uplifting. Dr. Kenney indicated his expectation that he would complete his contract, but consistently expressed his desire to support the direction being set by the Board and to do what was right for the District.

Dr. Kenney indicated that when he completed his time with U-CF, whenever that might be, he would retire. He provided assurances that he would only leave when the District was in a position to replace him.

**COMMENTS –
BOARD
PRESIDENT
(Continued)**

Comments – Board President (Continued)

Dr. Kenney expressed concern for his successor. He felt that since the Board was asking for major changes in the way the District is run, those changes should be implemented by the District's next Superintendent. It would be unfair, said Dr. Kenney, for an outgoing Superintendent to chart a new course, then hand things over to the new Superintendent who would have to live with that course.

5. Based on the Personnel Committee's conversations with Dr. Kenney, it was the sense of the Board that the District should move expeditiously to find a new Superintendent, with a target start date of September 1, 2006. The Board believed that it would not be in the District's interest to allow a full year to lapse before taking action to address the issues identified in the climate assessment.
6. Accordingly, the Personnel Committee commenced discussions with Dr. Kenney regarding the terms and conditions of his retirement. Both sides agreed from the outset that the terms and conditions of Dr. Kenney's employment agreement would be honored in full.
7. In late April, a terms sheet was agreed under which Dr. Kenney would retire on August 31. Work then commenced on drafting the formal Retirement Agreement, a much more detailed document. At the May Board meeting, Dr. Kenney announced his retirement and the Board accepted his retirement subject to finalization of the Retirement Agreement.
8. Agreement with Dr. Kenney on the terms of his retirement was important because it was a precondition for commencing the District's search for his replacement. Dr. Kenney gave his assent for the District to commence its Superintendent search when verbal agreement was reached in April.
9. The details of the District's search effort for a new Superintendent are well known, especially since they were set forth in a public letter that was (a) distributed to all families in the District, (b) posted on the District website, and (c) published in the District's community newsletter that is mailed to every household.
10. In June, during the negotiations to finalize Dr. Kenney's Retirement Agreement, concerns regarding the tax implications of certain aspects of the accord were raised by both sides. Numerous efforts were made to address these concerns and allow Dr. Kenney to retire on August 31, but they could not be resolved to the satisfaction of both parties.

Comments – Board President (Continued)

As a result, the Personnel Committee and Dr. Kenney – with the support of counsel – agreed to explore alternative approaches. It was in the course of these discussions that the arrangement finally approved at the June Board meeting was crafted.

In the final Retirement Agreement, the following are the most significant fiscal terms which honor the original terms of Dr. Kenney's Employment Agreement:

On September 1, 2006, Dr. Kenney assumed the position of Assistant to the Superintendent at an annual salary of \$190,470. He will remain employed in this position through June 30, 2007 at which time he will retire. During the time he serves as Assistant to the Superintendent, Dr. Kenney will be permitted to utilize previously accrued and unused sick leave and vacation time from 2002 forward. When Dr. Kenney's service from July 1 through August 31, 2006 are taken into account, there are less than 20 work days still available for District use. In accordance with the terms of Dr. Kenney's original Employment Agreement, the District will pay to Dr. Kenney the sum of \$50,000 as an accrued service benefit. Also in accordance with the terms of Dr. Kenney's original Employment Agreement, the District will pay to Dr. Kenney the sum of \$4,762 as a lump sum retirement benefit. The Board is satisfied that the terms of the revised Retirement Agreement are equivalent in cost to the terms of the original agreement reached in April.

Mr. Baker stated that he believes the Board and Dr. Kenney have acted appropriately. He also believes it's time to move on.

Dr. Sweeney stated that she trusts our School Board President. She commented to Mr. Hellrung regarding his remarks tonight and in print that indicate he has neglected to stay current. This Board took the results of the Organizational Climate Study and their responsibility seriously and thinks they responded appropriately. Dr. Sweeney stated that if Mr. Hellrung sat here with them in these past years, he would be in complete agreement with them and what they had done.

**COMMENTS –
BOARD
PRESIDENT**

**COMMENTS –
SCHOOL
DIRECTORS**

Mrs. Halstead stated that as a teacher taking the Climate Study and as a School Board Director later, the study was important to everyone in the schools. Some changes needed to be made. People are already seeing changes (e.g. Sharon Parker in the buildings). There is no agenda and I am sure there will be one soon. She has come here on a positive note. We welcome her on a positive note and plead that Mr. Hellrung will welcome her on a positive note. A breath of fresh air has come and was needed. The study has been on-line and there have been no secrets.

She stated that she wanted everyone to know that she is forthright, honest, and speaks her mind. Not everyone loves her but she respects what our President has done and he has her support. This is a good thing and she would like to move on.

Mr. Baker announced that a Tax Study Commission had been formed under Act 1 for property tax reform legislation. They will hold a public hearing on October 26 at 7:30 PM (UHS LGI room) for public input. He encouraged anyone with interest to come.

It was moved by Mr. Swayze and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Minutes of the September 11, 2006 Work Session (p. 3.a.21).

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Minutes of the September 18, 2006 Regular Board Meeting (pp. 3.a.1-20 rev.).

Motion carried (9-0).

The following committee meeting minutes were reviewed:

1. Board Curriculum Committee – October 9, 2006 (pp. 3.a.22-54)
2. Tax Study Commission – September 21, 2006 and September 28, 2006 (pp. 3.a.55-62)

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

The following financial statements and reports were reviewed:

1. General Fund Treasurer's Report – September, 2006 (p. 3.b.2)
2. 2006-2007 GF Function Revenue Analysis with Details of 6100's and 7000's as of September, 2006 (p. 3.b.3)
3. 2006-2007 General Fund Function-Object Expenditure Analysis as of September, 2006 (pp. 3.b.4-6)

**COMMENTS –
SCHOOL
DIRECTORS
(Continued)**

**MINUTES
APPROVED**

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

Financial Statements & Reports (Continued)

4. Category Expenditures Analysis – September, 2006 (p. 3.b.7)
5. Capital Projects Fund Report – September, 2006 (p. 3.b.8)
6. Outstanding Projects Summary –September, 2006 (p. 3.b.9)
7. Capital Reserve Fund Report – September, 2006 (p. 3.b.13)
8. Health Care Trust Fund Report – September, 2006 (p. 3.b.14)
9. Debt Service Reserve Fund Report – September, 2006 (p. 3.b.15)
10. Construction Project Reports – September, 2006
 - a. Unionville High School HVAC Project (pp. 3.b.10-11)
 - b. High School & Fields Renovations Project (p. 3.b.12)

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

The following activity account report was reviewed:

1. U-CF Food Service Annual Administrative Report – July, 2005 to June, 2006 (pp. 3.c.1-4)

Mr. Baker requested that the secretary file the report.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the Bill List for October 9, 2006 in the amount of \$1,716,231.36 (pp. 3.d.1-33).

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the 2006-07 October Budget Transfers as on the attachment (p. 3.b.1).

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Dr. West and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the District Goals for the 2006-07 School Year (pp. 12.a.1-3, rev.).

In response to Mr. Wandersee's request, Ms. Parker read each of the goal descriptions aloud. She commented that each goal would be addressed by multiple parties or teams. She expects that the community will hear about them in January via a mid-year report. The goals will be posted on the web site soon. Although they are ordinarily assembled in July, a number of them are already moving forward because there was no time to delay.

**Routine
Business
(Continued)**

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS
(Continued)**

**BILLS
APPROVED**

**BUDGET
TRANSFERS**

**DISTRICT
GOALS –
2006-07**

In response to Mrs. Trigg's question regarding goal #1, Ms. Parker stated that we do want to see the percent of students increase or stay the same at each grade level on PSSA and SAT scores. We will measure this by internal standards and not external ones.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Swayze and seconded by Mr. Wandersee to approve the purchase and construction of a "pole building" at Chadds Ford Elementary School from Conestoga Buildings at a cost of \$15,254.00 as on the attachments (pp. 4.a.1-3).

Mr. Swayze commented that this was the lowest bid, taking into account all aspects of the project. It does not include all cost of the project since some of the work is being done by our own people. If you go back to the original plans for the elementary school, they included an out building at a cost of \$85,000. Overall, the cost of this building has dramatically decreased. The P.T.O. will be sharing the cost of this project and they will also be sharing the space.

Motion carried (9-0).

Mr. Swayze reported for Facilities that we were presented with three possible scenarios for the high school project and environs. The presentation and dialogue will continue next week at 6:30 PM on October 23 in the UHS Library. He hopes all who are interested will be in attendance. If you cannot be there, we will be posting the presentation on the web site and it will appear as early as Wednesday.

Mrs. Brown stated that there were no action items for curriculum tonight. She reported that the Board Curriculum Committee met last week and had a first look at the high school courses including:

- 9th Grade Honors Western Civilization
- 11th Grade Honors U.S. History
- 11th Grade Honors English
- Music Technology 1
- Music Technology 2
- AP Music Theory

They also discussed the K-12 Language Arts & Science Committees, an update on the Grading Committee, and an update on the Middle School Basic period.

**DISTRICT
GOALS –
2006-07
(Continued)**

FACILITIES:

**Pole Building –
Chadds Ford**

Facilities Report

CURRICULUM

**Curriculum
Report**

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Wandersee to award the bid for one (1) Sprinter Van to Jeff D'Ambrosio Dodge in the total amount of \$35,584.00 as on the attachment.

This item was discussed extensively at the October 9 Work Session.

Motion carried (9-0).

Mr. Murray reported that the Finance Committee had met last week before the Work Session and discussed Act 1. He encouraged everyone to attend the public hearing on October 26 at 7:30 PM. This legislation has drastically changed a lot of the requirements and the way we do business and levy taxes in the school district. They will depart from the way we have done business in the past. This is legislation that has been passed and signed by the Governor and we need to comply with it. The more the public can be informed about it and its impact, the better for each person's best interest.

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

- a. Professional Conferences (8)
 - 1. Approve attendance at Professional Conferences as on the attachment (p. 7.a.1)
- b. Retirement
- c. Resignations (3)
 - 1. Ann Marie Wallace – Pocopson Elementary Learning Support Teacher, effective October 13, 2006
 - 2. Joanne Kumpf – Full-Time Van Driver, effective September 21, 2006
 - 3. Margaret Buck – Pocopson Elementary One-on-One Paraprofessional aide (two hours per school day)

Mrs. Halstead stated that she regrets that Ann Marie Wallace is leaving and the circumstances were such that she felt she had to do so.

- d. Reclassifications (2)
 - 1. Jennifer Caputo – from Unionville High School Social Studies Teacher (TPE) to Social Studies Teacher (LTS), pending receipt of PA Certification
 - 2. Margaret Buck – from Pocopson Elementary .5 Learning Support Teacher to full-time Learning Support Teacher, effective October 17, 2006

FINANCE:

**Bid Award -
Sprinter Van /
Food Service**

Finance Report

PERSONNEL:

**Professional
Conferences**

Resignations:

A. M. Wallace

J. Kumpf

M. Buck

**Reclassi-
fications:**

J. Caputo

M. Buck

Personnel (Continued)

- e. Supplemental Contracts (4)
 - 1. Patrisha Ross – 7th Grade Volleyball Coach
 - 2. Danielle DiNicola – Dance Ensemble Coach (1/2)
 - 3. Erika Tessitore – FBLA Advisor
 - 4. Joe Kilpatrick – 9th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach

- f. Substitutes (4)
 - 1. Amanda Hoover - Elementary
 - 2. Jaclyn Lesniczak - Elementary
 - 3. Lee Krug – High School Chemistry only
 - 4. Karen Fatzinger – Support Staff

- g. Employ (3)
 - 1. Ida Jean Bohley – part-time Van Driver/Bus Driver (LTS, 5 to 5-1/2 hours per school day), effective September 14, 2006, at a salary of \$12.73 (Van) and \$14.28 (Bus)
 - 2. Judy Springer – Patton Middle School Food Service Assistant (3 hours per school day), effective September 18, 2006, at a salary of \$10.29 per hour
 - 3. Sara Tracy – Van Driver (5 to 5-1/2 hours per school day), effective September 26, 2006, at a salary of \$12.73 per hour and Unionville High School Food Service Assistant (3 hours per day x 3 days per week), effective September 25, 2006, at a salary of \$10.29 per hour

- h. Addendum – Home Game Rates
 - 1. Approve Addendum to Home Game Rates to include additional sports (pp. 7.h.1-2)

- i. Leaves (2)
 - 1. Christina Brunschwyler – Patton Middle School Science Teacher, Eight-week Maternity Leave, per her doctor's note, beginning approximately January 3, 2007, followed by a Child-Rearing Leave through the end of the 2006-2007 school year
 - 2. Dori Ray – Unionville High School Math Teacher, Eight-week Maternity Leave, beginning approximately March 2, 2007

Motion carried (9-0).

**PERSONNEL
(Continued)**

**Supplemental
Contracts**

Substitutes

Employ:

I. Bohley

J. Springer

S. Tracy

**Addendum-
Home Game
Rates**

Leaves:

**C. Brunsch-
wyler**

D. Ray

Mrs. Halstead reported for Transportation regarding:

1. National School Bus Safety Week – Celebrated this week; Important to motorists to pay attention to buses and abide by the Pennsylvania School Bus Stopping Law. About 1-1/2 million students are transported on Pennsylvania roads each day and U-CF students are transported 1,250,000 miles annually. Copies of the law are available in the back of the LGI room.
2. Safety Team Presentations – The U-CF team traveled to the elementary school to present a safety program for students and teachers regarding proper behavior and safety tips in case of an accident. The drivers who presented the program did a great job!
3. Legislation – House Bill 2679 would make changes for walking distance to school for students. If passed, this Bill would not effect our school district since all of our students are eligible for transportation.

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Mr. Murray to authorize the solicitation of bids for the acquisition of five (5) 72-passenger buses for the 2007-08 school year as on the attached Bus Fleet Replacement Plan.

Motion carried (9-0).

Dr. West reported for Communications regarding:

1. E-Board Messaging System – She has been working with the district technology staff on the system and it's now up and running. We will go forward with getting postcards printed to invite all community members to join. All staff and parents have been automatically added to the list. The postcards will be mailed to all households but you may already be signed up. Dr. West thanked Rich Hug for his very hard work in making that happen.
2. Tri-Fold Flyers - include general information regarding Board members and are available in the back of the LGI room
3. Board Biographies – are available on the website if you would like to reference them
4. Coffee Chats – Beginning these chats where members of the Board will be available at Starbucks (Glen Eagle and Dilworthtown) and Harrington's Coffee House. The dates for the chats are November 7, December 5, and January 2 (7:30 – 10:00 AM). They will be held on a three-month trial basis and are modeled after an award-winning program in New York. The reception from the establishment managers has been great.
5. District Communication Plan – She is looking forward to working with Sharon Parker on the plan.

TRANSPOR- TATION

Solicitation of Bus Bids for 2007-08

COMMUNI- CATIONS

Mrs. Brown commented that the Board was also looking at ways to communicate with people who have a job and could not come to the coffee chats during the day. They are open to suggestions from the public. If anyone has a good idea, please communicate it to Therese West.

Mrs. Trigg thanked Dr. West very much for all of her hard work on communications.

Mrs. Trigg stated that there were no action items for Policy this evening.

Mrs. Halstead reported for Technology that the technology staff would be offering classes to the teachers for new courses in transitioning from AppleWorks to MS-Word. She commented that Mr. Hug is never at rest.

Lexi Crampton, Student Representative, provided her report regarding:

1. Homecoming – King was Matt Thaeber; Queen – Lauren Clanet; Pep Rally – Had to be held indoors and only the 11th and 12th grade students could attend due to space constraints (highlights the need for better facilities)
2. Magazine Drive – Went very well; deadline was extended by a week and we made several thousand dollars
3. Top Colleges – We need to focus on getting more kids into these schools

Mr. Murray reported for the Center for Arts & Technology/ Intermediate Unit and Special Education regarding:

1. I.U. Meeting – Will be held on Wednesday
2. Southern C.A.T. – Groundbreaking ceremony was held; Ed Wandersee, Karen Halstead, and Bob Cochran attended the event
3. Head Start / Early Intervention – Funding has been dramatically reduced; the I.U. is \$460,000 short, which will force a shutdown in early April. It's a shame that it's not funded as it should be by the state and federal government.

Mrs. Halstead stated the at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Southern C.A.T. campus was lovely. This will be a high school/college, not just another Center for Arts and Technology. It will be open at night for adult classes.

Mr. Wandersee commented that he is impressed at the absolutely beautiful site for the Southern C.A.T. campus. Classes will be held there in the morning, afternoon and evening. Delaware County Community College will be teaching classes there as well. The ceremony was very well attended and he enjoyed being there. He wishes them well.

**COMMUNI-
CATIONS
(Continued)**

**BOARD
POLICY**

TECHNOLOGY

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE
REPORT**

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

Mr. Wandersee reported for Legislation regarding:

1. Act 1 – Mr. Murray and Mr. Swayze reviewed this earlier. The committee has been meeting every week. Bruce Yelton is the Chairman of the Act 1 Committee and you may see him for information after the meeting.
2. State Legislature – The Senate will meet three days prior to the November 7 election; the House will meet five days between now and then; not a lot is going to be accomplished. Bob Godshall is working very hard on a bill to start school after the Labor Day holiday. The Pennsylvania Economy League stated that \$378 million is lost in Pennsylvania because we start our schools early. If the bill doesn't pass by the end of the year, it will die and would need to be reintroduced.

Mrs. Brown commented that unless pre-season was included, you would still lose all of your employees who would return to school early for sports and band.

Judy McClaskey, Birmingham Township resident, stated that she is very happy that the Board will be looking into Guidance at the high school and the things we could be doing to help our graduates go places. She thanked Dr. West for all of her efforts with communications, commenting that they have been the best efforts in years. She cautioned Mr. Minella regarding his enthusiasm about test scores between the elementary schools since these children will be together some day.

In response to Mrs. McClaskey's question, Ms. Parker stated that highly qualified teachers are certificated in the areas in which they are teaching. Mrs. McClaskey stated that she understands Ms. Parker is trying to have a close relationship with teachers but she commented regarding an A.P. teacher who verbally reprimanded a class for caring about their grades. Ms. Parker stated that she'd like to know more about the context and comments. She thanked Mrs. McClaskey.

Ms. Parker stated that the building reports would be provided at this time.

Dr. Andrew McLaughlin, Pocopson Elementary School Principal, provided the Elementary School Report:

- Chadds Ford Elementary –
 - Book Fair – Students enjoyed their shopping trip to the fair during the first week of October
 - 4th Grade Field Trip – to Cherry Crest Farms took place on October 5
 - 2nd Grade – Visited the Hagley Museum where students learned about communities and how they change over time.
 - Spirit Wear – on sale through October 27; new item – Chadds Ford window cling

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

RESIDENT'S COMMENTS

SUPER- TENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

Elementary Report

Superintendent's Report – Elementary Schools (Continued)

- Hillendale Elementary –
 - Book Fair – Being held this week with Wednesday; theme is the rain forest; evening hours will be held on Wednesday from 5:30-8:30 PM
 - Poetry Classes – This month we're in the middle of our Friday afternoon poetry and garden activity

- Pocopson Elementary -
 - 5th Grade Trip – to Ashland Nature Center was completed last month where students learned about history, language arts, and science through integrated lessons
 - New Mural – Unveiling of mural outside of Kindergarten classes will take place later this month. It will reinforce letter and number recognition and is based on the book, *Chick-A-Chick-A-Boom-Boom*.

- Unionville Elementary –
 - Community Fair – Many students came to school this morning carrying or wearing ribbons they had earned at the Fair
 - 5th Grade – T.V. broadcast debut was today – Well done Mr. Duggan! Thanks to the U.E. PTO for their support.

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

- Magazine Drive – Was just completed
- October – Month of Young Adolescents
- Parent Visitation Day – Will be held on Wednesday
- Book Fair – Going on all week
- Survey of Basic Instruction – will be given out on Parent Visitation Day and copies will be sent home
- Halloween Carnival – Coming up on October 27 (sponsored by the P.T.O.)
- JoAnna Stump – Congratulations on being asked to be an evaluator for math books for McDougal-Littell

Mr. Jim Fulginiti provided the Unionville High School report:

- End of Marking Period – November 1; everyone is doing a great job
- Forensics – Team is in full swing
- Academic Competition Team – Meet was held and we went against Oxford and West Chester-East. Unionville took first place.
- Athletic Teams – Continue to compete well; the football game this past week was tremendous

**SUPER-
TENDENT'S
REPORT –
Elementary
Schools
(Continued)**

**Middle School
Report**

**High School
Report**

Superintendent's Report – High School (Continued)

- Homecoming – Was a fun week
- Safety and Security – Have been a lot of things happening nationwide; At the high school, the balance we try to strike is vigilant normalcy. He applauds the Superintendent and everyone right on down for recognizing what has happened over the past few weeks. Let's enjoy each and every day. He appreciates everything that has been done.

Mrs. Brown stated that Mr. Knauss was not present at the meeting this evening and Mr. Hellrung has already left the meeting. She commented that there is no one on this Board who wants to give out more money than they need to. She believes they've been as straightforward as they can be. They believed Dr. Kenney was retiring and found out he could not retire and have everything work out legally with taxes. She believes that was told to everyone in June. We were as clear as possible and she is sorry if there was some confusion. Mrs. Brown doesn't feel that they've been disingenuous and would like to move on.

She commented that she would love to see a Performing Arts Center but it will be up to the community to decide under Act 1. She hopes all 250 parent members of the Podium Club can go out and convince the community that this is what we need. Mrs. Brown commented that she could tell her neighbors that we need science labs and ventilation but it's a little harder for her to explain why we need a Performing Arts Center and fields, etc. She hopes everyone involved here in the community will get out and explain why we need a Performing Arts Center and better playing fields, etc. It will not be up to the nine Board members to decide but for the community to vote for them.

Mr. Murray commented regarding the high school renovations. His philosophy is to proceed with the analogy of a rising tide lifting all boats (science to performing arts to cafeteria workers). As the tide ebbs and the money dries up, no one wants to discriminate against any one program against any one group. If the community does not want to support them, there will be substantial cuts across. We're not looking for an unhealthy competition among the programs and he can't be lobbied with respect to those issues.

**SUPER-
TENDENT'S
REPORT –
High School
(Continued)**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Mr. Wandersee commented that he had taken Mr. Knauss' comments personally when it was stated that there is no one on the Board who has any financial consideration. Dr. Kenney did not get one more dime than if he had stayed here through August 31. We were very fortunate to have been able to negotiate an agreement that gave us the opportunity to hire Sharon.

He stated that regarding Mr. Quinn's letter, there are people out there saying this kind of thing who don't do the district any good. Most of us are very conservative in how much we do spend and what we do for the kids' needs. He thinks this is a responsible action and it's unfortunate that it has been so misinterpreted by some members of the community.

Mr. Swayze stated that he greatly appreciated Mr. Minella's comments about the fields. He was sorry that Rick Hostetler was not here because his hat is off to him for making them the best they can be and have been in a long time. Mr. Swayze commented that we are always saying that Rich Hug will take care of it (regarding communications about the renovations/new school and information being available on our website). His hat is off to Mr. Hug, Colleen Shearburn and the rest of the team.

Mr. Swayze hopes that the questions of integrity that have been sent his way will be dispelled once and for all following Mr. Baker's statements tonight.

Dr. West thanked everyone for the Achievement Report and stated that it was really interesting to see the results of the cohorts. She echoed the comments that she has heard so far and fully supports Mr. Baker. She agrees with Mrs. Brown's comments and stated that you can always do a little better in hindsight but it doesn't mean we did anything in an underhanded way. Everyone may not agree with the choices but she supports them wholeheartedly.

Mrs. Trigg commented regarding the Achievement Report and thanked everyone for making our kids so successful. She has children of various ages and has seen the elementary teachers working so hard to make sure they are doing their very best at getting our kids on track before sending them to the middle school. It all comes to the same bottom line that we're doing a great job with our elementary programs and the kids moving on to middle school. Mrs. Trigg is grateful to everyone and asked them to keep up the good work.

Mr. Baker commented regarding the advantage of the turfed stadium for football. He offered congratulations on the Garnet Valley win and stated that when the score became 28-27 in the waning moments, someone said they would hate to be the father of the kicker. His only wish is that we keep our eye on the ball – core academics, athletics, academic competition, and the overall learning environment. As Sharon Parker said earlier, the object is to take a great district and make it even better.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown
Secretary

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**