

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, NOVEMBER 19, 2009

President Johnson convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:09 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on November 19, 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: None (note: one seat is currently vacant).

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; 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; Allan Hong and Lauren Stern, Board Student Representatives; Jill Forster; Mary Lucas; Erin McMahon; Kevin Willson; Frank Whitehead; Katie Mickelson; Tom Sigafos, Mary Thiess; Terese Boegly; Kathleen Oxberry; Bernie Brady; Tom Yunker; students receiving awards, their friends and families.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on October 21, November 11, November 16 and November 19 to discuss legal and personnel issues.

Mr. Johnson recognized Mrs. Moore and Mr. Davis for their years of service to the Board and presented them with certificates from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. Dr. Cotter introduced Plymouth Whitmarsh High School Girls' Track Coach Ryan Buterbaugh who presented members of the 2009 team that won the first league championship in the school's history. Dr. Cotter then introduced PWHS Golf Coach George Wadlin who presented members of his team that won their conference championship for the fifth time in six years. See attachment A for a list of the students' names.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson requested Board action on the minutes of the Work Session of October 12; the General Meeting of October 15; the Human Resources Committee of November 5 and the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of November 6; the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of November 12 and the Curriculum Committee of November 15. See enclosures #1 through #4, #40 and #41.

Mrs. Bruno moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. 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. 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 October 31 as shown in enclosures #5 through #16.

Mrs. Jowett moved and Mrs. Moore 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: None.

Staff Report: Colonial Elementary School Principal Terese Boegly, and students Tommy Disisto, Julia Flaks and Gabbi Artillio, presented a PowerPoint on the school's renovation project. The presentation highlighted the new library, new classrooms equipped with the latest technology and security features such as new entrances to the music hallway and gymnasium.

Old Business: Dr. Cotter reviewed six 2010-2011 calendar variations with Board members. See enclosure #17. He noted that the first three versions had the school year beginning after Labor Day, while the fourth version began the school year before the holiday. He added that versions five and six highlight a modified spring break. Dr. Cotter stated that the calendar options had been reviewed with the Colonial Education Association. He asked the Board to establish a start date for the 2010-2011 school year.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to start the 2010-2011 school year on Monday, August 30, 2010. She explained that date was preferential because it enabled the administration to end the school year before the third week in June. She added that the following year the start date will likely be moved back to after Labor Day as the holiday occurs earlier in the first week of September. On a roll call vote, all but Mrs. Jowett and Dr. Ryan voted in favor. The motion was carried, 6-2. Mr. Johnson asked Dr. Cotter to develop a seventh version of the calendar with an August 30 start date and a non-student day on May 17, 2011, the date of the primary election.

Mr. Johnson asked members to act on Board Policy #219, Behavioral Support on a second-read basis. See enclosure #18. Mrs. Berk explained that the policy is mandated by Chapter 14 of the School Code and involves the use of positive behavior supports for special education students and the use of non-violent restraints as needed on those students.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Jowett seconded a motion to approve the policy on a second-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Correspondence: Mr. Johnson directed the Board to consider a request from Conshohocken Elementary School (CE) Principal Denise Marks to approve of a gift of 80 calculators. See enclosure #19. He noted that the calculators are to be used at an academic activities night at the school.

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

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to act on member Steven Slutsky's letter of resignation effective immediately. See enclosure #42. He noted that the newly elected Board members will be sworn in within 30 days and that it was not necessary to appoint a replacement for Mr. Slutsky.

Mr. Zimmer thanked Mr. Slutsky for his service to the Board and moved to accept the resignation. Mr. Davis seconded. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter reviewed his report that included the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #20 and #21. He stated that in addition to the 15 actions reported on Monday, the Personnel Report and Substitute List contained two additional leaves of absence, two more returns from leave, three more replacements and two additional completed assignments. Dr. Cotter noted that among the resignations from Monday was PWHS Principal Dr. Monica Sullivan. He thanked Dr. Sullivan for her service and said that she will be missed. Dr. Cotter reported that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List highlights winter sports coaching positions.

Mrs. Bruno moved and Mrs. Jowett seconded a motion to approve the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list. On a roll call vote, all but Dr. Ryan voted in favor. Dr. Ryan abstained because a relative was on the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list. The motion was carried, 7-0-1.

Dr. Cotter also sought approval of a separation and release agreement that was reviewed in executive session. Mrs. Luken moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the separation and release agreement contingent on solicitor approval of the language. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: Mr. Hong reported on homecoming week activities, an informational assembly for students considering participating in athletics in college and the beginning of the winter sports season. Ms. Stern reported on the non-public student open house held at PWHS on November 1, the upcoming Montco Honors Orchestra Concert hosted by PWHS, a successful fall production, auditions for the spring musical and the school-wide food drive for the Colonial Neighborhood Council. Responding to a question from Mr. Zimmer, Ms. Stern reported that food donations may be dropped off at the main office. Mr. Zimmer encouraged the community to donate items and suggested that they may be dropped off in the main office of any of the District's school buildings.

New Business: Mr. Johnson sought Board action on the 2009-2010 Anti-Vandalism Program. See enclosure #22. He stated that approval is sought for payments of \$1,900.50 to be paid to the PWHS Student Council and \$1,307.50 paid to the Colonial Middle School (CMS) Student Council. Mr. Johnson noted that the amounts represent one half of the unspent funds from the 2008-2009 Anti-Vandalism Program. Mr. Johnson also asked the Board to consider establishing the funding for the 2010-2011 school year at \$5,000 for PWHS and \$3,000 for CMS.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Jowett seconded a motion to approve the Anti-Vandalism Program funding. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson directed the Board to act on a Transportation Services Contract with a parent at \$0.55 per mile, or the established IRS rate, to transport her child to the Anderson Alternative School in Norristown.

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

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider two Special Education Placement Agreements. The first involving the Ambler Day School at a per diem rate of \$113.05 not to exceed \$20,349.00 annually and the second with the Maplewood School at \$24,000 annually.

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

Mr. Johnson sought Board action regarding a Special Education Attorney Agreement. See enclosure #23. The standard agreement is for fees, costs and expenses for representation in matters relating to special education.

Mrs. Jowett moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the agreement. 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 to approve a tutoring program. See enclosure #24. He stated that the A+ Test Prep and Tutoring service is recommended for homebound instruction in areas of foreign language, math and science at a rate of \$75/hour as needed. At Mrs. Moore's

request, Mrs. Berk explained that the service was for students who had a medical reason not to be in school and was used for courses in which tutors are hard to find.

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

Mrs. Luken asked Board members to consider a Joint Purchasing Agreement involving prescription drug benefits. See enclosure #25. She noted that the agreement is coordinated through the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit with services provided by Independence Blue Cross.

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

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board is asked to consider a purchase of Vera Trans On Screen transportation software to provide enhanced GPS tracking of buses. See enclosure #26. Mr. Yemm explained that system will allow the Transportation Office to track buses in real time. He noted that Bus Radio previously provided this service but has gone out of business.

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

Mr. Zimmer sought Board action on a request for two PWHs coaches to attend a lacrosse clinic in Baltimore on December 11-13. See enclosure #27.

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

Mr. Zimmer asked the Board to consider four student trip requests in one motion. The first is for the PWHs Water Polo Club to attend the NCAA championships at Princeton University on December 5. See enclosure #28. The second is for PWHs students to participate in exchange programs to Spain and France. See enclosure #29. The third is for the PWHs Boys' Basketball Team to participate in the Big Apple Invitational in New York City from January 17-18, 2010. See enclosure #30. Mr. Zimmer noted that the trip occurs on a school holiday and no classes will be missed. The final student trip request is for Autistic Support Classes at Ridge Park Elementary School to attend the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J. on January 19. See enclosure #43.

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

Mrs. Moore sought Board approval of a bid to purchase a nine-passenger van. See enclosure #31. She stated that the recommendation is to award the bid to purchase the van and an extended warranty to Chapman Auto Group in the amount of \$36,950. She added that there are approved funds in the 2009-2010 budget for this item. Mr. Yemm stated that the van will replace a District vehicle that is more than 12 years old and has excessive mileage.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the bid. 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 referred to enclosure #32, the 2010-2011 general budget that was approved by the IU Board on November 18. Dr. Cotter noted that the enclosure is for informational purposes for the Board and that the Board will take action at a future meeting on each of the four IU budgets. Mr. Zimmer stated that the IU Board also reviewed the 2010-2011 special education budget. He noted that the Board also approved several personnel

items, recognized an outgoing Board member and heard a presentation on a mentoring and mastering program for special education administrators.

CMTHS: Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Davis for his years of service to the Tech School Board.

Human Resources: Mrs. Luken summarized the November 5 meeting, including a K-5 special education enrollment report. She then made a motion to approve a collective bargaining agreement between the Colonial School District and the Colonial Education Association for the time period of August 16, 2010 through August 15, 2011 providing for the built-in salary step movement and a \$750 adjustment to the maximum step of the salary schedule, and a \$250 adjustment to the existing longevity increment, subject to administration and solicitor approval of the final wording and language changes. Mrs. Moore seconded the motion.

Mr. Johnson allowed public comment on the item since it was not listed on the agenda. There was not public comment.

On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was approved, 8-0.

Mrs. Luken noted that the Board began meeting with the CEA in the spring and characterized the meetings as very respectful. She stated that the agreement was the result of a truly collaborative effort. She also noted that new Board members were consulted on the agreement and a majority of them approved of the pact. Mrs. Moore added that she has taken part in several negotiations and this was by far the most respectful. She added her thanks to the CEA.

Finance: No report

Curriculum and Program: Mr. Davis reported on the November 16 meeting. He stated that the committee heard a report on Advanced Placement (AP) scores from PWHS principal Dr. Sullivan. Mr. Davis noted that both the number of students taking AP tests and the number of students scoring well on the AP tests has increased since 2004. He added that nearly one out of three PWHS students is taking an AP course.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mrs. Moore stated that the committee reviewed a plan to dispose of a vehicle that was formerly used as the District's bucket truck. The hydraulic lift was removed from the truck, refurbished and installed on another vehicle. The original truck is out of inspection and the engine does not work. The proposal is to transfer the title of the vehicle to the company Versalift East, which performed the maintenance on the hydraulic lift, and allow them to dispose of the truck.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to allow the title transfer. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Moore also reviewed the November 6 committee meeting. She stated that Director of Food Services Lori McCoy had communicated with Whole Foods about partnering with the District on a garden on the Angus Tract property. She also noted that the annual survey of the Victory Fields retention basis was completed and the height of the basin walls meets the required specifications.

Mrs. Luken asked if the public was informed of the results of the retention basis survey. Mr. Yemm noted that the District informs the township of the results and will likely send a letter to area residents as was the case last year. He noted that anyone may come to the Facilities Management Center or the township office to review the documents.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mr. Zimmer informed the public that the District's Annual Report was in the mail. He noted that the next Parents Council meeting is on Nov. 24 and

will feature a presentation on technology. He added that senior citizens had until December 4 to sign up for the annual winter concert and luncheon at PWHS. He added that the public may now follow the District on twitter at http://www.twitter.com/colonial_sd. He noted that the address was not case sensitive.

Safety and Wellness: No report.

Legislative: Dr. Ryan discussed the Independent Regulatory Review Commission's approval of the Keystone Exams regulation. In the future, high school students will be required to pass 10 end of course exams in order to graduate. These exams will replace the current PSSA exams. He noted that an objection to the Keystone Exams is that they will count for one third of the student's final grade. Dr. Ryan noted that districts may be given the option to have their own course material validated so that their own exams may be substituted for the Keystone Exams. He stated that Colonial will likely follow that option. Dr. Ryan reported that the state is also taking a closer look at the operation of intermediate units. He also commented on the state education budget. Dr. Ryan stated that there will be an increase from eight percent to 33 percent in the district's retirement contribution rate in the next few years and that PSBA is also considering a state-wide healthcare plan. Dr. Ryan also provided the MCIU Legislative Update to be attached to this meeting's minutes. See Attachment B.

Mr. Johnson recognized the five Board members whose terms expire this month. He presented each with a clock to commemorate all of the time they have spent in service to the District. The Board members are Kelly Jowett, Lenore Bruno, Dr. Bill Ryan, Steven Slutsky and Tom Davis.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary