

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
740 Unionville Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Telephone: (610) 347-0970; FAX: (610) 347-0976
Web Site - www.ucfsd.org

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Minutes
December 11, 2006

The December meeting of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board was held on Monday, December 11, 2006 in the Unionville High School Large Group Instruction room. Mr. Baker, President, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

**CALL TO
ORDER**

The following members were present: Curt Baker, 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, Jim Fulginiti, Rich Hug, Thomas Marinelli, John Nolen, Christopher Pollock, Dr. Jim Price, 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.

He announced the change in meeting protocol to provide for the Superintendent's Report at the beginning of the meeting.

Ms. Parker provided the Superintendent's Report. She stated that this new process is one she hopes will be ongoing. She wants to take time to acknowledge the work of our students and staff. We want to begin the meeting with the focus on the thousands of students who come to this district every day, and those students should be our entire focus throughout the school year.

**SUPER-
INTENDENT'S
REPORT**

The activity of November and December has been extraordinary. Early autumn initiatives have yielded positive results and there is still a great deal of work to do. Tonight the Board will vote on the 2007-08 school calendar. While this may seem quite routine in other districts, it is quite noteworthy in Unionville-Chadds Ford. The Calendar Committee is deserving of appreciation for getting together a document for Board consideration this evening.

She met last week with the leadership and four additional members of the Community Fair Board. They are to be commended for their cooperative efforts in finding ways to bring together diverse stakeholders in the community and accepting an opportunity to work the instructional staff in U-CF to strengthen an already extraordinary event and allow it to reach even more children and families than in the past.

Superintendent's Report (Continued)

In October, Ms. Parker announced a concern about children behaving badly – in our district and throughout the region. It is no longer child's play to taunt one another. The taunts of childhood have become harassment and a strong focus of research study in Unionville-Chadds Ford.

She announced in October that there would be a study of trends in student behaviors and examination of self-reported data by our students speaking about their morals, feelings and actions during the course of a school day or a school year. At that time, she announced that on a subsequent occasion at the conclusion of a staff study, there would be a community forum held on cyber-bullying and harassment. That will begin a series of community discussions and task force opportunities for parents, non-parent stakeholders and academic professionals to work toward school safety. The forum will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2007 at 7:00 PM in the Unionville High School. Notice of the forum will be given through the PTO's at each of our schools and to Shawn Weigel of *The Kennett Paper*.

Ms. Parker has been invited to visit the Kennett Consolidated School District to observe their Communities that Care initiative. To date, over 20 parents have approached her asking to be part of that discussion, and she hopes that will expand to 40 or more. She encouraged others who are interested in being part of this discussion. For those interested in leadership roles in developing a plan, including young people who are here this evening, she encouraged them to take an even more active role.

During the fall, we spoke openly about the Tax Study Commission. This grew out of thinking and concern in Harrisburg and tonight we are pleased to have members of our community Tax Study Commission here. It is also a time of commendation there. Some of them have no children in our schools and richly supported community discourse dialogue in helping us to problem solve going forward.

Whether a member of the Community Fair Committee, the Calendar Committee, the Tax Study Commission or an individual parent, Ms. Parker offered her sincere appreciation and applause. We especially want to recognize our students who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in the academics, the arts, and athletics. Ms. Parker and Mr. Baker provided certificates of excellence to the following students:

- Patton Middle School
 - Savannah Leiser – published author and student
- Unionville High School
 - Paul Springer – Runs like the wind and extends beyond the boundaries of U-CF. Paul has competed in the state and now, nationally. Mr. Fulginiti stated that Paul was in the top 40 in our country last year for track!

(Continued)

SUPER- INTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

Community Forum – Cyber-bullying

U-CF Students Honored

Superintendent's Report (Continued)

- Caroline Hunting – Wonderful vocalist whose songs carry throughout the district. Thank you for sharing your talent so willingly. Mr. Baker also commented that Caroline plays rugby. Mr. Fulginiti stated that Christine would be participating in a music competition in Hartford, CT in March.
- National Merit Semi-Finalists – The following students were recognized for their achievement:
 - Ethan Bunting
 - Eric Cohen
 - Susannah Eckman
 - Jennifer Knauss
 - Mary Jue Xu
 - Elizabeth Stavely
 - Rebecca StavelyMr. Fulginiti stated that these students finished in the top 1% nationally on the S.A.T. exams.

Ms. Parker requested that the students' parents stand and stated that they give us the finest gifts they have to offer. We treasure them and hope they return every day even stronger. Thank you for sharing your talents -- you are U-CF.

Superintendent Parker stated that parents and students have heard that there was threatening graffiti placed on a restroom wall about one week ago. We don't take this lightly and the administration acted very swiftly. Our district has had contact with the East Marlborough Police and now the PA State Police. Ms. Parker cannot thank the municipal authorities enough for their assistance. E-mails have been sent to parents in the community and they are increasing in their specificity. While there is much we know, there is sometimes little we can say. She remembers a time when websites could contain floor plans; no longer is that the case. Ms. Parker would like to be able to provide every possible assurance to parents and reviewed the following details:

- Technology is employed.
- Local law enforcement officials are an active presence and will continue to be.
- Meticulous plans are in place.
- She cannot provide details but firmly believes our schools are safe, secure and can only get better.
- PA Secretary of Education, Gerry Zahorchak, directed every district to have a firm review of safety protocol after the event in Bart, PA. This gives us an opportunity to practice that now.

SUPERIN- TENDENT'S REPORT –

U-CF Students Honored (Continued)

Threatening Graffiti - UHS

- If the administration had any concerns that the schools were unsafe, school would be cancelled. School is going on as it should as usual.
- Parents are encouraged to contact Ms. Parker and the high school administration with any further questions or concerns. One parent has contacted Ms. Parker directly and a few have contacted the high school. We are open and accessible.
- Safety is paramount and our commitment to the children is unwavering.

Lexi Crampton, Student Representative, provided her report regarding:

1. Threatening Graffiti – The administration has been put into an extremely difficult situation. They must inform the public without sacrificing the investigations. While some students see the incident as a prank or an opportunity to take a day off from school, others are legitimately afraid. She encouraged the district to continue open lines of communication so the students don't find out vital information through hallway rumors. She also encouraged the district to heighten safety measure to prevent further incidents from occurring.
2. Winter Formal – was held on Saturday and everyone had a great time
3. Echoes Coffee House – was held this past weekend with a great showing of student bands and students to support them.
4. Care Packages – Students have been assembling care packages for our soldiers in Iraq.

Ms. Parker stated that a very fine award was sitting in front of her. Unionville-Chadds Ford was honored with an award of excellence from the Lanier Corporation. Representatives from the staff and within the Business and Operations office have worked to find ways to address publication needs with the highest degree of economy. She thanked Mr. Cochran, his team and others who were involved. Mr. Cochran stated that the high school and middle school were also part of this award. He commended their staff and offices for their work in that area.

Ms. Parker welcomed the students who were present to stay for the Tax Study Commission's report. She stated that we would also understand if they needed to leave to complete their homework and studies.

Mr. Baker stated that under Act 1, each of the state's 501 school districts (excluding Philadelphia) was to bring together a commission regarding an earned or a personal income tax. He thanked Mr. Cochran and the Tax Study Commission members for the amount of work they have put into this vital and important task for our community. They are easily the best Tax Study Commission in the state!

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

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE
REPORT**

**U-CF Award
from Lanier
Corp.**

**Tax Study
Commission
(Act 1)**

Mr. Cochran thanked members of the Tax Study Commission:

- Bruce Yelton, President
- Zack Bowen, Vice-President
- James Romine, Secretary
- Mark Berry
- Robert Kane
- Charles Rudershausen
- Barbara Seigel
- Ed Wandersee
- William Wilson
- Sharon Baillie, Recording Secretary

He reviewed the background of Act 1 of 2006. The Taxpayer Relief Act was signed by Governor Rendell on June 27, 2006, effective immediately. The Tax Study Commission was to be appointed by September 14, 2006, including five to nine residents who represented the district's demographics. Nine of 31 applicants were appointed to represent a very diverse socioeconomic group.

This state law applies to all school districts in the Commonwealth of PA and is intended to reduce school district real estate taxes via tax shifting (addition of an income tax) and distribution of state gaming revenues (when available). The Notice of Property Tax Relief must be printed on school real estate tax bills beginning 2007-08 that acknowledges the PA General Assembly for passing a law "designed to reduce your property taxes." The School Board must put a referendum on the May Primary ballot.

The Tax Study Commission's study focused on historic and existing district revenues, the percentage of district revenues provided by current taxes, and projected revenue from current and possible new taxes. It also included the age, income, employment and property use characteristics of the new existing tax base.

The Commission's objective was to make a non-binding recommendation to the School Board (in 90 days) on the shift to income-based tax and the tax rate, to be proposed in a public referendum in the Spring of 2007. The tax shift options are and earned income tax (EIT) or a personal income tax (PIT)(within state-established rate parameters. If the shift were approved by the voters in the spring, the new tax would be effective July 1, 2007. The new tax on income is to lower real estate taxes on homesteads/farmsteads and is effectively revenue neutral to the school district.

**Tax Study
Commission
(Act 1)**

**Commission
Members**

Background

Focus

Objective

Barbara Siegel reviewed the Tax Study Commission process:

- Data and information were gathered relative to the four mandated areas of study.
- The impact of each tax shifting option (EIT/PIT) on the school district and taxpayers was analyzed.
- A public hearing was held to receive input from the community regarding the options.
- The merits of each tax shifting option were deliberated based on the analyses and public input to develop a consensus for a recommendation to the Board (EIT vs. PIT; Rate of new tax).

She reviewed the information that was considered in their discussion and findings:

- UCFSD Ranking among 501 PA School Districts:
 - Highest per household income (Standard & Poors)
 - Consistently among top-achieving school districts (#1 in 2006)
 - Spending per pupil – Very competitive for results (46 of 501 statewide; 5 of 12 in Chester County)
- 2004 State Income Tax Return Abstract
 - 32.62% of returns had taxable income of more than \$100,000 (representing 83.76% of total taxable income)
 - 78.68% of UCFSD income was earned; 21.32% was unearned
 - 22.26% had tax credits for out-of-state earnings
- Shift to Income Tax is to be “Revenue Neutral” for UCFSD
 - Cost to collect income tax is only accounted for in year one (Impact – Law does not make accommodations for collecting additional income tax)
 - Cash flow changes due to collection timing will reduce interest earnings
- Collection Issues and Costs
 - Will we be able to obtain 100% of taxes due or pay a tax collector?
- Reciprocity Issues and Credits with other School Districts
 - Unanswered questions as to how they would work
- After First Year, a 1% EIT
 - “Break Even” of approximately \$120,000 of taxable earnings per household (double for farmsteads)
 - Approximately 70% of UCFSD households will see some benefit from \$1 to \$1,200 (double for farmsteads)
- Households which Have a Net Benefit will Decline after Year Two
 - Funds from tax shift available for tax relief are frozen after year two

**Tax Study
Commission
(Act 1) –
Continued**

Process

**Discussion
& Findings**

- Additional EIT/PIT from growing income tax base after year two provides additional income to the School District
- Real estate tax relief benefit to each homestead/farmstead declines as the number of eligible properties increases
- Potential Negative Impact PIT would Have on New Home Buyers if Surrounding School Districts Implement EIT
- Any Recommendation will Result in “Winners” and “Losers”
 - Wage earning renters are negatively impacted
 - Philadelphia wage earning homeowners are benefited
- EIT Tax Base is Less Stable than Real Estate Tax Base but More Stable than PIT Tax Base
 - Unstable component of PIT tax base would only represent 3% of total district revenues

Mark Berry discussed the recommendation options:

- Recommendations for the Type and Rate of Income-Based Tax for the Required Spring Ballot Question
 - Earned Income Tax from 1.0% to 2.0%
 - Personal Income Tax from 0.8% to 1.6%
- Make No Recommendations at All
 - Leave the School Board to study the information and decide the required ballot question on their own
- Find that Addition of an Income Tax is Not in the School District's Best Interests, but ...
 - Make recommendations to the School Board for the type and rate of income-based tax for the required ballot question
 - Don't force the School Board to re-examine information that the Tax Study Commission has been specifically formed, appointed, and charged with examining and reporting.

He reviewed the following unanswerable questions:

- 22% of taxpayers represent 81% of unearned income and 70% of earned income. Will disproportionate impact of PIT cause a population make-up change?
- Will renters see a worse impact from an EIT or a PIT?
- Will retirees see a worse impact from an EIT or a PIT?
- What collection rate, ease of collection or predictability of collections differences exist between EIT and PIT?
- What billing and collection issues are unique to PIT?
- What comfort and familiarity levels already exist due to townships currently having an EIT?

There are short-term and long-term considerations. The concept of revenue neutral is not exactly clear over time.

**Tax Study
Commission
(Act 1) –
Continued**

**Discussion
& Findings
(Continued)**

**Recommen-
dation Options**

Mr. Bowen stated that they went with the fourth option. He discussed the Commission's recommendation and what is best for UCFSD:

- The Commission concludes that tax shifting is undesirable, and the tax and funding policies and operations of the School District would not be improved by implementation of an EIT or a PIT.
- Since the Board is obligated to place a question on the ballot, the Commission recommends the ballot question include a proposal for an EIT at the lowest possible rate, currently estimated at 1.0%
- Members of the Commission recognize that the process of finalizing the ballot language is a complex and important undertaking and may be critical in determining the outcome of the referendum.
 - The Commission offered its assistance to the Board in developing language for both the ballot question and the required non-legal description that must accompany the ballot question
 - The ballot question must be written by March 13, 2007

Mr. Bowen praised Mr. Cochran for his extraordinary amount of effort and long hours in meeting their requests for information, data, analyses of data, spreadsheets, etc. He complimented Mrs. Baillie for her helpfulness after hours. Mr. Bowen also stated that Ms. Parker was in attendance at every meeting, personally very supportive, and a good contributor.

Mr. Cochran stated that the PowerPoint presentation and report would be posted on the district's website for public review in the next day or two. The Commission's minutes and links to data that was used and information about Act 1 will also be available on the website.

Mr. Baker stated that he would be grateful for any additional guidance and support with the Board's decision on this vote and for what ends up on the ballot in may. You are important advocates for what happens in this community. He stated that under Act 1 he must acknowledge receipt of the Commission's recommendation and must also disband the Commission at this point. Mr. Baker requested questions from Board members to the Commission members.

In response to Mrs. Brown's question, Mr. Bowen stated that there was a near majority on the EIT and a unanimous decision on the rate.

**Tax Study
Commission
(Act 1) –
Continued**

**Commission's
Recommendation**

Mr. Wandersee stated that he really enjoyed working with his eight colleagues on this committee. It was a diligent committee with many discussions of fairness, practicality, effects on the district and in the future. It was an agonizing decision for some members who came down from their point of view. He commented regarding Mr. Cochran's outstanding help and also thanked Sharon Parker for sitting in on the meetings.

Mrs. Halstead thanked the Commission members and stated that it was an important undertaking that very few people understood.

Dr. West stated that the whole concept of putting on the ballot either an EIT or a PIT for tax shifting was in order to give some relief to those people on fixed incomes from property tax. She inquired if this was where the Commission landed after their deliberations about this and the broader facts. A committee member responded affirmatively.

Mr. Wandersee stated that the dialogue regarding the pros and cons of EIT/PIT were outlined in the Executive Summary. Dr. West encouraged everyone to read the summary that will be posted on the website.

Mr. Baker reminded residents of the box in the back of the room for any questions or comments they would like to submit for responses. Dr. West stated that residents who could not stay until the second opportunity for resident comments could also leave their questions in the box.

Alicia Tamargo, East Marlborough Township resident, thanked Sharon Parker and the Calendar Committee members for their work and for taking the community's concerns into consideration.

Karen Johnson, Chadds Ford Township resident, thanked Ms. Parker for getting the harassment committee underway. She asked whether the middle school had been investigated in response to the rumor of students being transported there following the bomb threat.

Ms. Parker stated that extraordinary measures are taken in every district and here in U-CF. Whether it be a note, anonymous phone call, etc., whenever there is a concern, we would immediately leave the building – not in fear or panic but knowing that is the drill. Drills are regulated by the PA Department of Education. High school students will not be housed at the middle school on Wednesday but we will practice a drill. Each school will be engaging in a drill during the year and this was part of the administrative process even before this writing on the bathroom wall.

**Tax Study
Commission
(Act 1) –
Continued**

**Comments from
Board Members**

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Superintendent Parker commented that we had taken extraordinary measures, in consultation with the State Police, to make sure our buildings were clean and safe in every way. At this point, she has put her faith and trust in the municipal authorities who are assisting us. She would be happy to take any further, specific questions from parents after the meeting this evening or tomorrow.

Keith Knauss, East Marlborough Township resident, inquired as to whether the Tax Study Commission addressed their points and deliberations regarding people on retirement incomes in their Executive Summary.

Mr. Berry stated that it was complicated and commented that the state has specific programs to target tax relief for senior citizens. There is also the question of gambling revenue. We looked at a very narrow view of this shift. There would be winners and losers who could be those on fixed incomes, renters, etc. It's very hard to juggle all of the kinds of winners and losers. The costs of collection, etc. are all part of the equation.

Mr. Bowen commented that the selection of an EIT vs. a PIT is more advantageous to those on pensions.

Terry Vosburgh, Pocopson Township resident and President of the Unionville Community Fair, stated they had been told by the previous Superintendent that the fair would be okay and they would be given a three to five-year notice of changes.

After hearing the Calendar Committee's recommendation, which removed the school closing day on Thursday, they met with Sharon Parker twice and discussed some very exciting things. They are a little nervous in not having school closed that day (i.e. traffic and parking) but have some feasible solutions. Some residents are also concerned about how their children could bring their fair entries with school in session. The fair is committed to work with the district and she hopes the district is also committed to keeping this 82-year tradition alive. Mrs. Vosburgh thanked Ms. Parker and appreciates her willingness to work with them.

Ms. Parker stated that it would work out. Our elementary students are not impacted because of their remote location to the fair. She commented about meeting last week with Mrs. Vosburgh, Rich Hug, Bob Cochran, Chris Pollock and Rudy Reif where they committed to that level of support. Ms. Parker will be present for those meetings. She believes the items are logistical ones and her challenge is seeing a greater level of student entries

and student and parent engagement. She would like Mrs. Vosburgh to be remembered as the Board Chair who brought about a new partnership, and she will be ready to tell the story in a booth.

Ann Valee-McLaughlin, Chadds Ford Township resident, thanked the Board for hosting the coffee houses. She commented about the lack of plans to include a swimming pool in the renovations. She stated that we have two athletes from the program who are going to Division 3 schools. Some districts partner with the YMCA (i.e. Garnet Valley) and the school is running the day-to-day operations. Mrs. Valee-McLaughlin also stated that this could be a good thing in addressing the obesity issue. She feels we would regret not addressing this in the future.

Lisa Sanderson, Chadds Ford Township resident, echoed Mrs. Valee-McLaughlin's request. She stated that the West Chester School District parents and swim community had completed a great deal of studying. She has access to that information if there is interest in hearing it.

Bob Pari, Pocopson Township resident, stated that the pool idea was great but we have 8th graders here with out-of-print math books. His priorities are with the education of these kids.

In response to Bonnie Musser's question, Pocopson Township resident, Jim Romine stated that there is a provision in the law that will require Boards to put on the referendum any future increases that go above a state guideline.

Mr. Baker stated that if there were no tax shift because the community voted no on the front-end referendum, at some point in the future the Board may want to consider a tax shift and would need to appoint another Tax Study Commission.

Bruce Yelton, Pocopson Township resident, commented that whether the recommendation is voted up or down this spring, if slot money does become available, we will receive it.

David D'Augustine, Pocopson Township resident, inquired as to whether a PIT would be levied with your individual return on an annual basis or a split return.

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

Mr. Berry stated that the recommendation was for an EIT. Mr. Cochran commented about the Commonwealth not seeing that as piggybacking onto their tax return. The draft regulations would provide you take the taxable income from the PA40, calculate the tax due to the school government, and file it on a separate return. Ms. Seigel stated that this information had just become available in the last week. Mr. Yelton stated that there was concern if the state collected the tax funds you would not see them for six months.

In response to Mr. D'Augustine's question regarding those already paying a local tax, Mr. Cochran stated that you would pay two taxes (not one).

In response to Steve Grund's question, East Marlborough Township resident, Mr. Cochran stated that implementation would be effective July 1, 2007 if the referendum were voted upon favorably.

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Dr. Sweeney to approve the Minutes of the November 20, 2006 Regular Board Meeting (pp. 3.a.1-22).

Motion carried (9-0).

The following committee meeting minutes were reviewed:

1. Board Curriculum Committee – December 4, 2006 (pp. 3.a.23-26)
2. Tax Study Commission – November 16, 2006, and November 30, 2006 (pp. 3.a.27-34)

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

Mr. Cochran stated that there were no financial reports this month since the books were just being closed. Double reports will be provided in January.

It was moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the Bill List for December 7, 2006 in the amount of \$1,793,194.54 (pp. 3.d.1-20).

Motion carried (9-0).

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**MINUTES
APPROVED**

**BILLS
APPROVED**

Mr. Swayze stated that there were no action items for Facilities this month. As a follow-up to the Work Session last week, this project is ongoing. There have been a number of meetings with architects and various administrative and facilities teams. It was not a public presentation at the Work Session last week but he wants this to be as inclusive as possible. There will be a public presentation early into the new year with some pretty formal financial plans.

Mr. Swayze commented about not having the committee's findings from what the architectural firm and our staff compiled. He is interested in going through that material regarding the needs for pool activities and whether there was any consideration at all. He will discuss this further with the architects and the administration.

He commented regarding a security study of our district that was completed about six years ago. It was implemented and is in place today. Mr. Swayze knows, as our Superintendent has said, that an awful lot of work has been done with security at this point. As far as new facilities are concerned, that is an important part of considerations.

Mrs. Trigg stated that when we had the Facilities Study in April, the highest price was ~\$27 million for ground work. She asked whether a listing could be provided as to what we would get if our budget were \$50 million vs. \$70 million to help her in fielding questions.

Ms. Parker commented that this was a matter we would have to discuss with the architects because of the interrelationship of the \$50 million and what we would get vs. building priorities. As we work for the January presentation, she will make that a key piece.

Mrs. Brown stated that there were no voting items for Curriculum. She reported that the Board Curriculum Committee met on December 4 and had updates on a number of things in curriculum. The Grading Committee's information should be available in January. Updates were received regarding the Middle School Common Assessments.

Mr. Murray stated that there were no action items for Finance this evening. He reported that the Finance Committee met on December 4. He alerted the public to the different set of expectations regarding the budgeting process. The law provides that we need to have a budget ready by January 25, 2007 and an approved preliminary budget by February 13, 2007. Mr. Cochran will have to do a fairly good magician's job as to what we might receive from the state and federal governments and what we might collect as taxes.

FACILITIES REPORT

CURRICULUM

FINANCE

The time line will be very short and it must be prepared and available. The Board is trying to actively communicate with constituency groups in a better way. This is a function of the law but we're doing everything we can possibly do to inform you. January is the time to watch for our meeting schedule and discussion of the 2007-08 budget.

It was moved by Dr. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the following personnel items (agenda items 7.a, c., d., e. f., g.1,2,&4, h. and i.):

- a. Professional Conferences (11)
 - 1. Approve attendance at Professional Conferences as on the attachments (p. 7.a.1-2)
- b. Retirement
- c. Resignation (1)
 - 1. Deborah Franciotti – Bus Driver and Patton Middle School Food Service Assistant, effective November 28, 2006
- d. Reclassification (1)
 - 1. Jennifer Caputo – from Unionville High School Social Studies Teacher (LTS) to Social Studies Teacher (TPE) – (Receipt of PA Certification on 12/1/06)
- e. Supplemental Contracts (3)
 - 1. Michael Mangan – Assistant Swim Coach
 - 2. Brian Marshall – Team Leader (K Team)
 - 3. Jeffra Leo – Head Girls' Basketball Coach
- f. Substitutes (9)
 - 1. Kathleen Linthicum – Elementary
 - 2. Lynette Loesel - Elementary
 - 3. Rachel McElhenney – Elementary & English
 - 4. Susan Soderberg – Social Studies
 - 5. Toni Bowersox – K-12
 - 6. Patricia Mapa – K-5
 - 7. Carly Campana – K-12
 - 8. Patricia Hunt – Support Staff Substitute
 - 9. Catherine Harris – Support Staff Substitute

PERSONNEL:

Professional Conferences

Resignation:

D. Franciotti

Reclassification:

J. Caputo

Supplemental Contracts

Substitutes

Personnel (Continued)

g. Employ (3)

1. Lynn Good – Pocopson Elementary School One-on-One Paraprofessional (3.5 hours per school day), effective November 27, 2006, at a salary of \$11.57 per hour
2. Anthony Massari – Hillendale Elementary School Custodian (8 hours per day x 260 days), effective November 20, 2006, at a salary of \$12.59 per hour
4. Erin Carey – Patton Middle School Math Teacher (LTS) – second semester of 2006-2007 school year, effective January 19, 2007, at the Bachelor’s Step 1 salary level (pro-rated), pending receipt of PA Certification

h. Leaves (1)

1. Susan Sudimak – Patton Middle School LTS Teacher, Extend Child-Rearing Leave through the end of the 2006-2007 school year

i. Discharge (1)

1. Harry Tatham – Patton Middle School Custodian, effective November 29, 2006

In response to Dr. West’s question, Mr. Marinelli stated that the need for employing Ms. Good (item 7.g.1) is due to a student’s IEP at that school.

Motion carried (9-0).

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

g. Employ (1)

1. Kathleen Feehery – Interim Hillendale Elementary School Principal, effective January, 2007, at a salary of \$450 per day

Ms. Parker commented that Mrs. Feehery is certainly a friend and supporter of Unionville-Chadds Ford who has served the district in many roles. She has a great deal of respect for her and Mrs. Feehery will be meeting with Mr. Nolen. She will serve us through the end of the 2006-07 school year. The district will begin the process of looking for a principal. There has been an internal posting and will also be an external posting. Ms. Parker welcomed Mrs. Feehery, who will begin on site on January 8.

Mrs. Halstead stated that in having worked with her previously, Mrs. Feehery will be a wonderful addition.

Motion carried (9-0).

**PERSONNEL
(Continued)**

Employ:

L. Good

A. Massari

E. Carey

Leaves:

S. Sudimak

Discharge:

H. Tatham

Employ:

**K. Feehery –
Interim
Principal, HES**

It was moved by Mrs. Halstead and seconded by Dr. West to approve the Award of Bids for the Sale of a Nine-Passenger Van (No. 386, VIN #1G%GG35K7TF505315) to Wayne Coe for \$200.00 (p. 8.a.1).

Mr. Wandersee stated that this was discussed at the December Work Session and is the best financial arrangement for the district.

Motion carried (9-0).

Mrs. Halstead reported for Transportation regarding the gift given to Board members from the Transportation Department. She reminded parents to be looking out for alternative homes and plans for students in case of snow and inclement weather.

Dr. West reported for Communications regarding:

1. Coffee Chats – Thanks for everyone’s support at the second coffee chat on December 5. They are held on the second Tuesday of every month.
2. PTO Advisory Committee – Met on November 27; Presidents and Vice-Presidents of PTO’s meet with the Board, Ms. Parker, and Dr. O’Hern. We will be changing the way we communicate information out of this meeting. In the past, the officers shared information back with their respective PTO’s and many have shared information in their newsletters. They have decided to get more systematic. Dr. West will write a master summary that will be posted on the website and that may be published in their newsletters if they choose to do so.

Mr. Baker suggested the inclusion of one evening coffee chat each time since the traffic flow was very good during their pilot.

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to approve Board Policy No. 803 – Operations – School Calendar (revised) as on the attachments (pp. 10.a.1-2).

Mrs. Trigg stated that this is the general policy that governs how the school calendar is developed each year. It gives the Superintendent more flexibility in development of the calendar.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Mrs. Halstead to adopt the revised School Calendar for the 2007-2008 School Year (Proposal B, 10-26-06) as on the attachments (pp. 10.a.1-2).

**TRANSPOR-
TATION**

**Bid Award:
Sale of Nine-
Passenger Van
– W. Coe**

**COMMUNI-
CATIONS**

**BOARD
POLICY**

**Revised
Policy No. 803:
School
Calendar**

Mrs. Trigg stated that the calendar has been posted on the district's website for a couple of months and was discussed at previous meetings. There was also discussion with the Community Fair leadership.

Mrs. Halstead commented that we would revisit the calendar if it did not work out.

Motion carried (9-0).

It was moved by Mrs. Trigg and seconded by Mr. Swayze to approve the School Board Meeting Dates for January through December, 2007 as on the attachment (p. 10.d.1, revised)

In response to Mrs. Halstead's question regarding approval of meetings through the 2007-08 school year, Dr. West stated that we wanted to give the next Board the option of setting their own calendar. Mrs. Brown stated that we could only publish the dates through December, 2007 and not for the entire school year (in the printed calendar and other publications). Mrs. Trigg stated that we were not in a position to go beyond December, 2007 tonight and could do this later if we wished to do so.

Motion carried (9-0).

In response to Dr. West's comment, the following agenda was added (as discussed at the December Work Session):

Board Policy No. 712 – Property – Use of Wireless Communication Devices by Employees – First Reading.

Mrs. Halstead reported for Technology regarding:

- *Power School* – We are moving toward using this program in place of the SASI student information system. It is not ready yet but is a huge process throughout the District.
- Wireless Buildings – All buildings are now wireless. The high school is nearly finished with its update. The middle school will be next, followed by updating the elementary schools.
- Phone System – Unionville Elementary, Unionville High School, Chadds Ford Elementary and Hillendale Elementary are the schools between which we can direct dial with four-digit extensions. The middle school is planning for a new system this summer. Pocopson is using the system installed when it was built and will probably be the last one to get a new system.

In response to Mr. Swayze's question regarding this \$20,000 cost of the SASI software over three years, Mr. Hug stated that the cost with *Power School* would be lowered in the long run. We have had the SASI program for about five years.

**BOARD
POLICY
(Continued)**

**2007-08
Calendar**

**School Board
Meeting Dates,
January
through
December, 2007**

**Board Policy
No. 712 –
Property, Use of
Wireless
Communica-
tions by
Employees –
First Reading**

TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Murray reported for the Center for Arts & Technology/ Intermediate Unit and Special Education that there is not meeting held in December.

Mr. Wandersee reported for Legislation regarding the announcement of Senator Domenic Pileggi's election as Senate Majority Speaker. This is good news for us but bad news because he will not be as available for us.

Bruce Yelton, Pocopson Township resident, commented in response to Mrs. Trigg's previous question about what you could get for \$50 million that you could get everything except the pool if you reconfigure to a K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12 grade configuration.

Greg Lindner, Chadds Ford Township resident, commented regarding the number of parents who had been on a 15-month journey regarding the school calendar. They are very grateful that so many gave up their time to be on the committee and hear the discussion. Sharon Parker was wonderful to work with and is a new mindset. Curt Baker was wonderful and he appreciates Ed Wandersee's advice to continue the dialogue. He appreciates Dr. West's and Dr. Sweeney's time to work with the committee and thanked everyone very much for what was done.

Lele Galer, Pocopson Township resident, stated that if we are the richest district in the state with the highest per capita income, we should be able to find the money to come up with textbooks. She doesn't understand why we don't have a pool or a Performing Arts Center.

Mrs. Trigg commented regarding the unique feature in our district because we don't have a lot of commercial development here. We have decided we don't want to change this kind of community. The taxes are paid mostly by homeowners here – a factor to keep in mind.

Zack Bowen, Birmingham Township resident, asked about whether the ballot question would come up in May with a vote for the construction of the school on the same ballot. It was indicate that this isn't known at this time. He urged everyone to possibly put that off and not mate it with this same ballot; it will not go through. It would appear to be two taxes and should be deferred to the next election cycle if possible.

Bonnie Musser, Pocopson Township resident, thanked the School Board in advance for their support of the Unionville Community Fair. She stated that with regard to the Tax Study Commission, she hoped the ballot question would be in plain language. She has had confusion on previous ballot questions.

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

**LEGISLATIVE
REPORT**

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS**

Mr. Baker stated that the language would be fairly prescribed by Harrisburg. He doesn't really have a good answer for her in terms of what we can say.

Dr. West commented regarding the required non-legal description that must accompany the ballot question.

Mr. Murray stated that when you step in there to see it, you will not be happy. We will do as much as we can to give information as best we can. He advised everyone to look and research before they go to vote.

Tammy Everitt, East Marlborough Township resident, inquired about the Bachelor's Step 1 salary level under the personnel section. Mr. Marinelli stated that there are steps for years of service and preparatory levels going across in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The salaries are based on those levels, with Bachelor's Step 1 teachers just coming out of school. With regard to certification levels, we accept the letter from the university stating that the student has met the requirements but are awaiting certification from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Joanne Cruse, West Marlborough Township resident, stated that U-CF is used to receiving a lot of tax money and people are comfortable with their high-power jobs. We are living in uncertain times and if people get laid off, they will have to make a decision to sell their homes, etc. People may lose jobs if we don't have the money to pay for the salaries.

Dr. West thanked the Tax Study Commission for the summary they provided. She has read all of their minutes and commented that they did work in a thoughtful, detailed way. They did a wonderful job and served the community well. She also thanked Sharon Parker for changing the format for our meeting and stated that it was fabulous to see the students' faces here. Dr. West thanked the Calendar Committee for their support and stated that it was a wonderful process. She seconded what Mrs. Halstead had said regarding revisiting it if it did not go well.

Mr. Wandersee commented to Mr. Lindner that all good things come to those who wait. He welcomed Mrs. Feehery and is pleased that she has agreed to step in and help the district. He wishes Merry Christmas and happy holiday to everyone and is looking forward to an exciting 2007.

Mrs. Halstead stated that many students had asked the Technology Committee to update the high school technology courses. It's on the list for review three years from now but we'll have to look at them. She commented about questions she had received about the shirts that were worn at the Powder Puff Derby being inappropriate. Mrs. Halstead encouraged thinking

**RESIDENTS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS**

Board Members' Comments (Continued)

about a course in world religion, stating that the Calendar Committee brought to light the fact that our community needs to learn more about communities across the world. She stated that there were plans in the middle school for a pool and they were removed.

Mrs. Halstead commented that she hopes all is well with the world – we need peace.

Mrs. Brown thanked the Tax Study Commission for serving and for sitting through the entire meeting tonight. She also thanked Kathleen Feehery for returning to the district and is looking forward to John Nolen beginning his new position.

Mrs. Trigg commented that she appreciated all of the work that had been done by the Tax Study Commission. They did a very professional job. She thanked the Calendar Committee for their work. Mrs. Trigg thanked those who came out for the coffee chats and the students who came to the meeting tonight. She referenced an article in the local papers that included comments she did not make and requested that they correct it to another Board member. Mrs. Trigg wished a safe and happy holiday season to all.

Mr. Swayze commented regarding the commitment of the Tax Study Commission. He stated that he had some involvement in their selection as a member of the Finance Committee and is well aware of the extraordinary diversity among the nine members. Mr. Swayze commented that their objective went way beyond their own self-interest based on the votes they made on so many things. He commented regarding the coffee chats and stated that no comments were made (at Glen Eagle) by 8:30 AM. There were several insightful visits after 8:30. Mr. Swayze wished a very nice holiday and new year to everyone.

Mr. Murray stated that he found his experience with the coffee chats to be the opposite of Mr. Swayze's. There was a couple present waiting for him at 7:30 AM. It was an interesting event with a lot of people stopping by. Mr. Murray commented about having attended approximately 60 Tax Study Commission meetings over the last three months and has seen about three presentations. This was the best, most concise one he has seen in the last 90 days and was excellent. He extended wishes for a happy holiday to all.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS (Continued)

Board Members' Comments (Continued)

Dr. Sweeney stated that she works at New Bolton Center and is frequently asked about the status of the horse, Barbero. Seven months in, he is doing fine. She feels there has been far more support for the future success of the Community Fair and a true partnership by the administration in the past four months than she had seen in the past four years. She is confident that with Sharon Parker leading the district and Bonnie Musser and Terry Vosburgh leading the fair it will be successful.

Mr. Baker commented about a brief observation that some of the thornier issues over the past few years have been resolved in a very short window of time in the community interest. That momentum represents the situation where people are attempting to do the right thing, resolve issues and move ahead. That is extremely good news for any school district, and he hopes the momentum continues into the next year as we see this district continue to improve and rise to greater heights than it has already achieved. He wished a wonderful holiday season to all and looks forward to seeing everyone back for the January meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Brown
Secretary

**BOARD
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS
(Continued)**

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**