

AUG 08 2022

August 4, 2022

Senator Scott F. Martin  
Pennsylvania Senate, 13<sup>th</sup> District  
Senate Box 203013  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3013

135 E. Main Street, Suite 1-A  
Strasburg, PA 17579

Dear Senator Martin:

The Unionville-Chadds Ford School District is in receipt of a letter from your office dated June 16, 2022 and received by the District on July 19, 2022 via an email from a member of the UCFSFSD community. Please note, nowhere in our records was your letter directly communicated from your office to the School District. Subsequent to the July 19, 2022 email - a member of your office called the UCFSFSD district office - this was the first communication of any kind by your office to UCFSFSD.

Before we address your letter, seeing that you are not from this region, we thought we would share a little about us. The School District is located in both Chester and Delaware County and is made up of the wonderful municipalities of Birmingham, Chadds Ford, East Marlborough, Newlin, Pennsbury, Pocopson, and West Marlborough. Our High School was recently ranked 6th in Pennsylvania by US News and World Report. We were honored to be named the District of the Decade in Pennsylvania by The Pittsburgh Business Journal. As Board President and Superintendent of Schools we are proud of our teachers, support staff, and administrators who have worked tirelessly every day for our students to make UCFSFSD such a highly successful school district.

To the extent your office did author the letter that we received, it is disappointing that the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee - holding yourself out there as chairman of the committee - would not complete some minimal due diligence like contacting the District to discuss these issues first. Instead it appears you simply copied and pasted information from a non-constituent of your district and placed it on the official letterhead of your office. As Chairman of a critical committee the decisions you make directly impact 500 school districts, and tens of thousands of students, parents, and teachers. Instead of writing such a letter to the District, we would have hoped the Chairman of the Committee would be spending more time addressing critical issues that face Pennsylvanians like a pending shortage in highly qualified teachers, the persistent underfunding of our K-12 public schools, and the vital need for important and substantive charter school reform. I believe the words of Winston Churchill are apropos in this case ~ "It's not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what's required."

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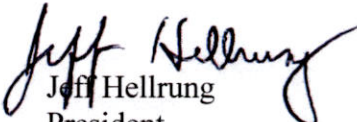
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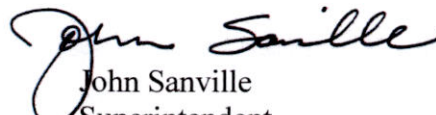
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Like many school districts, the Unionville-Chadds Ford School district affords its community members opportunities at its multiple public meetings the ability to make comments to the Board of School Directors and the Administration. Further, the committee process allows the community to engage in the governance of the school district. Ultimately, if residents desire documentation not otherwise public they are afforded the opportunity to submit Right to Know requests to the District. Throughout the last two years, like all districts in the Commonwealth, we have had to navigate the unknown surrounding a pandemic. During this time, we have consistently kept the community involved and informed in these matters and the ever changing guidance from the local, state or federal governments.

Ultimately, ongoing dialog surrounding the needs of public education and ways to better provide free appropriate education to our students is critical. To that end, we are formally inviting you to a meeting with us to discuss the needs and concerns of our public schools and ways that we as Pennsylvanians can ensure public schools work for all children. We would be more than happy to schedule such a meeting with your office - we are happy to take you on a tour of our schools so you can see education in Pennsylvania at its best.

Cordially,

  
Jeff Hellrung  
President  
UCFSD School Board

  
John Sanville  
Superintendent  
UCFSD

cc: Senator Carolyn Comitta  
Senator John Kane



**UCF** | Unionville-Chadds Ford  
School District

**District Administration**

740 Unionville Road • Kennett Square, PA 19348



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