

Upper Dublin High School PTO
Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, October 23, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 by Erin Taylor, who welcomed everyone.

Principal's Report: 1,100 tickets were sold for the Coronation Dance on October 25th. Next week's Spirit Week will feature Theme Days, culminating with the homecoming game against Wissahickon High School on Friday, October 31st. In Fall sports, Field Hockey and Volleyball made it into the first round of Districts, and Boy's Soccer made it to the second round. Boy's Track continues to advance, and Football has a 7-1 record. The PSAT's and Act Explore testing went well on October 15th, but the utilization of the day as an official college visitation day for Seniors needs to be tweaked. Parking and traffic is going well. It is still a little slow in the hallways. British exchange began today, with 8 students and 2 Teachers visiting from England, and the Upper Dublin students are scheduled to travel to England in the Spring.

D'Huy Engineering Presentation: Dr. Rittenhouse introduced Warren Gerrick, Senior Construction Manager. Mr. Gerrick gave a power point presentation, available on the Upper Dublin School District website, which was presented at the October 13th legislative meeting. He gave an overview of the work done to date. Phase I preparation began with the placement of the temporary modulars and the building of a new main electrical switch control center, since the old control center was in the portion of the school being demolished. Besides providing power to the current school building and modulars, the new electrical control center is being used as a power source for the construction, which saves money on a temporary power source which would have otherwise been required. Work then began on erosion and sediment features, which includes storm water management. The air quality of the entire building was tested prior to demolition, for benchmark values. Air quality in the modulars has been tested and is well within standards. Asbestos abatement took place prior to demolition, and was overseen by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), who are very strict. Air monitoring takes place every hour during the abatement, and if any migration of asbestos fibers occurs, the job is shut down.

Demolition then began, with the bus garage being demolished first. After that, the portion of the school building adjacent to the library was severed, so that noise from the demolition would be as far away as possible from the standing structure once school began. The West Gym was the last portion to be demolished. An underground storage tank for diesel fuel for buses, which had been tested for leaking before the contract went out and was very clean, was removed. Most of the debris from the old school building was crushed with a crusher, so it could be recycled, and it was used to make stone building pads for the new building and to fill in big holes. Essentially everything except for old roofing and insulation debris was recycled, and the new building actually sits on a good portion of the old building. The use of the crusher did result in airborne dust, which they would water down and try to control as well as they could.

Work has started on the ground source heat pump well field. Pipes will go down 400 feet and water is chilled to 55, which is the natural temperature for heating and cooling. It is a big cost to build all the wells, but you essentially get free heating and cooling, and it pays for itself in an estimated 5 to 8 years.

Numerous unforeseen conditions have been encountered, including the discovery of an old residential dump containing a lot of debris such as bottles, tires and concrete, and which is estimated to date back to approximately the 1930's - 1960's. Numerous tests were run under the oversight of DEP and there is no contamination in the dump. An agreement is now in place for its removal, and about 70% of the debris can be recycled. Another unforeseen condition encountered was some additional asbestos in several areas, which has been taken care of. There were also some underground utility pipes found that they didn't expect and some have been rerouted and some removed. Some of the soils were found to be unsuitable to build on, due to their composition.

Finally, work on the building itself began. A trench footer was used and rock excavation begun. During the bidding process, an option had been chosen wherein the contractor removes any rock found as a part of an agreed upon price, as opposed to having rock removal being an add-on item as rock is found. This option turned out to be advantageous

to the School District because a lot of rock has been found. Some of the rock has been blasted by controlled dynamite, which fragments it, making it easier to remove. Trenches for the foundation were made and filled with rebar, scaffolding was erected and concrete poured, then the scaffolding was taken down. Structural steel began arriving today and will continue to arrive over the next 3-4 months. A crane has arrived and steel erection begins on Monday (October 27th). The steel work will not be that noisy. Demolition is the loudest portion of the construction process.

In summary, a lot of the foundation for the pool and gymnasium has been put in place, storm water management has been done, and the first parking lot, out of a final total of 7, was completed today. About 80 to 120 yards of concrete are being poured each day. They hope to have the shell up by the winter and then work on the inside. Steel work can, however, be done in the cold, and is only stopped by snow and rain. Mr. Gericke noted that this is the first school district to incorporate the construction into the curriculum. There is a mock up wall at the entrance to the football stadium that includes samples of some of the exteriors of the finished school: cast stone, brick, split face, a window, metal panels, and coping strip.

Meeting Wrap-Up: The minutes from the September meeting were approved and the budget was reported as being in good shape at the beginning of the meeting. At the end of the meeting Erin Taylor reported that the next meeting, which will be about Internet awareness and address concerns about facebook and similar issues, will begin at 7:00 in the cafeteria. Middle school parents are also being invited to this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Marian Racette, Secretary.