

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, NOVEMBER 18, 2010

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 November 18, 2010.

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

Board Members Absent: Alan Tabachnick.

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; 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; Stephen Pepper and Stacey Wong, Student Board Representatives; Roy Felgoise; Robert Maizel; Jill Combs; Darren Sudman; Rachel Wolfheimer; Erin Alexander; Lauren Bryant; Jess Sachs; Sam Cox; George Wadlin, Mary Thiess and Robert Franz.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on October 17, November 10 and November 15.

Dr. Cotter introduced Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) teacher and golf coach George Wadlin who presented his Suburban One League American Conference championship team for Board recognition. Dr. Cotter then introduced Tonia Kaufman, Colonial School District Coordinator of Fine Arts and Band Director, who presented the band's color guard for outstanding achievement at a national competition. See Attachment A for a list of student names.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson sought Board action on the minutes of the Work Session of October 18; the General Session of October 21; the Human Resources Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee of November 3; the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of November 4; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of November 5; and the Curriculum Committee of November 15. See enclosures #1 through #6 and #40.

Mr. Zimmer 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 asked the Board to 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 October 31. See enclosures #7 through #19.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Suchsland 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: Mr. Franz noted the five-year financial projection report made by Mr. Bickleman during the finance committee meeting as noted in enclosure #4. He stated that it was obvious that the District has some belt tightening to do in the near future.

Staff Report: Robert Fahler, Principal of Colonial Middle School presented a PowerPoint on the Olweus Bullying and Prevention Program being implemented at the school. Responding to a question from Mrs. Suchsland, Mr. Fahler reported that it is mandatory for all students to take part in the program. He confirmed for Mr. Brodsky that all grades are taking part in the program. Dr. Cotter noted that climate goals are part of the school improvement team plans on the elementary level and that a number of climate improvement programs are in place at the middle school and high school, such as No Place for Hate®.

Old Business: Dr. Cotter explained that a 2011-2012 calendar draft has been provided for board review and possible action. See enclosure #20. He noted that the calendar includes a post-Labor Day start to the school year and a final day of school on June 15, 2012. He added that there are 184 student days in the calendar. Mrs. Jowett received confirmation that the administration is waiting for PSSA testing dates to finalize a holiday in March.

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

Correspondence: Mr. Johnson asked for Board action on a request to accept donation of a Vitamix 5200 machine from Whole Foods Market, Inc. See enclosure #21. He stated that the machine is valued at \$545 and will be used to create a traveling smoothie station throughout the District.

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

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a request to accept the donations of a Dell flat screen monitor/printer and a recreational system. See enclosure #22. He noted that both donations are made by members of the Plymouth Elementary School staff. Responding to a question from Mrs. Suchsland, Mr. Boegly stated that the recreational systems are to be used for students with focus and attention issues and also for recess applications.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to accept the donations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider two \$1,000 donations that have been made to the PWHS Robotics Club. See enclosure #23.

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

Mr. Johnson asked Board members to act on acceptance of a grant to create the Mark Combs memorial scholarship to be awarded on an annual basis to a PWHS senior. See enclosure #24. Dr. Cotter asked Mr. Sudman to speak to the award. Mr. Sudman explained that the gift to create the award is from "Springboard" a group of young Jewish men in Whitmarsh who organized their group for the purpose of networking and community service. He noted that through the scholarship, Springboard hopes Mr. Combs' values of sportsmanship, community service and academics may live on.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to accept the donation to create the scholarship. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a second scholarship to provide a \$500 cash award at the Post Prom to a PWHS senior pursuing a post secondary education.

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

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter stated that his report includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #25 and #26. He stated that in addition to the actions listed on Monday evening, the Personnel Report and Substitute List contains three yellow page changes. They include one resignation, one leave of absence and one replacement. He noted that there is an extensive list of substitutes included. Dr. Cotter stated that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes winter appointments for athletics and clubs.

Dr. Cotter also referred to a request for a sabbatical extension that was reviewed by the Board in executive session. He stated he will speak to the individual directly.

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: Ms. Wong reported on Homecoming Week activities and the Colonial Players' fall production. She noted that each of the four performances sold all 183 available seats. Mr. Pepper detailed the high school's Admissions Open House which was attended by 50 prospective students. He also spoke to a college counseling night held for parents of juniors and the start of the winter sports season. Mr. Pepper and Ms. Wong both invited Board members to attend the National Honor Society Induction on November 23.

New Business: Mr. Zimmer explained the history of the Anti-Vandalism Program (AVP) and asked the Board to act on awards for the 2010-2011 AVP. See enclosure #27. He explained that a recommendation for payment of \$1,882.50 to the PWHS Student Council and a payment of \$1,367.50 to the Colonial Middle School (CMS) Student Council has been made. These amounts represent one half of the unspent funds from the 2009-2010 AVP. Mr. Zimmer also asked the Board, to consider in the same motion, the establishment of funding for the 2011-2012 school year at \$5,000 for PWHS and \$3,000 for CMS.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the 2010-2011 awards as stated and approve the recommended funding for the 2011-2012 AVP. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a request to approve an amendment revision to the Declaration of Conservation and Open Space Easements, Covenants and Restrictions regarding the Angus Tract property. See enclosure #28. Mr. Yemm explained for Mr. Johnson that the revision provides for the construction of walking paths on the tract that border the District's property. Mr. Yemm noted that the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee reviewed the resolution and recommended full Board approval.

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

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to act on an Act 32 Earned Income Tax resolution. See enclosure #29. Mr. Bickleman explained for Mr. Johnson that the resolution provides for a reduced rate of 1.39 percent, down from the 2.0 percent the District currently pays. Mr. Bickleman noted that the District expects to save more than \$36,000 in the coming year.

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

Mr. Zimmer asked the Board to consider three student trip requests in one motion. The first is for a previously attended trip to a journalism workshop at Columbia University in New York on November 1. See enclosure #30. The second is for students to participate in the Spanish Exchange program in Madrid, Spain from January 7, 2011 through January 25, 2011. See enclosure #31. The third trip is for students to attend the annual PWHS Ski Club trip to Killington, Vermont from January 28-30, 2011. See enclosure #32.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to approve all three student trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Solicitor's Report: No Report.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board met in executive session prior to the meeting. Mr. Sultanik reminded Mr. Johnson that the meeting was to discuss personnel and legal issues.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: Mr. Zimmer reported on the November meeting of the MCIU Board. He stated that the Board reviewed the IU's 2011-2012 General Operating Budget and will take action on that budget in January. He noted that the meeting's spotlight was on special education. Mr. Zimmer also stated that he informed the IU Board that he will be resigning his seat in December.

CMTHS: No report.

Human Resources: No report.

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry reviewed the minutes of the November 3 Finance Committee meeting as found in Enclosure #4. She stated that committee members began the meeting by entering into executive session to discuss tax assessment appeals. She detailed Mr. Bickleman's five-year financial projection. She also stated that the administration is continuing to monitor the new Federal Educational Job Funds program which was established to provide district funding for the hiring of personnel and other related instructional expenses. Mrs. Oxberry stated that the next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Curriculum: Dr. Gorodetzer stated that PWHS Principal Heather Nuneviller discussed proposed course offerings for the 2011-2012 school year, including the addition of an investment strategies class, a writing fellows elective, and a jazz improvisation I and II tiered course. She added that Plymouth Elementary School third grade teacher Liz Jones presented a lesson overview using *Stratalogica* interactive map software. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that Dr. Liz McKeane, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, provided an overview of student achievement in 2010. There was a five-year trend of increased achievement across all grade levels. Dr. McKeane also discussed innovative and enriched learning opportunities including the piloting of an online Chinese language course at PWHS.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Brady stated that the District is increasing the life cycle of its buses from eight to 10 years. He added that the comfort station on Victory Fields should be completed in a few of weeks.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mr. Zimmer congratulated Mr. Wadlin on another outstanding season. He asked residents to look for the District's annual report in the mail during the next few days. He added that invitations to the annual senior citizen winter concert and luncheon were mailed earlier in the day.

Safety and Wellness: No report.

Legislative: Mrs. Suchsland reported on House Bill 2497 regarding reform of the Pennsylvania State Employees Retirement System (PSERS). She detailed changes to the current system for employees hired after June 30, 2011, including increasing the vesting period from five to 10 years and increasing the retirement age from 62 to 65. She noted that there are no changes for employees currently in the system. Mrs. Suchsland stated that Governor Rendell is expected to sign the bill.

Municipal Liaisons: No report.

Public Comment: Mrs. Thiess asked Mrs. Suchsland if the proposed changes to PSERS will lessen the expected spike in the District's contribution to the program. Mrs. Suchsland confirmed that changes are to lessen the spike but only temporarily.

Mr. Franz commented on a recent fire at PWHS and asked why there were no sprinklers in the area of the fire. Dr. Cotter explained that the fire was located in a faculty kitchen area and was extinguished by staff before the fire department arrived. He added that there is a fire suppression system in the student

cafeteria. Mr. Franz asked if the District considered a prefabricated structure when planning the Victory Fields comfort station. Mr. Yemm stated that both prefabricated structures and “bricks and sticks” construction were considered and bid and that the construction method saved the District \$93,000.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David M. Sherman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Sherman" clearly legible.

David M. Sherman
Board Secretary

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Golf Team

Varsity

Zach Pogust
Nick Jefferies
Kenny Yanni
Michael Caplan
Matt Minetola
Alfred Garvey
John Fritz
Zak Glaser
Evan Beaty
Domenick Aprile
Carter Field
Justin Eigen

Junior Varsity

Jack Mingione
Corey Stasak
Ari Melincoff-Levy
Dave Pontari
Tyler Minetola

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Marching Colonials

Guard Section

Carly Cumens
Gaby Peel
Lindsay Walters
Taylor Pantano
Sami Kessler
Tony Schultz
Lauren Babillis
Jocelyn Gadd