

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462**  
**WORK SESSION MINUTES, MARCH 16, 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 March 16, 2009.

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

**Board Members Absent:** Steven Slutsky.

**Also Attending:** Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer; 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 and David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on February 25, March 11 and March 16 to discuss legal and personnel issues.

**Minutes:** Mr. Johnson asked Board members to review the minutes of the Board Work Session of February 17; the General Meeting of February 19; the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of March 5; the Human Resources Committee of March 6 and the Special Meeting of the Board and the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of March 11. See enclosures # 1 through #6. Mr. Johnson noted that minutes of the Curriculum Committee of March 16 will be available on Thursday evening.

**Financial Reports:** Mr. Johnson asked Board members to analyze the financial reports on the list for approval on Thursday evening. They include 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 February 28 as shown in enclosures #7 through #18.

**Public Comments on the Agenda:** None.

**Staff Report:** Dr. Cotter reported that Conshohocken Elementary School (CE) Principal Denise Marks will present a building report for the Board on Thursday evening.

**Budget Presentations:** Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will hear presentations on the Facilities Management and Transportation budget and the Personnel budget for the 2009-2010 school year on Thursday. He asked Dr. Gorodetzer to report on the Curriculum budget. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the main areas addressed in the budget were for instructional materials, summer school programs, technology support of curriculum and instruction and professional development for 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning skills. She presented a review of the proposed curriculum budget for the 2009-2010 school year. She reported that the proposed Curriculum budget is 13 percent lower than the budget for the 2008-2009 school year. She attributed that to the District's continued move toward the use of technology and online resources as opposed to traditional textbooks.

**Old Business:** None.

**Correspondence:** Mr. Johnson noted that Bernadette Biasi, President of the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Scholarship Fund, is requesting that \$2.00 be added to the price of student picture packages with the money going to the scholarship fund. See enclosure #19. He noted that this is a recurring practice.

Mr. Johnson also noted that the Board will act Thursday on the acceptance of a gift of \$2,500.00 from Mr. Michael Schwab to the PWHS Language Arts Department, including the Speech and Debate Team. See enclosure #20.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Cotter reviewed his report that consisted of the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #21 and #22. He stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contains 15 actions, including five leaves of absence, one new position, five replacements, one assignment correction and three assignment extensions. He noted that 29 substitutes were listed. Dr. Cotter reported that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes four coaching appointments, though five are listed, and one resignation.

**New Business:** At Mr. Johnson's request, Mrs. Moore reported that the Board will act Thursday on several contracts and leases with the Montgomery Early Learning Center. She noted that none of the contracts contain an increase in rental fees. They include agreements for the Before and After School Program, the 2009 Summer Program and office space at CE. See enclosures #24 through #26

Mrs. Moore also stated that the Board is requested to approve a contract with Montgomery County Head Start on the lease of space in one of the District's four elementary school buildings. See enclosure #27. She noted that there would be no rental increase for the 2009-2010 school year.

Mr. Johnson noted that the Board is asked to approve a revised technology agreement with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU) to include Power School services. See enclosure #28. At Mr. Johnson's request, Mr. Boegly explained that the District would be transferring its student database management from the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit to the MCIU. He said that Power School would be the new student database management system for students' enrollment and grades.

Mr. Johnson called Board members' attention to Board Policy #201.2. See enclosure #29. He noted that the state has mandated each district to develop a policy on student admissions. He noted that the policy is before the Board on a first-read basis. Dr. Cotter stated that the policy provided was a boiler plate policy from the Pennsylvania School Board's Association, and that he had faxed it to the solicitor for review. Dr. Cotter added that the section on tuition paying and non-resident student enrollment could likely be deleted since the District already had a policy addressing those issues. Answering a question from Mrs. Luken, Dr. Cotter said that the District's current non-resident student policy could be referenced in Policy #201.2. Dr. Ryan referenced a section referring to students of separated parents and their right to choose which district to attend. Dr. Cotter concurred but noted that the policy and state law also requires a student to live within the district that they attend at least 50 percent of the time. Responding to another question from Dr. Ryan, Dr. Cotter stated that he would ask the solicitor to review all residency references in the policy.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to review a proposal from Eileen Spector, Special Education Supervisor, regarding an extended school year for special education students. See enclosure #30.

At Mr. Johnson's request, Mr. Davis reported on a professional conference request for 15 professional staff members from PWHS and the Colonial Middle School to attend an Advancement Via Individual Determination training institute in Orlando, Fla., from June 28 to July 2. See enclosure #31. He noted that grant and building funds will cover all costs for the trip, which has the support of the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Zimmer to report on several student trip requests. Mr. Zimmer noted that PWHS Advanced Placement English teacher Bernie Walters is requesting permission for approximately 40 students to attend a Shakespeare production in Princeton University on March 18.

See enclosure #32. He added that given the timing of the trip the Board should take action this evening.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the student trip request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Zimmer stated that there were four additional requests for Board action on Thursday. The first is for two PWHs students to participate in a state level speech and debate competition at Susquehanna University from March 26-28. See enclosure #33. The second trip is for the entire fourth grade at Colonial Elementary School (CES) to attend the Camden Aquarium over the course of six days. See enclosure #34. Mr. Zimmer noted that funding for the trip is provided by the PTO and student payments. He reported that the third trip request is for a PWHs student to attend the All-State Chorus at several area high schools from April 22-25. See enclosure #35. The final request is for CES fifth grade students to attend a Trenton Thunder baseball game on May 21. He noted that the trip is aligned with the fifth grade math curriculum. See enclosure #36. Mr. Zimmer stated that funding is provided through the PTO, fundraising and student payments.

**Solicitor's Report:** None.

**Committee Reports:** None

**Public Comment:** None.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Johnson extended congratulations to the PWHs Boys' Basketball Team on an outstanding season that saw them reach the state semifinals. There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary