

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Minutes
October 20, 2008

The October meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, October 20, 2008 in the Hillendale Elementary School Large Group Instruction room. Mr. Murray, President, called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was said at the Work Session immediately preceding this meeting.

Superintendent Parker introduced Hillendale Elementary School Principal, Steve Dissinger, who presented certificates to the *Ambassadors of Good Work*: Sydney Seidenberger, Megan Bell, Kelly Denton, Phillip Chidekel, Maggie Shafer, and Julia Anisko.

Ms. Parker discussed Make A Difference Week and all of the children in the district who are making extraordinary differences in this world. She walked with a group from Hillendale Elementary last Saturday at the Wilmington Riverfront (for cancer in children). Patton Middle School held its bike repair/wash-a-thon. Older members of our community were teaching younger children how to make bike repairs. The bikes and coats will be distributed at the giveaway day. We are seeing the good that happens in Unionville-Chadds Ford.

Mark Ransford, Chadds Ford Elementary School Principal, is in Washington, DC tonight to receive the Blue Ribbon School of Excellence award. He is writing a journal and taking extraordinary photographs. We will congratulate Chadds Ford when we move our meeting to that school.

Shannon Pitt, Student Representative, stated that she was sorry to have missed the September Board meeting, and was ill. She reported regarding:

- National Honor Society Policy – There has been discussion and controversy regarding the change for admittance into the program to a point system. Students have been working with the Administration. This change will ultimately help us in giving back to the community.
- McCain Rally – Approximately 140 UHS students attended the rally at the USTC. It was a great opportunity for students to show their political activism. They wanted to learn what it's like to hear a Presidential candidate speak in person.

CALL TO ORDER

MEMBERS PRESENT

SUPER-INTENDENT'S REPORT

**Hillendale Elementary –
*Ambassadors of Good Work***

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

(Continued)

3.a.1

Student Representative Report - Continued

- Musical – Will be *Hello Dolly*, to be held in mid-March
- Debate Team – Competed at Wake Forest University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Yale University; Shaina Sklar placed 3rd at Penn – great accomplishment!
- Student Council:
 - Homecoming – More people attended this year than ever before.
 - Halloween Contest – Preparing for it
 - Fall Play – *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, November 13-15; Encouraged everyone to come out to see it
- Act 34 Meeting – She and other students attended the meeting and provided their comments regarding the UHS Project. Many students felt disrespected when audience members left at the announcement that students would be speaking. There is always talk of how well our kids do but a lot of our community could not listen to them speak.
- College Applications – Many students are occupied with applications to many schools (i.e. Harvard, Yale, MIT)

Dr. McKnight stated that final edits were completed on the National Honor Society policy earlier tonight. We hope to have them on-line tomorrow. There was a lot of discussion and input into the policy. This will give us a good foundation and we'll look at further adjustments as needed. Dr. McKnight appreciated everyone's input.

Mr. Murray requested comments from residents, limited to three minutes per person.

Mrs. Brown clarified that anyone who was making an Act 34 (UHS Construction Project) comment tonight could do so, but would still need to write it down and send it to us for submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Bruce Swayze, Pennsbury Township resident and past member of the School Board, commented about the more than two years of analysis and planning involved in the Board that was elected to offer upgraded facilities. These facilities will allow our students to experience a complete education from the core curriculum to the extra-curricular. The proposal is not a Taj Mahal but will bring us up to today's standards. The building will be as secure as possible for the first time, and air-conditioning will enable our children to function at the highest level year-round.

Mr. Swayze referred to the purchase of the Hillendale Elementary museum building for \$2 million. There was a very vocal minority who stated that we had no business buying a fancy country club with wood trim. We are conservative in all that we do in this Board and deliver the highest test scores of 501 districts, with lower taxes than half of the districts in Chester County. He is pleased to have Sharon Parker leading and inspiring us. She has spent an inordinate amount of time explaining to everyone. Let us get back to leading everyone and managing the school district.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE REPORT
(Continued)**

**Act 34
Comments**

**RESIDENT'S
COMMENTS**

Residents' Comments - Continued

Kathy Do, Pennsbury Township resident, commented regarding the Act 34 Hearing held on October 13, 2008 regarding the UHS construction project. Dr. Do stayed until the bitter end and applauded the senior citizens who oppose the project but also stayed for the lengthy meeting. This showed great dignity. At the same time, there was a large contingency that opposes the project and walked out just when students began to speak. She and others were appalled. We respect our students and are proud of them. Dr. Do informed Mrs. Brown, Board Secretary, that she is a member of the Unionville-Chadds Ford Education Foundation that will be writing a letter of support to Harrisburg.

Carol Catanese, Pennsbury Township resident, thanked Mr. Dissinger for the welcome to Hillendale Elementary School this evening. She commented about the difficulty in hearing some of the comments that were being made without audio equipment. Mrs. Catanese asked that we keep that in mind for future meetings.

Gregg Lindner, Chadds Ford Township resident, inquired about receiving information regarding the amount of time the Administration has spent on Right to Know requests from Mr. Knauss, Mr. Hellrung, and Mr. Yelton. He asked about the cost to the district for legal counsel, handling those types of requests, and whether it will grow with the new Right to Know legislation. Ms. Parker stated that it was difficult to estimate since it deals with administrative time. We try to handle them in a timely way but when they are Right to Know requests, they escalate to legal reviews. She will take this as a formal request, and looks forward to a timely response.

Mr. Nassar, a Chadds Ford Township resident, stated that he enjoys art. It would be nice to have a student art auction day to benefit the school district.

Mr. Wandersee welcomed Mr. Bruce Swayze back to the meeting and thanked him for the supportive comments. Mr. Swayze worked collaboratively with the Board for a number of years and is well respected.

Mr. Baker stated that he was pleased to spend time at Hillendale Elementary School. It is important to be in each of the six schools in the district.

Mrs. Halstead added that it was nice to see some new faces at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Murray stated that it was very nice to see Mr. Swayze tonight.

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Dr. West to approve the Minutes for the September 15, 2008 Regular Board Meeting (pp. 3.a.1-19, revised).

Motion carried (9-0).

**RESIDENT'S
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

**MINUTES
APPROVED**

Routine Business – Continued

The following financial statements and reports were reviewed:

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

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS
& REPORTS**

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

The following activity account reports were reviewed:

1. Unionville Elementary School Field Trip Account – February through June, 2008 (pp. 3.c.1-2)
2. Chadds Ford Elementary School Field Trips Profit & Loss Statement – September 1, 2007 through July 9, 2008 (pp. 3.c.3-4)
3. Hillendale Elementary School Field Trip Account – 2007-2008 (pp. 3.c.5-13)
4. Pocopson Elementary School Activity Account Report (p. 3.c.14)
5. Charles F. Patton Middle School Activity Accounts – April through June, 2008 (pp. 3.c.15-17)
6. Unionville High School Activities Balance Sheets – May and June, 2008 (pp. 3.c.18-21)
7. U-CFSD Cafeteria Service Profit & Loss Statement – July, 2007 through June, 2008 (pp. 3.c.22-24)

**ACTIVITY
ACCOUNTS**

Mr. Murray asked that the reports be filed by the secretary.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Bill List for October 2, 2008 in the amount of \$2,561,537.64 (pp. 3.d.1-24). Mr. Baker recused himself for any checks related to the Chester County Intermediate Unit due to a potential conflict of interest .

**BILLS
APPROVED**

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the following budget transfers:

1. 2007-2008 End-of-Year Budget Transfers (pp. 3.e.1-2)
2. 2008-2009 Budget Transfers – October, 2008 (p. 3.e.3)

**BUDGET
TRANSFERS**

Motion carried 9-0).

It was moved by Dr. West and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the District's Strategic Plan Reports (for the 2008-2014 Plan) for submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (as on the attachments).

1. Academic Standards and Assessment Report
2. Professional Education Report
3. Special Education Report
4. Teacher Induction Report
5. Student Services Report
6. Educational Technology Report

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the Extended School Year Program for the Summer of 2009 (June 29 – July 30, 2009, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM, Location – To be determined). Mrs. Trigg clarified that we are just reserving dates for the ESY Program.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to approve the 2009-2010 Per Pupil Building Budget Allocations in the amount of \$205.59 per pupil as on the attachments (pp. 6.c.1-6). This figure represents no increase from the 2008-2009 allocation.

Motion carried (9-0).

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

- a. Professional Conferences (13)
 1. Approve the Attendance at Professional Conferences as on the attachment (p. 7.a.1)
- b. Retirement (1)
 1. Joan Sielke – Van Driver, effective September 18, 2008
- c. Resignations (2)
 1. Thomas Cullen – Unionville High School Custodian, effective October 10, 2008
 2. Julie Skipp – Chadds Ford Elementary/Pocopson Elementary School Reading Paraprofessional, effective October 7, 2008
- d. Reclassifications (3)
 1. John Adams – from Substitute Van Driver to full-time, 10-month Van Driver (6 hours per school day), effective September 25, 2008, at a salary of \$13.50 per hour
 2. Patricia Milito – from Hillendale Elementary School Library Paraprofessional (6.0 hours per day X 185 days), to Hillendale Library Paraprofessional (6.0 hours per day x 185 days) and Van Aide P-I (2.0 hours per day x 182 days), effective September 24, 2008
 3. Kathleen Reynolds – from Pocopson Elementary School Office Manager S-II to District Office Database Specialist T-VI (8 hours per day x 260 days per year), effective October 21, 2008, at a salary of \$25.20 per hour

**STRATEGIC
PLAN REPORTS
APPROVED –
2008-2014**

**CURRICULUM/
EDUCATIONAL
TECHNOLOGY:**

**Extended School
Year Program –
Summer, 2009**

FINANCE:

**Per Pupil
Building Budget
Allocations –
2009-2010**

PERSONNEL:

**Professional
Conferences**

Retirement:

J. Sielke

Resignations:

T. Cullen

J. Skipp

**Reclassifica-
tions:**

J. Adams

P. Milito

K. Reynolds

Personnel – Continued

- e. Substitute (1)
 - 1. Heidi Ickes - Substitute Van Driver

- f. Supplemental Contracts – 2008-2009 - (25)
 - 1. Effie Barnes - Mentor – Full Year – K. Spina
 - 2. Carol Campenni - Mentor – Half Year – K. Takoushian
 - 3. Dan Cipollini - Mentor – Half Year – M. Cole
 - 4. Patrick Clark - Weight Room Supervisor – Spring
 - 5. Veronica Cochran - Mentor – Half Year – E. Jackson
 - 6. Veronica Cochran - Mentor – Half Year – K. Klingensmith
 - 7. George Crowley - Middle School Football Coach
 - 8. Jason Eshleman - Middle School Team Leader – Team D
 - 9. Ryan Fegley - Band Assistant – Half Contract
 - 10. Lynn Fitzgibbon - Middle School Team Leader – Team B
 - 11. Thomas Grawe - Middle School Team Leader – Team C
 - 12. Janelle Hadley - Mentor – Full Year – K. Hisler
 - 13. Joseph Herman - Assistant Track Coach
 - 14. Sherri Higgins - Mentor – Half Year – M. McGarvey
 - 15. Amy Hipp - Band Assistant – Half Contract
 - 16. Mary Litzenberg - Band Front – Partial Contract
 - 17. Fran Mall - Grade Chair – Kindergarten & Pre-First
 - 18. Vince O'Donnell - Mentor – Full Year – D. Schafer
 - 19. Dori Ray - Earth Club
 - 20. Ann Schott - Mentor – Full Year – L. Monterosso
 - 21. Justin Smith - Assistant Baseball Coach
 - 22. Scott Stoltzfus - Weight Room Supervisor – Fall
 - 23. Josh Thomas - Middle School Team Leader – Team H
 - 24. Brent Thorpe - Band Front – Partial Contract
 - 25. Katie Zielinski - Middle School Team Leader – Team F

- g. Employ (6)
 - 1. Patricia Finn-Smith – Unionville High School Food Service Assistant C-IV (4.0 hours per school day), effective October 1, 2008, at a salary of \$10.92 per hour
 - 2. Patricia Friedman – Unionville Elementary Food Service Assistant C-IV (2.75 hours per day x 3 days per week), effective September 4, 2008, at a salary of \$10.92 per hour
 - 3. Kenneth Hiss – Unionville High School Game Keeper, as needed, effective September 17, 2008
 - 4. Valerie Hoxter – Chadds Ford Township Tax Collector, effective September 1, 2008
 - 5. Rita F. Langdon – Unionville Elementary 0.8 Librarian (Temporary Professional Employee), effective October 27, 2008, at the Bachelor's + 24 Step 1 salary level
 - 6. Maia Walter – Hillendale elementary School Health Room Technician T-1 (6.5 hours per day x 185 days), effective September 22, 2008, at a salary of \$26.28 per hour

**Personnel
(Continued)**

Substitutes

**Supplemental
Contracts**

Employ:

P. Finn-Smith

P. Friedman

K. Hiss

V. Hoxter

R. Langdon

M. Walter

Personnel – Continued

h. Leaves (5)

1. Karen Amoss – Pocopson Elementary School Second Grade Teacher, 12-week FMLA Leave for Maternity, beginning approximately December 23, 2008, followed by an Unpaid Leave for the remainder of the 2008-2009 School Year
2. Honey Beth Kropp – Patton Middle School Teacher, extend Leave following 12-week FMLA Leave through the end of the first semester of the 2008-2009 School Year
3. Regina Kubica – Unionville High School Emotional Support Teacher, 12-week FMLA Leave for Maternity, beginning approximately March 3, 2008
4. Hillary Schmid – District Itinerant Autistic Support Teacher, 12-week FMLA Leave for Maternity, beginning approximately January 9, 2009
5. Jennifer Tatum – Hillendale Elementary School Learning Support Teacher, 6-week Child-Bearing Leave, beginning approximately December 20, 2008

In response to Mrs. Brown's question, Mr. Fulginiti stated that the Game Keeper position includes duties such as running the clock, maintaining the book, and timekeeper.

Motion carried (9-0).

Mr. Murray reported for the Center for Arts & Technology/Intermediate Unit and Special Education that the I.U. Board did not meet this month due to the Grand Opening of the Southern Chester County Technical College on Wednesday, October 22, 2008. The facility is open to our students and offers dual enrollment courses, where students spent part of their time at Unionville High School and complete additional work and college-level credit at the same campus. They can receive an Associate's Degree in two years. This will be a wonderful benefit for students in Chester County, and is the only dual enrollment school in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania where students can receive both technical and secondary education experience.

Mrs. Halstead commented about the magnificent facility at the Southern Chester County Technical College. Adults may also take classes at night at this facility. Mr. Wandersee added that a public Open House would be held on October 22, 2008 from 4:00 – 9:00 PM.

There were no additional comments from residents.

Dr. West stated that it was nice to have the School Board meetings in different buildings. It's really lovely to be in a different setting and have the students take us around the building beforehand.

Mr. Wandersee thanked the administration, staff and students for graciously hosting tonight's event. He appreciated the goodies, and stated that it was a job well done.

**Personnel -
Continued**

Leaves:

K. Amoss

H. Kropp

R. Kubica

H. Schmid

J. Tatum

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

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

Mrs. Brown thanked Hillendale Elementary for hosting us, as well as everyone who came out tonight. She announced that the next Board meeting would be held at Pocopson Elementary School.

Mrs. Trigg thanked everyone who baked brownies and cheesecake. She extended her thanks to the many people who came out to the Act 34 Hearing on October 13, 2008.

Mr. Baker commented about a play by Tom Stockard (*Rock and Roll*) that he saw on Saturday regarding the velvet revolution. It underscored the extraordinary power that provocative ideas and perseverance can have in achieving vision. The play also stressed the importance of the arts – in this case, theater – to capture emotions and insights that could not have been related by any other medium. Mr. Baker encouraged a World Series win by the *Phillies*!

Mrs. Halstead thanked Dr. Sanville for bringing the Columbia University information to the district. It has been terrific. In addition to our good academic students, we also have many students who give of their time and talents at events such as the bike repair area on Saturday. She could not believe the number of bikes that were being donated.

The Community Fair was a huge success. Everyone came out to help, including several sports teams that helped with clean up. The weather was magnificent and everyone worked very hard. Mrs. Halstead applauded everyone for supporting our children and our community.

Ms. Parker commented about the very special event being held at the Southern Chester County Technical College High School. Another special program will be held on Wednesday evening (7:00 PM – UHS Auditorium), *Rachel's Challenge*. She encouraged the entire community to attend the program and thanked Joanne Bates for bringing it to U-CF.

Mrs. Brown stated that the Act 34 comments that have been received to date were available for review tonight by School Board members who are interested in seeing them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown
Secretary

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS –
Continued)**

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**