

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
WORK SESSION MINUTES, JUNE 13, 2011

President Johnson convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:30 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on June 13, 2011.

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

Board Members Absent: Jodi Miscannon and Beth Suchsland.

Also Attending: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; 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; Lenora Ciccolone; Leslie Finegold; Terry Feris, and Megan Rooney.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board met in executive session on May 25, June 8 and June 13.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson asked Board members to examine the minutes of the Work Session of May 16; the General Session of May 19; the Human Resources Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee of June 1; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of June 3; the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of June 6 and the Special Meeting of the Board of June 8. See enclosures #1 through #7. Mr. Johnson noted that the minutes of the Curriculum Committee of June 13 will be included in the yellow pages on Thursday evening.

Financial Reports: Mr. Johnson reviewed the financial reports on the list for approval on Thursday evening. They include the Budget Transfers, the Bond Fund Report, the Capital Projects Report, the General Fund/Federal Program Bills, the Capital Reserve Fund, the Food Service Bills/Cafeteria Report, the Outstanding Investment Report, the Cash Flow Summary, the Comparison of Taxes Collected, the Real Estate Tax Escrow Report, the Trust Fund Report, the Reconciliation of Cash Accounts, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending May 31. See enclosures #8 through #20.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Old Business: Mrs. Oxberry stated that the Board will act on a 2011-2012 Final Budget on Thursday evening. See enclosure #21. She stated that the budget totals \$93,938,760, which is a decrease of \$120,240 or 0.13 percent from the 2010-2011 spending plan, and includes a real estate tax millage rate of 18.476 mils. Mrs. Oxberry explained that the new rate represents an increase of 2.50 percent and means an additional \$45 per year for each \$100,000 of taxable assessed value, or an increase of \$66 on the district's median taxable assessed value of \$147,120. She added that the final budget also uses slightly more than \$4.2 million of fund balance.

Mrs. Oxberry also noted that the Board will act on Thursday to establish the following taxation rates, fees and billing date: A 2011-2012 Real Estate Tax Millage rate of 18.476; an Act 511 Earned Income Tax Rate of 1.0 percent, to be shared equally with local municipalities; a Real Estate Transfer Tax rate of 1.0 percent, to be shared equally with local municipalities; an Amusement Tax Rate of 10 percent, to be shared equally with Plymouth and Whitmarsh Townships; a Real Estate Tax Certification Fee of \$25 and a billing date for 2011-2012 Real Estate Taxes of July 1, 2011.

Mrs. Oxberry called Board members' attention to a 2011 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution. See enclosure #22. She stated that pursuant to Special Session Act 1 of 2006, the

Pennsylvania Department of Education has certified that it would distribute funds during the 2011-2012 school year to the Colonial School District for property tax relief. The resolution establishes the maximum property tax reductions for its approved Homestead properties at \$232.13 and the maximum property tax reduction for its farmstead properties at \$232.13. Mrs. Oxberry noted that the reductions are about \$23 less than last year.

Correspondence: Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will consider a \$500 Grant from the United States Tennis Association Middle States Section to Plymouth Elementary School on Thursday evening. See enclosure #23.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed the report that includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List, a list of Long Term Substitutes and Master Teacher Designation. See enclosures #24 through #26. She stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contains a number of actions including five furloughs, four retirements, four leaves of absence, three other appointments, 13 changes and a list of positions eliminated. Dr. Gorodetzer added that the Long Term Substitute List contains individuals who will have completed their assignments at the end of the current school year. She stated that those individuals are recommended for placement on the Per Diem Substitute List. Dr. Gorodetzer read the list of Master Teachers and congratulated them on their achievement. She added that they will be invited to the September Board meeting for recognition. Mrs. Jowett asked what effect the reduction in instructional aides will have on students. Dr. Gorodetzer assured her that students with needs will receive the necessary support.

New Business: Mrs. Moore stated that on Thursday evening the Board will consider a Meet and Discuss Agreement with the Colonial Administrators and Supervisors Association (CASEA). She noted that the agreement is to become effective on July 1, 2011 and run through June 30, 2015 subject to approval of final wording by the solicitor. She added that the new agreement will rescind the current CASEA agreement, which was to run through June 30, 2012.

Mrs. Moore also stated that Board approval is sought on Thursday for an agreement with the Colonial Administrative Assistants effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014.

Mr. Hartz explained for Mr. Tabachnick that a Meet and Discuss Agreement is not a Collective Bargaining Agreement. He stated that the agreement is not something both parties need to sign off on. He added that the Board has a right to do what it wants.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will consider a number of medical and educational contract renewals on Thursday evening. The first involves general physicals, dental examinations, sports physicals and physician services for home football games. See enclosure #27. The second is for a consulting services contract with Cathy Grayson at a rate of \$120 per hour. See enclosure #28. The next is a contract with C&K Therapy Associates, LLC to provide occupational and physical therapy services at a rate of \$73 per hour. See enclosure #29. Mr. Johnson stated that the final series of contracts are with The Academy at \$120 per student, per day; Ambler Day School at \$121.54 per student, per day; Comprehensive Learning Center for tuition for three students at a cost of \$82,250 each and The Vanguard School for tuition for four students at a cost of \$45,185 each. See enclosure #30. Mrs. Burke explained for Mr. Tabachnick that the contract for The Academy includes a 2.2 percent increase from the previous year, the Ambler Day School contract represents a 1.25 percent increase, the fees for the Comprehensive Learning Center contract are the same and The Vanguard School contract includes a 3.0 percent tuition increase.

Mr. Tabachnick stated that the Board will consider the purchase and adoption of textbooks for the Advanced Placement French program. See enclosure #31. Dr. Gorodetzer confirmed that a change in curriculum necessitates the need for new textbooks.

Mr. Johnson informed the Board that they will be asked to act on Thursday on a Special Education

Placement and Release Agreement that was reviewed in Executive Session.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board is asked to consider a number of operational approvals on Thursday evening. The first is for the food service pricing schedule for the coming school year. See enclosure #32. Mr. Johnson noted that costs will remain the same. The second is an agreement with ACE American Insurance Company for the full package of all sports coverage and the voluntary coverage for school-day and full-day coverage. See enclosure #33. Mr. Yemm confirmed for Mr. Johnson that the District has contracted with the same insurance group for the past four or five years. The third agreement is a copier contract with Cannon. See enclosure #34. Mr. Boegly confirmed that the new contract represents a reduction in cost of \$800 to \$1,000 per month.

Mr. Tabachnick informed the Board that they will consider a request on Thursday evening for two elementary math coaches to attend the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics “Algebra Readiness for Every Student” Conference in Baltimore, Md., August 9-12. See enclosure #35. He added that attendance at the conference is covered by Title I funding.

Solicitor’s Report: Mr. Johnson noted that there will be a solicitor’s report on Thursday evening regarding a real estate settlement with Whitmarsh Township.

Committee Reports: None.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary