

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA**

**Finance and Audit Committee Chairperson, Kathleen Oxberry, called to order a meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee at 6:40 P.M. on Wednesday, October 6, 2010 in the Superintendent's Conference Room located in the Colonial Elementary School at 230 Flourtown Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA.**

**Finance Committee Members Present:** Mel Brodsky, Kelly Jowett

**Other Board Members Present:** Bernie Brady, Sue Moore, Beth Suchsland, Alan Tabachnick

**Other District Staff Present:** Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent, Dr. Mary Ellen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent, Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, Loren Szczesny, Fox Rothschild

**Public Present:** Alan Fiermonte

Mrs. Oxberry began the meeting by calling for an executive session to discuss legal matters related to real estate tax assessment appeals.

After the executive session Mrs. Oxberry began the meeting by asking for any public comments.

Mr. Alan Fiermonte expressed his concerns regarding the district's financial condition due to declining revenues and increasing costs. He asked the committee if consideration has been given to alternative sources of revenue. Committee members informed Mr. Fiermonte that other board committees are studying the possibility of obtaining revenue from commercial advertising on district property and implementing student activity fees.

Mrs. Oxberry then asked Mr. Bickleman to lead the discussion on the agenda.

Mr. Bickleman reported that the district is continuing to monitor the new Federal Educational Jobs Fund Program which was established to provide district funding for the hiring of personnel and other related instructional expenses. It is expected that these funds will be distributed to districts based on the state's schools basic education funding formula or the Title I distribution guidelines.

Mr. Bickleman then reported that the MONTCO Tax Collection Committee (TCC) chose Berkheimer as the county-wide earned income tax collector at the rate of 1.39% at its meeting on September 7th. Mr. Bickleman stated that the district currently uses Berkheimer to collect its EIT along with Plymouth and Whitemarsh Townships. The Borough of Conshohocken uses The Keystone Collections Group. The TCC voted to implement the provisions of Act 32 a year earlier than the mandated January 1, 2012 deadline. Mr. Bickleman stated that the district will save an estimated \$18,000 or more in 10-11 and approximately \$37,000 in 2011-12 as a result of the earlier timeline. The savings are derived from a reduction in the collection rate from the current 2% to 1.39%.

Mr. Bickleman informed the committee that the Act 1 index has officially been set by the state at 1.4% for 2011-12. This would allow the district to raise the real estate tax rate 1.4% without voter approval. This would generate approximately \$908,000 of new revenue. He estimates that the district would qualify for a PSERS exception in the amount of \$629,140 or an additional .97% increase in the real estate tax rate. He informed the members that federal stimulus funds will not be available in 11-12 and that the district has ongoing special education costs in the 10-11 budget totaling \$240,000 that would have to be funded with local funds in 11-12.

There being no further business to be brought before the committee, Mrs. Oxberry adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph P. Bickleman  
Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer