

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, MAY 16, 2013

President Tabachnick convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:01 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on May 16, 2013.

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

Board Members Absent: None.

Also Attending: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Superintendent; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; Andrew Boegly, Director of Technology; Richard Hartz, Director of Human Resources; Trevor Jackson, Business Administrator/Board Treasurer; Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Assistant Public Relations Director Kim Newell; Tom Elvins and Cindy Ly, Board Student Representatives; George Wolfinger; Tony Fioriglio; Joanne M. Walker; Mary Theiss; Robert Slagle; Daniel Rosen; Beth Miller; Trevon Kenavy; Gary Johnson and students receiving awards, their friends and families.

Mr. Tabachnick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer noted that the District had a number of students who distinguished themselves while participating in the many important, value-added programs that the District offers. She introduced teachers, coaches and club leaders who recognized students for achievement at the regional and state level in Odyssey of the Mind, The Technology Student Association, the Future Business Leaders of America, the Colonial Players, Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) television production classes, the PWHS boys' swim team, the PWHS Indoor Guard and the PWHS Drumline. See Attachment A for a complete list of students recognized.

Mr. Tabachnick announced that the Board had met in executive session on April 23 and May 16.

Minutes: Mr. Tabachnick asked Board members to act on the minutes of the General Meeting of April 18; the Human Resources and the Finance Committee of May 1; and the Curriculum Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of May 13. See enclosures #1 through #3 and #44 and #45.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Palmer seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Frangiosa noted that an amendment was need to the minutes of the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of May 10. See enclosure #43. She stated that the last sentence should be amended to read "In discussing the nature of a praecipe to discontinue, the Committee considered whether a statute of limitations might exist."

Mrs. Frangiosa moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to approve the minutes with the amended text. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

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 #4 through #14.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: Mrs. Joanne Walker, representing the Band Boosters, spoke to the importance of continuing value-added programs, including music programs. She asked about the budgeting process. Business Administrator Trevor Jackson detailed the budgeting process brought about by Act 1 of 2006. He stated that the proposed Final Budget must be on display for a minimum of 20 days before final approval. Mr. Jackson added that the budget will be discussed at the June 5 Finance Committee meeting. Mrs. Oxberry encouraged the public to attend that meeting. Mr. Jackson noted that the Board will act on the Final Budget at its June 20 meeting. Dr. Gorodetzer explained that no programs were being cut in the current budget. Mrs. Walker thanked Board members who attended music events throughout the year and for maintaining support of value-added programs.

Old Business: Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider a revision to Board Policy #815, Acceptable Use of Internet and School Computer Network, on a second-read basis. See enclosure #15.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the policy revision on a second-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to act on new Board Policy #815.1, Use of Electronic Communication, on a second-read basis. See enclosure #16.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the policy on a second-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action on new Board Policy #237, Electronic Devises, on a second-read basis. See enclosure #22.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the policy on a second-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Oxberry asked the board to consider two Assessment Appeal Settlements for parcels #49-00-04117-00-1 and #49-00-04391-01-5. At her request, Mr. Jackson explained that the appeal was initiated by the tax payer and the assessment was reduced at the county level. He added that the District then appealed that assessment. The result is that the assessment has been raised since the original reduction.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the Assessment Appeal Settlements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Correspondence: Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider a donation to Conshohocken Elementary School from the UBS Matching Gift Program in the amount of \$875. See enclosure #18.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to accept the donation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed her report which includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List and 2013-2014 rates for substitutes and unaffiliated employees. See enclosures #19 through #21. She stated that the Personnel Report includes four resignations, two appointments, nine leaves of absence and 12 revised assignments. She added that additional substitutes are included on the substitute list as well as a list of appointments for summer programs. Dr. Gorodetzer reported that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List contains four actions.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: Ms. Ly reported on the Colonial Players' Cappies Awards, the Senior Dinner at Whitemarsh Valley Country Club, the PWHS Distinguished Graduates Organization induction ceremony, the Freshman Fling and a night out at a Phillies game. Mr. Elvins

spoke about the AVID Dodgeball Tournament that raised \$1,000 for the Ronald McDonald House, the Junior Prom, Keystone Exams and the upcoming PWHS spring concert. Mr. Tabachnick noted that this was the final meeting for Ms. Ly and Mr. Elvins as Board Student Representatives. He recognized both students for their service to the Board and presented them with plaques of appreciation.

Staff Report: Dr. Gorodetzer and Mr. Jackson provided an overview of the budget process. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that the District was faced with significant challenges and has worked hard the past few years to identify cost savings and maintain the quality of curricular and extra-curricular programs and activities. She added that the 2013-2014 budget was built based on items needed and not items that are nice to have. Mr. Jackson again explained that this was a 10-month process driven by Act 1 of 2006. He noted that the District was faced with a \$4.6 million deficit after compiling a preliminary budget. He reported that increasing retirement and healthcare costs were driving the deficit, and that assessment appeals were eroding the tax base. Mr. Jackson stated that a new healthcare initiative saved \$1 million and refinancing a bond at CMTHS saved another \$321,000. He noted that the current budget deficit is down to \$1.1 million. Mr. Jackson stated that the District was approved to raise taxes as high as 3.2 percent but settled on a 2.6 percent increase, which is down from a 3.4 percent increase last year. He added that he will continue to keep an eye on developments with the state budget.

New Business: Mrs. Oxberry sought Board action on the Proposed Final Budget for 2013-2014. See enclosure #22. She noted that the previously approved Preliminary Budget and subsequent revisions be used as the Proposed Final Budget. Mrs. Oxberry stated that the Proposed Final Budget totals \$99,352,740, which represents a \$4,027,740 or 4.23 percent increase over the current budget. She added that the Proposed Final Budget includes a real estate tax of 19.6007 mils or an increase of 2.6 percent. Mrs. Oxberry stated that Colonial still has the third lowest tax rate in Montgomery County. She noted that the increase equates to an additional \$49.67 per year for each \$100,000 of assessed value. Mrs. Suchsland added that the increase means an increase of \$73 on the District median assessed value of \$147,580.

Mrs. Moore stated that the budget presented a difficult task for the administration and she thanked them for their hard work. Mr. Tabachnick also thanked the administration.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to approve the Proposed Final Budget as presented. On a roll call vote, all but Mr. Brady voted in favor. Mr. Brady was opposed. The motion was carried, 8-1.

Mrs. Palmer left the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to act on the appointment of a Board Treasurer per Section 404 of the Public School Code.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to appoint Trevor Jackson to the position of Board Treasurer. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider the appointment of a Board Secretary per Section 404 of the Public School Code.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to appoint David M. Sherman to the position of Board Secretary. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick sought Board action on the appointment of an Assistant Board Secretary per Section 404 of the Public School Code.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to appoint Trevor Jackson to the position of Assistant Board Secretary. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to approve a resolution to allow taxpayers the option to pay their bills in installments. See enclosure #23. Mr. Jackson confirmed that there is no fee or discount for using this method of payment.

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

Mrs. Oxberry sought Board action on the request that the Pennsylvania Liquid Asset Fund, in conjunction with PNC Bank serve as the primary depository for school funds. And that the banks and depositories found on the list in attachment #24 be solicited for interest rates on school investments during the 2013-2014 school year.

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

Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to consider an administrative request that Northeast Revenue Service become the District's tax collector for school real estate taxes for Plymouth and Whitemarsh Townships effective July 1, 2013. See enclosure #46.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve Northeast Revenue Service as the District's real estate tax collector for the townships requested. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Oxberry sought Board action on the 2013-2014 Central Montco Technical High School Operating Budget in the amount of \$7,837,490. See enclosure #25. She noted that Colonial's share is \$1,437,577 or a decrease of \$422,837 from the previous year. Mr. Jackson explained that the decrease was due to a bond refinancing.

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

Mr. Tabachnick directed the Board to take action on the solicitor's contracts for the 2013-2014 school year. See enclosure #26. Mr. Tabachnick made a motion to appoint Fox Rothschild LLP as Solicitor for the Colonial School District for the time period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, based upon the following:

- a) A retainer of \$24,823.00 per year.
- b) A base hourly rate of \$180.00
- c) Alternate rates in accordance with the enclosed Engagement Letter dated March 4, 2013.
- d) Rates as established by the insurance carrier where Fox Rothschild LLP is an approved provider.
- e) Motion to approve the HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between Colonial School District and Fox Rothschild, LLP as the result of Fox Rothschild, LLP handling cases that involve protected health information on behalf of the District.

Mrs. Suchsland seconded the motion and thanked Mr. Sultanik for a third straight year of no rate increases. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick asked Board members to act on the renewal of a Legal Services Consultation Agreement with Sweet, Stevens, Katz and Williams, LLP. See enclosure #27.

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

Mrs. Frangiosa sought Board action on a printer consolidation agreement with Edwards Business Services to consolidate the District's fleet of printers from 516 to 129, effective July 1. See enclosure #47. Mr. Boegly explained this was a cost savings effort that emerged from an audit of print usage District wide. He confirmed for Mr. Brodsky that the proposed agreement is flexible and will be reviewed continually. Responding to a question from Mrs. Suchsland, Mr. Boegly explained that the old printers would be auctioned off.

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

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider four student placement agreements previously reviewed in

executive session due to restrictions regarding student confidentiality and privacy.

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

Mrs. Suchsland asked Board members to act on two student trip requests in one motion. The first is for two PWHS students to attend the Best Buddies Leadership Conference in Bloomington, Ind., from July 19-22. See enclosure #28. The second is for PWHS AVID students to visit Wilkes University, Marywood University, the University of Scranton, Kings College and Kutztown University on September 19 and 20. See enclosure #29.

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

Mrs. Oxberry sought Board action on supply bids for the 2013-14 school year, including elementary art supplies (see enclosure #30), secondary art supplies (see enclosure #31), general supplies (see enclosure #32), technology education supplies (see enclosure #33), science supplies (see enclosure #34), PWHS athletic and physical education supplies (see enclosure #35) and Colonial Middle School athletic and physical education supplies (see enclosure #36).

Mr. Oxberry 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.

Mrs. Frangiosa asked the Board to consider a recommended contract for replacement of the windows at Plymouth Elementary School. See enclosure #48. Mr. Yemm explained that the project will improve the esthetics and energy efficiency at the school. He added that the recycling of the old aluminum window frames is part of the contract.

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

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: Mrs. Finegold summarized the April 24 MCIU Board meeting. She touched on curricular initiatives, an increase in Title III funds to provide additional staffing and services to the growing ESL population, a private residential rehabilitation services contract in excess of \$1.2 million, continuation of the PDE Common Core Standards Max project at a cost of more than \$1.4 million and a contract to provide construction management services for the new facility renovation.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky reported that the CMTHS budget was approved and \$1.3 million was saved by switching healthcare plans and refinancing a bond. He stated that there is an enrollment increase for the coming year. Mr. Brodsky noted that Mrs. Moore is now the treasurer of the CMTHS Joint Operating Committee.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry reported that the committee met on May 1 and reviewed six budget scenarios before settling on a 2.6 percent real estate tax increase. She added that the District will save \$28,332 by changing tax collectors.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky noted that the committee heard a report on the piloting of iPads in the District. He stated that the potential is exciting and he encouraged the community to see the committee minutes in enclosure #44 for details.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mrs. Frangiosa stated that the committee met on May 10 and reviewed a plan to reduce the number of after school activity buses. She also noted that the committee was apprised of two initiatives by the Department of Food Services to increase revenue by providing meals to St. Phillip Neri School, as well as partner with the Fellowship House in Conshohocken on a summer feeding program. Mrs. Frangiosa commended Director of Food Services Lori McCoy for her

efforts.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Suchsland stated that the District will have staff at Plymouth Township day on June 1. She added that the District newsletter would be in the mail in a few weeks and that the new website would be available to view before the end of the school year.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa reviewed the Montgomery County School Boards Legislative Committee meeting. She summarized legislation relating to pension reform, a commission to create a special education funding formula and statewide testing.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

Public Comment: Mrs. Walker expressed a concern over cleaning taking place in the cafeteria last August during Band Camp and asked if that could be avoided this year. She also inquired as to how the printer consolidation will work. Dr. Gorodetzer explained that it was a methodical, inclusive process with administrators and faculty. She noted that one-half of the Plymouth Elementary School supplies budget was for printer toner. Mrs. Walker also commented that she felt the Keystone exams were a waste of time.

Mr. Trevon Kenavy shared a study conducted by an MIT Professor. The study centered on the effectiveness of self-taught African youths who were provided laptops and access to the internet.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary

Odyssey of the Mind – State Qualifiers

PWHS

Sammi Baker
Nathan Hyer
Michael Krone
Colleen McFillin
Ryan Silverthorn
Cooper Smith
Diana Westerfer

CES

TJ Corcoran
Aniya Murray
Kira Quitel
Caleb Silverman
Katie Smith
Daniel Symnoski
Arya Venkat

Technology Student Association – National Qualifiers

PWHS

Emily Dinda
Sophia Gross
Nikki Knudsen
Hanna Stern
Jordi Swanson
Stephanie Wisniewski
Alexis Bryan
Chris Guarini
Dan Miller
Samantha Horry
Seth Horry
Lina Shi
Greg Richards
Jeff Varrone
Dalton Versak
Woody Fulmer
Nathan Hyer
Seamus Malley
Tom Gerstein

CMS

Riya Dindigal
Nicole Esposito
Weiharik Garcia
Gianna Gross
Scott Horry
Chris Johnson

Future Business Leaders of America

Marta Peters
Michael Krone
Felicia Kan
Christian Schaeffer

Colonial Players Cappies Award Winners

Dave Pontari – Underclass Male Critic
Angel Sigala & Josh McMaster – Dance Ensemble
Angel Sigala & Cast – Best Song “Sit Down You’re Rockin’ the Boat”

Cast

Dom Antenucci
Greg Baratta
Jake Bender
Megan Boris
Justin Burkett
Rachel Butcher
Hanna Carr
Ryan Conway
Laura Culp
Anna Deeg
Claudia Deeg
Nathan Enslin
Brittni Fine
Carli Fine
Zachary Goldstein
Sherrell Gray
Bryan Hoffman
Sydne Klein
Michael Krone
Kelly Letter
Jack Mailey
Nikki Mann

Colleen McFillin
Josh McMaster
Gillian Mencken
Leslie Miller
Michaela Peel
Jorvan Ramos
Esther Rosen
Patrick Russo
Leah Schick
Sammy Schwartz
Jamie Sciarrone
Jessica Sciarrone
Adriana Seitz
Camille Sherlock
Kelsey Sherlock
Angel Sigala
David Strouse
Nyla Thomas-Watkins
Josh Wein
Ross Weisman
Nick Whitney
Maggie Willis

PIT Orchestra

Jordan Berger
Seth Berger
Devica Bhutani
Adam Brock
Veronica Byun
Becky Cohen
Maxie Ehrlich
Lauren Harper
Harry Hoy
Tom Krumm
Sam Levine
Seamus Malley
Geoffrey Mills
Eunice Nam
Aaron Paskin
Lina Shi
Michael Taunton
Ethan Trucker
Felicia Kan
Caroline Littlejohn

PWHS Television Production Students

Louie Wein
Dave Navo
Clay Allen
Rich Vose
Ryan Reed
Malissa Oricchio
Dave Witten
Spencer Halsman

PWHS Swimmers – PIAA Qualifiers

Stephen Hargrove
Ray Sellers
Francis Garvey
Evan Sherknness

PWHS Indoor Guard

Lexi Ashton
Lauren Babillis
Natalie Becerra
Allyssa Conner
Carly Cumens
Amelia Ellinger
Jocelyn Gadd
China Harp
Patty Jones
Mariah Pena
Melissa Platt
Brianna Todd
Nick Walker

PWHS Drumline

Ben Johnson
Brad Kessler
Max Robbins
Dom Russo
John Runyen
Emma Quinn
Hayley Kagan
Rebecca Begnaud
Miles Burkett
Ashley Carobine
Pat Gaffney
Kelsey Gallagher
Rachael Hanna
Emily Miller
Matt Sendecki
Marie Wall