

**Unionville-Chadds Ford School District
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**Tax Study Commission Minutes
November 16, 2006**

The scheduled meeting of the Unionville-Chadds ford School District Tax Study Commission was held on November 1, 2006 in the District Office Large Conference Room. The following members were present: Mark Berry, Robert Kane, James Romine, Charles Rudershausen, Barbara Siegel, Ed Wandersee, William Wilson and Bruce Yelton. In addition, Robert Cochran, Director of Business and Operations, Sharon Parker, District Superintendent and Sharon Baillie, recording secretary were present.

Chairperson Bruce Yelton called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Mrs. Siegel motioned to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2006 meeting. Mr. Berry seconded. Motion approved 8-0.

Commission member Zack Bowen arrived at 7:15.

Mr. Wandersee attended a meeting of the Chester County School Board Directors on November 11 and gave the following summary (based on a straw poll of those districts represented):

Avon Grove - 7 people attended their public hearing - EIT
Phoenixville - expects to recommend a 1% EIT - will hold public meeting
Great Valley - 2 public meetings with 25 people in attendance
Downingtown - leaning toward a 1% EIT
Oxford - holding public meeting 12/4/06 - leaning toward EIT between 1.1 - 1.6%.
OJ Roberts - leaning toward increasing EIT

Mr. Cochran reported to the Commission that he had received an e-mail stating that the regulations have been approved. He does not know if the regulations specified quarterly estimates or annual returns.

MEMBERS PRESENT

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

ROUNDTABLE
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Mr. Berry stated that it could be assumed that regardless of whether we implement an EIT or PIT, the estimated payments/collection is unknown.

Mrs. Siegel referred to a handout she distributed of EIT vs. PIT, which is a summary of the discussion outlined in the 11/01/06 minutes.

Mr. Yelton asked if Kennett has had problems with the EIT they added several years ago. Mr. Cochran responded that the borough already had a tax and the mechanism was in place. He added that the PIT is a negative in Pennsbury and Newlin Townships because there is already an EIT in place.

Mr. Wilson stated that he is concerned about doing something different from what we have heard other School Districts are doing.

Mr. Wandersee summarized the three parts to be considered - the individual, societal concerns and the School District. The EIT has more stability and more dollars to the School District - the District is better off with the EIT.

Ms. Parker stated that the Delaware County Daily Times reported that Wallingford-Swarthmore Tax Committee is recommending a PIT; however, it is believed that the Board will go with an EIT.

Mr. Cochran reminded the Commission that they might want to recommend nothing; however, the School Board must do something.

Mr. Yelton stated that he was concerned that if nothing happens, Harrisburg will issue a mandate next time.

Mrs. Siegel remarked that as a practical observation, if approved by the voters, the change would be much slower than anticipated. Any change will happen slowly and this will give the School Board and voter's time to assess the change.

A straw vote was taken with the results being five votes for EIT and four votes for PIT.

ROUNDTABLE
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Mr. Yelton commented that with as close as the vote is, the Commission could present both sides to the Board.

Mr. Wandersee asked if once the public votes on this, is there a provision for change in the future. Mr. Cochran responded that there is a provision to increase it by referendum.

Mr. Romine asked Mr. Wandersee for clarification on whether it was the School Board or the Tax Commissions, which were recommending the EIT or PIT. Mr. Wandersee stated that what he presented earlier in this meeting was what the Boards expected their Commissions to recommend as well as the way the School Boards were expected to vote.

Mr. Kane stated that our demographics are very different from other Districts.

Ms. Parker stated that she believes that the Board is prepared to listen to what this Commission recommends.

Mr. Bowen recommended that the next meeting be the preparation of the presentation to the School Board. Mr. Yelton stated that since the vote is so close, we need to include the pros and cons of both options.

Mr. Yelton asked for another straw vote, with the results being five for EIT, four for PIT (the composition of the vote changed). Mr. Yelton asked for a vote for making no change, with the results being 5 - 4 in favor of no change.

The next meeting is scheduled for 11/30/06 at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office conference room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Romine
Secretary

ROUNDTABLE
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ADJOURNMENT