

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
WORK SESSION MINUTES, APRIL 12, 2010

President Johnson convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:31 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on April 12, 2010.

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

Board Members Absent: Tom Sigafos.

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; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary and Tom Davis.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on March 24, April 7 and April 12.

Dr. Cotter confirmed for Mr. Johnson that on Thursday the Board will recognize the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School boys' basketball state championship team and other student-athletes who performed well at the state level.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson stated that on Thursday evening the Board will act on the minutes of the Work Session of March 15; the General Meeting of March 18; the Human Resources Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee of April 6; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of April 7; the Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee of April 8 and the Curriculum Committee of April 12. The full Board meeting minutes may be found in enclosures #1 and #2. The remainder of the minutes will be included as yellow pages 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 March 31. See enclosures #3 through #15.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Dr. Cotter stated that on Thursday evening Conshohocken Elementary School (CE) Principal Denise Marks and teacher Christian Speranza will present a report on the school's use of laptops to differentiate third grade instruction.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Johnson reported that Dora Rivas, President of the School Nutrition Association (SNA), has notified the District that Lori McCoy has successfully passed the SNA's credentialing exam and is now certified as a School Nutrition Specialist. See enclosure #16. Mr. Johnson noted that only approximately 1,000 individuals nationally have earned this certification.

Mr. Johnson stated that an anonymous donor has offered to donate \$2,000 for a scholarship to be awarded to a former Whitmarsh Elementary School student who is a graduating senior at PWHS. He added that \$500 is to be awarded to a different recipient each year from 2010 through 2013.

Dr. Cotter noted that there have been similar scholarships for CE and Ridge Park Elementary School.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter reviewed his report that includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List, summer staffing appointments and an Early Retirement Incentive Plan. See enclosures #17 through #21. He stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contains 24 actions including nine leaves of absence, three returns from leave, 10 replacements and two completed assignments. He noted that there are four substitutes submitted for approval. Dr. Cotter also noted the lists of teachers recommended for Board appointment to instruct the District's various summer programs. Mrs. Moore reported that the Early Retirement Incentive Plan for teachers approved by the Board in March is tentatively planned to be offered to Cabinet Administrators, members of the Colonial Administrators and Supervisors Education Association, members of the Colonial Education Support Professionals; Confidential Secretaries, members of Teamsters Local #384; members of the Colonial Food Services Personnel Association and Hall Monitors. Mrs. Moore noted that the extended offering is contingent upon sufficient participation by members of the teaching staff, and she stated that the Board hopes to have that clarification by Thursday evening.

New Business: Mr. Johnson reported that two teachers are recommended to attend Microsoft training sessions in New York City (NYC) on May 13 and 14. See enclosure #23. He noted that the training is related to the Microsoft Surface unit. At Mr. Johnson's request, Mr. Boegly explained that PWHS is the only high school in the nation that has students actively programming the Surface unit. He showed a video produced by students at the high school which details their use of the technology.

Mr. Tabachnick stated that the Board will take action Thursday on a request for Ed Swetkowski to attend the AVID Northeast District Director's Meeting on May 7 in NYC. See enclosure #24.

Mr. Zimmer reported that Board action is requested on five student trips. The first is for Colonial Middle School students to attend the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. on May 24. See enclosure #25. The second is for one PWHS student to attend the DECA National Conference in Louisville, Ky., from April 24-27. See enclosure #26. The third request is for CE second graders to travel to the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J. on May 26. See enclosure #27. The fourth is for two PWHS students to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All State Competition from April 21-24 in Pittsburgh, Pa. See enclosure #28. Mr. Zimmer stated that the final request is for the Colonial Players to attend a Broadway show in NYC on April 25. See enclosure #29.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will consider a bid for PWHS Athletic and Physical Education Equipment on Thursday evening. See enclosure #30. Mr. Bickleman confirmed for Mr. Johnson that the equipment is for the 2010-2011 school year.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: None.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary