

## **Community Relations and Student Life Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors, January 7, 2010**

The Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Thursday, January 7, 2010 in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Present were committee chair Mitch Zimmer, committee members Kathleen Oxberry and Tom Sigafos\*, Board President Gary Johnson, Board Vice President Susan Moore, Board member Beth Suchsland, Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Karen Berk, Charles Forster, John Quinn, Kim Newell, David M. Sherman, Chris McWilliams, Mickey Engel, Tom Davis and Kelly Jowett.

The committee immediately went into executive session to discuss a residency issue.

Mr. Zimmer reconvened the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

There was no public comment on the agenda.

Mr. McWilliams discussed the procedures for compiling and producing the morning announcements three days a week during the last 15 minutes of I-Block at Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS). He explained that announcements would be five days per week but teachers requested uninterrupted time with students during I-Block periods two days each week. Mr. McWilliams explained that the students who produce the announcements are selected through the CITV Club.

Mr. Engel discussed his Web scripting class at PWHS and displayed a student-developed program for organizing and displaying text announcements on the Web site. He noted that the program was still in development with a goal of going online by March.

Committee members reviewed a trip request for the PWHS Drumline and Indoor Guard to participate in competitions in New Jersey. They also reviewed donations from GlaxoSmithKline and the Do Gooders to Conshohocken Elementary School, ArcelorMittal to Colonial Middle School, Odyssey Fastpitch Softball to PWHS and Mr. Michael Schwab to Colonial Elementary School.

Dr. Cotter requested a review of Board Policy #116 – Tutorial Instruction. He noted that the policy had not been updated in a while and stated that there may be a facilities issue with teachers tutoring students in their own classrooms. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that a review of other districts' policies revealed that some districts do not allow teachers to tutor their own students. Responding to a question from a committee member, she noted that there are several Colonial teachers who tutor their own students, especially on the elementary level. She also noted that all buildings are adhering to the current policy. After considerable discussion, the committee suggested that the administration conduct further review of other policies and present recommendations at a later meeting.

Dr. Cotter discussed Board Policy #201.2 – Student Admission. He explained that the policy had been tabled by the Board in the spring. After undergoing revisions, the policy will be presented to the Board for consideration on a first-read basis at the January meeting.

Mr. Sherman presented a list of PWHS Adult Evening School teachers and classes for the winter and spring sessions. He also put forth suggested dates for Board members to meet with building staffs in the coming months.

Mr. Sherman presented an update of the Communications Plan and highlighted the success of the Senior Winter Concert and Luncheon on December 18. He also updated the committee on plans to revise the District Web site. He noted that meetings with building Computer Resource

\* Mr. Sigafos joined the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Technicians have been held and a survey on suggested changes has been completed. He noted that discussions with a Web designer will begin next week.

Ms. Newell stated that a Parents Council promo touting the upcoming January meeting, as well as an evening meeting in February, is currently airing on CITV. She also noted that five winter concerts and the news program which highlights all seven schools is now airing. Ms. Newell said that winter sports programming begins soon. Responding to a question from the committee, she discussed ways in which the CITV schedule is distributed.

The committee was provided with several informational items including projected costs for a Water Polo team at PWHS and a request for the PWHS Marching Band to participate in a St. Patrick's Day parade.

Times for future meetings of the CRSL Committee were briefly discussed with the notation that a 4:00 p.m. start time is not conducive to student participation. The early time will also limit Mr. Forster's participation during the spring sports season.

There being no further business or public comment, Mr. Zimmer adjourned the meeting at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David M. Sherman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" at the end.

David M. Sherman  
Community Relations Coordinator