

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
WORK SESSION MINUTES, MARCH 15, 2010

President Johnson convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:41 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on March 15, 2010.

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; 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 February 24, March 10, March 11 and March 15. He added that the Board will meet in executive session again following the work session.

Dr. Cotter confirmed for Mr. Johnson that the Board will recognize members of the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) wrestling team on Thursday evening.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson asked Board members to review the minutes of the Work Session of February 16; the General Meeting of February 18 and the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee, the Human Resources Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee of March 3. See enclosures #1 through #5. Mr. Johnson noted that the minutes of the Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee of March 11 and the Curriculum Committee of March 15 will be available for review and action on Thursday.

Financial Reports: Mr. Johnson requested that the Board examine the financial reports on the list for approval on Thursday evening. They include 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 February 28. See enclosures #6 through #18.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Dr. Cotter stated that on Thursday evening, Whitmarsh Elementary School Principal Donna Drizin will present a report on a writing program at the school.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Johnson reported that the Board will consider the acceptance of an independent audit report from Barbacane Thornton and Company on Thursday evening. See enclosure #19. He noted that the report is for the year ending June 30, 2009 and was reviewed by the Finance Committee.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Finance Committee has also forwarded a Pennsylvania School Boards Association resolution urging legislative action on school employee pension reform for Board consideration. See enclosure #20. Mr. Bickleman called the Board's attention to the fourth

paragraph of the resolution that states projected increases in employee contributions to the pension plan would cost the District and its taxpayers an additional \$20 million between the 2010-1011 school year and the 2014-2015 school year.

Mr. Johnson noted that the Board will take action on Thursday on a request to accept an educational materials donation from ASTM International. See enclosure #21. He stated that the DVD collection is valued at \$650.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter reviewed his report that includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #22 and #23. He stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contains 20 actions including one resignation, six leaves of absence, one return from leave, eight replacements, two completed assignments, an extension of an assignment and a change of contract. He noted that there are 12 substitutes submitted for approval. Dr. Cotter reported that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes six actions including three appointments.

New Business: Mrs. Luken reported that Board approval is sought to refinance the District's outstanding General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2005. See enclosure #24. She noted that the minimum savings target for the refinancing is \$175,000. Mrs. Luken stressed that the District will not incur additional debt by taking this action.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will take action Thursday to approve a 2010-2011 school year calendar that incorporates previously suggested revisions. See enclosure # 25.

Mrs. Moore reported that Board action is requested to approve renewal of the District's dental plan with Delta Dental. See enclosure #26. She noted that the renewal would be effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2012.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will consider 2010-2011 lease contracts with the Montgomery Early Learning Center. See enclosures #27 through #30. He noted that the contracts call for a four percent increase in rental fees.

Mr. Johnson also noted that Board action is sought on a contract with the Montgomery County Head Start Program to lease space in one of the District's four elementary buildings. See enclosure #31. He stated that this contract also calls for a four percent rate increase.

Mr. Johnson reported that the Board is asked to approve proposals for special education summer programs including an extended school year program and a summer academy. See enclosure #32.

Mr. Tabachnick stated that Board authorization is sought for the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) 2010 Summer Bridge Program scheduled for August 2-20. See enclosure #33. He noted that the program provides select incoming ninth grade students with transitioning support from the middle school to the high school.

Mr. Tabachnick reported that Board authorization is also sought for the Girls in Technology Summer Academy. See enclosure #34. He noted that the goal of the program is to increase girls' exposure to technology and science.

Mr. Tabachnick said that the Board will take action Thursday on a request for PWHS College Counselor Pat Tamborello to attend a conference at Salisbury University from April 15-16. See enclosure #35. He noted that costs associated with the conference will be paid by the building budget.

Mr. Zimmer reported that Board action is requested on four student trips. The first is for one PWHS student to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Region Band Festival

from March 25-27 at Northeast High School. See enclosure #36. The second is for two PWHS students to attend the state speech and debate competition at Susquehanna University from March 11-13. See enclosure #37. He noted that costs for the trip are budgeted. The third request is for Colonial Elementary School fifth graders to attend a Trenton Thunder baseball game in Trenton, N.J. on Tuesday, May 25. See enclosure #38. Mr. Zimmer reported that funding is shared by the school's PTO and families of the participating students. The final request is for the PWHS Indoor Guard to participate in a competition in Wildwood, N.J from April 30 through May 2. See enclosure #39. Mr. Zimmer noted that the cost of the trip is paid by the students with assistance from the Band Boosters.

Noting that the debate competition was already held, Mrs. Suchlsland inquired as to how the students fared. Dr. Cotter reported that they did well but did not reach the finals. Dr. Cotter also noted that it is a rare situation to ask for Board approval after a trip occurs. He noted that the qualifying competition occurred after the February Board meeting. He also noted that it is common for staff to request pre-approval for attendance at such competitions in the event that students do qualify.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: CRSL – Mr. Zimmer stated that he would give his report on Thursday but encouraged the community to support the PWHS boys' basketball team in its state playoff game on Wednesday. He also encouraged people to attend the Colonial Players' performances of Beauty and the Beast Thursday through Saturday. He noted that the District will host 450 guests at the annual senior citizen luncheon and matinee on Saturday.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary