

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Plymouth Meeting, Pa

www.colonialsd.org

2011-12 ADOPTED BUDGET

June 16, 2011

Colonial School District
Plymouth Meeting, Pa

**2011-12 Adopted Budget
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**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ORGANIZATIONAL SECTION
2011-12 ADOPTED BUDGET**

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Gary Johnson, President

Kathleen Oxberry, Vice-President

Bernie Brady

Mel Brodsky

Kelly Jowett

Jodi Miscannon

Susan L. Moore

Beth Suchsland

Alan Tabachnick

Non-Voting Officers

Dave Sherman, Secretary

Joseph P. Bickleman, Treasurer

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Mr. Gary J Johnson
Board President
Resident of Conshohocken

Gary Johnson was elected to the School Board for four-year terms in 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2007. He was named Vice President in July 2004 and became President in January 2009. Johnson is a past Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee, Facilities Management and Transportation Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee. He serves on the district's Technology Review Committee and also serves as treasurer of the Central Montco Technical High School Joint Operating Committee. Johnson was active in the Ridge Park Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization and the Colonial Parents Council prior to joining the School Board.

Mrs. Kathleen Oxberry
Board Vice President
Resident of Plymouth Meeting

Kathleen Oxberry was elected to a four-year term on the School Board in 2009. She was elected Vice President in December 2010. Mrs. Oxberry is Chairperson of the Finance and Audit Committee and is a member of the Facilities Management and Transportation and Human Resources Committees. Oxberry also serves as the Board's liaison to Whitemarsh Township. She introduced the Math Olympiads to Colonial Elementary School in 1993 and Colonial Middle School in 1995. Oxberry is a past president and vice president of the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Band Boosters and has held leadership positions on the William Jeanes Library Board of Directors. She holds a BS from the University of Arizona and a MS from Temple University.

Mr. Bernie Brady
Resident of Conshohocken

Bernie Brady was elected to a four-year term on the School Board in 2009. He is the Chairperson of the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee and is a member of the Community Relations and Student Life Committee and the Safety and Wellness Committee. Brady also serves as the Board's liaison to Conshohocken Borough and is on the Central Montco Technical High School Joint Operating Committee. He is member of Conshohocken Fire Company #2 and a former member of the Conshohocken Planning Commission. He holds a BS from Delaware Valley College and a Certificate Degree from Drexel University. Brady is a small business owner.

Mr. Mel Brodsky
Resident of Lafayette Hill

Mel Brodsky was appointed to the School Board in July 2010. He serves on the Curriculum, Facilities Management and Transportation and Human Resources committees. He also serves as the Board's representative on the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors. Brodsky spent 35 years as an educator including nine years as a teacher, six as an assistant principal and 20 years as a principal. He also has experience as a high school and college basketball coach. Mr. Brodsky holds a bachelor's degree from Temple University and Master's from Villanova University.

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Mrs. Kelly Jowett **Resident of Plymouth Meeting**

Kelly Jowett was reappointed to the School Board in September 2010. She is the Chair of the Safety and Wellness Committee and serves on the Curriculum, Finance and Audit and Community Relations and Student Life Committees. Jowett previously served on the Board in 2009. She has been involved with the Ridge Park PTO for a number of years, and is a past president of the organization. She has also volunteered at Colonial Elementary School. Mrs. Jowett holds a bachelor's degree from Rosemont College.

Mrs. Jodi Miscannon **Resident of Lafayette Hill**

Jodi Miscannon was appointed to the School Board in March 2011 to fill the seat vacated by the resignation of Mitch Zimmer. Ms. Miscannon has been a resident of the Colonial School District for more than 10 years and has volunteered with Whitemarsh Little League and Plymouth Soccer. She holds a bachelor's degree in special education, a master's degree in social work and has worked extensively with children with disabilities and their families.

Mrs. Susan L. Moore **Resident of Plymouth Meeting**

Susan L. Moore was appointed to the School Board in December 2001, and elected to four-year terms in 2003 and 2007. She served as Vice President of the Board in 2009 and 2010. Mrs. Moore is Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee and is a member of the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee and Finance and Audit Committee. She also is on the Central Montco Technical High School Joint Operating Committee. Moore, who holds a masters degree in education from Temple University, has extensive experience as a teacher in both public and private schools. She is quite familiar with the Colonial School District having volunteered and served as Vice President for both the Colonial Elementary School Parent Teachers Organization and the Colonial Middle School Home and School Association. She also has served on the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Parent Teacher Student Organization and the Colonial Parents Council. The current president of the Ply-Mar Swim and Tennis Club, Moore also is a past member of the Strategic Planning Evaluation Committee for Colonial.

Mrs. Beth Suchsland **Resident of Lafayette Hill**

Beth Suchsland was elected to a four-year term to the School Board in 2009. She is Chairperson of the Community Relations and Student Life Committee and is a member of the Curriculum and Human Resources Committees. She also serves as the Board's liaison to the Whitemarsh Township Parks and Recreation Department and is the Legislative Chairperson and representative to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. She holds a BA in Labor Relations from Rutgers University and an MBA in Human Resources from Temple University. She has 13 years of experience working in various Labor Relations positions. In 2001, she left her position as Manager of Employee Relations for Peco Energy to stay home with her children. She has three children in Colonial School District and is an active volunteer in the schools and the community including the Colonial Area Girl Scouts organization. She was on the Board of Plymouth Whitemarsh Aquatic Club and currently chairs the Whitemarsh Valley Country Club summer camp program.

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Mr. Alan Tabachnick Resident of Plymouth Meeting

Alan Tabachnick was elected to a four-year term on the School Board in 2009. He is the Chairperson of the Curriculum Committee and is a member of the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee and the Safety and Wellness Committee. He also serves as the Board's liaison to Plymouth Township and the Colonial Foundation for Educational Innovation. Tabachnick has been an active volunteer for the theater and music programs in the District over the past eight years, supporting the Colonial Players and the Colonial Jazz Band. He has also supported and coached teams in the Odyssey of the Mind programs at Colonial Middle School and Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. Tabachnick has been involved in a variety of youth sports programs in the community. He has served as an assistant baseball coach and softball coach in the Plymouth Little League and has volunteered for the Plymouth Whitemarsh Aquatic Club (PWAC) at a variety of meets across the region. Tabachnick is a member of Beth Tikvah B'nai Jeshurun synagogue in Erdenheim and has been active on a variety of committees and as part of the Men's Club. He is also an avid supporter of historic preservation activities in the community. Tabachnick holds a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and a MS from Columbia University. He serves as National Director of Cultural Resources for AECOM, Inc. and directs historic preservation, archaeology, history, and environmental studies across the country. Tabachnick has taught Cultural Resource Management courses at the University of Pittsburgh and presented archaeological programs to elementary school children. He developed a field archaeology activity where children can participate in excavations and learn about Native American history and American history.

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD COMMITTEES

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Bernie Brady, Chairperson	Mr. Mel Brodsky
Mrs. Susan L. Moore	Mrs. Kathleen Oxberry
Mr. Alan Tabachnick	
Administrative Liaison, Terry Yemm	

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Beth Suchsland, Chairperson	Mr. Bernie Brady
Mrs. Kelly Jowett	
Administrative Liaisons, Dave Sherman	

SAFETY AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Kelly Jowett, Chairperson	Mr. Bernie Brady
Mr. Alan Tabachnick	
Administrative Liaisons, Terry Yemm	

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mr. Alan Tabachnick, Chairperson	Mr. Mel Brodsky
Mrs. Kelly Jowett	Mrs. Beth Suchsland
Administrative Liaison, Dr. Mary Ellen Gorodetzer	

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Mrs. Kathleen Oxberry, Chairperson	Mrs. Kelly Jowett
Mrs. Susan Moore	
Administrative Liaison, Joseph P. Bickleman	

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Mrs. Susan L. Moore, Chairperson	Mr. Mel Brodsky
Mrs. Kathleen Oxberry	Mrs. Beth Suchsland
Administrative Liaison, Richard Hartz	

TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

Mr. Bernie Brady	Mr. Gary J. Johnson
Mrs. Kelly Jowett	Mrs. Beth Suchsland

**CENTRAL MONTGOMERY COUNTY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL JOINT
OPERATING COMMITTEE:**

Mr. Bernie Brady	Mr. Gary J. Johnson
Mrs. Susan L. Moore	

**INTERMEDIATE UNIT #23 BOARD MEMBER
PSBA REPRESENTATIVE; LEGISLATIVE CHAIR
COLONIAL FOUNDATION
BOARD LIAISONS:**

Conshohocken Borough	Mr. Bernie Brady
Plymouth Township	Mr. Alan Tabachnick
Whitemarsh Township	Mrs. Kathleen Oxberry
Plymouth Parks & Recreation	To Be Determined
Whitemarsh Parks & Recreation	Mrs. Beth Suchsland

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ORGANIZATION
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**
www.colonialsd.org

Dr. Mary Ellen Gorodetzer	Superintendent of Schools	834-1670 Ext. 2133
Joseph P. Bickleman	Chief Financial Officer/ Board Treasurer	834-1670 Ext. 2121
Andrew Boegly	Chief Information Officer	834-1670 Ext. 2129
Karen Berk	Director of Pupil Services	834-1670 Ext. 2111
Richard Hartz	Director of Human Resources	834-1670 Ext. 2152
Elizabeth McKeane	Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment	834-1670 Ext. 2155
Terry Yemm	Director of Operations	834-1670 Ext. 8201
Sergio Anaya	Curriculum Supervisor- Social Studies & ESL	834-1670 Ext. 2164
Maria Bellino	Curriculum Supervisor- Science	834-1670 Ext. 2149
Donna Gaffney	Curriculum Supervisor- Mathematics	834-1670 Ext. 2144
Kathleen Hamill	Curriculum Supervisor- Language Arts	834-1670 Ext. 2225
Elizabeth Maza	Supervisor of Spec. Ed., K-5	834-1670 Ext. 2134
Eileen Specter	Supervisor of Spec. Ed., 6-12	834-1670 Ext. 2105
Heather Nuneviller	Principal, P-W HS	825-1500 Ext. 1901
Robert Fahler	Principal, Middle School	275-5100 Ext. 7150
Teresa Boegly	Principal, Colonial Elem.	941-0426 Ext. 2230
Denise Marks	Principal, Conshohocken El.	828-0362 Ext. 5001
Judi Lipson	Principal, Plymouth Elem.	825-8190 Ext. 6001
Jason Bacani	Principal, Ridge Park Elem.	825-1083 Ext. 4001
Donna Drizin	Principal, Whitemarsh Elem.	828-9092 Ext. 3001
Thomas Traister	District Safety Officer	834-1670 Ext. 8203
Lori McCoy	Director of Food Services	834-1670 Ext. 8205
John Quinn	Director of CITV	825-1500 Ext. 1950
David M. Sherman	Director of Community Relations/Board Secretary	834-1670 Ext. 2115
Kathleen Ellis	Director of Transportation	834-1670 Ext. 2141
Joe Lally	Facilities Manager	834-1670 Ext. 8202

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CONSULTANTS AND ADVISORS

Independent Auditors
Barbacane, Thornton & Company
14 West Third Street
Media, PA 19063
(610) 565-5222

Solicitor
Fox, Rothschild, LLP
Ten Sentry Parkway-Suite 200
Blue Bell, PA 19422
(610) 397-6500

Special Counsels
Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams
331 Butler Avenue
New Britain, PA 18901
(215) 345-9111

Official Depository
Wells Fargo Bank
Government Banking Division
2240 Butler Pike - Suite 300
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
(610) 834-2013

Colonial School District
2011-12 Budget Schedule

Budget Materials to Buildings	September 10, 2010
Enrollment Projections and Allocations To Buildings	September 24, 2010
Meetings between Building Principals and Director of Operations	October 18 - 29, 2010
Building Budgets Submitted to Chief Financial Officer with Building and Department Budget Reviews with Superintendent and Administrators	November 15 - December 13, 2010
Curriculum Committee Report	January 18, 2011
Facilities Mgmt. & Transportation Committee Report	January 18, 2011
Human Resources Committee Report	January 20, 2011
Preliminary Budget Available to Public	January 27, 2011
Deadline to Advertise District's Intent To Adopt Preliminary Budget	February 4, 2011
Finance Committee Report	February 14, 2011
Preliminary Budget Approved	February 14, 2011
Deadline to Advertise District's Intent To file for Act 1 Exceptions	February 24, 2011
Deadline to File for Act 1 Exceptions	March 3, 2011
Deadline for PDE Decision on Exceptions	March 23, 2011
Proposed Final Budget Approved	May 19, 2011
Deadline to Advertise District's Intent to Adopt Final Budget	June 6, 2011
Final Budget Approval	June 16, 2011

INTRODUCTORY SECTION
2011-12 ADOPTED BUDGET

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The 2011-12 adopted budget was developed through the cooperation of staff, administration and the Board of School Directors. This document is the result of input initiated in September from the Business Office and continued through development at the building level, district administration, School Board committee structure, and finally public review. The 2011-12 budget was adopted by the board on June 16, 2011. This document represents the effort of many individuals throughout the Colonial community to provide information on the funding of the excellent educational program demanded by the students, parents, and the tax-paying community.

The 2011-12 adopted budget totals \$93,938,760, a decrease of (.13%) or (\$120,240) under the previous year's budget. **Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$5,952,242. In order to balance the budget, a 2.50% real estate tax increase was necessary plus the use of \$4.2 million of the district's fund balance which is projected to be \$8.7 million at June 30, 2011.** The real estate tax mil rate is 18.476. For taxpayers, this represents an annual increase of \$66 on the median assessed value of \$147,020, or \$45 for every \$100,000 of property assessment. The Colonial School District has the third lowest real estate tax rate of the twenty one MONTCO districts.

Because the use of nearly half of the district's fund balance will severely impact future budgets and the district's bond rating, there were net expenditure reductions of \$2,483,240 from the Preliminary Budget that was approved this past February.

Employee's Salaries and Fringe Benefits, Object 100 and 200, account for the greatest portion of the budget. The 2011-12 budget contains \$48,449,694 for salaries and \$17,492,157 for fringe benefits, for a combined total of \$65,941,851 or 70.19% of the budget. Total salaries, Object 100, are decreasing (\$120,405), or (0.25%) from the prior year's budget. There is a reduction of (6.56) of professional staffing, a reduction of (10.5) support staff positions, and (3.0) food service employees. Staffing details are provided on pages 78 and 79. An amount of \$300,000 is included for School Improvement Teams a critical component of Colonial's Pathways to Excellence Program.

Employee benefits, Object 200, will increase \$684,007 or 4.07%. Personal Choice medical premiums have increased 3.77% and Keystone HMO premiums have increased 15.48%. It is estimated that district employees will contribute \$750,000 towards the district's medical premium cost. **It is important to note that the district's total retirement contribution for 2011-12 is \$4,189,403, an increase of \$184,866 or 4.62%.** This is due to the mandated rate increase being imposed on the district by the Public School Employees Retirement System. The net impact on the district is \$92,433 since the state reimburses the district 50% for their share of the expense.

The district's retirement contribution rate is projected to increase to 23.66% in the year 2015-16 from the 2011-12 rate of 8.65%. This is an increase of 274% and due to the decline in investment earnings of the Public School Employee's Retirement System (PSERS) and its inability to fund retirees' pensions at current contribution rates. A history, projection, and cost impact chart of Retirement Contribution Rates compiled by PSERS is found on pages 95-96 of this report. The following example demonstrates the future financial impact on the district in the year 2015-16: Using the estimated rate of 23.66% for 2015-16 the district would incur retirement expense of \$12,897,325, an increase of \$8,707,922 over the 11-12 budget. The net impact on the district would be \$4,353,961 since the district is reimbursed 50% from the state.

BUDGET OVERVIEW (Continued)

In the immediate future, the 12-13 budget for retirement contributions is estimated to increase \$1,891,624 for a net impact of \$945,812.

Contracted Professional Services, Object 300, is decreasing (\$324,191) or (4.71%). Included in this category are out-of-district and out-of-state student placements for special education services and contracted intermediate unit services for special education students. Also included in this budget section are costs for contracted alternative education, expenses for medical, legal, data processing, computer network support and licensing, staff in-service, and other professional services needed to support the special and regular education programs.

Purchased Property Services, Object 400, is decreasing (\$297,197), or (14.78%). Included in these services are building, equipment, and vehicle repairs, trash collection, electricity, water and sewer costs.

Purchased Services, Object 500, is decreasing (\$123,076), or (1.18%) over the 2010-11 budget. Included in these accounts are the tuitions paid to Approved Private Schools (APS) and Private Residential Rehabilitation Institutions (PRRI). The 2011-12 tuition charge budgeted for Colonial students enrolled at the Central Montgomery County Technical High School \$1,280,008 which is a decrease of (\$76,715) from 10-11. The amount budgeted includes a credit of \$737,729 from the 2009-10 fiscal year. The total estimated cost for Colonial is \$2,017,737 which is based on a three-year average enrollment and the budgeted operating costs of the Tech School. Contracted transportation costs are expected to increase \$72,562 or 1.37%. Other budget items in this category include phone, telecommunication costs associated with classroom internet access, printing, travel, postage and tuition paid to charter schools and other districts.

Supplies Object 600, is decreasing (\$367,909), or (10.31%). Included in accounts are costs for gasoline, diesel, and heating oil. Costs for classroom supplies, replacement textbooks, copy paper, multi-media and testing supplies, meeting refreshments, as well as computer software are also included in this object area.

Equipment, Object 700, reflects a decrease of (\$228,701), or (26.64%). Details of the planned technology projects for instruction can be found on page 81. There is also \$45,000 included for district facility projects (See page 82). Equipment needs for classrooms, maintenance, grounds and student activities and athletics are also included in this category

Debt Service and Other Uses, Object 800 and 900, are increasing \$657,232 or 11.70%. The increase is not the result of the district issuing additional debt but the resumption to the normal repayment schedule after two years of refinancing savings that were applied to the budget. Debt payment schedules and a summary of refinancing savings can be found on pages 71 - 74 of this document. **Due to re-financing the 2006 bonds in late June, the district plans to not spend \$392,492 of budgeted debt payment funds.** Also included in this category is the General Fund's contribution of \$67,000 to the Food Service Fund to offset the cost increases associated with more nutritional lunch offerings to the students and equipment replacement. A budgetary reserve amount of \$100,000 for unexpected expenditures is also included in these accounts.

BUDGET OVERVIEW (Continued)

Local Revenues continue to be the primary source of funding for the Colonial School District. Approximately 86% of total revenues are derived from local sources which include current and interim real estate taxes, transfer and delinquent taxes, public utility tax, interest earnings, payments from other districts, tuition and facility rental payments.

The Colonial School District, like many districts, has been experiencing declines in local revenue sources due to the downturn in the economy. Transfer taxes are down \$100,000 for 11-12, and interest earnings will decline \$110,530. Revenues from other school district's who send students to institutional facilities within Colonial's boundaries, is expected to decline \$195,456 as resident district's begin to provide these services within their own facilities. Interim real estate taxes and Act 511 earned income taxes (EIT) are unchanged at \$350,000 and \$5.8 million, respectively. The Act 511 EIT tax enactment was approved by the school board on May 26, 2005 with an effective date of July 1, 2005. On a positive note, the district will benefit from the growth in the tax base this year as an additional \$574,366 will be realized from increased tax assessments. The district continues to experience and dispute numerous assessment appeals filed by commercial and residential property owners.

The district is restricted from raising the real estate tax rate by the state mandated Act 1 index. The 2011-12 index is 1.4% and the 2012-13 index is projected at 1.1% or lower. Tax increases above the index require the use of Pa. Dept. of Education (PDE) approved exceptions or voter referendum. Colonial School District applied to PDE for Act 1 exceptions by the March 3, 2011 deadline. PDE granted exceptions in the amount of \$2,306,492. This amount would have allowed a real estate tax increase of 4.9%. The 2011-12 budget uses \$749,310 of the approved exceptions allowing the district to raise the real estate tax rate only 2.5% which is 1.1% above the Act 1 index of 1.4%. The majority of the exceptions utilized was due to retirement cost increases.

State Revenues Because of the state's own budgetary problems, the district's state basic education subsidy is expected to decline \$286,181. The adopted budget includes a reduction of \$852,231 for the state's social security reimbursement and a \$160,873 elimination of the Accountability Block Grant. The state's charter school funding of \$53,463 has also been cut from the adopted budget. (**UPDATE:** Due to the state budget being adopted after the district's budget adoption, the social security reimbursement was reinstated for \$852,231 and the Accountability Block Grant was partially funded for \$59,270 and the basic education subsidy was increased by \$173,733).

Special education subsidy is expected to increase slightly, \$8,424, to \$2,059,025, which is only a fraction of the \$14,660,069 (Function 1200) of special education costs that are budgeted. The district will realize a debt payment reimbursement of \$109,367 which is 19.855% of the total debt payment related to the \$20 million renovation project at the Central MONTCO Technical High School. Transportation subsidies are budgeted at \$1,140,722 which is the same as the actual amount received for 2010-11. The state's reimbursement for district transportation costs remains well short of total district transportation costs of \$6,702,622 (Function 2700). The subsidy for the state's share of retirement contributions will increase \$101,998 due to the PSERS mandated rate increase from 5.64% to 8.65% and salary increases. Since the district pays the state share, the state is required to reimburse the district one-half of its retirement and social security costs.

BUDGET OVERVIEW (Continued)

Federal Revenues are projected to decrease (\$394,633), or (35.55%), primarily due to the one-time stimulus funds provided to the district through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) in 2009-10 and 2010-11. The district was awarded a total of \$1,726,079 of ARRA funds during the 2009-10 school year. The district was permitted to spend these ARRA funds over a two year period through 2010-11. Federal dollars are spent when received on a dollar for dollar basis.

Copies of this document are available online at the district's website at www.colonialsd.org click on Our District, then Administration, then Finance. Copies can also be obtained in the Business Office.

Colonial School District and
Special Session Act 1 of 2006 Adopted June 27, 2006

1. Act 1 prohibits the district from raising real estate taxes above the state mandated index without voter approval. However, the law does permit the district to apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) for certain exceptions, that when approved, would allow the district to raise taxes above the limit without voter approval.

Colonial School District applied to PDE for Act 1 exceptions by the March 3, 2011 deadline. PDE granted exceptions in the amount of \$2,306,492. This amount would have allowed a real estate tax increase of 4.9%. The 2011-12 budget uses \$749,310 of the approved exceptions allowing the district to raise the real estate tax rate only 2.5% which is 1.1% above the Act 1 index of 1.4%. The majority of the exceptions utilized was due to retirement cost increases.

2. **Act 1 Index Historical Data**

2011-12	1.4%
2010-11	2.9%
2009-10	4.1%
2008-09	4.4%
2007-08	3.4%

