

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 7, 2009.**

President Johnson convened the special meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:40 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on December 7, 2009.

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

**Board Members Absent:** None.

**Also Attending:** Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Mark Fitzgerald, Solicitor; Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer; 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; Honorable Berle M. Schiller, United States District Court Judge; Matt Oxberry; Mallory Oxberry; Brett Oxberry; Dave Suchsland; Dean Suchsland; Samantha Suchsland; Laurel Suchsland; Jason Salus; Lisa Neifeld Salus; Stan Feingold; Chris Taylor; David Caplan; David I. Grunfeld; Bob Hart; Linda Doll; Mim Brady; Chad Murray; Brian Weiner; Marcel Groen; Leslie Richards; Lee Albert; Thomas P. Davis; Lenore Bruno; Sandy Benedict; Kelly Isett; Melissa Sterling; Jeff Bryan; Alexis Bryan; David Hanel; Bob Slagle; Mary Thiess; Brandon Chamberlin; Jim Fleming; Kelly Jowett; Arlene Smuckler; Ed Woltemate; Katherine Woltemate; Michelle Clancy; John H. Kafes; Kate Tabachnick; Mariel Tabachnick; Mike Tabachnick; Sophie Cole; Jane Leven; Tom Letter; Sue Letter; Nancy O'Brien; John O'Brien; Donald R. Morrison; Robert Asassi; Vince Gillen and Senator Daylin Leach.

Mr. Johnson noted that the Board had met in executive session on November 25 and December 7 to discuss legal and personnel issues.

**Minutes:** None.

**Financial Reports:** Mr. Johnson stated that the financial reports and the treasurer's report had been previously approved through October 31, 2009 and that the administration is requesting authorization to pay the November bills during December. He noted that the November financial reports will be provided for formal Board action in January.

Mrs. Luken moved and Mr. Sigafos seconded a motion to authorize the payment of the November bills during December. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

**Public Comments on the Agenda:** Mrs. Leslie Richards congratulated the new Board members on their election. She also congratulated Mr. Johnson on his election as Board President and spoke of the working relationship she has had with Mr. Johnson as a member of the Whitmarsh Township Board of Supervisors. She stated that she was elected Chair of the Supervisors at her first meeting and, while she had no prior experience on a board, having new perspectives on the Board was a positive experience and enabled the supervisors to look at and do things differently than previous township boards. She expressed disappointment that the School Board did not elect a new member as President or Vice President to provide a mixture of perspectives and leadership. She said that the community appreciates the job the School Board has done in the past but voted for change to bring a fresh perspective and look at issues through a new and different set of eyes so that the Board can take the District to the next level.

Mr. Lee Albert congratulated the new members of the Board and thanked the returning members for the work they have done. He stated that the voters in the District had clearly voted for change by electing five new members to the Board. He expressed disappointment in Mr. Brady for voting with the incumbent Board members while electing Mr. Johnson President and Mrs. Moore Vice President. He suggested Mr. Brady had “breached the trust” of those who elected him to office and suggested that he return campaign funds to the Democratic Party.

Mrs. Jowett congratulated the new Board members on their election. She stated that she had served on the School Board out of a commitment to her children and the children in the District. She stated that she didn’t care how the nine individuals on the Board chose to vote, she encouraged them to remember that service on the School Board was about the students and not about politics.

**Staff Report:** None.

**Old Business:** None.

**Correspondence:** Mr. Johnson stated that Subaru of America has made a donation to purchase equipment for the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Swim Team. See enclosure #1. Mr. Sigafos asked exactly what the donation was intended to purchase. Dr. Cotter explained that the donation was open ended. He added that the matter was reviewed in the Community Relations and Student Life Committee. Mr. Johnson received confirmation from Dr. Cotter that the donation was to purchase equipment for the swim team. Dr. Cotter confirmed for Mr. Sigafos that it was the District’s practice to send a thank you letter once the donation was approved by the Board.

Mrs. Luken moved and Mr. Tabachnick seconded a motion to accept the donation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

**Superintendent’s Report:** Dr. Cotter stated that his report included the six actions listed on the Personnel Report and Substitute List. See enclosure #2.

Mr. Sigafos moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent’s Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

**Board Student Representatives Report:** None.

**New Business:** Mr. Johnson sought Board action on the list of dates printed in the agenda for the Board’s regular monthly meetings in 2009. He noted that the meeting time is 7:00 p.m. for General Business Meetings, 7:30 p.m. for Work Sessions and 6:30 p.m. for Executive Sessions. Mrs. Moore asked if the June meeting conflicted with graduation. Dr. Cotter stated that he did not think there would be a conflict.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the list of meetings as presented. On roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Johnson stated that action on the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 2010-2011 Budget will be tabled until January. See enclosure #3. Dr. Cotter explained that the IU generally provides ballots for each of the four budgets and those ballots have not been received. He stated that the budgets are extensive and the extra time will allow new Board members to review them.

Mr. Johnson noted that Board approval of two coaching conferences and a student trip is requested. Mr. Zimmer stated that the coaching conferences are for three coaches. The first is a track and field and cross county conference on December 17 and 18 in Atlantic City. See

enclosure #4. The second is a softball conference from January 21, 2010 through January 23, 2010. See enclosure #5. Mr. Zimmer also noted that Board members had a yellow page before them with details of a request for students to attend the PMEA District Orchestra, Chorus and Band festivals. He stated that the Orchestra festival is at Council Rock High School from January 14, 2010 through January 16, 2010. The Chorus festival is at Souderton High School from January 28, 2010 to January 30, 2010 and the Band festival is at Harrilton/Lower Merion High School from February 11, 2010 through February 13, 2010. Mrs. Luken asked if students will miss school to attend the PMEA festivals. Mrs. Oxberry explained that students generally miss one day of class.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the coaching conference and student trip requests. Mr. Sigafos commended the teachers who chose to take personal leave to attend a coaching conference instead of conference leave. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board is required to appoint two representatives to the Central Montco Technical High School Joint Operating Committee (JOC). Mr. Johnson noted that Mrs. Moore had one year remaining on her three-year term and that his term had just expired. He stated that the Board also needs to appoint someone to fill the remaining two years of Mr. Tom Davis' term as Mr. Davis was not re-elected to the Board.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Johnson and Mr. Brady to the JOC. Mr. Zimmer sought clarification as to who would serve which term. Mr. Johnson stated that he would fill the remaining two years of Mr. Davis' term and Mr. Brady will be appointed to a three-year term. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action to appoint a legislative chairperson to take part in the Pennsylvania School Boards Association's (PSBA) legislative action program and a PSBA Representative. He noted that the same person will fill both roles.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to appoint Mrs. Suchsland as legislative chairperson and PSBA representative. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will meet at a later date to appoint committee chairpersons and determine committee assignments.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action to appoint a representative to the Colonial Foundation for Educational Innovation (CFEI). Responding to a question from Mrs. Moore, Mr. Sherman stated that the Foundation generally met four to five times each year and that the next meeting was the end of January. He stated that he would get the exact date.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Tabachnick as the Board's liaison to the CFEI. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

**Solicitor's Report:** No report.

**Committee Reports:** Facilities Management/Transportation. Mrs. Moore sought Board action on a request to dispose of a District van at a local salvage yard. She noted that the van was used at the District's PONY (in-house mail) vehicle and had excess mileage and a bad transmission.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

**Public Comment:** Brett Oxberry suggested that the Board come up with an alternative seating arrangement rather than having all of the incumbent members seated together and all of the new Board members seated together.

Matt Oxberry thanked the Board for approving the musical trips. He stated that the trips were a positive experience for him when he was a student.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David M. Sherman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".

David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary