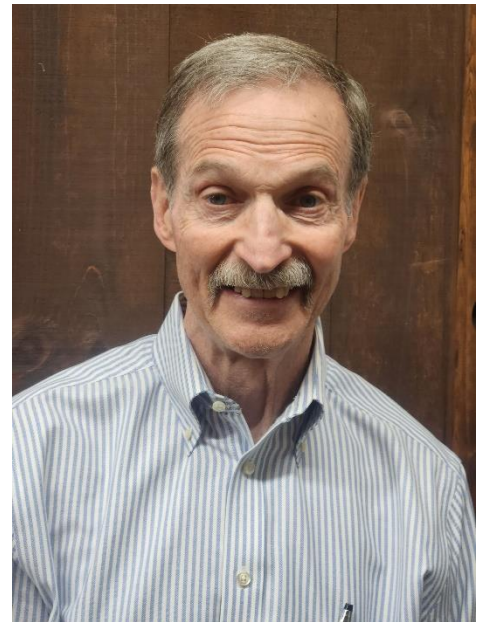# Origin Story of the Union County Education Foundation

The Union County Board of Education showed interest in the establishment of a Foundation to support the work of the educators and achievements of students as early as 2007 or 2008. I was superintendent at the time, and this was mentioned on several occasions by various board members in our meetings, and informally. In 2008 or 2009 we began the process to establish a Foundation. However, we were not successful due to too much direct involvement by board members in selecting the people to serve on the Foundation Board. The idea was shelved but came up again in early 2011. I frankly told the board of education that I would investigate establishing a Foundation for the purpose identified a few years earlier on the condition that they allow me and my staff to do this and report to them. They agreed and we went about hiring someone who could serve as a Foundation Director/Grant Writer. When this person was hired, he collaborated closely with the staff and me to identify and recruit members for a volunteer board that could assist in the establishment of an Education Foundation. The original Foundation board members were community, school, and business people who shared a common interest in supporting Union County Public Schools. There was much discussion on our goals and objectives, and it finally came down to the desire to have a group that would provide funding support for teacher innovation and scholarships for students. There were other things to consider, but this was the primary focus. It took a while to get the Foundation going and initial support came from various fundraisers and donations. The Union County Public Schools Principals held a spring golf tournament each year that was the primary fundraiser. Over time, the role of the school district, the schools, and the Foundation have evolved, and this is now a most positive and productive support system for our students and educators in UCPS.

Dr. Ed Davis, UCPS Superintendent (2005-2012)