

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, MAY 20, 2010

President Johnson convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:08 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on May 20, 2010.

Board Members Present: Bernie Brady, Gary Johnson, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry, Tom Sigafos, Beth Suchsland, Alan Tabachnick and Mitch Zimmer.

Board Members Absent: Hope Luken.

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer; 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; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Board Student Representatives Lauren Stern and Stephen Pepper; George Wolfinger; Rob Walper; Scott Shearer; Robert Franz, Alan Fiermonte, Tom Davis, Dominc Fulginiti; Amy Fulginiti; Shari Marion; Stephanie Brennan, Beth Miller; Chris Brunner; Sam Swetkowski; Karen Ottaviano; Mary Thiess; Kelly Jowett; Cathy McQuade; Nancy Piccolo; students receiving awards, their friends and families.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked Dr. Cotter to introduce individuals receiving awards. Dr. Cotter called Colonial Elementary School (CES) teacher Anna Mindel to the podium to recognize CES students who advanced to the Odyssey of the Mind (OM) state competition. Colonial Middle School (CMS) Teacher Rachel Weiss then presented CMS students who had advanced to the OM state competition. Dr. Cotter then called Plymouth Whitemarsh High School teacher Megan Carragher to the podium. Ms. Carragher introduced those students who advanced to the DECA state Competition. Dr. Cotter then introduced Mr. Sherman who presented students for the CMS Geography Bee and the Technology Student Association national competition. Finally, Dr. Cotter introduced PWHS Activities Director Charles Forster who presented students for Suburban One Tennis championships and the State Debate competition. Mr. Zimmer then praised the outgoing senior student representatives to the Board and presented a plaque to Ms. Stern.

Mr. Johnson announced that the Board had met in executive session on April 21, May 3, May 4, May 12, May 17 and May 20.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider the minutes of the Work Session of April 12; the General Meeting of April 15; the Human Resources Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee of May 4 and the Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee and the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of May 5, the Safety and Wellness Committee of May 12 and the Curriculum Committee of May 17. See enclosures #1 through #6, #60 and #61.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a nomination to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Financial Reports: Mr. Johnson sought Board action on the financial reports on the list for approval on Thursday evening. 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 Trust Fund Report,

the Reconciliation of Cash Accounts, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending April 30. See enclosures #7 through #19.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: Mr. Fiermonte began to read a letter that he said was written to his children. The letter referred to the budget. Mr. Johnson informed Mr. Fiermonte that the budget was not on the evening's agenda and stated that he was welcome to comment after the meeting.

Mr. Franz inquired as to the nature of the cost involved in the \$860,428 special education contracts with the Lincoln School. He stated that he was not interested in the student names or any information that would breach confidentiality. Mr. Sultanik informed Mr. Franz that the District would not comment because of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Mr. Franz stated that even though it is the tax payer's dollars they can't know how the money is being spent. Mr. Sultanik reiterated that FERPA prohibits the District from commenting.

Staff Report: Ridge Park Elementary School (RP) Principal Jason Bacani introduced Master Teachers Linda Colantonio, Jennifer Esmonde, Amy Venkus and Brian Adams. Ms. Colantonio and Ms. Esmonde presented a PowerPoint on the RP School Improvement Team and the staff's use of Professional Learning Time. Ms. Venkus and Mr. Adams showed a video they produced on other initiatives and points of pride at the school.

Old Business: Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider the renewal of the Solicitor's Services Contract for the 2010-2011 school year. He noted that the recommendation is to reappoint Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Esquire, of Fox Rothschild, LLP as solicitor. See enclosure #20. The retainer for services is \$24,823 and a base rate of \$180.00 per hour for services not covered under the retainer. Mr. Johnson noted the fee structure was the same as last year.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the contract. Mrs. Suchsland thanked Mr. Sultanik and Fox Rothschild for understanding the budget situation and keeping the fee structure the same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Zimmer directed Board members' attention to the Bond Refinancing Resolution before them. See Attachment A. Mr. Zimmer read the first paragraph of the resolution and invited Scott Shearer of Public Financial Management to explain the refinancing. Mr. Shearer distributed a packet to the Board detailing numbers. He noted that the District's savings target for the refinancing was \$185,000. Mr. Shearer explained that the bid resulted in actual net savings of \$276,000 to the District. Rob Walper, the District's Bond counsel from Fox Rothschild, reviewed the resolution in detail.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Tabachnick seconded a motion to adopt the Bond Refinancing Resolution. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Correspondence: Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider a letter and invoice from Thomas J. Gentzel, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA). The invoice is for dues for the 2010-2011 school year. See enclosure #21.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the dues invoice. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, reported on a grant from the Colonial Foundation for Educational Innovation that funded the Brain Show, an interactive assembly focusing on listening skills at Whitmarsh Elementary School. She also introduced CMS teacher Mr. Chris Brunner who detailed his grant that was used to purchase lego

robots. See. enclosure #22.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a request by the parents of Denise Cotteta that the District accept grant funding on an annual basis to offset the cost of the senior class trip. See enclosure #23.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the funding request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to act on a request from PWHS Principal Dr. Monica Sullivan to accept a \$2,000 donation from the Lockheed Martin Corporation to the school's Robotics Club. See enclosure #24.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to accept the donation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider a request to accept funding in the amount of \$5,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to Conshohocken Elementary School (CE). See enclosure #25.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Sigafos seconded a motion to accept the grant. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a request from CE Principal Denise Marks to accept a gift of \$500 from Giant Pharmacy as a result of a student entry in a poster contest. See enclosure #26.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Sigafos seconded a motion to approve the gift. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter stated that his report includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list. See enclosures #27 and 28. He noted that in addition to the 39 actions he reported on Monday evening, there is one additional replacement, two assignments completed and one substitute listed. He noted that the replacement was the appointment of Heather Nuneviller to succeed Dr. Monica Sullivan as PWHS Principal. Dr. Cotter also noted that three Extra Duty/Extra Pay position were listed. Responding to a request from Mr. Sigafos, Dr. Cotter detailed the search process for the principal including the makeup of the search committee and several rounds of interviews. Dr. Gorodetzer added that the search was conducted on a national and regional basis and thanked Mr. Sigafos for his efforts in getting the word out through the National Elementary School Principals Association.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Sigafos seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: On behalf of the PWHS student body, Ms. Stern thanked Dr. Sullivan for her service as the school's principal and wished her the best for her retirement. She also welcomed Mrs. Nuneviller to the PWHS family. Mr. Pepper stated that the freshman and sophomore formals were successful. He noted that the junior prom is tomorrow night and that the senior prom is scheduled for June 4. Ms. Stern reported that the senior dinner was held on April 23 and the senior awards ceremony is scheduled for June 1. Mr. Pepper stated that a blood drive will be held on May 26. He encouraged the community to support the event. Ms. Stern noted that the PW spring concert is being held at the moment and that Board Student Representatives Jessica Peirgiovanni and Allan Hong are participating. She also reported on the Colonial Players' closing night. Mr. Pepper recapped the spring sports season. Ms. Stern thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as a student representative for two years.

New Business: Mrs. Moore asked the Board to consider a recommendation to remove the existing Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP) Policy #449. See enclosure #29.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Sigafos seconded a motion to remove the existing ERIP policy. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to act on revisions to several policies on a first-read basis. They include Conflict of Interest #318/#418/#518, Tutorial #116, Behavior Support #219 and Unlawful Harassment #348/#448/#588. See enclosures #30 through #33.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the policies on a first-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider new policies, Blood Borne Pathogens #515 and E-mail Usage and Retention #86, on a first-read basis. See enclosures #34 and #62.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the policies on a first-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson noted that the Board is tabling the appointment of a treasurer this evening and will act on the item at a special meeting on May 26.

Mr. Johnson stated that Section 404 of the Public School Code requires the Board to name a secretary. He added that Section 432 of the code directs that the Board approve a salary for the position. He noted that the recommended salary for the Board Secretary is \$4,888 for the 2010-2011 school year. He noted that the rate is the same as the previous year.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Sigafos seconded a motion to approve the Board Secretary's salary. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Zimmer reported that in accordance with Board Policy #004 and Administrative Regulation #004.1 Michael Ciesielka and Jessica Knudsen are nominated for the position of student representative to the Board. He added that the Board has interviewed the candidates.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the nominations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson stated that Section 621 of the Public School Code requires the Board to designate one or more banks or trust companies as depositories for school funds. He sought Board action on the recommendation that Wachovia continue to serve as the District Depository.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Sigafos seconded a motion to designate Wachovia as the District Depository. Mrs. Suchsland reiterated the discussion from Monday evening that other banks will be considered for the following year. Mr. Bickleman confirmed that he will prepare a Request for Proposal. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider a list of investment banks, savings and loans and trust companies recommended for solicitation of interest rates on school investments during the 2010-2011 school year. See enclosure #36. He added that investments are subject to confirmation of bank maintenance and legally required collateral.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the list of investment banks. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a request to approve a summary of preliminary Federal Program allocations for the 2010-2011 school year. See enclosure #37.

Mr. Zimmer asked the Board to act on a revision in the PWHS handbook involving the use of electronic devices. See enclosure #38. He stated that the revision pertains to the use of cell phones and listening devices in school. Dr. Cotter stated that Board action would be on a first-read basis as some follow up work needs to be done.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the handbook revision on a first-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider a request to purchase and adopt a textbook for honors calculus. See enclosure #39.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the textbook purchase and adoption. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on two special education renewal contracts with the Lincoln Center at a cost of \$860,428 for the 2010-2011 school year. See enclosure #40.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the special education renewal contracts. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to act on a special education settlement agreement that was reviewed in executive session.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Brady seconded a nomination to approve the settlement agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Moore sought Board action on the renewal of the AESOP contract for the 2010-2011 school year. See enclosure #31. She noted that the automated service calls substitutes and manages attendance. Mr. Hartz confirmed that this will be the District's second year using the service.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the contract renewal. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Moore asked the Board to consider a request to renew the license with My Learning Plan for instructional users at a cost of \$7,485. See attachment #42. Mr. Hartz explained that the service is an automated Web-based service that enables teachers and aides to log professional development hours to the Pennsylvania Department of Education as required to maintain their certification.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to renew the license. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a request to accept an annual agreement with Carbon Lehigh IU Data Processing Services at a cost of \$41,652. See enclosure #43.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Zimmer asked the Board to consider several student trips in one motion. The first was for one PWSHS student to attend the Best Buddies Conference in Bloomington, Indiana. See enclosure #44. Mr. Zimmer noted that the student's parents will sign a waiver. The next trips were for the PWSHS cheerleaders to attend competitions in Johnstown, Pa. from November 19-21 and at William & Mary College from April 1-3, 2011. See enclosure #45.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the field trips. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a number of bids for instructional supplies. See enclosures #46 through #52.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the bids as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: Mr. Zimmer reported that the IU Board recognized Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Nonpublic School Services School Counselor Peg McHugh with the Bobbie S. Goodman Award. He also noted that the IU also retained the services of Mr. Sultanik as solicitor for the coming year.

CMTHS: No report.

Human Resources: Mrs. Moore noted that the committee reviewed the Blood Borne Pathogens and Unlawful Harassment policies. She also noted that the HR Web page has been redesigned and is now up and running. She added that the committee reviewed Phase II of the ERIP.

Finance: No report.

Curriculum and Program: Mr. Tabachnick reported that the committee heard a presentation on the PWHS AVID program from administrators and students. The committee also was informed of a pre-school outreach program designed to communicate the District's curricular expectations with community pre-school providers. Mr. Tabachnick also noted that summer reading lists were shared with the committee as was an update on the Girls in Technology summer program. The program currently has 15-18 students registered. Summer math resources and an update on the math curriculum were also reviewed.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Brady asked the Board to consider the disposal or sale of science tools and wood shop equipment no longer in use.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mr. Zimmer commented on a presentation by teachers and members of the PWHS robotics club. He recanted how the students described the collaborative nature and educational benefits of the competition.

Safety and Wellness: Mrs. Oxberry stated that the committee was shown photos of recently installed directional signs the intent of which is to limit traffic on Germantown Pike. She noted that the District is considering the use of a portable electronic sign to provide direction for large events. Mrs. Oxberry also stated that the committee heard a report from Sergeant Wheatley of the Whitmarsh Township Police Department on the Student Awareness Forum and Education Coalition. The sergeant noted that Whitmarsh PD is in the early stages of developing a community coalition to help in the prevention of destructive decisions by area students.

Legislative: Mrs. Suchsland stated that she attended the two-day PSBA Legislative Conference. The group heard from gubernatorial candidates, a number of legislators and Governor Edward Rendell. She stated that opinions on the PSERS situation and current state budget varied. She also noted that funding of cyber schools and the possibility of a statewide funding formula were discussed.

Municipal Liaisons: Mr. Sigafos reported that the Plymouth Township Parks and Recreation Department was grateful for the clean-up work done by RP students at the Harriet Wetherill Park on Earth Day. He also noted that the department is pleased with the cooperation of the District with regards to facilities usage. Mrs. Oxberry, the Board's Whitmarsh Township liaison, reported on the school garden planting at Erdenheim Farm. She stated that the event was very positive and attracted more than 60 people. Mr. Yemm and Mr. Johnson concurred. Mrs. Suchsland also noted how positive the event was and asked Mr. Yemm for the timetable to expand the garden. Mr. Yemm noted that several other projects needed to be completed before garden expansion can take place. He estimated it would be next spring before that could happen.

Public Comment: Mrs. Jowett thanked the Board and administration for their hard work on the budget.

Mr. Fiermonte read the letter that he said was written to his children. In the letter he admonished

the Board for closing the planetarium and for what he felt was a lack of public engagement on the part of the Board and administration. He also chided the Board and administration for its handling of the budget and in its practice of limiting public comment to five minutes per person.

Mrs. Suchsland asked how long the practice of limiting public comment to five minutes per person, which she noted was printed on the inside front cover of the agenda, had been in place. Mrs. Moore stated that it has been in place for at least the 10 years that she has been on the Board. Mr. Johnson, who has been on the Board for 15 years, stated it has been the Board's practice for as long as he can remember.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David M. Sherman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "S".

David M. Sherman
Board Secretary