

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
WORK SESSION MINUTES, JANUARY 19, 2010

President Johnson convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:35 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on January 19, 2010.

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

Board Members Absent: Mitch Zimmer.

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; 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 and David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on December 16, 2009, January 13 and January 19 to discuss legal and personnel issues. He added that the Board will meet in executive session again following the work session.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson asked Board members to look at the minutes of the Work Session of November 16, 2009; the Finance and Audit Committee of November 17, 2009; The Curriculum Committee of December 2, 2009; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of December 4, 2009; the Board Reorganization Meeting and the Special Meeting of the Board of December 7, 2009; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of January 6 and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee, the Human Resources Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee of January 7. See enclosures #1 through #11. He noted that the minutes of the Curriculum Committee of January 19 will be available for review and action on Thursday.

Financial Reports: Mr. Johnson requested that the Board review the financial reports on the list for approval on Thursday evening. He noted that each of the reports were for the months of November and December. 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 Reports for the months ending November 30, 2009 and December 31, 2009 as shown in enclosures #12 through #23.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Dr. Cotter explained that on Thursday evening, Colonial Middle School (CMS) Principal Robert Fahler will present a report on initiatives at the school.

Old Business: Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will revisit Policy #201.2 Student Admissions on Thursday evening. See enclosure #24. He noted that the policy is mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. He reminded Board members that they reviewed the policy last spring before it was tabled during the second reading. Dr. Cotter stated that revisions to the policy since April involved identifying different categories of students, such as the homeless, and procedures for their enrollment. Mr. Johnson reported that Thursday's review will be on a first-read basis.

Correspondence: Mrs. Moore stated that the Board will consider a number of donation requests on Thursday evening. They include donations by the Do Gooders in support of a Conshohocken Elementary School (CE) field trip, GlaxoSmithKline in honor of a CE second grade parent volunteer, Odyssey Softball to the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Athletic Department, D&H Calculator Distribution Company to Colonial Elementary School and ArcelorMittal in support of technology at CMS. See enclosures #25 through #29.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter stated that his report includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List and a list of Adult Evening School instructors for the spring semester. See enclosures #30 through #32. He stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contained 29 actions, including three resignations, seven leaves of absence, five returns from leave, eight replacements, one transfer and five completed assignments. Dr. Cotter reported that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes three appointments and five resignations. The appointments include a stage manager at PWHS, an assistant football coach at CMS and a Best Buddies Advisor at PWHS. He noted that the Adult Evening School classes are self sustaining and will be held only if enrollment supports the class.

New Business: Mr. Johnson reported that the Board will act on the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU) 2010-2011 Budget on Thursday evening. See enclosure #33. Dr. Cotter explained that the budget actually is a composite of four separate budgets, the General Administrative Budget; the Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development Budget; the Legislative Services and Grants Budget and the Technology and Information Services Budget. He noted that Colonial's contribution to the MCIU budget is \$73,861 or 4.4 percent higher than last year. Dr. Cotter noted that Thursday's Board vote will be via written ballot.

Mr. Johnson noted that the Board will also act on Thursday to approve the Central Montco Technical High School 2010-2011 Operating Budget. See enclosure #34. Dr. Cotter stated that Colonial's contribution to the budget is 13.36 percent lower this year because of changes in enrollment. He noted that the contribution is based upon a three-year average of enrollment. Dr. Cotter said that Colonial's contribution is slightly more than \$1.9 million.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board is asked to consider at Special Education Cost Plan for the 2010-2011 school year. See enclosure #35. The plan from the MCIU includes the pricing structure and costs for the purchase of services estimated at \$1,064,480.49. At Mr. Johnson's request, Mrs. Berk explained that the plan covers services provided by the MCIU, including classroom placements and itinerant services within the District.

Mr. Tabachnick noted that the Board will consider on Thursday the adoption of textbooks in the area of Business Education for dual enrollment programs. See enclosure #36.

Mr. Johnson stated that Board approval is requested to accept an E-Grant in the amount of \$30,000 to extend fiber from the high school to the Angus Tract farmhouse for future technical services. See enclosure #37. Mr. Boegly explained that this was a collaborative grant from the MCIU to extend internet and networking capabilities to the Angus Tract facility. Responding to a question from Mrs. Suchsland, Dr. Cotter explained that the District has considered many uses for the Angus Tract farmhouse, including a science center, an environmental center, possible relocation of the planetarium and more. The grant will enable the facility to be wired for technology to facilitate any needs the building may have in the future.

Mr. Tabachnick reported that the Board will act on Thursday on a request for two PWHS music

teachers to attend the state conference in Pittsburgh from April 21-24. See enclosure #38. He noted that the building budget includes funding for conference attendance.

Mr. Sigafoos stated that the Board is asked to consider three student field trips. The first is for Ridge Park Elementary School second graders to attend the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J. on February 2. See enclosure #39. He stated that funding is provided by the school's PTO and parents. The second request is for the PWHS Drumline and Indoor Guard to participate in several out of state competitions. See enclosure #40. The third request is for 20 PWHS DECA students to attend the state conference in Hershey from February 17-19. See enclosure #41.

Mr. Brady reported that the Board is asked to act on a bid for the installation of lighting on Victory Fields. See enclosure #42. He noted that all bid procedures are in accordance with Pennsylvania code and that the public may review the bid in the District office.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: Curriculum: Dr. Gorodetzer presented an overview of the 2010-2011 budget for the District's curriculum, assessment and instructional programs and initiatives. She noted that there has been a decrease of approximately 43 percent in curriculum and instruction expenditures over the past two years. However, a 12 percent increase is expected this year. Among the notable expenses are a software license renewal, costs related to inquiry-based science instructional initiatives, summer school programs for remediation and enrichment, professional development for 21st century teaching and learning, new teacher induction, assessment programs, instructional resources for new courses and continuous curriculum design and review.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Yemm summarized the 2010-2011 facilities and operation budget. He noted an overall increase of 6.9 percent mainly as a result of higher utility costs. Mr. Yemm stated that electrical costs are expected to increase by 19 percent as of January 1, 2011. He also cited a possible increase in water costs, a 17.58 percent increase in the annual fuel bill, higher custodial costs, the addition of crossing guards to the facilities and operating budget and a two percent increase in payroll. Mr. Yemm noted that the amount requested for grounds equipment has decreased by 33.7 percent.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary