

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, May 17, 2012

President Tabachnick convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on May 17, 2012.

Board Members Present: Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Leslie Finegold, Christina Frangiosa, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry, Beth Suchsland and Alan Tabachnick.

Board Members Absent: Julie Knudsen.

Also Attending: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Superintendent; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Bob Salanik, Financial Consultant; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Michael Ciesielka and Tom Elvins, Board Student Representatives; Veny Simidjyska; Chris Bamber; Kate Tabachnick; Amy Grossman; Chad Murray; Jacob Gadd; Stan Finegold, Donna Gaffney; students receiving awards and their families.

Mr. Tabachnick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Colonial Elementary School (CES) gifted support teacher Anna Mindel, who presented Odyssey of the Mind (OM) teams from CES and Colonial Middle School (CMS) that participated in the OM state competition. Dr. Gorodetzer then introduced CMS teacher Clint Rickert, who presented CMS and Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) students who qualified for Technology Student Association (TSA) national competition. Dr. Gorodetzer then invited PWHS music teacher and band director Tonia Kaufman to the podium. Mrs. Kaufman recognized students who were selected to participate in Pennsylvania Music Educators Association regional and state band, chorus and orchestra festivals. She also recognized the PWHS Marching Colonials Color Guard and PWHS Indoor Guard who won championships during the year. Finally, Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Donna Gaffney, curriculum supervisor, who explained that Colonial was named a Best District for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants. She recognized the District's music teachers for achieving the honor. For a complete list of students and teachers recognized, please see attachment A.

Mr. Tabachnick stated that the Board had met in executive session on April 25, May 9 and May 17.

Minutes: Mr. Tabachnick directed the Board to act on the minutes of the Human Resources Committee of April 11; the General Session of April 12; the Human Resources Committee and the Finance Committee of May 2; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of May 4; and the Curriculum Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of May 7. See enclosures #1 through #7.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Suchsland 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. Tabachnick sought Board action on the financial reports on the list for approval. They include the Budget Transfers, 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 April 30. See enclosures #8 through #18.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Special Reports: Chris Bamber of Public Financial Management reviewed the 2008 Bond Refinancing bid document for the Board. He noted that the Board's goal in refinancing the debt was a \$250,000 savings. He stated that the realized savings were \$880,000. Mr. Bamber noted that Colonial received an AA1 Bond Rating from Moody's Investment Services. He stated that was an excellent rating, and it was key to the successful bid offering. Veny Simidjiyska, Bond Counsel for Fox Rothschild, reviewed the Bond Refinancing Resolution with the Board.

Mr. Salanik explained that Colonial will receive \$150,000 interest savings per year for six years. Mr. Salanik also noted that the District's debt accounts for only five percent of the budget and stated that the majority of the burden is not long-term debt. Mrs. Moore reiterated that the District's bond rating, strong financial history and solid fund balance were key factors in obtaining this positive return.

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

Ridge Park Elementary School Principal Dr. Michael McKenna and teachers Amy Venkus and Brian Adams touched on the school's philanthropic efforts and shared a video that highlighted initiatives in grades K-3.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mrs. Moore asked the Board to act on two items in one motion. The first was the approval of dues to the Pennsylvania School boards Association for the 2012-2013 school year. See enclosure #19. The second was acceptance of a \$250 gift from the Plymouth Meeting Whole Foods Market. See enclosure #20.

Mrs. Suchsland thanked Whole Foods for being a good community partner with the District.

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

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed her report that includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List, The Extra Duty/Extra Pay List and a list of proposed 2012-2013 wages for substitutes. See enclosures #21 through #23. She stated that the Personnel Report contains 38 actions, including eight retirements, two resignations, nine leaves of absence, five returns from leave, and 14 revised assignments. She also noted a number of summer position appointments were included. Dr. Gorodetzer reported that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay Substitute List included two appointments and one revision. She also called Board members' attention to the list of proposed salaries and wages for unaffiliated substitutes.

Mrs. Moore 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: Mr. Ciesielka and Mr. Elvins reported on the senior class trip, a benefit concert for the Slack Memorial Fund, an Amnesty International concert and voter registration event, a college information session, a Robotics Club visit to Whitmarsh Elementary School, the Freshman Fling, Sophomore Hop and Junior and Senior Proms, the senior dinner, the Best Buddies Ball, a SADD volleyball tournament, spring sports and Advanced Placement exams.

New Business: Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to consider a 2012-2013 Proposed Final Budget. See enclosure #24. She stated that Mr. Salanik has requested that the previously approved preliminary budget and subsequent revisions be utilized as the proposed final budget. Mrs. Oxberry reported that the budget totals \$94,354,100, which is an increase of \$1,415,340 or 1.51 percent over the 2011-2012 spending plan. She added that the proposed final budget includes a real estate tax of 19.104 mils, an

increase of 3.4 percent. The new real estate tax equates to an additional \$38.73 per year for each \$100,000 of taxable assessed value or an increase of \$69.04 on the District's median assessed value of \$147,080. Mrs. Oxberry informed the public that the proposed final budget is available on the CSD website in the state required format.

Mr. Brodsky spoke to the budgeting process and noted that the Board and administration cut more than \$4.1 million from the approved preliminary budget. He added that no Board member wants to raise taxes, but he stressed that the budget includes no program cuts and no employee furloughs. He also explained the need to preserve the District's fund balance. Mr. Brodsky added that the tax increase is only about \$6 per month per household.

Mr. Tabachnick echoed Mr. Brodsky's comments about keeping the District's high quality of curriculum programming in tact while maintaining a low tax burden. He encouraged community members to advocate on behalf of public education. He added that the Board does not want to raise taxes but can't control many costs.

Mrs. Suchsland stated that 23 percent of the District's budget covers unfunded state mandates for special education, transportation and more. Mrs. Moore encouraged community members to put pressure on local legislators to adequately fund public education.

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

Mr. Tabachnick noted that Section 404 of the Public School Code requires the Board to appoint a Treasurer during the month of May. He asked the Board to act on the recommendation that Trevor Jackson serve as Board treasurer for the 2012-2013 school year.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Jackson as Treasurer. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Dr. Gorodetzer reminded the community that Mr. Jackson was previously appointed as the District's new Business Administrator and will assume his duties in July. Mrs. Moore thanked Mr. Salanik for his service to the District during this school year.

Mr. Tabachnick stated that Section 404 of the Public School Code directs the Board to elect a secretary and Section 432 of the Code requires the Board to establish new compensation levels. Mr. Tabachnick noted that Mr. Sherman is recommended for the position.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Sherman as Board Secretary for the 2012-2013 school year. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick also noted that Section 404 of the Public School Code states that the Board may appoint an Assistant Board Secretary. Mr. Tabachnick noted that Mr. Jackson is recommended for the position.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Jackson as Assistant Board Secretary for the 2012-2013 school year. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick stated that according to Board Policy #004.1 and Administrative Regulation #004.1, two students have been nominated for the position of student representative to the Board. He noted that the Board had interviewed Devica Bhutani and Brett Paul earlier in the evening.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to appoint Ms. Bhutani and Mr. Paul as Board student representatives. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to act on a Real Estate Tax Installment Payment Plan Resolution. See enclosure #25. Mr. Salanik explained that the act makes the installment payment plan an option for all tax payers.

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

Mrs. Oxberry reported that in accordance with Section 621 of the Public School Code, the Board of School Directors must designate one or more banks or trust companies as depositories for school funds. She noted that the Pennsylvania Liquid Asset Fund in conjunction with PNC Bank is recommended as the primary depository for District funds. In addition she asked that Wells Fargo Bank continue to serve as a depository for District funds while they are transferred to the liquid asset fund.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to appoint the Pennsylvania Liquid Asset Fund in conjunction with PNC Bank as the District depository and approved Wells Fargo Bank as depository while funds are transitioned. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Oxberry asked Board members to act on a list of investment banks, savings and loans and trusts that are recommended for solicitation of interest rates on school investments during the 2012-2013 school year. See enclosure #26. She added that the investments are subject to confirmation of bank maintenance and legally required collateral.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the list of investment banks. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to consider two financial agreements in one motion. The first is a voluntary contribution agreement with the Philadelphia Presbytery Homes, Inc. for a payment in lieu of taxes. See enclosure #27. Mr. Salanik noted that the District appealed the organization's tax exempt status. As a result it has offered to pay about 25 percent of the tax value. Mr. Salanik noted the District will receive approximately \$14,500 on an annual basis. Mrs. Oxberry noted that the second agreement is for the allocation of payment from the Presbytery Homes between the District, Montgomery Count and Whitmarsh Township. See enclosure #28.

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

Mr. Brodsky sought Board approval of the Central Montco Technical High School (CMTHS) 2012-2013 Operating Budget. See enclosure #39. He noted that Colonial's share of the \$9,148,000 budget is \$1,860,414, an increase of \$356 from the previous year.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the CMTHS 2012-2013 Operating Budget. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to act on two contracts with the Lincoln Center at a total cost of \$840,340 for the 2012-2013 school year. See enclosure #30. At Mr. Tabachnick's request, Mrs. Berk explained that the Lincoln Center provides programming for non-traditional learners at PWHS and off site. She added that the center also provides three counselors. Responding to a question from Mrs. Finegold, Mrs. Berk explained that the number of students served by the Lincoln Center varies. She stated that Colonial has 25 slots reserved at PWHS and 14 off site.

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

Mr. Tabachnick directed the Board to consider a software agreement with Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Data Processing Services as a cost of \$41,085.30. See enclosure #31. He noted that the cost represents an increase of \$168 from the previous year. At Mr. Tabachnick's request, Mr. Salanik explained that the agreement included software for Human Resources payroll as well as all financial, bidding and real estate software packages. He noted that the cost is based on usage.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the software agreement. On a

roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Moore sought Board action on a request to renew the license with My Learning Plan for instructional users at a cost of \$6,960, or \$210 less than the current year. Dr. Gorodetzer explained that the software is used to track professional development hours required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

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

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to act on a request to renew a one-year agreement with EduPlanet21, LLC for professional development at a cost of \$2,000. Dr. McKeane explained that the product provided a secure social learning network for educators.

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

Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider three special education placement agreements. He noted that because of confidentiality and privacy restrictions, the agreements were reviewed in executive session.

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

Mr. Tabachnick sought Board action on a revision to the 2011-2012 School Calendar. See enclosure #32. Dr. Gorodetzer explained that the revision reflects the elimination of one school day for students since the District did not use any of its built in snow days during the year. She stated that the revised calendar included 183 days for students, more than the 180 required by the PDE.

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

Mrs. Suchsland asked the Board to consider three field trip requests in one motion. The first is for two PWHS students to attend the Best Buddies Leadership Conference in Bloomington, Ind., from July 20-23. See enclosure #33. The second is for approximately 26 CMS and PWHS students to attend the TSA National Conference in Nashville, Tenn., from June 21-25. See enclosure #34. The third is for two CES teams to compete in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals in Ames, Iowa from May 23-26. See enclosure #35.

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

Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to act on a series of supply bids for the 2012-2013 school year. They include bids for Elementary Art Supplies, Secondary Art Supplies, General Supplies, Technology Education Supplies, Science Supplies, PWHS Athletics/Physical Education Supplies, CMS Athletic/Physical Education Supplies and Custodial Supplies. See enclosures #36-43.

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

Mr. Brady sought Board action on a recommended bid for the natural gas main installations at Colonial, Plymouth and Ridge Park elementary schools. He noted that the recommended bid is \$70,000 less than the amount budgeted for the project. Mr. Yemm explained that this is the final phase of a project begun in 2002 to ensure that all District buildings could run on oil or natural gas to take advantage of lower prices. He noted that natural gas is at a 10-year low and the District expects a savings of \$150,000 per year in energy costs. He also noted that burning gas is more environmentally friendly.

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

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Sultanik asked the Board to approve a separation and release agreement with a District employee. He noted that the agreement was reviewed in executive session.

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

Mr. Sultanik asked the Board to approve an amendment to the Superintendent's agreement. He noted that this is a technical amendment related to Act 93 benefits to conform to a previously approved agreement with cabinet members.

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

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: No Report.

CMTHS: No Report.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry recapped the May 2 meeting, which included a review of the 2012-2013 budget. She noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 29 at 5:00 p.m. She encouraged community members to attend.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky reported on the May 7 meeting, which had a technology focus. He stated that committees have been formed to review the District's technology infrastructure and learning and management systems. He noted that the next meeting, on June 4, will focus on student achievement and assessment. He urged the public to attend.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Brady reported on an initiative to install LED lights in a number of schools. He noted that the new lights could save 55 percent in energy usage.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Suchsland asked community members to visit the District table at Plymouth Township Day on June 2, and stated that the spring newsletter will be mailed by the end of the month. Mrs. Suchsland reported that the committee will meet again on June 4.

Legislative: No Report.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary