

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, MAY 12, 2008.**

Vice President Johnson convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on May 12, 2008.

Board Members Present: Tom Davis, Gary Johnson, Hope Luken, Sue Moore, Dr. William Ryan, Dr. Pascal Scoles, Steven Slutsky and Mitch Zimmer.

Board Members Absent: Marc Orlow.

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer; Cassandra DeLong, Director of Pupil Services; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; Richard Hartz, Director of Human Resources; John Quinn, Director of CITV and David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked Dr. Cotter to introduce the individuals presenting student awards.

Dr. Cotter invited Debbie Tornetta to the podium to present the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) cheerleading squad that was named Suburban One League Grand Champion. He then introduced Jim Donofrio, who presented his Suburban One League American Conference Champion PWHS boys' basketball team. See Attachment A for a complete list of students honored.

Mr. Johnson announced that the Board had met in executive session on April 23, May 7 and May 12 to discuss informational, legal and personnel matters.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson asked Board members to review the minutes of the Work Session of April 14, the General Meeting of April 17, the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of April 24, the Finance Committee of April 28, the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of May 1, the Safety and Wellness Committee of May 6 and the Special Meeting of the Board on May 7. See enclosures #1 through #7. He also reported that minutes of the Human Resources Committee of May 7 and the Curriculum Committee of May 12 should be available for review on Thursday.

Financial Reports: Mr. Johnson asked Board members to examine the financial reports on the list for approval on Thursday evening. The reports included the Budget Transfers, the Bond Fund Report, the Capital Projects Report, 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 Reconciliation of Cash Accounts, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending April 30, as shown in enclosures #8 through #19.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Mr. Johnson asked Dr. Cotter to summarize the staff reports to be presented on Thursday Evening. Dr. Cotter stated that Jason Bacani, Ridge Park Elementary School Principal, will present a report on his building's programs and initiatives. He added that Mr. Yemm and Loren Szczesny of Fox Rothschild will provide an overview of the proposed lighting project for Victory Fields #1 and #3, Colonial Field and perhaps the tennis courts.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Johnson reported that Thomas J. Gentzel, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, has submitted a notification and an invoice for dues for the 2008-2009 school year. See enclosure #20.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter stated that his report included a number of attachments. The first is the Personnel Report and Substitute List. See enclosure #21. He noted that there are 14 actions including one leave of absence, 12 replacements and a completed assignment. He added that five substitutes are listed.

Dr. Cotter reported that there are six new Extra Duty/Extra Pay Assignments. See enclosure #22. He also noted that a number of a summer interns are recommended for approval. See enclosure #23.

Dr. Cotter stated that Special Education Summer Programs included the Extended School Year Services and the Summer Learning Academy. See enclosures #24 and #25. He reported that staffing revisions are requested for the Summer Reading Programs. See enclosure #26. Staffing is also requested for the Summer Math Program. See enclosure #27. Dr. Cotter said that Board authorization is also sought to operate a Summer Bridge Program for students entering ninth grade at PWHS. See enclosure #28.

New Business: Mr. Johnson stated that May was the time of year for a number of annual appointments as required by Section 404 of the Public School Code. The first is the appointment of a Treasurer to a one-year term. He noted that Mr. Bickleman is recommended to be reappointed as Treasurer at a salary of \$9,600. Mr. Bickleman clarified for Mr. Johnson that this will be his 25th appointment to the position.

Mr. Johnson reported that the second appointment was for the position of Board Secretary. He noted that Mr. Sherman was previously recommended to fill the remainder of a four-year term through May of 2009. He added that Section 432 of the Public School Code required that new compensation levels be approved by the Board and that the Board Secretary's compensation for the 2008-2009 school year is recommended to be set at \$4,700. Dr. Cotter clarified for Mr. Zimmer that the Board is to act on the salary for the upcoming year and not the term of the Board Secretary.

Mr. Johnson noted that in accordance with Board Policy #004.1 and Administrative Regulation #004.1, two students have been nominated for the positions of student representative to the Board. He noted that the Board has interviewed Allan Hong and Jessica Piergiovanni to fill the available positions.

Mr. Johnson reported that Section 621 of the Public School Code directs that the Board shall designate one or more banks or trust companies as depositories for school funds. Wachovia is interested in continuing as the depository for the District. Responding to a question from Mr. Johnson, Mr. Bickleman reported that Wachovia has filled that role for the District for approximately 29 years. He added that the company has provided a good service and sound advice.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will consider the annual list of investment banks, savings and loans and trusts for solicitation of rates on school investments during the 2008-2009 school year. See enclosure #29.

Mr. Johnson noted that the Board will take action Thursday on a request to authorize the issuance of a bond in the amount of \$9.8 million.

Mr. Johnson stated that Dr. Gorodetzer will present the District's Strategic Plan for Review on Thursday. Dr. Gorodetzer reported that the Curriculum Committee reviewed a summary of the plan earlier in the evening. She noted that the complete plan will be available for public review later this month in the District Office and at the William Jeanes Library.

Mr. Johnson directed Board members' attention to a list containing estimates of 2008-2009 federal program allocations. See enclosure #30.

Mr. Johnson noted that Dr. Gorodetzer has provided a list of textbooks recommended for adoption and utilization during the 2008-2009 school year. See enclosure #31.

Mr. Johnson stated that Mr. Yemm is requesting Board approval of a contract with the Delaware Valley Astronomer Association (DVAA) for the lease of a telescope and other related instruments to be used in the observatory on the grounds of Colonial Middle School (CMS). See enclosure #32. Mr. Slutsky asked if this was a new agreement. Mr. Yemm reported that the agreement represents the third four-year term with the DVAA.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to review a professional conference trip for 19 PWHS and CMS administrators and teachers to attend the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Summer Institute Training in Chicago, Illinois from August 4-8. See enclosure #33. All expenses associated with the conference are paid through a combination of grants and AVID funding.

Mr. Johnson noted that there are three field trip requests on the agenda for Board approval on Thursday but that members also had another request in front of them that needed action this evening. Dr. Cotter confirmed that the request was for 12 PWHS AVID students to attend the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J. on May 15.

Mrs. Luken moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the trip. On a role call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked Board members to examine the three remaining field trip requests. The first is for two PWHS students to attend the Best Buddies Conference held in Bloomington, Ind. See enclosure #34. Mr. Johnson noted that attendance at the conference is mandated as part of the group's charter. He also stated that the students' parents have signed all of the appropriate waivers and permission forms. The second trip is for Conshohocken Elementary School second graders to visit the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J. on June 4. See enclosure #35. The third trip is for a Colonial Elementary School (CES) Odyssey of the Mind team to participate in a world competition at the University of Maryland from May 31 to June 3. See enclosure #36. Responding to a question from Mr. Johnson, Dr. Cotter reported that CES has sent a team to this competition in the past.

Mr. Johnson noted that the Board will act on Thursday on a series of bid recommendations for instructional and athletic supplies. See enclosures #37 through #41. Among the bids are elementary and secondary art supplies, custodial supplies, general supplies, technology education supplies and science supplies. Athletic supplies include those for CMS athletic teams and physical education classes.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board is expected to consider bids for construction of the Colonial Field stadium entrance on Thursday evening. Mr. Yemm confirmed for Mr. Johnson that the construction is to upgrade the entrance area and make it compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA).

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: None.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary