

Community Relations and Student Life Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors, March 11, 2010

The Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Thursday, March 11, 2010 in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. Present were committee chair Mitch Zimmer, committee members Bernie Brady, Hope Luken 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, Tonia Kaufman, Jeff Phipps, Bob Slagle, Tom Davis, Linda Doll, Lauren Stern, Jessica Piergiovanni, Allan Hong, Stacey Wong and Stephen Pepper.

There was no public comment on the agenda.

Ms. Newell reported on new programs that are available on the Colonial School District Web site. Mr. Quinn stated that broadcast coverage of the boys' basketball state championships begins this Saturday. He reported that the District paid \$100 for the rights to broadcast the first-round game. He also noted that Cheltenham High School, with an offer of \$500, was the sole bidder for the old CITV production truck. Mr. Quinn stated that the truck will be sold as is.

Mrs. Doll asked if it were possible for parents to buy out of an athletic team or activity fundraiser by simply submitting a check for the profit margin instead of selling a prescribed number of items. Mr. Forster explained that athletic teams hold fundraisers to purchase extra items. He stressed that the District provides all necessary equipment for competition. Mr. Slagle concurred and noted that the baseball team purchases fleece pullovers and other items by selling program ads. Mr. Forster stated that no child is penalized for not participating in a fundraiser. There was considerable discussion on the topic. Ms. Kaufman stated that she did not feel the music programs could continue without fundraisers. Mrs. Doll asked if parents could be provided a breakdown of the fundraising expectations in writing. Dr. Cotter stated that parents have the opportunity to simply write a check if they do not wish to sell items or they may simply opt out of the fundraiser all together.

Mr. Slagle expressed a concern over lack of indoor facilities time for school sports teams and activities because of heavy use by community organizations. He stated that his team has used fundraising monies to pay for time in facilities outside of the District. Mr. Forster detailed use of the facilities and explained that the start of the spring sports season is no longer strictly defined and enforced by the PIAA. He did say that the District has the best facilities in the region. Mrs. Luken asked if the situation would be alleviated if use by community groups was curtailed or eliminated. Mr. Forster confirmed that would help. Mrs. Suchsland agreed with Mrs. Luken but noted that the community groups are comprised of taxpayers. It was noted that Board policy states that preference for facilities usage is to be given to District activities. Mrs. Moore stated that the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee has committed to examine the use of all facilities in the District.

Mr. Zimmer reported that he has begun to receive testimonials from alumni regarding their positive experience in the District. Mr. Sherman confirmed that the information may be incorporated into District publications, the Web site and possible CITV segments. He requested that alumni contact information be forwarded along with the comments.

The committee reviewed student trip requests for the PMEA Region Band Festival, the state debate competition, an Indoor Guard competition in New Jersey and a Colonial Elementary School trip to a Trenton Thunder game.

The committee was informed of the proposed donation of a DVD collection to the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Science Department.

Mr. Sherman presented the communications plan update for review. He noted that the District will host 450 guests at the annual senior citizen matinee and luncheon. He also reported that the process of redesigning the Web site is ongoing and that the administration is looking to accomplish the task internally as quotes from outside vendors are prohibitive. Additionally, Mr. Sherman received confirmation from the committee that the Wow/How special publication on student achievement should be printed and sent to the community.

Mr. Zimmer reminded those in attendance that the middle school production of Mulan is currently running.

Ms. Piergiovannia commented on her positive experience in the French student exchange program. Mr. Hong reported on a successful season for the swim team. Ms. Wong reported on plans for the Junior Prom. Ms. Stern reported on the high school musical.

Responding to a question from Mrs. Doll, Mr. Forster explained the reasons why the high school senior class trip has never been held over spring break.

Mr. Davis called the committee's attention to the agenda attachment regarding recognition for the PWHS students who won medals in the Central Montco High School Skills USA District II Competition.

Mr. Sherman reported that Whitemarsh Township Day is scheduled for the last Saturday in April. Dr. Cotter noted that is April 24.

After discussion with the committee, Mr. Zimmer stated that the next meeting will be on Thursday, April 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

There being no further business or public comment, Mr. Zimmer adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Sherman
Community Relations Coordinator