

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, APRIL 14, 2011

President Johnson convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:02 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on April 14, 2011.

Board Members Present: Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Gary Johnson, Kelly Jowett, Jodi Miscannon, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry and Alan Tabachnick.

Board Members Absent: Beth Suchsland.

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; Richard Hartz, Director of Human Resources; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Charles Forster; Pat Tamborello; Candy Maggioncalda; Karen Fondots; Andrea Fondots; D. Winterbottom; Robert Culp; Phil Chang; Nancy Labricciosa; Brian Adams; Amy Venkus; Kristi Sauder; Beth Hargrove; Doug Hargrove; Trish Chialastri; Gregg Chialastri; Deb Kennedy; Bill Price; Jim Donorfio; M.J. Grouke; Mary Thiess; Rosanna Costa; Kyle Hatfield; Beth Hatfield; Chris Cotter; Ellen Reilly; Eileen Spector; Dan Balek; Karen Gebhardt; Joe Carracappa; Heather Nuneviller; Robert Fahler; Maico Azcona; Terese Boegly; Judi Lipson; Denise Marks; Donna Drizin; Jason Bacani; David Stewart; George Wadlin; Dan Chang; Lee Andrews; Michael Engel and Margaux Weinraub.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board had met in executive session on March 23, April 4, April 5, April 13 and April 14.

Dr. Cotter introduced Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) track coach Mark Boland, who presented two student-athletes for Board Recognition.

Dr. Cotter introduced PWHS wrestling coach Nate Wachter, who recognized three student-athletes, including state champion John Michael Staudenmayer.

Dr. Cotter introduced PWHS swimming coach Taren Igou, who presented five student-athletes for Board recognition.

Dr. Cotter introduced Colonial Middle School basketball coach Bill Price, who presented his unbeaten 7th grade team for Board recognition.

Dr. Cotter introduced PWHS boys' basketball coach Jim Donorfio, who presented his conference championship team that advanced to the state Final Four for the third straight year. See Attachment A for a complete list of students honored.

Dr. Cotter introduced PWHS Principal Heather Nuneviller and congratulated her for PWHS being included on the College Board's Advanced Placement Achievement List. Mrs. Nuneviller spoke to the honor.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson asked Board members to act on the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 14; the General Session of March 17; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of April 1; the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of April 4 and the Human Resources Committee of April 6. See enclosures #1 through #4 and #20. He noted that the minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee of April 6 were before Board members as a blue page.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Jowett seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Financial Reports: Mr. Johnson noted that the Financial Reports and Treasurer's Report were previously approved through February 28. He stated that Board authorization is requested to pay March bills during April. He stated that both March and April Financial Reports and Treasurer's Reports will be available for Board action in May. Mr. Johnson noted this action is necessary since the April meeting was moved up a week.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to pay March bills during April. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Ridge Park Elementary School Principal Jason Bacani, Master Teacher Brian Adams and Music Teacher Amy Venkus shared a movie and described initiatives at the school centered on activities of a normal school day and differentiated instruction.

Old Business: Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider an amended 2011-2012 school calendar. See enclosure #5. He noted that a third half-day needed to be added as a result of the approved contract with the Colonial Education Association.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the amended calendar. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Correspondence: Mr. Johnson noted that Dr. Cotter submitted his letter of retirement to the Board. He read a resolution. See Attachment B. Mr. Johnson thanked Dr. Cotter for his dedicated leadership to the school District. Mr. Johnson noted that during his time on the Board he has watched Dr. Cotter's vision become a reality. He recalled that Dr. Cotter's idea for the successful "Above and Beyond" program came at 4:00 a.m. during a negotiation meeting. He stated that Dr. Cotter was the guiding force behind Colonial's success of the past 10 years. He wished Dr. Cotter the best and thanked him for going above and beyond. Mr. Johnson sought Board action on the resolution.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mr. Tabachnick seconded a motion to approve the resolution. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Dr. Cotter thanked his wife, District Principals and numerous friends in the audience, many of who he said he hired or brought to Colonial. Dr. Cotter stated that he just wanted to make a difference.

Mrs. Jowett thanked Dr. Cotter for his service.

Mrs. Oxberry stated that Board approval of a resolution establishing parameters for the refinancing of 2006 bonds is recommended. She read the resolution. See enclosure #21. Mr. Bickleman confirmed for Mrs. Oxberry that the District would incur no additional debt through refinancing.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Jowett seconded a motion to approve the refinancing parameters resolution. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter reviewed his report that included the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List and a memo recommending an amended hourly rate for Hall Monitors who staff events. See enclosures #6, #7 and #22. He added that an Employee Disciplinary Agreement that was reviewed in executive session is included. Dr. Cotter stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contained 18 actions, including one resignation, six leaves of absence, five replacements, two extensions of assignments, two revised assignments and two returns from leave. He added that Board members have a blue page before them containing an additional leave. Dr. Cotter reported that the Extra Duty Extra Pay list included one appointment for an assistant softball coach.

Mrs. Jowett moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: None.

New Business: Mr. Johnson sought Board action on renewal of a wide area network agreement with Sunesys, Inc. for 36 months at a rate of \$2,677 per month. See enclosure #8. Mr. Boegly explained that the service covers the fiber optic network that connects District buildings to the Internet.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider two Settlement and Release Agreements. He noted the agreements were reviewed in executive session.

Mrs. Jowett moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the agreements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Jowett asked the Board to consider three student trip requests in one motion. The first is for one PWSH student to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State Concert Band from April 13-16 in Hershey, Pa. See enclosure #9. The second is for the Colonial Players to visit New York City to attend a Broadway show on April 20. See enclosure #10. The last request is for three PWSH students to attend the DECA National Conference in Orlando, Fla., from April 30 through May 4. See enclosure #12.

Mrs. Jowett moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider a bid for PWSH Athletic and Physical Education Equipment for the 2011-2012 school year. See enclosure #12. He noted that the Board must act now to provide enough lead time for equipment to arrive in time for the start of the next school year.

Mrs. Jowett moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the bid request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Solicitor's Report: No Report.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: Mr. Brodsky stated that the IU Board discussed the impact of the Governor's budget. He noted that a Franklin & Marshall College survey indicated that 78 percent of the people in the state oppose the Governor's education budget cuts. He stated that the Board is also keeping an eye on six districts that are participating in a pool to transport non-public students outside of their districts.

CMTHS: No report.

Human Resources: Mrs. Moore stated that the committee reviewed the new procedure and form required for all individuals who volunteer in the District.

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry reviewed the minutes of the April 6 meeting. She highlighted the refinancing of the 2006 General Obligation Bonds and noted that the District could save up to \$120,000. She noted that current Fund Balance projections show an \$8.7 million surplus for the end of the current fiscal year. She added that the state budget eliminated \$1.1 million from the Colonial budget but that net reductions the administration has made to the preliminary budget total \$1.7 million. Mrs. Oxberry also commented on a preliminary budget presentation airing on CITV. She added that the District's Act 1 exceptions were approved and noted that the next meeting is scheduled for May 3.

Curriculum: No report.

Facilities Management and Transportation: No report.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mr. Sherman asked members to refer to the minutes of the April 4 meeting found in enclosure #4. He noted that the District will staff a table at Whitmarsh Township Day on April 30. He also highlighted the PWHS Distinguished Graduates Organization Induction Ceremony scheduled for April 29.

Safety and Wellness: Mrs. Jowett stated that the committee will meet in May. Expected agenda topics include an update on the SAFE Coalition, the District's Memorandum of Understanding, how the District is addressing peanut allergies and more.

Legislative: No report.

Municipal Liaisons: No report.

Mr. Johnson officially welcomed Mrs. Miscannon to the board and noted that this was her first meeting as a Board member.

Public Comment: Dan Chang recounted memories of Dr. Cotter from his days at North Penn High School. Mr. Chang spoke of his days as a student and the influence Dr. Cotter had on his choice to become an educator. He thanked Dr. Cotter for bringing him to PWHS and for the opportunity to coach the PWHS football team. He stated he was proud to be a member of the Colonial School District (CSD).

Candy Maggioncalda spoke to Dr. Cotter's days as an assistant principal at PWHS, his influence on her to make her a better educator and his support of the arts program.

Pat Tamborello thanked Dr. Cotter for his years of service to the District and wished him well in retirement. She stated that the District has improved under Dr. Cotter's leadership and noted that Yale University recently commented on the quality of PWHS applicants.

Phil Chang also recounted memories of Dr. Cotter and stated he has tried to be a leader and a positive influence on others like Dr. Cotter. He stated that Dr. Cotter encouraged him to become an educator and that being a part of the CSD was the best thing that ever happened to him.

Robert Culp shared memories of Dr. Cotter and stated that Dr. Cotter was responsible for hiring him as a PWHS teacher. He spoke of Dr. Cotter's leadership and stated that he was proud to be a part of the District.

Michael Engel stated that he appreciated all that Dr. Cotter has done for the District and noted all of the resources that Dr. Cotter has provided the teachers, including technology. He noted that Dr. Cotter's door has always been open.

M.J. Grouke recounted memories of Dr. Cotter and noted Dr. Cotter's willingness to guide. He stated that he learned a lot from Dr. Cotter and referred to Dr. Cotter as his professional father figure. He wished Dr. Cotter well.

Jim Donofrio, as a teacher and taxpayer, thanked Dr. Cotter for his service and all he has done for the District. He thanked Dr. Cotter for his support of the PWHS basketball program.

Charles Forster shared memories of Dr. Cotter from when both attended Roxborough High School. He stated that he has served for all but one superintendent in the CSD and that Dr. Cotter was the best of the best. He stated that under Dr. Cotter's leadership, the District athletics and facilities were second to none. He thanked Dr. Cotter for his leadership and all he has done for the District. He stated that Dr. Cotter was a super teacher, administrator and father.

Mr. Fahler stated that Dr. Cotter has had a great impact on him. He thanked Dr. Cotter for the opportunity to be a principal.

Mr. Azcona stated that his colleagues said he never had a shot to become an administrator. He thanked

Dr. Cotter for the opportunity to be an assistant principal.

Terese Boegly thanked Dr. Cotter for his leadership. She stated that she appreciated his guidance and mentoring.

Judi Lipson shared memories of Dr. Cotter and thanked him for the continuous improvement in the District. She stated that Dr. Cotter always made decisions based upon what was right for children.

Donna Drizin thanked Dr. Cotter for his service to the District, the opportunities he provided and for setting high standards.

Denise Marks recounted memories of Dr. Cotter and thanked him for his guidance. She stated that he was a positive presence for all children in the District.

Heather Nuneviller stated that Dr. Cotter welcomed her to the District with open arms. She thanked him for his guidance, support and open door policy.

Jason Bacani stated that all of the accomplishments and success of the CSD were a result of Dr. Cotter's leadership. He wished Dr. Cotter the best.

Dr. Cotter thanked everyone for their kind words. He stated that he always wanted to make a difference and he was glad to hear that he had. He thanked everyone again.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary

PWHS Girls' Indoor Track

Haley Gorenflo
Emerald Walden

PWHS Boys Swimming

Alex Chialastri
Steve Hargrove
Pat Kennedy
Kyle Lukens
Tyler Sauder

PWHS Wrestling

John Michael Staudenmayer
Justin Staudenmayer
Lucas Wisniewski

CMS 7th Grade Basketball

Kevin Ashenfelter
Davon Burrell
Skyler Goldstein
Manny Jones
Nate Levy
Mike Lotito
Zach Magill
Luke Mascio
Grady Minick
Dutch Reardon
Oakley Spencer
Jackson Versak
Jake Winterbottom
Zach Zygmunt

PWHS Boys' Basketball

Players

Marcus Badger
Stephon Baker
Jaylen Bond
JeQuon Cook
Marcus Glover
Morgan Jackson
Brandon Johnson
Sam Pygatt
Garnell Sanders
Jake Silvers
Wayne Thompson
Kenny Williams

Managers

Dominic Aprile
Joe Harte
Paul Knittel
Isley Robinson
Alex Small