

## **Community Relations and Student Life Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors, September 10, 2012**

The Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, September 10, 2012 in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m. Present were committee chair Beth Suchsland; committee members Leslie Finegold and Christina Frangiosa; Board President Alan Tabachnick; Board Vice President Susan Moore; Board members Mel Brodsky and Kathleen Oxberry; Superintendent Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Karen Berk; Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Activities Director Charles Forster; Assistant Public Relations Director Kim Newell; Community Relations Coordinator/School Board Secretary David M. Sherman; Board Student Representatives Tom Elvins, Cindy Ly and Devica Bhutani; Linda Doll and Gary Johnson.

Mrs. Suchsland recognized the student representatives and welcomed Ms. Bhutani to her first meeting.

Mrs. Berk shared the application of an international exchange student to attend Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS). She stated that she and PWHS principal Jason Bacani reviewed the application and that the student meets our criteria for attendance at PWHS as an exchange student. Mrs. Berk recommends that we accept the application and grant permission for attendance. Mrs. Berk added that the District presently does not have a policy to address foreign exchange students and that the administration will draft one.

The committee was informed of a donation of \$200 from the People to People Ambassador Program to the PWHS Activity Fund. Mr. Forster stated that the gift was a "thank you" from the organization for being allowed to use rooms in the high school to conduct interviews.

The committee reviewed two policies that will be before the Board on a first-read basis at the September meeting. They are 001 By-Laws and 006 Meetings. A change was recommended to the Meetings policy with regard to length of public comment.

Mr. Sherman shared a draft of the Communications Strategic Plan, as well as talking points for Board members' reference and a list of contact information for local legislators. An emphasis is being placed on engaging constituents to act on behalf of the District's students and programs, and educating constituents that an investment in the Colonial School District is an investment in their community and an investment in their future.

Ms. Newell reported that John Quinn, CITV director, would be on medical leave for a few weeks and arrangements are being made for coverage while he is away. She added that clearances for several books had been requested for use on the *Reading Adventures* television show. Ms. Newell also noted that production on the *What's Cookin?* show will be altered this year to accommodate for the increased class sizes in the Family and Consumer Science department at the middle school.

The committee was provided an update on the development of a new website. The administration expects to meet with the vendor's web development team within two weeks.

The committee received a brief update on the Colonial School District Education Foundation activities, including a planned fitness fest scheduled for September 29.

Committee members discussed options for visiting Colonial Middle School in October. Mr. Sherman was asked to follow up with building principal Bob Fahler.

The committee was informed that the District plans to embark on the creation of a crisis communications plan.

Committee members were reminded that the Conshohocken Fun Fest is scheduled for September 15 at 11 a.m. at Sutcliffe Park.

Committee members were also reminded of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association School Leadership Conference in October.

It was noted that the next CRSL committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 8 at 5:30 p.m.

There being no further business or public comment, Mrs. Suchsland adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Community Relations Coordinator  
School Board Secretary