

Colonial School District
District Operations
Facilities Management/Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes
8/6/2010

Committee Chair Bernie Brady called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM.

Other Committee Members Present: Sue Moore, Kathy Oxberry, Alan Tabachnick

Other Board Members Present: Gary Johnson

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. Maryellen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Terry R. Yemm, Director of Operations; Linda Doll, Community Resident; Tom Davis, Community Resident

Public Comment on the Agenda: None

The Committee reviewed and discussed three (3) requests for bus stop location changes. Two of the requests were to change stop locations back to where they were several years ago. The Committee agreed to move one of the stops back to the previous location based on a safety concern and requested that the Director of Operations review the other location and make a decision on the relocation request. The third is a request from two parents asking for consideration to change a stop location for non-public schools and 4th – 12th grade students to a stop recently approved by the Committee. For the third request, the Committee agreed to the new location for K-3 only students from non-public schools since the location was recently changed for Colonial School District K-3 students only. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the requests from parents for changes in stop locations. Mr. Yemm provided that neighboring school districts do not change locations of stops for any reason other than a concern for safety of students. A review of many of the requests made for revised stop locations in the past few years has shown that the majority of the requests are primarily based on convenience for a parent living close to the proposed new location. The granting of these requests, while satisfying the requester, often promotes complaints from other families affected by the change. Mr. Yemm told the Committee that the stops are selected with computer software designed to determine the most efficient routes and stops from a standpoint of costs and timing. As such the only reason for any changes should be one of a safety concern. Additionally, all requests for changes are thoroughly reviewed by the District's Safety Director and the Traffic Units of the local Police Departments. If a determination is made that any stop locations are unsafe, the Transportation Department will make the changes as required eliminating the need to bring the request(s) to the Committee. Mr. Yemm strongly suggested that the Committee not agree to any requests for changes in stop locations in the future.

A draft of the Memorial Policy was reviewed in preparation for a 2nd reading by the School Board. Based upon a review of the draft several suggestions were made for additional changes prior to presentation for approval by the Board. Specifically, the

Committee suggested that the items allowed to be used as memorials are defined. In addition, the Committee suggested that language be added identifying the Commemorative Garden as the location for placement of any/all memorials. The policy will be changed and presented for Board approval at a future Board meeting.

The Committee agreed to move forward with a proposal for the restoration of a portion of the track surface at Colonial Stadium. This work will be performed in the next few months in preparation for the 2011 spring track season. The Committee was also advised that the entire track surface will need to be restored in the next few years. The life expectancy of the track surface is approximately ten (10) years. The current track surface was installed in 2000. Mr. Yemm suggested that future consideration be given to the funding of this restoration as it may be in excess of \$150,000.

Mr. Yemm reported that the solar energy project is in the design and manufacturing stages. The engineers have been onsite to finalize the design of the brackets that will hold the solar panels in place. In addition to the installation of the solar panels, the project also includes the installation of a natural gas main to the Colonial Elementary School. Running the boilers on natural gas is a major part of our energy initiatives. The solar panels will be installed on the Colonial Middle School first and then the Colonial Elementary School.

Information was provided to the Committee regarding a Colonial Community Green Fair that the Operations Department is planning for February 2011. The District will work in conjunction with the local municipalities and area vendors in providing information to the community on energy initiatives, recycling, healthy living, nutrition and other clean living topics. Some of the presenters may include the Clean Air Council, PA. Department of Environmental Protection, Whole Foods, Inc. and Greenenergy. The District will provide information about all of our energy initiatives and green practices currently in place. The Committee was receptive to the idea and provided support to move forward with planning the event.

The construction of the comfort station required for the Victory Fields Lighting Project will begin in the middle of August. A meeting was held in late July with Chestnut Hill College (CHC) to discuss their financial contribution to the construction costs as they will be sharing the restroom and the storage area will be constructed for their use. CHC agreed to fund one-third (1/3) of the construction costs but asked that they be allowed to pay their share over a ten (10)-year period. The financial contribution for the turf installation on Victory Field # 1 and installation of athletic field lighting is in the 4th year of a ten year agreement. The Committee requested that the District explore the possibility of establishing a new agreement ten (10)-year agreement. The new agreement will include the remaining portion of the existing agreement, the payment for the comfort station and additional fees for the use field after the expiration of the existing agreement. Mr. Yemm will put together a proposal and provide same to the Committee for their review and comment at a future meeting.

Additional Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

There being no further business before the committee, Mr. Brady adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:21 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Yemm
Director of Operations