

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
WORK SESSION MINUTES, APRIL 13, 2009

President Johnson convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:35 p.m. in the Colonial Instructional Television (CITV) studios in Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) on April 13, 2009.

Board Members Present: Lenore Bruno, Tom Davis, Gary Johnson, Kelly Jowett, Susan Moore, Hope Luken and Dr. William Ryan.

Board Members Absent: Steven Slutsky and Mitch Zimmer.

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; Kim Newell, Assistant Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary and Scott J. Cochrane.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on April 1 and April 13 to discuss legal and personnel issues.

Mr. Johnson asked Dr. Cotter to present the students to be honored. Dr. Cotter introduced PWHS boys' basketball coach Jim Donofrio, whose team won its sixth straight Suburban One League American Conference Championship and advanced to the semifinals of the PIAA AAAA Championship. Dr. Cotter noted that Coach Donofrio was named the Norristown Times Herald Coach of the Year. Coach Donofrio thanked the Board for their support and introduced his team members and assistant coaches.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson asked Board members to examine the minutes of the Board Work Session of March 16; the General Meeting of March 19; the Special Meeting of the Board and the Safety and Wellness Committee of April 1; the Human Resources Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of April 2 and the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of April 3. See enclosures #1 through #7. Mr. Johnson stated that the minutes of the Curriculum Committee of April 13 would be available on Thursday evening.

Financial Reports: Mr. Johnson asked Board members to review the financial reports on the list for approval on Thursday evening. They 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 March 31 as shown in enclosures #8 through #19.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Dr. Cotter reported that on Thursday evening, Ridge Park Elementary School Principal Jason Bacani would present a report on his building's use of technology, including the morning announcement program.

Old Business: Mr. Johnson directed Board members to review Board Policy #201.2 on a second-read basis. See enclosure #20. He noted that the policy regarding student admissions is state mandated. Dr. Ryan stated his objection to the clauses of the policy that relate to residency. He specifically objected to the need for a court order in cases of students with parents who are newly separated with one parent living outside of the District. He added that a homeless person does not need a court order. Dr. Ryan recommended that the policy be tabled and sent back to committee for further review. Dr. Cotter

recognized Dr. Ryan's concerns but noted that the policy was recommended by the solicitor. Dr. Ryan reiterated his objections and questioned who would interpret a court order. He added that in his opinion, the policy discriminated against tax-paying District residents who were having family problems.

Correspondence: None.

Budget Report: Dr. Cotter stated that Mr. Bickleman and Mr. Slutsky, the Finance Committee Chairman, would report on the 2009-2010 Preliminary Budget on Thursday.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter summarized his report that included the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List and a list of Summer Program Staffing. See enclosures #22 through #24. He stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contains eight actions including one resignation, two leaves of absence, two returns from leave, one replacement, one completed assignment and one change in assignment. He noted that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes two actions, including a revised stipend and a resignation. Dr. Cotter stated that the Summer Program Staffing list would be updated by Thursday evening.

New Business: Mr. Johnson reported that the Board would act Thursday on several contracts, the first of which is for solicitor's services for the 2009-2010 school year. See enclosure #25. He noted that the agreement calls for a 2.48 percent increase in retainer over the current contract, and provides for a base rate of \$180.00 per hour on items not covered under the retainer and alternate rates in accordance with the fee letter dated March 23, 2009 and the rates as established by the insurance carrier where Fox Rothschild, LLP is an approved provider.

Mrs. Luken noted that the Board is requested to approve a contract with FILE-X for the electronic storage of Human Resources records. See enclosure #26. She stated that the District is experiencing a lack of storage space for files of former employees.

Mrs. Luken also stated that the Board is asked to support an agreement with Global Compliance Network to provide online training for relevant personnel issues. See enclosure #27. The agreement is a licensing fee for unlimited access to tutorials at a cost of \$1,400.00.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board would act Thursday on two private school renewal contracts for the 2009-2010 school year. One contract is with the Quaker School at Horsham for two students at \$27,820.00 per year. The rate represents a 3.5 percent increase for the current school year. The second contract is with Wyncote Academy for two students at \$24,600.00 per year. That rate is 4.25 percent higher than the rate for the current school year. Mr. Johnson reported that both contracts were reviewed in executive session. Mrs. Moore received confirmation from Mrs. DeLong that the listed fees were for each student.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board would also act Thursday on a request to approve a negotiated settlement agreement. He noted that the agreement was reviewed in executive session.

Mr. Davis reported on two professional conference requests. The first was for a PWHS teacher to attend the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference in Washington, D.C. from April 22-25. See enclosure #28. He noted that the high school administration supports the request and that building professional funds are allocated to cover the expenses. The second request was for Ed. Swetkowski to attend the Northeast AVID District Director's Meeting in New York City on May 1. See enclosure #29. Mr. Davis stated that the high school and middle school administrations support the request which would be paid for by Career Counseling Grant funds.

Mrs. Jowett noted that two student trip requests would require Board action on Thursday. The first is for Colonial Middle School students to attend the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. on May 26. See enclosure #30. She stated that expenses are the responsibilities of students and their families. The second request was for three PWHS students to attend the DECA National Conference in

Anaheim, Calif. from April 29 through May 3. See enclosure #31.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board would take action Thursday on a bid for the replacement of an underground fuel tank at Conshohocken Elementary School. See enclosure #32. Responding to a question from Mr. Johnson, Mr. Yemm reported that, if approved by the Board, the project would begin in June and be completed on or before August 15. He stated that there will be no disruption to the school.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: None

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary