

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, FEBRUARY 17, 2011

President Johnson convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:04 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on February 17, 2011.

Board Members Present: Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Gary Johnson, Kelly Jowett, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry, Beth Suchsland and Alan Tabachnick.

Board Members Absent: Mitch Zimmer.

Also Attending: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Mark Fitzgerald, Solicitor; Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; 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 Erwin; Amy Spooner; Christine Donovan; Denise Parks; Christina Frangiosa; Sam Swetkowski; Ben Miller; Mike Lyle; Colleen DiFabio; Robert Franz and Brett Oxberry.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Mr. Sherman who presented to the Board Emma Schwenderman and Demi Ring, Ridge Park Elementary School third graders. The students had artwork and poetry, respectively, published in the Colonial School District holiday card.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board had met in executive session on January 20, January 26, February 9 and February 14.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson directed Board members to act on the minutes of the Work Session of January 18; the General Session of January 20; the Special Meeting of January 26; the Human Resources Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee of February 2; the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of February 3; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of February 4; the Special Meeting of February 9 and the Curriculum Committee of February 14. See enclosures #1 through #8 and #59.

Mrs. Jowett moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Financial Reports: Mr. Johnson requested that the Board consider the financial reports on the list for approval. 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 January 31. See enclosures #9 through #21.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: The 2011-2012 Preliminary Budget was not on the evening's agenda as the Board took action on Monday evening. However, the Board provided Mr. Franz with leeway to express his displeasure with the proposed tax increase.

Staff Report: Conshohocken Elementary School (CE) Principal Denise Marks and teachers Amy Spooner and Christine Donovan presented a PowerPoint on a new initiative at the school called Morning Meetings. Following the presentation, Mr. Johnson congratulated Mrs. Marks on the number of grants that CE has received in the past year.

Old Business: Mr. Johnson sought Board action on four policies before the Board on a second-read basis. They included #916 Volunteers, #707 Use of School Facilities and Equipment, #913 Advertising and #231.1 Commercial Vendors. See enclosures #22 through #25.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to approve the policies on a second-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Correspondence: Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider a request from Bernadette Biasi, Chair of the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) Scholarship Fund, to add \$2.00 to the price of student picture packages with the monies being contributed to the scholarship fund. See enclosure #26.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson noted that as part of the District's participation in the *Chefs Move to Schools* initiative, the Partnership for a Healthier America is donating approximately \$2,000 worth of cookware. See enclosure #27. He asked the Board to act on the donation.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Jowett seconded a motion to approve the donation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to act on two donations to CE in one motion. The first is an anonymous \$2,000 gift in support of the school's kindergarten program. See enclosure #28. The second is a \$500 grant from the GlaxoSmithKline GIVE Program to enrich the school's environment. See enclosure #29.

Mrs. Jowett moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve both donations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a request by Colonial Instructional Television (CITV) to accept donation of a television camera valued at \$8,000. The camera is being donated in memory of Denise Cotteta. See enclosure #30.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the donation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer updated the report that Dr. Cotter provided on Monday evening. The report included the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List, an updated list of Adult Evening School instructors for the spring 2011 semester and a request to provide substitute security coverage. See enclosures #31 through #34. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contains seven additional actions including two leaves of absence, two replacements and three extensions of assignment. At Dr. Gorodetzer's request, Mr. Hartz explained that the Human Resources Department tries to keep a good supply of qualified substitutes on file and recently interviewed quite a few. He noted that a number of additional subs are presented for Board consideration. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that there are three additions to the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List and one additional teacher added to the Adult Evening School list. She reminded the Board that there is also a request to initiate substitute security coverage at a rate of \$22.35 per hour.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Jowett seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: None.

New Business: Mr. Johnson requested Board action on an agreement to allow Berkheimer to act as the District's agent to secure taxable compensation data from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. See enclosure #36. Mr. Bickleman explained for Mr. Johnson that the agreement will give the District's Earned Income Tax (EIT) Collection Officer the right to obtain access to state wage information to aid in the EIT collection process.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a list of primary and intermediate grade summer reading programs, as well as locations, dates and fees for same. See enclosure #37.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Jowett seconded a motion to approve the programs, locations, dates and fees. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider the operation of a fee-based summer instrumental music program including band, orchestra and individual lessons. See enclosure #38.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the lessons. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson directed the Board to act on an employee dental agreement with United Concordia effective July 1. See enclosure #39. At Mr. Johnson's request, Mr. Hartz reported that this is a renewal agreement for one of two plans offered to employees. He added that the plan includes no rate increase.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the dental agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a special education placement agreement. He stated that the agreement was reviewed in executive session because of student confidentiality and privacy issues.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to approve the special education placement agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider three professional conference requests as one item. The first is for PWHS music teacher Tonia Kaufman to attend the National Association for Music Education Conference in Baltimore, Md., from March 31 through April 3. See enclosure #40. The second request is for Kathy Ellis, Director of Transportation and Kathy Fitzpatrick, a District bus driver, to attend a special needs transportation conference in Lancaster, Pa., on April 5 and 6. See enclosure #41. The third is for Lori McCoy, Director of Food Services, to represent eastern Pennsylvania at the School Nutrition Association Legislative Action Conference in Washington, D.C., March 6-9. See enclosure #42. Mr. Tabachnick noted that all expenses for this conference are paid by the School Nutrition Association of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the conference requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Suchsland asked the Board to consider nine student trip requests in one motion. They include the participation of PWHS students at the Future Business Leaders of America competition in Hershey, Pa., from April 4-6. See enclosure #43. The second is the eighth grade science trip to the Marine Science Center in Wallops Island, Va., from May 4-7. See enclosure #44. The third is for Colonial Middle School students to visit the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, N.J., on May 10. See enclosure #45. The fourth is for members of the Technology Student Association (TSA) to compete in the TSA state conference in Champion, Pa., from April 13-16. See enclosure #46. The fifth is for the PWHS Step Team and Black Cultural Awareness Club to travel to Baltimore, Md., on February 22. See enclosure #47. The sixth trip is for the PWHS Advanced Placement (AP) United States History class to visit

Washington, D.C., May 22-23. See enclosure #48. The seventh request is for the PWHS AP Literature class to travel to the Smithsonian Museum and Folgers Theater in Washington, D.C. on May 13. See enclosure #49. The eighth trip is for a PWHS student to attend the Music Educators National Conference All-East Band in Baltimore, Md., March 31 through April 3. See enclosure #50. The final request is for the PWHS Indoor Guard to participate in a competition in Wildwood, N.J., from April 29 through May 1. See enclosure #51.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the student trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson reminded the Board that Mr. Zimmer announced his resignation from the Board, effective February 28, on Monday evening. He asked the Board to act on the resignation.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to accept Mr. Zimmer's resignation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Solicitor's Report: No Report.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: Mr. Brodsky stated that the January meeting was snowed out, but that he met with Dr. Jerry Shiveley, the Intermediate Unit Director, and received a tour of the facility.

CMTHS: Mr. Johnson stated that the Central Montco Technical High School 2011-2012 Budget was unanimously approved.

Human Resources: Mrs. Moore stated that the committee reviewed a recommendation for the addition of an Elementary Community Counselor, which was approved at the Special Meeting on February 9. At Mrs. Moore's request, Mrs. Berk explained that the Community Counselor is to work with students in grades kindergarten through five with a focus on students in kindergarten through third grade. She noted that the counselor will primarily address behavioral needs in the classroom and work with staff so that they may also better attend to students' needs. Mrs. Berk stated that funding for the counselor is provided through federal access funds.

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry detailed the Preliminary 2011-2012 budget as approved on Monday evening, including major expenditure areas, declining revenue streams and a future projection of the fund balance. She noted that the budget is just a starting point and added that the administration is working to reduce expenditures this year to preserve fund balance. She added that the Board and administration continue to explore possible budget cuts. Mrs. Oxberry noted that the Board is awaiting word on the state budget from Governor Corbett. She said a final District budget will be approved in June.

Curriculum: Mr. Tabachnick reviewed the minutes of the February 14 committee meeting as shown in enclosure #59. He touched on the Federal Program Review, the Strategic Plan Mid-point Review, an Honors Level Writing Course, the Technology Education Program at the high school and middle school and curriculum updates in regards to Advanced Placement courses, Social Studies Keystone Exams, the Girls in Technology Program and the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Brady commended Mr. Yemm and his building and grounds staff on the way they handled the recent snow storms. Mr. Brady noted that a number of schools in the county have lost four to six days to snow this winter, while Colonial has lost just two.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Suchsland noted that the April Board meeting has been moved from April 21 to April 14. She also promoted the upcoming Parents Council meeting and the spring productions of *Alice in Wonderland* at Colonial Middle School and *Titanic* at Plymouth Whitmarsh High School. Responding to a question from Mrs. Suchsland, Mr. Sherman reported that tickets to the high school musical may be purchased online at www.colonialplayers.org.

Safety and Wellness: Mrs. Jowett reported on the *What's Cooking* program produced by Colonial Instructional Television in conjunction with the Chef's Move to Schools Program. She added that the committee will soon review requested changes to the District's local Memorandum of Understanding with local law enforcement.

Legislative: Mrs. Suchsland stated that the House of Representatives is discussing a bill regarding Charter Schools. She also reported that she is working on having State Senator Daylin Leach come and update the Board and the legislature's education agenda.

Municipal Liaisons: No report.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary