

**Upper Dublin High School PTO  
Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, September 25, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Erin Taylor, who welcomed everyone on behalf of herself and co-president Lita Weinstein. Michael Paston and Art Lebinowitz were present for questions regarding construction.

**Principal's Report:** A recent Drug and Alcohol Survey, titled The Pennsylvania Youth Survey, is completed, and the results are improved over the last survey and will be presented at a meeting in December. The school has appealed to leaders, including the SGA, NHS and Key Club, to assist in discouraging Seniors from participating in Senior Cut Day, which is not a sanctioned day. The Cardinal Academic Learning Center and the Homework Helpers Club both utilize a certified teacher to assist students with their studies. The elimination of Track 4 in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades is going well and hasn't resulted in the watering down of grades. Upper Dublin High School is ranked Number 2 in this year's ranking of high schools by Philadelphia Magazine. For the first time the magazine also ranked public school districts based, in part, on results of state mandated testing, and Upper Dublin School District ranked a commendable Number 6. The school is hoping to achieve an 80% participation rate in the ListServ system "eNotify", and are up to approximately 25-26%; last year the rate was 15%. The school received an additional \$95,000 in a Classrooms for the Future (CFF) State Grant, which is being put towards the purchase of computer related equipment.

The new school configuration has resulted in crowded hallways between classes. Traffic patterns have been identified and certain stairways are now designated as up or down, and travel in certain hallways is designated as one way only, and this has helped to ease the congestion. Dr. Rittenhouse stresses that the hallways are crowded but are not unsafe. Now that the school isn't so spread out, the average travel time between classes has decreased significantly, so that within 5 minutes of the bell to change classes, 98% of the students are actually in their next classroom. The modulars contain 35 classrooms and are air-conditioned and well lit and have full technological capability in them. There are no lockers in the modulars. The lockers from the demolished portion of the school have been moved to the remaining original school. The first fire drill was recently held, and the evacuation plan is being redone with assistance from township police and firemen, and there are now 3 staging areas for students to exit to. External traffic is working well, with the morning drop off sites behind the cafeteria and in the township building parking lot both being well used, and the bus drop off in front of the building going well. In the afternoon Dr. Rittenhouse and Mrs. Staller have been helping out as crossing guards. The gravel parking lot at the Field of Dreams will be getting lights, and Spark Drive/Flying Cardinal Drive is getting speed bumps.

**Construction Update:** The demolition portion of the current phase is complete. Stone from the demolished building is being crushed and recycled into the new building. The outline for the Gymnasium and Natatorium is complete, the footings are in, and steel for the building is due to arrive on October 5<sup>th</sup>. All construction trucks enter from Susquehanna Avenue, utilizing Spark Drive. It hasn't been determined how students will be routed between the school building and the Gymnasium and Natatorium once they are operational. The modulars will remain in place throughout their use. The only part of the old school being kept is an etched window of a cardinal. The bubble over Maple Manor pool, to be used by the swim team, is scheduled for installation on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The current bus garage is off Pinetown Road, and it isn't known where it will be located after the current 4-5 year lease expires, and if another site isn't chosen, it will be located behind the Township Building.

**Membership Committee:** Marjorie Berlinghoff introduced Jennifer Kim and other members of the Korean-American Parent Organization who were present, and Erin Taylor welcomed the group to the PTO. Marjorie reported there was an approximately 60% PTO membership rate last year and that number will hopefully increase this year.

**Sunshine Committee:** A contribution has been made to the Muscular Dystrophy Association in memory of Teagan Clare Gallagher.

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade Liason:** Joan Craig reported the 10<sup>th</sup> grade is having a fundraiser to raise class funds, with the sale of sweatshirt blankets at a cost of \$20.00 each. The blankets are gray, with a red cardinal on them, and are being sold at all the schools. Barbara Staller provided background on the typical fundraising efforts that take place at the high school, which typically consist of 2 fundraisers per year per class, one for the class treasury, and the other to raise funds for individual student accounts, which normally goes towards Senior class expenses.

**Website:** Carol McGinn described the redesigned website that she, Peggy Cummings, Debra Huffman, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade student Brianna Piccari have been working on, and which is accessible through the UDHS website.

**PSAT's :** Dr. Rittenhouse noted that October 15<sup>th</sup> is a half day, and 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders will be administered the PSAT's during school on this date, which are being paid for by the School District. The 9<sup>th</sup> graders will take the ACT Explore test, a college inventory test, which explores one's strengths and weaknesses. Seniors are permitted to take this date as an official College visit day or to work on their college applications.

**Sportswear:** Pat Melchiorre had available for review a selection of the sportswear for sale this year.

**Budget:** Mary Gold received approval for the budget as presented.

**School Tour:** Immediately following the meeting a tour of the school was led by Barbara Staller.

The minutes from the meeting of May 15, 2008 were approved as written, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Marian Racette, Secretary.