

Community Relations and Student Life Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors, October 7, 2010

The Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Thursday, October 7, 2010 in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were Committee Chair Mitch Zimmer; Committee members Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Kathleen Oxberry and Kelly Jowett; Board President Gary Johnson; Board Vice President Susan Moore; Board member Beth Suchsland; Superintendent Dr. Vincent F. Cotter; Assistant Superintendent Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Karen Berk; Activities Director Charles Forster; CITV Director John Quinn; Assistant CITV and Public Relations Director Kim Newell; Community Relations Coordinator/School Board Secretary David M. Sherman; School Board Student Representatives Jessica Knudsen and Steven Pepper; Coordinator of Fine Arts and Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Band Director Tonia Kaufman and community member Linda Doll.

There was no public comment on the agenda.

Mrs. Kaufman explained that she had won special drums valued at \$750 in the Limeades for Learning program sponsored by Sonic. She explained that the drums were for a drum circle and asked the Board to accept the donation. Mrs. Kaufman was informed that she will need to submit a letter requesting Board acceptance of the gift, along with notification from Sonic announcing the donation, so that the Board may act on it at their October business meeting.

Ms. Newell shared a Teachable Moment on the Spanish Exchange Program.

The committee reviewed a request from Conshohocken Elementary School Principal Denise Marks for Board acceptance of a \$5,000 community revitalization grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Mr. Forster informed the Committee that a PWHS alum has donated \$10,000 for the upgrade of the Public Address systems in the Colonial Elementary School (CES) gymnasium and the PWHS west gymnasium. There was some question regarding dedication of the donation. Mr. Forster explained that the alum would also be willing to pay for plaques commemorating the gift if the District saw fit to do so.

Mr. Forster also informed the committee that the United States Office of National Drug Control Policy has offered to donate \$500 to PWHS in exchange for hanging to four-foot by eight-foot banners in the school for one season. Mr. Forster suggested hanging the banners in the CES gym and PWHS west gym.

The committee reviewed student trip requests for the PWHS Mock Trial Club to attend a training session at Harvard University November 12-14, the PWHS basketball team to compete in a tournament in Atlantic City February 4-6, and the PWHS baseball team to play a game at the Cal Ripken Baseball complex in Aberdeen, Md., on March 26, 2011.

Mr. Sherman shared a draft of the first RISE flyer, featuring the Colonial Garden. Members were asked to provide feedback.

Mr. Sherman provided a draft outline of the Annual Report. The committee directed him to have the publication mailed after the November election. Mrs. Suchsland suggested that the Board inform the community about the publication at the October Board meeting.

The committee decided to further discuss proposed advertising policy changes and additions before presenting them to the full Board for consideration.

Mr. Sherman noted that a survey of Adult Evening School registrants shows that less than 50 percent are in favor of online registration and payment via PayPal. He noted that Plymouth Elementary School has emerged as a potential location for Monday and Wednesday Pilates classes.

Mr. Sherman also discussed the use of Constant Contact as the new manager of the e-mail news distribution list. He stated that the list currently has 3,811 members.

The committee reviewed a new “Non-Stop High School Sports” program from Channel 10. Mr. Quinn explained that the video uplink is to go through Utube. Following discussion about Utube, the committee directed Mr. Quinn to contact Channel 10 to see if CITV could send video directly to the TV station.

The committee reviewed a New York Times article on student fees.

Mr. Sherman stated that the date for the PWHS Board/Student Town Meeting has been changed to Wednesday, December 8.

Mr. Fosrter stated that girls’ soccer is playing in the fall for the first time this year. He noted that despite direct competition with girls’ field hockey, participation in both sports has increased since last year.

Mr. Forster added that 236 students, including five Life Skills students, attended the first Senior Class Trip meeting. He discussed the Denise Cotteta Scholarship Fund and Senior Class Trip Fund and an agreement with Mrs. Cotteta to offer five \$500 class trip grants this year instead of four.

Mrs. Doll stated that she appreciated the addition of the E-Friday Folders on the PWHS and Colonial Middle School home pages.

Mr. Zimmer confirmed that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 4 at 5:30 p.m. in the Superintendent’s Conference Room.

There being no further business or public comment, Mr. Zimmer adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Sherman
Community Relations Coordinator
School Board Secretary