

## **Community Relations and Student Life Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors, April 8, 2010**

The Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Thursday, April 8, 2010 in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. Present were committee chair Mitch Zimmer, committee member Kathleen Oxberry, Board President Gary Johnson, Board Vice President Susan Moore, Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Karen Berk, John Quinn, Kim Newell, David M. Sherman, Tom Davis, Linda Doll, Stephen Pepper and Steve Berr.

The Meeting began with a video highlighting the pep rally for the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHs) boys' basketball team, their victory in the PIAA AAAA state championship game and their triumphant return home.

Regarding public comment on the agenda, Mr. Berr noted that the item listed as CMS Planetarium under New Business should read Colonial School District (CSD) Planetarium as the facility is used by the entire school district. Mrs. Doll inquired as to the item regarding Athletic Fundraisers listed under Old Business. Dr. Cotter stated that as a follow up to last month's discussion regarding fundraisers, Mr. Forster submitted a memo to coaches and activity advisors restating the policy that students or parents could simply write a check for the profit margin expected for each student rather than selling items. The memo also noted that students were not required to participate in fundraising activities and their choosing not to would not affect their status on the team or club. Dr. Cotter stated that Mr. Forster is to create a form and a revised letter for review at next month's CRSL meeting. Mrs. Doll received confirmation that parents may also pick and choose which activity fundraisers they may participate in.

Ms. Newell provided an update on the amount of "hits" or "views" that video on the District Web site received in the past month. She stated that there were 1,836 views for an average of 61 per day. She reported that there were 17 unique views each day. The most popular clips were segments from the Colonial News Update featuring student projects. The committee asked if a link to the basketball video shown at the beginning of the meeting can be placed on the Web site.

Mr. Berr, a retired CSD planetarium teacher, voiced concern over rumors that the District planned to close the planetarium. He provided a history of the planetarium and spoke to its value as a learning resource. He noted that the District once had two planetariums. There was considerable discussion regarding the cost of the planetarium including travel and the possible use of a digital planetarium or "E-Planetarium" if space was an issue. Committee members and Dr. Cotter confirmed for Mr. Berr closure of the planetarium was one of the budgetary cost-cutting measures under consideration made necessary by the limitations imposed by Act I and a significant decrease in revenues. Mr. Berr provided a packet of information to be distributed to Board members.

The committee discussed the PWHs Dance Team and whether or not it should be recognized as an official club. Members agreed that the team had met the two-year requirements for achieving club status. An administrative review of current Extra Duty/Extra Pay positions was requested to ascertain if a position could be added for the Dance Team advisor.

The committee reviewed five student trip requests. Dr. Cotter noted that the Colonial Middle School trip to the National Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC was tentative as the school PTO cannot fund the trip as in years past. After some discussion, Mr. Johnson noted that the Board could still act on the trip pending the acquisition of transportation funds.

The committee was provided an information update on the Tutorial Policy. Dr. Cotter noted that the solicitor has asked him to draft a "Conflict of Interest" statement for the policy.

Mr. Sherman highlighted items in the Communications Plan Update including states of the Web site redesign, Student Achievement Publication, Senior Matinee and Luncheon, Kindergarten Brochure and District Map. Copies of the Student Achievement Publication were made available for committee review.

Informational items provided for the committee included results of the Central Montco Technical High School Allied Health Competition and an award from the Anti-Defamation League to PWHS. Mr. Sherman noted that PWHS is the first high school to receive the honor which includes a monetary award. Mr. Sherman also detailed the District plans for Whitemarsh Day to be held on Saturday, April 24 from noon to 5:00 p.m. at Miles Park.

Mr. Zimmer stated that the next meeting will be on Thursday, May 6 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 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Community Relations Coordinator