

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Minutes
November 20, 2006

The November meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, November 20, 2006 in the Unionville High School Large Group Instruction room. Mr. Baker, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**CALL TO
ORDER**

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, John Nolen, Jim Fulginiti, Rich Hug, Charlene Stone, Bruce Vosburgh, Gail Wolfel, Lexi Crampton, student representative, community residents, members of the press, and Denise Miller, recording secretary.

**MEMBERS
PRESENT**

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

Mr. Baker thanked everyone for coming out this evening.

Ms. Parker provided the Superintendent's Report. She stated that last week was American Education Week - a time when many districts around the country put out the red carpet for visitors and press releases for the broader public. The presses did not roll in Unionville-Chadds Ford last week and while visitor passes were readily available at each door, the red carpets remained rolled up. In Unionville-Chadds Ford, we acknowledge American Education Week in doing what we do best – focusing on our students intensely, supporting our staff, serving our community and for us, it was simply another fine week. In the 55 days that she has been in service to the district, she has collected a great deal of data. Much of it has to do with standardized test scores and authentic student achievement. We also collected some other very interesting data points.

**SUPER-
INTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Ms. Parker stated that she likes to be the first one here and the last one to leave because she appreciates the stillness of the day. When she comes in at 6:30 AM, there are at least 25 cars here and when she leaves at 6:15 in the evening, there are at least 25-30 cars in the parking lot. She determines that is a very good thing.

She has found that it's not possible to go to all of the student events – because there are so many in which our students are vigorously participating. Last Friday, she traveled to the high school play and to an ice hockey game, while trying to be on a cell phone to see how the football game was going. This is a mark of health but also a challenge to see how we could continue at this pace to serve our children and our community and to do it all a bit better.

Today, Timotha Trigg brought to our attention the latest Standard & Poors update, which she was fascinated to review. The database is maintained by Standard & Poors and it states that there are no better performers than Unionville-Chadds Ford. In double-checking this statement, they have verified that U-CF is the top performing school district. Some of the data points used in their comparison are reading and math proficiency and student to teacher ratio. That is today; tomorrow, there will be a new goal. As we look at other standards, many of which we have set through our goals process for this year, she is sure there are better performers; but for today, we take that as a piece of very exciting news.

This evening two courses will come forward for discussion and Board action. In looking at our organizational chart, we have been able to bring a member of district staff into a new role as Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction. We will formally welcome John Nolen to that position when we get to that point in the agenda.

Also under Policy is information regarding the school district calendar and the progress that has been made.

In looking around the district, Superintendent Parker is collecting data as are each of us. She has seen very good news during American Education Week.

Ms Parker requested that principals provide their updates at this point. Starting next month, we will have a slightly different format that will include words from our children and staff.

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

Mrs. Charlene Stone, Chadds Ford Elementary School Principal, provided the Elementary School Report:

- Hillendale Elementary –
 - Winter Concert – will be held @ 1:15 PM on 12/11 (K-5 performing) and 12/15 (4-5 performing)
 - Reading Olympics – Each team (4th and 5th graders) must read over 40 books
- Pocopson Elementary –
 - Book Fair – Highlight of morning was Donuts for Dads; children shared their tributes to veterans and browsed the books. Each morning for a week, we highlighted facts about veterans and one of the armed services. Students then completed activities in their classrooms
- Unionville Elementary -
 - Friendship Feast – Students have enjoyed this eventful celebration
 - 1st & 4th Graders – Met Congressman Joe Pitts and discussed two books, *House Mouse* and *Senate Mouse*
 - 2nd Graders – Visited Barns Brinton House
 - Veterans Day Program - Many 5th graders participated in Mr. Silkknitter's program. Students in grades 3-5 attended; 5th graders from Chadds Ford also joined in the celebration.
- Chadds Ford Elementary –
 - Veterans Day Program – 5th graders (and several parents) traveled to UES to participate on November 10th; Special thanks to UES and Mr. Silkknitter for their hospitality
 - American Education Week – November 12-17; Each student received a bookmark and dressed as a teacher for a day
 - Donut Day – November 17; Students invited their parents to come and enjoy!

Mr. Bruce Vosburgh provided the report for Charles F. Patton Middle School:

- Parent Visitation Day – October 18; included 350+ parents who shadowed their students – We received very positive feedback.
- Author's Tea – October 17; Almost every parent on A-Team attended this excellent program.
- 2006 Young Writer's Contest – Middle School Division, sponsored by the Rehoboth Beach Writer's Guild – Savy Leiser's excellent story was published in the *Rehoboth Beach Life* magazine.

**SUPER-
TENDENT'S
REPORT –
Elementary
Schools**

**Middle School
Report**

Superintendent's Report – Middle School (Continued)

- Veterans Day – Students performed music at the Kennett Senior Center. The students enjoy working there and the senior citizens love having them. Retired CFP-MS teacher and veteran, Clevio Angelo, spoke to the students.
- Student-Led Conferences – began today
- Staff Luncheon – Thanks to the PTO members for the excellent luncheon that provided to the staff today; it is really appreciated.

Mr. Jim Fulginiti extended best wishes to John Nolen in his new position and wished a happy Thanksgiving to everyone. He provided the report for Unionville High School:

- Academic Competition Team – 2-0 presently; defeated West Chester-East
- Forensics – Speech and debate team – competed in the St. Joe's competition that included over 62 schools; a couple of them made it to the semi-finals.
- Fall Play – *Shakespeare in Hollywood* was a delightful performance; students did a great job!
- Fall Sports – Cross Country – Paul Springer qualified for the Northeast Regionals this Saturday – Congratulations! It was a tremendous fall from URA to the surrounding teams all over. We have teams competing now with the best in the state.
- Music – Nine students qualified for District Chorus in January, including Caroline Hunting, who made it to the All-East Choir (the highest you can go)
- New Scoreboard – Over 80% of the cost has been raised by parents; The scoreboard should arrive by tomorrow and can be transferred if a new facility is constructed.
- Counseling Center – Met with seniors during the first marking period; currently meeting with freshmen
- Building Project – Moving along at the planned pace
- PTO Art Gala – Tremendous success and thanks to those who organized it
- State of the School – Respect is the overarching word for the second marking period; There are three core values: "integrity, service, and excellence." Our students are the finest he has come across anywhere. They give tangible evidence all of the time with what they do. This is a tremendous school.
- First-Year Teachers – We are very pleased with the majority of them.

**SUPER-
TENDENT'S
REPORT -**

**Middle School
Report
(Continued)**

**High School
Report**

Superintendent Parker commented that there are many opportunities for celebration with family and friends within the community. We are most grateful to our parents.

Mr. Baker stated that comments from residents would be taken at this time. He reminded everyone that the Board may try to answer a question but if that isn't possible, the Superintendent may note the item and get back to the person who is inquiring.

Bob Everitt, East Marlborough Township resident, recognized Scott Litzenberg for the outstanding job he had done with the Marching Band. He is impressed with the dedication of his entire team and would love to see the band get more recognition sometimes. Mr. Everitt commented regarding the band's performances in competitions (3rd in each – West Chester-East, 78.15 points and High Color Guard; Warwick, 84.25 points and High Percussion and 2nd place for Color Guard; the October 28 competition (86.15 points); and the Hershey Cavalcade of Bands (High Auxiliary).

Keith Knauss, East Marlborough Township resident, commented regarding the reason that School Boards exist as prescribed by the state constitution. They are to provide a thorough and efficient system of public education for our students. He feels that in looking at the current high school building plans, the Board has lost its way (i.e. three artificial turf fields, new full-size gymnasium, second stadium and human development lab, performing arts center). He stated that there are other organizations that can fulfill these tasks such as a regional recreational association, township and county governments, and non-profit organizations.

Mr. Knauss prefers to see the board concentrate on the central mission of education. He encouraged the board to strip out all those expenditures whose major focus is not related to education. He commented that everyone agreed to the need for more classroom space to replace modular classrooms but he would rather have other items (i.e. a better gifted and talented program, another language program, another AP course) than 25 additional empty classrooms waiting for students who might never appear. He would prefer to see teacher compensation increase rather than providing them with fancy office space.

We must keep Act 1 and the new back-end referendum in mind. The board no longer has unchecked taxing power and the public can veto any above-inflation tax increase. If we spend money on marginally useful facilities, we won't have enough money left over to do the vital job of educating our children.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Tammy Everitt, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that she respects Mr. Knauss's comments but not all students are academically talented. Some children are performing arts students and fine arts students. Some of them will go out into the world in other areas.

Sheila Himes, Pocopson Township resident, stated that her children had attended Hillendale Elementary School and they could not be happier for John Nolen. They are also happy that we looked within our district to fill the position.

Bill Carl, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that his son, Adam, is a 6th grade student who attended Hillendale. He echoed Mrs. Himes' comment about John Nolen and stated that he is a phenomenal principal of deep caring. He wished the best to Mr. Nolen.

Mr. Carl stated that his family values quality education for their son, not just for high scores but also for the social and emotional development of their child. They'd like that quality of education to continue as he goes into high school. His family has struggled over the high tax costs and is concerned about the high school construction project. He asked how they could obtain more information about the project (i.e. percent of state reimbursement, property tax impact when bonds are floated).

As his family discusses retiring in a few years, any current income or future retirement income would be modest. They are concerned over the kind of tax burden and whether it would force them to leave the community at a time when their son would be going into high school. He requested that their be strong consideration of the impact on people with modest incomes who want to continue living here and having their child attend the quality schools.

Lele Galer, Pocopson Township resident, commented about the impact of the \$86 million construction project that includes the best their teachers could dream. She stated that if the tax difference broke down to \$100, for example, she would not like to see the scale pared down. That is why we are here in this district.

Bruce Yelton, Pocopson Township resident, reminded the taxpayers that the \$86 million is talk of a high school only. They would then have to do something for the middle school, which will be about \$100 million.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Joanne Cruse, West Marlborough Township resident, stated that her family owns 100 acres and has been in the farming business since 1894. Her father, children and grandchildren attended Unionville schools. She is trying to make a living on land that does not produce enough money to pay the bills but has not sold it to developers.

Ms. Cruse commented that 95% of U-CF residents are not huge wage earners. She is all for education and is a teacher but feels that things are going out of whack. Everyone expects it to be bigger and finer while many people are paying high taxes now who are going to decide to leave. She doesn't want to leave and her children want to stay here. Ms. Cruse stated that we need to think of the older residents who established this area and tried to keep it rural. It's really a burden and not possible that she will be able to pay these taxes.

Ruth Kranz-Carl, East Marlborough Township resident, commented regarding the woman from Pocopson Township who is operating under the assumption that taxes would go up \$100. Her perception is that they will rise to \$10,000 per year with the construction projects. They really do need to know what they are looking at for taxes.

Bob Everitt, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that he respects everyone's opinion but he also respects the Board. He works in Delaware and the cost of private tuition far exceeds the taxes he pays for one child. He commended the Board and stated that people want to come here because of the academic success and type of focus we have, as well as the area being upscale, safe, and clean. Mr. Everitt feels the facilities don't match the academic results and it's time they do.

Bill Johnson, East Marlborough Township resident, commented that he had lived in Delaware County since 1976 and moved to California before returning to the area. He stated that he is paying \$6,000-\$7,000 in school taxes where private education in Delaware would cost \$14,000 - \$16,000. Those last years on a fixed income as a retiree get extremely difficult. He resides at Traditions and has no children attending the schools but is paying a significant portion of the childrens' educational costs. He asked whether the Board should consider retirees as one kind of taxpayer and farmers another kind. He inquired about what the \$86 million figure consisted of per child and whether it was reasonable and educationally productive.

Mrs. Brown stated that the Board could not address tax reform. Mr. Johnson would need to ask the Governor about this area. The Board would love to make it fair for everyone but cannot do that.

Ms. Parker offered assurance regarding the high school project and stated that there is continued discussion every day. She commented regarding the intellectual iron cage match that would take place tomorrow where desires and needs come together. The administration's intention is to look at what we need to maintain a high quality education in a utilitarian school environment. We are still a public institution and fully understand that. The architects will meet with them tomorrow and she looks forward to the time when they can come back with the exact information that is being requested (i.e. cost, impact on taxpayers). We do not have that information tonight but we do have your comments, which are so important. We are solidifying the list of absolute needs and looking at the wants, and she knows where the greater weight will be.

Mr. Baker stated that he makes no bones about his dislike of Act 1 but commented that it does demand public commentary if you are going to conduct a building project. The comments are extremely valuable and he hopes everyone will continue to participate in this process.

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Minutes of the October 19, 2006 Regular Board Meeting (pp. 3.a.1-24).

Motion carried (9-0).

The following committee meeting minutes were reviewed:

1. Board Curriculum Committee – November 13, 2006 (pp. 3.a.25-26)
2. Tax Study Commission – October 10, 2006, October 26, 2006 and November 1, 2006 (pp. 3.a.27-39)

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 – October, 2006 (p. 3.b.2)
2. 2006-2007 GF Function Revenue Analysis with Details of 6100's and 7000's as of October, 2006 (p. 3.b.3)
3. 2006-2007 General Fund Function-Object Expenditure Analysis as of October, 2006 (pp. 3.b.4-5,7)

**BOARD/
SUPER-
INTENDENT
COMMENTS**

**MINUTES
APPROVED**

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

Financial Statements & Reports (Continued)

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

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

The following activity account reports were reviewed:

1. C. F. Patton Middle School Activities Accounts – July through September, 2006 (pp. 3.c.1-3)
2. Unionville High School Activities Balance Sheets – June through October, 2006 (pp. 3.c.4-11)

Mr. Baker requested that the secretary file the reports.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the Bill List for November 1, 2006 in the amount of \$1,979,038.23 (pp. 3.d.1-20).

Motion carried (9-0).

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

Motion carried (9-0).

Mr. Swayze stated that there were no action items for Facilities this evening. He commented about the public input regarding the high school project. As Sharon Parker stated, the input is from the administration is very significant and from the teachers as well. The public comments have certainly been a part of the process and will continue to be.

He knows the architect will be meeting with the administrators, the Athletic Director, and staff members. We have charged the architect with reducing the site costs from as high as \$12.8 million to \$8 million. Ms. Marrotta will work very hard with the site people to see how that can be done. There is a lot on the table and it will come to another step when the

**Routine
Business –**

**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS
(Continued)**

**ACTIVITY
ACCOUNTS**

**BILLS
APPROVED**

**BUDGET
TRANSFERS**

**FACILITIES
REPORT**

presentation is made on December 4 at 4:00 PM. You are invited to attend this meeting when the Board will receive refined plans from the architect (not final plans). This is an ongoing process and Mr. Swayze thinks that is a healthy way to do it. We start with what is perceived as needed and work our way down to some more comfortable number. It may never reach your expectation but we may cut out things with which many people are upset. There is not great value in tossing around numbers at this point. We are merely dealing with expectations and hopes of the administration, faculty, staff and many members of the public and meeting somewhere in the middle.

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve the following course proposals (pp. 5.b.1-30):

1. 9th Grade Honors Western Civilization
2. 11th Grade Honors English
3. 11th Grade Honors U.S. History
4. Music Technology 1 (Grades 9-12)
5. Music Technology 2 (Grades 9-12)
6. AP Music Theory (Grades 10-12)

In response to Mr. Wandersee's question, Mrs. Brown stated that the courses do not require any new employees at this time.

Motion carried (9-0).

Mrs. Brown reported that Curriculum Council met on November 13 and discussed a number of other items on which work is being done. One item is the Grading Committee.

Dr. O'Hern stated that the Grading Committee is working diligently. Notices have been sent home and advertised through the PTOs' list serves. There is an opportunity for comments regarding the questions that have been posted on the web site. The committee has held three of five meetings to date and they hope to provide a public presentation of their findings and recommendations to the Board in January. Dr. O'Hern is confident that the process is moving along.

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to approve the removal of tax liens in the total amount of \$203.48 for Years 1998 through 2000 for two mobile homes as recommended by the Chester County Tax Claim Bureau (pp. 6.a.1-3).

Motion carried (9-0).

**FACILITIES
REPORT
(Continued)**

CURRICULUM

**Course
Proposals
Approved**

**Curriculum
Report**

FINANCE:

**Removal of Tax
Liens – 2 Mobile
Homes**

Mr. Murray reported for Finance that as required under Act 1, a Tax Study Commission was appointed and has held five meetings to date. They are scheduled to present their recommendations (non-binding) on whether we will implement a new Earned Income Tax (EIT) or a Personal Income Tax (PIT). Mr. Cochran stated that it would be presented at the regular Board meeting on December 11 at 7:30 PM.

Mr. Murray stated that the public should be aware we are required to have a budget together no later than February 20, 2007 under Act 1, and it must be available 90 days before the Primary Election. The Board will receive budget books right after the Christmas break. You should expect that there will be a budget session this January – not in April.

Mr. Wandersee stated that in about 70% of cases in our school district, there will also be an offset due to the reduction in property tax. This tax transfer is switching dollars from one family to another depending on where you stand. It's supposed to be revenue neutral to school districts but it's not to taxpayers. He asked that everyone make sure they read the whole question when they see this on the referendum ballot. Some people will benefit and some will pay more taxes.

Mr. Murray commented regarding the Act having been put upon us by the legislature and stated that we're looking to supplement property tax with an income tax. Every dollar in income tax raised will go to property tax reduction. You should know that not a dime will go to education but rather to a fund to reduce property taxes.

It was moved by Mr. Wandersee and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the following personnel items (agenda items 7.a, c., d.1-2, and e. through j.):

- a. Professional Conferences (7)
 - 1. Approve attendance at Professional Conferences as on the attachment (p. 7.a.1)
- b. Retirement
- c. Resignations (3)
 - 1. Michele Chesnet - – Unionville High School 12-month Custodian, effective October 9, 2006
 - 2. Brian Tynan – Hillendale Elementary School 12-month Custodian, effective November 3, 2006
 - 3. Judy Schmidt – Pocopson Elementary School part-time Copy Room Paraprofessional, effective December 1, 2006

Finance Report

PERSONNEL:

Professional Conferences

Resignations:

M. Chesnet

B. Tynan

J. Schmidt

Personnel (Continued)

- d. Reclassifications (3)
 - 1. Matthew Myers – from Unionville High School 10-month Custodian to 12-month Custodian, effective October 10, 2006
 - 2. Ann Salisbury – from Hillendale Elementary School Paraprofessional (6.5 hours per school day) to Pocopson Elementary School Paraprofessional (7.5 hours per school day), effective November 6, 2006, at a salary of \$12.07 per hour

- e. Supplemental Contracts (11)
 - 1. William Anderson – Science Activities Coordinator
 - 2. James Kavanagh – J.V. Girls' Basketball Coach
 - 3. Susan Beach – Musical: Costumes
 - 4. Amy Hipp – Musical: Choreographer
 - 5. Jason Throne – Musical: Director
 - 6. Scott Litzenberg – Musical: Orchestra
 - 7. Amy Hipp – Band Assistant – ½
 - 8. Brent Thorpe – Band Front – Split
 - 9. Brian Boots – Band Front - Split
 - 10. Josh Thomas – M.S. Wrestling Coach
 - 11. Marita Miller – Mentor – Full Year

- f. Substitutes (11)
 - 1. Marianne Carobine – Elementary or Special Education
 - 2. Patricia Lawton - Elementary
 - 3. Stacey Varone - Elementary
 - 4. Angela Deloretta - Elementary
 - 5. Dominic Morettini – Social Studies
 - 6. Catherine Joyce – Art K-12
 - 7. Colette Scaggs - Biology
 - 8. Kim Gallagher – Math or Business Subjects
 - 9. Allison Newbrough – Nurse
 - 10. Sandra Marshall – Support Staff
 - 11. Bryan McCloskey – Trainer

- g. Employ (2)
 - 1. Jary L. Hernandez – Unionville High School 10-month Custodian (8 hours per day x 182 days), effective October 18, 2006, at a salary of \$12.59 per hour
 - 2. Renee Atkins – Hillendale Elementary School One-on-One Paraprofessional (6.5 hours per day x 182 days), effective November 13, 2006, at a salary of \$11.57 per hour

**PERSONNEL
(Continued)**

**Reclassi-
fications:**

M. Myers

A. Salisbury

**Supplemental
Contracts**

Substitutes

Employ:

J. Hernandez

R. Atkins

- h. Leaves (3)
 - 1. Megan Cromer – Pocopson Elementary School Teacher, Maternity Leave beginning approximately November 27, 2006, followed by a Child-Rearing Leave through the end of the 2006-2007 School Year
 - 2. Laboure Rafferty – Patton Middle School IS/Literacy Teacher, Maternity Leave beginning approximately December 4, 2006, followed by a Child-Rearing Leave through the end of the 2006-2007 School Year
 - 3. Shannon Freehart – Patton Middle School Language Arts Teacher, Extend Unpaid Child-Rearing Leave through the end of the 2006-2007 School Year

- i. Eliminate Position (1)
 - 1. Eliminate .5 Special Education Teacher Position at Pocopson Elementary School Based on Different Staffing for Special Education Student

- j. Create Positions (2)
 - 1. Create Part-time One-on-One Paraprofessional Aide Position, Pocopson Elementary School (3.5 hours per school day) for Special Needs Student
 - 2. Create Additional .5 One-on-One Paraprofessional Aide Position, Pocopson Elementary School, to be Added to Current .5 Position at Pocopson to Equal 1.0 (7.0 hours per school day total)

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Trigg to approve the following personnel item (agenda item 7.d.3):

- d. Reclassification (1)
 - 3. John Nolen – from Hillendale Elementary School Principal to Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction, effective January 2, 2007, at a salary of \$121,000

Motion carried (9-0).

Dr. West congratulated Mr. Nolen. She never had an opportunity to work directly with him but knows him to be a wonderful person. We're very luck to have him.

Mr. Wandersee commented that we could not have chosen a better person. He has great respect for what John Nolen does.

Leaves:

M. Cromer

L. Rafferty

S. Freehart

**Eliminate
Position - .5
Special Ed.
Teacher-PES**

**Create
Positions –
PES p/t Para
and .5 Para**

**Reclassifi-
cation:**

**John Nolen –
Director/Elem.
Curriculum &
Instruction**

**Comments from
Board Members**

Mrs. Trigg stated that she wished we could clone Mr. Nolen. He will be missed at Hillendale by the staff and students who are very fond of him.

Mr. Nolen thanked the Board members, Sharon Parker and Brenda O'Hern for their support. He thanked the Hillendale Elementary School community for its support over the last three years. This is an exciting opportunity but he will miss the students and staff members. Mr. Nolen assured them that they would see him in the weeks to come. He looks forward to serving the district.

Superintendent Parker welcomed Mr. Nolen on behalf of the administrative team. She referenced a comment from a parent last week when she said in conversation with her child, he asked "Who will play kick ball with me?" As we seek those qualities in the next Principal of Hillendale Elementary School, we must remember those words that are so symbolic.

Ms. Parker stated that there would be an interim principal named for the second semester. We will begin the search process and expect the individual to be named and in place by July 1, 2007.

It is a fine day – welcome!

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to award the bid for five (5) 81-passenger buses to Rohrer Bus Sales, Inc. in the total amount of \$333,575 (net of five trade-ins) – (p. 8.a.1).

Mr. Swayze commented that these are very good prices and some of the lowest we have seen in some time. It's good to see full-size passenger buses being purchased and this is a very good deal.

Mr. Baker congratulated the Transportation Department in moving forward with the bus purchases so we don't see spikes in the costs.

Motion carried (9-0).

Mrs. Halstead reported for Transportation regarding:

1. Sports Activities – The fall season activities have been completed; preparing to begin the winter season. Congratulations to all of the teams for a very successful season.
2. School Closings – With winter weather approaching, parent reminders regarding closing/delay information will be available on a number of television channels and radio stations (listed on the school district website). If there is inclement weather after students are in school, parents may obtain early closing information via the radio stations and checking the district website. Alternative arrangements should be made by parents to insure that children will be safe at home.

**Comments from
Board Members
(Continued)**

**Mr. Nolen's
Comments**

**Comments from
Superintendent
Parker**

**TRANSPOR-
TATION**

**Bid Award:
(5) 81-
Passenger
Buses**

**Transportation
Report**

Transportation Report (Continued)

3. Tips for Parents During Winter Weather:
 - Give extra time to arrive at the bus stop.
 - Children should be dressed for the weather.
 - Children should not run on icy driveways or roadways.
 - Children should refrain from throwing snowballs or horseplay at the bus stop.
 - Care should be taken in getting on and off the bus because bus steps do become slippery.
 - Go directly home.

Dr. West reported for Communications regarding:

1. No Foolin', We're Talkin' Schoolin' – first coffee chats were held on Election Day and will continue on the first Tuesday of each month (7:30 – 10:00 AM) at the Starbuck's (Glen Eagle & Dilworthtown) and Harrington's in Kennett Square. We received a lot of feedback about the program from community members and are hoping to see people come out on December 5, 2006 and January 2, 2007. Dr. West thanked the Board members for their participation.
2. E-Board System – Because e-mail providers are so good at filtering out spam messages, we are being filtered out as spam. Mr. Hug is working on a solution to this problem and a piece of equipment is scheduled to arrive tomorrow. Post cards will be mailed out to community members when it's up and running (all parents are already on the list serve).
3. PTO Advisory Committee – will meet on November 27; The group consists of Board members, Sharon Parker, Brenda O'Hern and the PTO Presidents and Vice-Presidents. They meet quarterly to discuss what is going on with the PTOs.
4. Communication Plan – The next step is to begin work on the annual goal that speaks to a district-wide, coherent communication plan. More information will be reported next month.

Mrs. Trigg stated that the following policy was discussed at the last Work Session regarding the school calendar. This is the first reading of the policy and it is available for review on the district's website. Following this first reading, we anticipate a vote next month:

1. Board Policy No. 803 – Operations – School Calendar (revised) as on the attachments (pp. 10.a.1-2) – First Reading

Ms. Parker stated that the draft policy went to the Board for initial review on October 26. The Calendar Committee met over two sessions and we are most grateful to the community members for their support.

Transportation Report (Continued)

COMMUNI- CATIONS

BOARD POLICY

Policy No. 803: School Calendar – First Reading

Superintendent Parker reviewed the changes to the proposed calendar for 2007-08:

- School will continue to open the week before Labor Day
- We will acknowledge some cultural, national and, for some, religious holidays
- Fall holiday is scheduled on September 13, which is Rosh Hashanah
- Community Fair will continue in October but there will be only one day for the closing of school
- Thanksgiving and Winter Break will continue to coincide with the celebrations of religious holidays
- Martin Luther King, Jr. and President's Day holidays will be continued
- Spring Break – Will no longer be tied to PSSA testing dates but will go back to the position that was held in the calendar several years ago and tied to the cultural celebrations and religious observances.
- Election Day – school will be closed as is the practice in most districts in Chester County. Teachers from other schools were able to attend the Countywide In-service for teachers on that day without disruptions during class.

The committee was charged with reviewing and responding to mandates from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education. They also had to fully review that the calendar reflected the Collective Bargaining Agreement for U-CF and respected the cultural diversity of the district. The committee also recognized the need for a collaborative calendar with the Chester County Intermediate Unit and other districts.

The calendar policy and proposed calendar carry the support of the entire committee.

Dr. West stated that she greatly appreciated the opportunity to serve on the Calendar Committee. Although they did not always agree, they found a way to come to a consensus. The calendar is available for review on the website and a summary statement about how we got to this point is also included. You may access the information and calendar at calendar@ucfsd.org. We want everyone to have an opportunity to comment on the site. The information will be pulled together and we'll see what kind of comments we receive.

Mrs. Halstead reported for Technology regarding the Department meetings each month. They include each school's technology specialist and teachers and at the middle and high school levels, two teachers who also act as technology helpers within their respective building. This is a wonderful time for them to problem solve.

**BOARD
POLICY
(Continued)**

**2007-08
Calendar
(Proposed)**

We have a wonderful Technology Department led by Mr. Hug, who tries to spend little dollars and get great technology. Mrs. Halstead will report more at next month's meeting about what some of the people in technology are doing.

TECHNOLOGY

Lexi Crampton, Student Representative, provided her report regarding:

1. Student Council – Funds were given out to student groups at their last meeting. \$2,000 (\$200 to each department) was distributed to teachers in the school.
2. New Courses – Thanks to the School Board for the additional courses. It's great to see them come alive.
3. National High Society Blood Drive – 82 people signed up and they collected 72 pints of blood.

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE
REPORT**

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

1. C.A.T. and I.U. Board – Met last Wednesday and received an update on the one to one laptop initiative.
2. Southern C.A.T. – The Chester County School Authority (controlling entity for the Southern C.A.T.) approved the \$44 million project for the new technology school that will be located in the Avon-Grove School District. The school will benefit students in U-CFSD. The project is currently \$2.7 million under bid.

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

He stated that there would be no meeting in December.

Mr. Wandersee reported for Legislation regarding:

1. Chester County Legislative Board Council – He attended the meeting last Tuesday that included a general review from Tim Allwein (PSBA) on the state legislative update. Mr. Allwein commented regarding:
 - a. Act 1 – It's not the end of the story – there will be more coming out of Harrisburg on what we can and cannot spend.
 - b. Dual-County School Districts – They are working on a concept to legislate one tax for both counties in districts that include more than one county. This would be beneficial to such districts, including U-CF.
 - c. Pensions – There is talk of some change in the pension system for teachers (would be a long way off).
 - d. Beginning of School Year – Rep. Godshaw had a Bill proposed to begin school after the Labor Day Holiday. It was being pushed and promoted through the Tourism Committee and will go through the Education Committee this year.

**LEGISLATIVE
REPORT**

Legislative Report (Continued)

- e. Tax Study Commission – Thanks for Mr. Cochran for his input. The thinking is to move toward an Earned Income Tax (EIT) as opposed to a Personal Income Tax (PIT). We'll see how it turns out at the next meeting.

The committee has worked very hard and everyone has been diligent on this with debate and thoroughness. Mr. Wandersee would certainly approve their recommendation to the Board since it has been dealt with cautiously.

Mr. Baker stated that if anyone would like to ask a question or offer a comment, they could complete a card and place it in the box located in the back of the room.

Mel Johnson, East Marlborough Township resident, commended the activities to communicate to residents.

Amanda Combs, East Marlborough Township resident, inquired about discussion regarding redistricting. Ms. Parker commented that one of our goals was to look at five-year projections. The question of redistricting has come up and we are aware of the great imbalance of the student population in the elementary schools. The discussion is vigorous and very much in the forefront. We have not yet formed a study committee on this topic. Superintendent Parker expects to share more information with the public, hopefully in January. It would be dependent upon the numbers as to whether we would launch into a redistricting plan (or look into other accommodations).

Mrs. Combs mentioned that Unionville Elementary had the most space available per student. She asked that we revisit that data in our consideration and talk about available space all over.

Boni Trombetta, Pocopson Township resident, inquired about how much discussion went into taking away the Community Fair day in the proposed calendar. She cannot imagine setting it up (safety aspect). Ms. Parker stated that we don't feel it will kill the fair. The fair must go on and proceed the way it has been. There will need to be some coordination as far as parking is concerned. We will look for academic ways for students to become more involved in it. With its 82-year history, it is critical that it be acknowledged and respect be given. We want to be sure (at the elementary level) and see no reason why those children should not be in school. We will have to do some very careful planning at the secondary campus.

**LEGISLATIVE
REPORT
(Continued)**

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Superintendent Parker stated that when Terry Vosburgh had come in to talk about the fair this year, we also discussed looking forward. The spirit was that we could collaborate and make adjustments as necessary. She doesn't see that the fair will change (It may look like more of a half day for secondary children; a day that is structured differently). It is extremely important for children to be able to be part of the heritage and cultural part of the fair.

Bruce Vosburgh is a friend of the fair and is a key leadership voice in the secondary program of the district. Ms. Parker knows we can make it work because it is important to the community. She has heard from a number of people who have asked why we have two days off. This will be a key initiative and we can do both.

Heidi Brown, Chadds Ford Township resident, inquired as to whether there was consideration of holding the fair at another location. Ms. Parker stated that our district facilities are publicly funded open space, including utilities. The study she has done indicates the strong importance of community relations with the fair. She hopes to maintain that relationship. The day may come when that is not possible but when the high school project gets underway, we will lose the space for staging areas and we need to plan for the fair and other community events. Mrs. Brown stated that she thinks it's a great idea to shave off a day from it and she is all for that. Ms. Parker stated that the fair continues for the number of days it needs to in order to receive state funding.

Keith Knauss, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that he was pleased to hear that our school district was recognized as number one by Standard & Poors. He is also pleased that a number of kids went to the Eastern Regional Chorus competition and athletic competitions. These things have happened all with modular classrooms out back and fields that are, perhaps, not in the best condition. Please keep in mind that there are things much more important than facilities in our kids' education.

Scott Litzenberg, East Marlborough Township resident, stated that as a teacher and a resident, he also has concerns. As a parent of a child who won't utilize this and as a taxpayer, he feels where the others are coming from. There are a lot of issues involved with and we shouldn't look at one part of it. They realize as teachers in the high school that the wish list is a beginning point and they will need to go back and reevaluate as part of the process.

Things are happening but at some point, what must be done to make it work well? It is a balancing act. The reason you have what you do in this school is good people – administrators, teachers, staff members, and students. When you look at people in the area and what they are able to offer,

we would also love to offer them to add to our community. Mr. Litzenberg stated that he would really appreciate it. As a grandson of a person who had to work to keep a farm alive, he really understands that. The reason we have what we do is because this district has been progressing to that process. We need to see what we can do to do some catching up. It's a hard choice and he is really torn.

Mr. Litzenberg stated that he appreciated Mr. Everitt's comments about the school up the road with neighbors complaining about noise. In contrast, he received a \$25 check from a resident of Traditions to thank them for entertaining them!

Dr. West thanked Mr. Hug and the Technology Department for their hard work in implementing some of these items. She stated that the website looked great. Dr. West congratulated Mr. Nolen and commented that it's great to have him on board.

She appreciates everyone's comments on the renovation. She commented at the October Facilities Committee meeting regarding the Board's role to set the tone for what we do. She commented about noticing a change in tone. There was more of an edge in peoples' voices at the beginning, and she is sensing that changing to a feeling of working together to make this happen. What are our needs and what can the community afford to pay? Her sense is that everyone is pulling together toward this project and she hopes it can be a win-win.

Dr. West extended a happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Mr. Wandersee congratulated John Nolen and looks forward to working with him in his new position. He thanked everyone for their comments regarding the building project. It's very important. Mr. Wandersee stated that it's much too early to make generalizations as to what we are and are not going to do. He invited people to come out on a rainy night to look at the trailers. We have to make some investments into our facilities. He asked that everyone keep the input coming – it's a good cross-section.

Mrs. Trigg thanked those who came here to make their voices heard or who those who took the time to write or call. She congratulated John Nolen and thanked him for the great job he has done. She is confident that he will do a great job ahead as well.

Dr. Sweeney reported that Barbero was doing well after having arrived at New Bolton Center six months ago. She commented about having spent over 28 years watching that work of teaching in a barn on a bail of hay – without air-conditioning. The key piece is who is doing the teaching and that is where she puts her greatest amount of support.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

Mr. Swayze thanked everyone for their comments tonight regarding the building project. The Board has tried to respond to e-mails that have been received. It's wonderful to see the turnout at open meetings to hear the public comments on some of the designs and he asked that everyone continue coming to the meetings.

He congratulated John Nolen and stated that the feedback was excellent and positive since the beginning of his work in the district.

Mr. Swayze and Mr. Murray extended a happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

In response to Mrs. Halstead's question, Mr. Fulginiti stated that he would certainly inform her of upcoming dates for Academic Competitions.

Mrs. Halstead stated that the *Shakespeare in Hollywood* play was unusual, unique, a tad risqué, and funny. The kids did a great job!

She commented that it was great that more people are coming to Board meetings. As we discuss the high school project, we find out what we are really discussing. We are not working on a second stadium and there won't be 25 empty classrooms. Keeping the facts straight is a good thing.

Mrs. Halstead stated that she had received a rather unusual e-mail with a picture of the third-floor soda machine at UHS. The machine contains soda, iced tea, a coffee beverage and water. She encouraged that we charge \$1 for the water and \$10 for the other items. In considering the research on the benefits of water, we should not be promoting the other items.

Mrs. Brown stated that she agrees with Dr. Sweeney that the people are the key as to whether we offer a good education. Some people may not be attracted if we don't have the best science rooms, music rooms, etc. Some young teachers were shocked when they saw what we had to offer. We need to make sure our facilities are at least good enough for the people we have here.

She congratulated John Nolen and is really pleased he accepted the position. Mrs. Brown wished a happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Mr. Baker commented that the co-curricular activities are important in defining the personality of the institution. He stated that he had a direct line of sight into the amazing victory of the juniors over the seniors in the Powder Puff game. The coaching staff opted to meet in his dining room where they defined the importance of matching shirts and khaki pants, their coaching strategies, and where they put great stock into the importance of a motivational speaker. He is convinced that the urgency with which the team went out and won the game is attributable to Hardy Stewart who worked day and night.

The student art was truly outstanding at the Art Gala. He commented about Caroline Hunting's magnificent voice (in addition to her skills in playing rugby). Mr. Baker congratulated the soccer team. He congratulated the parent who was on the phone at the Abington game and phoned parents at the Downingtown game to obtain and communicate the score. The level of community here is truly wonderful.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown
Secretary

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**