

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, JULY 16, 2009

President Johnson convened the combined meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:01 p.m. in the Colonial Instructional Television (CITV) studios in Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) on July 16, 2009.

Board Members Present: Lenore Bruno, Tom Davis, Gary Johnson, Kelly Jowett, Susan Moore, Hope Luken and Steven Slutsky.

Board Members Absent: Dr. William Ryan and Mitch Zimmer.

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; 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; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Kathleen Oxberry; Anthony Forjohn; Ann R. Meyer; James Conway; Bernice Grunes; Gary Grenier; Susanne Merves; Nancy Young; Christopher Young; William Molnar; Erwin Cammaart; Beth Suchsland.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on July 13 and July 16 to discuss legal and personnel issues.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider the minutes of the Finance Committee of June 9; the Board Work Session of June 15; the General Meeting of June 18 and the Human Resources Committee and the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of July 2. See enclosures #1 through #5.

Mrs. Luken moved and Mrs. Jowett seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Financial Reports: Mr. Johnson asked the Board to review and act on the financial reports on the list for approval. They included 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 June 30 as shown in enclosures #6 through #17.

Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Dr. Cotter reported that Gary Grenier, Executive Director of the Lincoln Academy Alternative Program was present to provide an annual review of the Academy's services to the Colonial School District, including an educational program located in PWHS. Mr. Grenier simply wished to thank the Board for its long-time partnership with the Academy and its continued support of the alternative program.

Mr. Johnson allowed Bernice Grunes to present a concern to the Board. Mrs. Grunes stated that she and a number of her neighbors on Redwood Road adjacent to Whitemarsh Elementary School had

heard that the Board may be considering installing an entrance to the school from Redwood Road. On behalf of her neighbors, Mrs. Grunes voiced opposition to the idea. Mrs. Moore stated that the idea was briefly discussed as one option to alleviate the traffic problem on Joshua road, but she and Mr. Johnson stated that the Board quickly decided that a Redwood Road access was not a viable option. Mr. Yemm confirmed that the idea was not under consideration. The neighbors were pleased.

Old Business: Mrs. Jowett asked the Board to consider revisions to Policy #225 – Awards – Student Activities. See enclosure #18. She noted that the revisions are recommended to reflect recognition of students who participate in club and music competitions. She noted that the policy is before the Board on a second-read basis.

Mrs. Jowett moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the policy revisions. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Correspondence: None.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter reviewed his report that included the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List and a recommendation for stipends for PWHS and Colonial Middle School staff who attended a five-day Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Summer Institute from June 28 through July 2. See enclosures #19, #20 and #29. He stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contained 20 actions, including three leaves of absence, two returns from leave, six replacements, four reappointments, three position increases due enrollment expansion, one revised assignment and one new position. Dr. Cotter added that one of the replacements could be found on a blue page that Board members had before them. He stated that one instructional aide was included on the Substitute List. Dr. Cotter noted that there was one Extra Duty/Extra Pay recommendation. He reported that building budgets allotted for the AVID stipend which was previously covered by a grant.

Mrs. Bruno moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: None.

New Business: Mr. Davis asked the Board to consider a subcontracting agreement with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit to administer IDEA B, Section 611, Stimulus Program "pass through funds." See enclosure #21. He noted that the contract includes a list of assurances regarding the payment of the funds.

Mrs. Jowett moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to act on a special education settlement agreement and a contract renewal in one motion. He stated that the settlement agreement is with the Comprehensive Learning Center for the 2009-2010 school year at a cost of \$77,500. Mr. Johnson added that the contract renewal is with the Vanguard School for two students at a cost of \$42,000 per student. He noted that because of confidentiality regulations, the items were discussed in executive session.

Mrs. Luken moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the settlement agreement and contract renewals. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a recommendation to contract with ACE American Insurance Company for sports coverage. He noted that costs involved with the contract can be found in enclosure #22. Mr. Yemm confirmed for Mr. Johnson that those fees were for the entire school year.

Mr. Davis moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the contract. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Davis asked the Board to approve the admission of an exchange student from China to PWHs for the 2009-2010 school year. He noted that this student would replace a student from Korea who was previously approved by the Board but is unable to attend. Mr. Davis stated that the matter was reviewed in executive session.

Mr. Davis moved and Mrs. Jowett seconded a motion to admit the exchange student. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Johnson directed the Board to take action on the renewal of an agreement with Colonial Medical Group to provide physical examinations to students and employee physicals. See enclosure #30. Mr. Slutsky asked if the solicitor had reviewed the agreement. Dr. Cotter stated that the agreement was a renewal of an existing contract. He noted that the rates for services were basically the same as the previous contract, \$123.30 per hour for time spent on student physicals and \$47.20 per hour for each employment physical provided. Dr. Cotter added that the agreement was previously reviewed by the solicitor.

Mrs. Bruno moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mrs. Luken recommended that the Board consider Family Medical Leave policies for Professional Employees (#441) and Classified Employees (#541). See enclosure #31. She noted that the policies are before the Board on a first-read basis.

Mrs. Luken moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the Family Medical Leave policies on a first-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Sultanik asked the Board to authorize his firm to settle the assessment appeals of four property owners as presented in executive session. The appeals are for Carfam, LLC, Parcel #49-00-03877-00-7 and 49—00-03883-00-1; Harvey Goodstein Charitable Foundation, Parcel 65-00-08788-00-3; Natick First Realty Corp., Parcel #49-00-0000-60-8 and Target Corp., Parcel #49-00-03889-50-8. Mr. Davis asked Mr. Sultanik to divulge how much money the District will loose on these settlements. Mr. Bickleman stated that the District will need to refund approximately \$237,000 in real estate taxes. Mr. Sultanik explained that the District was the victim of the poor economy, appraisal reports and changes in the County's common-level ratio. He stated that the District was blessed with a large commercial tax base but added that the commercial tax base is a curse in this economy.

Mr. Slutsky moved and Mrs. Jowett seconded a motion to authorize the solicitor to settle the appeals as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: No Report

CMTHS: No Report

Human Resources: Mrs. Luken stated that the committee met on July 2 and reviewed and denied an employee market salary appeal. She also stated that Leticia Erickson provided a comprehensive staffing update and noted that kindergarten registration was as expected through June.

Finance: Mr. Slutsky stated that in addition to the challenges presented by Mr. Sultanik in his report, the Finance Committee continues to discuss ways to deal with a reduction in state funding plus the state's reduction of federal stimulus money earmarked for school districts. He added that the

committee will continue to monitor budgets and spending to ensure that the District remains fiscally responsible while providing our children the best education possible.

Curriculum and Program: No report.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mrs. Moore stated that the committee met on July 2 and reviewed a request from the Montgomery County Health Department for the District to host the third annual Children's Safety Fair. She noted that the fair will provide interactive displays on weather safety, school bus safety, self-defense, sun, bike and pedestrian safety and more. She noted that Colonial Elementary School was chosen as the location for the event to take place in April. Mrs. Moore added that the committee received an update on the approval process for the installation of lights on Victory Fields. She noted that Whitemarsh Township granted the District's request for a special exception to the zoning ordinance and recommended some conditions to which the committee has agreed. Mr. Yemm stated that installation of the lights is targeted for the fall.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Jowett reported that the 2009-2010 District Activities Calendar will be mailed to families and senior Gold Card members in early August. She also noted that Plymouth Township Day is being held from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 25 and that the District will staff an information table.

Safety and Wellness: No report

Legislative: No report.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary