

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
WORK SESSION MINUTES, NOVEMBER 16, 2009

President Johnson convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:32 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on November 16, 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; 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; Tom Sigafos; Alan Tabachnick; Kathleen Oxberry; Bernie Brady and Beth Suchsland.

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

Dr. Cotter confirmed for Mr. Johnson that the Board will recognize the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) girls track and golf teams for their accomplishments on Thursday evening.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson asked Board members to review 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. See enclosures #1 through #4. He noted that the minutes of the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of November 12 and the Curriculum Committee of November 15 will be available for review and action on Thursday.

Financial Reports: Mr. Johnson directed the Board to examine the financial reports on the list for approval on Thursday evening. They included the Budget Transfers, 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.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Dr. Cotter explained that on Thursday evening, Colonial Elementary School Principal Terese Boegly will present a report on the school's renovation project.

Old Business: Dr. Cotter explained that the administration is seeking Board direction on the start of the 2010-2011 school year. He stated that six calendar variations are enclosed for Board members to review. See enclosure #17. Dr. Cotter 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. Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will take action on Thursday. Mrs. Moore received confirmation that the Board will vote on the start date of the school year and not the entire calendar.

Mr. Johnson asked members to review Board Policy #219, Behavioral Support on a second-read basis. See enclosure #18. At Mr. Johnson's request, Mrs. Berk explained that the policy is mandated by Chapter 14 of the School Code and involves the non-violent restraint of students.

Correspondence: Mr. Johnson noted that Conshohocken Elementary School (CE) Principal Denise Marks is requesting Board approval of a gift of 80 calculators to be used at an academic activities night at the school. See enclosure #19.

Mr. Johnson stated that Board member Steven Slutsky has submitted a letter of resignation effective immediately. He noted that it was not necessary for the Board to appoint someone to Mr. Slutsky's seat as newly elected members will be sworn in within 30 days.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter summarized his report that includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #20 and #21. He stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contained 15 actions, including three resignations, three leaves of absence, a return from leave, six replacements, a salary revision and a completed assignment. Dr. Cotter noted that among the resignations was PWHS Principal Dr. Monica Sullivan. He stated that Dr. Sullivan informed her staff earlier in the day that she is stepping down at the end of the school year after 35 years in education. Dr. Cotter reported that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List highlights winter sports coaching positions. He also noted that the Separation and Release Agreement listed in the agenda has not yet come to closure.

New Business: Mr. Johnson noted that the Board will act Thursday on the 2009-2010 Anti-Vandalism Program. See enclosure #22. He explained that a payment of \$1,900.50 is recommended to be paid to the PWHS Student Council and a payment of \$1,307.50 be paid to the Colonial Middle School (CMS) Student Council. These amounts represent one half of the unspent funds from the 2008-2009 Anti-Vandalism Program. Mr. Johnson also noted that the Board will act Thursday to establish the funding for the 2010-2011 school year at \$5,000 for PWHS and \$3,000 for CMS.

Mr. Johnson noted that the Board is asked to approve a Transportation Services Contract with a parent at \$0.55 per mile, or the established IRS rate, to transport their child to the Anderson Alternative School in Norristown.

Mr. Johnson said that the Board will take action Thursday on a Special Education Placement Agreement involving the Ambler Day School at a per diem rate of \$113.05 not to exceed \$20,349.00 annually. Dr. Cotter stated that the Board will also be asked to consider another placement agreement on Thursday.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board is asked to approve 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. Dr. Cotter stated that the agreement takes effect on July 1, 2010.

Mr. Johnson directed Board members' attention to a request for Board approval of a tutoring program. See enclosure #24. He stated that the A+ Test Prep and Tutoring service is recommended for homebound instruction as needed in areas of foreign language, math and science at a rate of \$75/hour. Dr. Cotter stated that the District has used the service in the past and the rate is reduced from last year.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will consider a Joint Purchasing Agreement involving prescription drug benefits. See enclosure #25. He noted that the agreement is coordinated through the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit with services provided by Independence Blue Cross.

Mr. Johnson stated that the agreement will result in cost savings for the District. Dr. Cotter stated that the agreement will begin on January 1 if approved by the Board.

Mr. Johnson noted 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 the software will allow Transportation office staff to track the location of buses in real time. He stated that the capability existed with the Bus Radio program, but they are no longer in business.

Mr. Zimmer reported that Board permission is sought for two PWHs coaches to attend a lacrosse clinic in Baltimore on December 11-13. See enclosure #27. He noted that the PWHs athletic budget will cover some of the cost of the clinic.

Mr. Zimmer also reported that the Board is asked to consider four student trip requests. 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. Dr. Cotter noted that no class time will be missed for this event. Mr. Zimmer stated that Board members had the final student trip request before them as a separate attachment. Ridge Park Elementary School is requesting to send its Autistic Support Classes to the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J. on January 19.

Mrs. Moore stated that Board approval is sought on a bid to purchase a nine-passenger van. See enclosure #31. The van is to replace a vehicle that has excessive mileage.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: None.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary