

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
WORK SESSION MINUTES, JANUARY 18, 2011

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 January 18, 2011.

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

Board Members Absent: Kelly Jowett and Mitch Zimmer.

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; 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 and David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Cotter confirmed for Mr. Johnson that the administration will present a video on Thursday evening to honor Board members as part of School Director Recognition Month.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board had met in executive session on December 8, 2010; December 22, 2010; January 5, 2011; January 14, 2011 and immediately prior to tonight's meeting. He added that the Board will meet in executive session following the meeting, as well.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson stated that on Thursday evening, the Board will act on the minutes of the Work Session of November 15, 2010; the General Session of November 18, 2010; the Finance and Audit Committee of December 1, 2010; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of December 3, 2010; the Board Reorganization Meeting of December 6, 2010; the Special Meeting of December 6, 2010; the Curriculum Committee of December 8, 2010; the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of December 9, 2010; the Human Resources Committee, the Special Meeting and the Finance and Audit Committee of January 5, 2011; the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of January 6, 2011 and the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of January 7, 2011. See enclosures #1 through #13. Mr. Johnson noted that the minutes of the Curriculum Committee of January 18, 2011 will be included in the yellow pages on Thursday evening.

Financial Reports: Mr. Johnson requested that the Board examine the financial reports on the list for approval on Thursday evening. He noted that the reports are for both November 2010 and December 2010. 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 months ending November 30, 2010 and December 31, 2010. See enclosures #14 through #26.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Dr. Cotter stated that on Thursday evening Judi Lipson, Principal of Plymouth Elementary School, and two teachers will report on instructional initiatives in their building.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Tabachnick reported on the first five of seven donations submitted for Board review. The first are two grants from the Colonial Foundation for Educational Innovation totaling \$8,000 to the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) Robotics Club and the Advancement Via

Individual Determination (AVID) program at the school. See enclosure #27. The second is a \$3,000 donation from Ceridian Corporation to the PWHS AVID program. See enclosure #28. The third is a \$1,000 gift from Landsknecht Publishing Services, Inc. to the PWHS Robotics Club. See enclosure #29. The fourth is a \$10,000 donation from the Morgan Stanley Foundation to support after school enrichment and a school-wide field trip at Conshohocken Elementary School. See enclosure #30. And the fifth is a \$2,500 donation from the Deed of Trust of Joshua Morris to be used for general education purposes. See enclosure #31.

Mrs. Oxberry informed the Board of additional gifts, the first being a \$10,000 donation from the PWHS Band Boosters. The funds were acquired as part of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Grant. See enclosure #32. Mrs. Oxberry also noted that on Thursday evening the Board will consider two \$1,000 grants from the Pennsylvania Staff Development Council. See enclosure #33.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter summarized his report that includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List and a list of Adult Evening School instructors for the spring 2011 semester. See enclosures #34 through #36. He stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contains 15 actions including one end of assignment, five leaves of absence, one return from leave, four replacements, two extensions of assignment and two assignments completed. Dr. Cotter stated that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes two appointments and a resignation. He added that 29 teachers are listed for the Adult Evening School.

New Business: Dr. Cotter reviewed the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget for the 2011-2012 school year. See enclosure #37. He stated that Colonial will realize a 1.4 percent increase in its share of the budget. He noted that school district contributions account for about 18 percent of the IU budget.

Mr. Johnson reported on the 2011-2012 Operating Budget for the Central Montco Technical High School. See enclosure #38. He stated that there is a 0.6 percent increase over last year's budget, however Colonial's contribution will decrease by 3.99 percent.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will consider four policies on a first-read basis on Thursday evening. They include #916 Volunteers, #707 Use of School Facilities and Equipment, #913 Advertising and #231.1 Commercial Vendors. See enclosures #39 through #42.

At Mr. Johnson's request, Dr. Cotter stated that the Board is asked to consider a revision to the 2011-2012 school year calendar that was previously approved. See enclosure #43. He noted that PSSA testing dates conflict with a scheduled holiday on March 16. The administration recommends that the holiday be moved to January 2.

Mr. Johnson stated that the board is asked to consider a request for Mr. Sherman to attend the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association annual workshop in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Tuesday, March 15. See enclosure #44.

Mr. Johnson reported that there are four field trips for the Board to consider on Thursday evening. They include a Ridge Park Elementary School second grade trip to the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J. during February. See enclosure #45. The second trip is for 20 PWHS students to attend the state DECA Career Development Conference in Hershey, Pa., from February 23-25. See enclosure #46. The third is for the PWHS Class of 2012 to travel to Orlando, Fla., from April 11-16, 2012. See enclosure #47. The final trip is for two PWHS students to attend Pennsylvania Music Education Association festivals in January, March and April. See enclosure #45.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: Curriculum and Program: Mr. Tabachnick reported on the Curriculum

Department's preliminary 2011-2012 budget. He noted that the overall budget reflects a 26-percent decrease from last year's spending plan. He highlighted areas of emphasis for the coming year, including summer school, remediation and enrichment programs, state mandated programs and enhancing the World Languages program.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Brady reported on the department's 2011-2012 preliminary budget. He stated that the budget reflects an overall decrease of 2.4 percent, which includes a 16 percent reduction in utility costs. He noted that fuel costs are 23 percent higher.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary