

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
WORK SESSION MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

President Johnson convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:34 p.m. in the Colonial Instructional Television (CITV) studios in Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) on September 14, 2009.

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

Board Members Absent: Steven Slutsky.

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; 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; Tom Sigafos and Kathleen Oxberry.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on August 26, September 9 and September 14 to discuss legal and personnel issues.

Dr. Cotter confirmed for Mr. Johnson that the Board will recognize the District's Master Teachers at Thursday's meeting.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson asked Board members to examine the minutes of the Work Session of August 17, the General Meeting of August 20; the Special Meeting of August 26; the Finance and Audit Committee of August 26; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of September 2 and the Human Resources Committee of September 3. See enclosures #1 through #7. Mr. Johnson stated that the minutes of the September 14 Curriculum and Program Committee should be available for review and action on Thursday.

Financial Reports: Mr. Johnson directed Board members to review the financial reports on the list for approval on Thursday evening. They included 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 August 31 as shown in enclosures #8 through #18.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Dr. Cotter stated that Mrs. Berk and Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, will report on the District's various summer programs on Thursday evening.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: None.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter summarized his report that included the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List and the enrollment report. See enclosures #19 through #21. He stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List was not extensive since most of the hiring was completed over the summer. He did note seven actions including two resignations, and five replacements. Dr. Cotter added that over 100 per diem substitutes were included on the Substitute List. He stated that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List included revised stipends for two positions. Dr. Cotter noted that the administration continues to closely monitor the size of classrooms. He stated that the Enrollment Report indicated average class sizes of 17 to 23 in the K-3 buildings, 17-22 at Colonial Elementary School and 16-22 at Colonial Middle School. He noted that the average high school class is 22 but could be lower depending upon the course. Dr. Cotter added that he will bring a healthcare agreement before the Board on Thursday. The agreement provides for reduced healthcare rates and discounts for employees. At Mr. Johnson's request, Mr. Hartz explained that the agreement is with the Delaware Valley Healthcare Consortium which enables school districts to pool together and save on healthcare costs. He noted that the agreement formalizes the District's current practice.

New Business: Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will consider an Act 183 eFund grant application for technology on Thursday. See enclosure #22. The grant involves the HUB and would provide a technology connection to the Angus Tract facility. Responding to a question from Dr. Ryan, Mr. Boegly stated that the grant is a collaborative effort in association with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. He stated that the building on the Angus Tract is being added to the county-wide network via the grant application.

Mr. Johnson noted that Board approval is sought for a consulting services agreement in the area of Autism for the 2009-2010 school year. See enclosure #23. He noted that the agreement is with Cathy Grayson and asked Mrs. Berk to provide details. Mrs. Berk explained that Ms. Grayson has been in the field for 30 years and specializes in high functioning autism students. She noted that Ms. Grayson provides families, schools and agencies with support as well as assistance with establishing new programs. Mrs. Berk stated that she worked with Ms. Grayson for five years in her previous district. She explained that Ms. Grayson also provides staff support and in-service training. Mrs. Jowett stated that she would not be in attendance on Thursday to vote on the agreement but voiced her support. She said that she is excited about the agreement and that the programs are much needed.

Mr. Davis stated that the Board is asked to approve a textbook adoption for a two semester, online Advanced Placement Human Geography course. See enclosure #24. He noted that the request was reviewed by the Curriculum and Program Committee.

Mr. Johnson noted that the Board will act Thursday on three special education settlement agreements. He noted that the agreements were reviewed in executive session because of student confidentiality and privacy.

Mr. Zimmer stated that the Board is asked to consider two students trips. The first is for Colonial Elementary School fifth grade students to travel to the Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, Delaware on October 13, 14, 15, and 16. See enclosure #25. He noted that costs associated with the trips are shared between the parents and the PTO. The second request is for the PWHS wrestling team to participate in a scrimmage in Hammonton, New Jersey on Friday, December 5 at the St. Augustine Preparatory School. See enclosure #26.

Dr. Cotter stated that the Board will be asked to consider a professional conference request at Thursday's meeting. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that the request is for two PWHS teachers to attend the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics conference in Boston, Massachusetts from October 21-23. She noted the request was reviewed by the Curriculum Committee.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: None.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary