

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
WORK SESSION MINUTES, FEBRUARY 14, 2011

President Johnson convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:30 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on February 14, 2011.

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

Board Members Absent: None.

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; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary and Jay Murray.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Cotter confirmed for Mr. Johnson that the students whose artwork and poetry were published in the annual Colonial School District holiday card will be honored on Thursday evening.

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

Minutes: Mr. Johnson asked Board members to review 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 and the Special Meeting of February 9. See enclosures #1 through #8. Mr. Johnson noted that the minutes of the Curriculum Committee of February 14 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. 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.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Dr. Cotter reported that on Thursday evening Denise Marks, Principal of Conshohocken Elementary School (CE), will report on instructional initiatives in the building.

Old Business: Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will consider four policies on a second-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 #22 through #25.

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

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.

Mr. Johnson reported on two donations for CE. 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.

Mr. Johnson informed the Board that Colonial Instructional Television requests Board acceptance of a donated television camera valued at \$8,000. The camera is being donated in memory of Denise Cotteta. See enclosure #30. Mrs. Suchsland received confirmation that the camera is being donated by Mr. Harry Giamo.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter reviewed his report that includes 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. He stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contains 19 actions including one resignation, six leaves of absence, three completed assignments, one revised assignment, one extension of assignment, two replacements and five returns from leave. Dr. Cotter stated that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes spring sports appointments. He added that a company that had provided teachers for several Adult Evening School activity classes has ceased operations prompting the need for the District to contract with five individual teachers. Finally, Dr. Cotter requested that substitute security coverage be initiated at a rate of \$22.35 per hour. He reported that there are times due to illness and bereavement that the District may be short in security coverage at the high school. The creation of a substitute list is recommended.

New Business: Ms. Oxberry asked the Board to consider the Preliminary 2011-2012 budget along with authorization to file Act I Index Exceptions. She stated that the preliminary budget totals \$96,422,000, which is 2.51 percent more than the current budget. See enclosure #35. The preliminary budget establishes the Real Estate Tax Rate at 18.566 mils. She added that the application for Act I Exceptions must be filed by March 3 with the intent to file advertised no later than February 24.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mr. Tabachnick seconded a motion to approve the Preliminary 2011-2012 Budget and the authorization to apply for Act I Exceptions. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board is asked to approve 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. At Mr. Johnson's request, Mr. Bickleman explained 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.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will consider a list of primary and intermediate grade summer reading programs on Thursday evening, as well as locations, dates and fees for same. See enclosure #37.

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

Mr. Johnson stated that the board is asked to consider an employee dental agreement with United Concordia effective July 1. See enclosure #39. Mr. Hartz explained that this is a renewal agreement for one of two plans offered to employees. He added that the plan was reviewed by the Human Resources Committee and there is no rate increase.

Mr. Johnson reported that the Board will act on a special education placement agreement on Thursday evening. He noted that because of student confidentiality and privacy issues the agreement was reviewed in executive session.

Mr. Tabachnick stated that the Board will consider three professional conference requests on Thursday evening. The first is for PWS 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.

Mrs. Suchsland stated that the Board will consider nine student trip requests on Thursday evening. 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.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: None.

Public Comment: None.

Mr. Johnson sadly announced that Mr. Zimmer has submitted his resignation to the Board. Mr. Zimmer stated that he did so with mixed emotions. He thanked all members of the community for their support and stated it was a privilege and honor to serve them. He also stated that it was an honor to serve along side many outstanding Board members and administrators during his seven years on the Board. He singled out Dr. Cotter, Mr. Johnson and former Board President Marc Orlow. Mr. Zimmer announced that his resignation is effective on February 28. Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will take action on the resignation on Thursday evening.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary