

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, JUNE 19, 2014

President Moore convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:01 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on June 19, 2014.

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; Mark Fitzgerald, Solicitor; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; Andrew Boegly, Director of Technology; Trevor Jackson, Business Administrator/Board Treasurer; Dr. Elizabeth McKeane, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Dr. Leticia Rodríguez, Director of Human Resources; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Mike Morse; Marshall Gorodetzer; Mary Thiess; Beth Miller; Diane Crocco; Robert Slagle; Brendan Willis; Jill Forster and Gary Johnson.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that Mrs. Suchsland and Mr. Tabachnick were traveling out of state but were participating in the meeting via telephone. She then announced that the Board met in executive session on June 11 and June 19.

Recognition/Awards: None.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Moore Sought Board action on the minutes of the general meeting of May 15, the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee and Safety and Wellness Committee meetings of May 27; the Human Resources Committee and Finance Committee meetings of June 4; and the Curriculum Committee meeting of June 16. See enclosures #1 through #5 and #35.

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

Financial Reports: Mrs. Moore asked Board members to consider 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 May 31. See enclosures #6 through #16.

Mrs. Frangiosa 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, 9-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: Mrs. Thiess stated that she was pleased with the tone of negotiations last year between the Board and the Colonial Education and Support Professionals (CESP). However, she expressed disappointment regarding the Administrative Assistant Compensation and Benefit Plan for confidential secretaries. See enclosure #26. She stated that the plan included items that were not on the table during negotiations with the CESP.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: None

* Mrs. Suchsland and Mr. Tabachnick participated in the meeting via telephone.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed the Personnel Report and Substitute List. See enclosure #17. She stated that the list includes two retirements, six resignations, eight leaves of absence, eight extensions of assignment, two appointments, a number of substitute teachers, instructional aides, cafeteria workers and custodians, two eliminated positions and several summer program appointments.

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

Dr. Gorodetzer deferred to Mrs. Moore who stated that after many months and hours of negotiations she was pleased to announce a new three-year agreement between the Board and the Colonial Education Association (CEA). She added that the agreement addresses a variety of areas, including salaries, benefits, tuition reimbursement, salary advancement and secondary schedules. Mrs. Moore noted that the Board was committed to negotiating a contract that was fiscally responsible and maintained the quality of the District's educational program and the teachers who deliver it to the students. She commended the members of the Board negotiating team and the CEA for cooperatively working together to reaching the agreement. Mrs. Moore thanked Mrs. Suchsland, Mrs. Frangiosa, Mr. Tabachnick, Dr. Gorodetzer, Dr. Rodríguez and Mr. Jackson for their efforts. Mr. Brodsky congratulated the parties on reaching the deal.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to ratify the tentative agreement reached between the Colonial Education Association and the Colonial Board of School Directors effective August 15, 2014 through August 14, 2017. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: None.

New Business: Mrs. Moore asked the Board to act on the 2014-2015 Budget. See enclosure #18. She stated that the budget totals \$104,500,000 and includes a real estate tax millage rate of 20.1103 mils, which equates to a 2.6 percent real estate tax increase. She noted that the increase means an additional \$50.96 per year on each \$100,000 of taxable assessed value or an increase of \$75.43 on the District's median taxable assessed value of \$148,010. Mrs. Moore indicated that the budget uses \$1,870,000 of Fund Balance.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to adopt the 2014-2015 Budget of \$104,500,000. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Moore also moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to establish the 2014-2015 Real Estate Tax Mil Rate of 20.1103, the Act 511 Earned Income Tax Rate of 1.0 percent, a Real Estate Transfer Tax Rate of 1.0 percent – 50 percent of which is shared with municipalities, an Amusement Tax Rate of 10 percent – 50 percent of which is shared with Plymouth and Whitemarsh Townships, a Real Estate Tax Certification Fee of \$25 and a billing date of July 1, 2014 for 2014-2015 real estate taxes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Suchsland and Mr. Tabachnick left the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Mr. Brady sought Board action on a 2014 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution. See enclosure #19. He stated that the resolution sets the maximum property tax reduction on approved homesteads and farmsteads at \$271. Mr. Jackson explained that this property tax relief is funded through a portion of state gaming revenues.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Palmer seconded a motion to approve the 2014 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion resolution. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Brady sought Board approval of three resolutions relating to the prior and future commitment of the District's Fund Balance. The first is for reserve funds for healthcare costs. See enclosure #20. The second is for reserve funds for pension costs. See enclosure #21. The third is for reserve funds for capital project costs. See enclosure #22

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve all three resolutions. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Brady asked the Board to act on two Real Estate Assessment Appeal Settlements. He noted that they were for Parcel # 05-00-11856-91-9 and Parcel # 05-00-11856-92-8 in Conshohocken Borough.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve both Real Estate Assessment Appeal Settlements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked Board members to consider two Special Education Contract Renewals. The first is with the Vanguard School for tuition for eight students at a cost of \$49,115 per student, an increase of 4.5 percent from the previous year. See enclosure #23. The second is with The Academy for an annual tuition rate of \$128.50 per day, an approximate increase of 3.0 percent from the previous year. See enclosure #24.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve both Special Education Contract Renewals. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Brodsky sought Board approval of negotiated agreements in lieu of a Free and Public Education (FAPE). He noted that the agreements were reviewed in executive session.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Palmer seconded a motion to approve the agreements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to act on submitted food service prices for the 2014-2015 school year. See enclosure #25. She noted that the prices have not risen and do not require a cash contribution from the general operating fund.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the 2014-2015 food service prices as submitted. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mrs. Frangiosa sought Board action on the Administrative Assistant Compensation and Benefit Plan for 2014-2015. See enclosure #26.

Mrs. Frangiosa moved and Mrs. Palmer seconded a motion to approve the plan. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Brodsky directed the Board to consider a professional conference request for Assistant Public Relations Coordinator Kim Newell to attend the National School Public Relations Association Conference in Baltimore, Md., from July 13-16. See enclosure #27.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Solicitor's Report: None

Committee Reports: MCIU: Mrs. Finegold stated that the IU Board met on May 21. She reported on the approval of a \$12 million Non-Public School Budget for 2014-2015. She stated that the budget is primarily funded by the state. She also noted that Plymouth Elementary School Kindergarten Teacher Lisa Furness was the District's finalist for the Voices of Inspiration Award.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky stated that the CMTHS Board has approved plans to add programs for laboratory technicians and landscape design and maintenance in the future.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: No Report.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky stated that the June meeting was well attended and included informative presentations on scheduling changes for the high school and middle school beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. He said there would be a final report in the fall.

Facilities Management and Transportation: No Report.

Community Relations and Student Life: No Report

Safety and Wellness: Mrs. Oxberry stated that the committee met on May 27. She highlighted results of the 2013 Pennsylvania Youth Survey. The survey touched on topics including social and emotional health, school climate, and alcohol, tobacco and drug use.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa highlighted several pieces of legislation discussed at the Montgomery County School Boards Legislative Committee meeting on May 21. She noted HB1424 dealing with genocide education, HB1559 regarding suicide prevention and awareness training for staff in grades 6-12, and HB2348 concerning reverse assessment appeals.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

Public Comment: Jill Forster, a parent and member of the CEA negotiating team, thanked Board members for the atmosphere of mutual respect in which the new teachers' contract was negotiated.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary