

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462**  
**WORK SESSION MINUTES, October 18, 2010**

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 October 18, 2010.

**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; 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 Donna Drizin, Whitemarsh Elementary School Principal.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on September 22, October 13 and prior to the meeting.

Dr. Cotter confirmed for Mr. Johnson that the Board will recognize students for outstanding academic achievement as National Merit Scholars and Advanced Placement Scholars on Thursday Evening.

**Minutes:** Mr. Johnson asked Board members to examine the minutes of the Work Session of September 13; the General Meeting of September 16; the Special Meeting of September 20; the Safety and Wellness Committee of September 23; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of September 29; the Human Resources Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee of October 6 and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of October 7. See enclosures #1 through #8. Mr. Johnson noted that the minutes of the Curriculum Committee of October 18 will be included in the yellow pages on Thursday evening.

**Financial Reports:** Mr. Johnson requested that the Board review 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 September 30. See enclosures #9 through #21.

**Public Comments on the Agenda:** None.

**Staff Report:** Dr. Cotter stated that on Thursday evening TC Boegly, Principal of Colonial Elementary School will report on enrichment activities in the building.

**Old Business:** None.

**Correspondence:** Mr. Johnson stated that the District is in receipt of a letter from Thomas E. Gluck, Acting Secretary of Education, congratulating the District on the accomplishments demonstrated in the Audit of Operations for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005. See enclosure #22. Mr. Johnson stated that the report was issued by the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General.

Mr. Johnson noted that the District has received notice of two community revitalization grants. Both are in the amount of \$5,000 and are funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The first is for Conshohocken Elementary School. See enclosure #23. The second is for Whitemarsh Elementary School. See enclosure #24.

Mr. Johnson reported that Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) Principal Heather Nuneviller is seeking acceptance of a grant authored by student Ross Levin. See enclosure #25. The grant is from the Small-Alper Family Foundation, PANIM and is to be used for the Colonial Garden.

Mr. Johnson directed Board members' attention to a letter in front of them from Mr. Mark Bill of the PWHS Class of 1976. Mr. Johnson noted that Mr. Bill intends to donate \$10,000 to upgrade the sound systems in the Colonial Elementary School gym and PWHS west gym.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Cotter reviewed his report that includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #26 and #27. He stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contains 11 actions including a resignation, four leaves of absence, three extensions of leave and three replacements. He noted that there are a large number of per diem substitutes listed. Dr. Cotter stated that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes four appointments and three changes. He said that he expects to have a yellow page for that list on Thursday evening.

**New Business:** Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will take action on Thursday to establish the start date of the 2011-2012 school year. He asked Dr. Cotter to review the calendars. Dr. Cotter stated that two calendar drafts are provided for the Board's future consideration. See enclosure 28. Dr. Cotter noted that the first calendar draft features a start date after Labor Day and ending in the second week of June. He reported that the second draft contains a pre-Labor Day start date with school ending the first week in June. He added that both calendars include 184 students days and 191 teacher days, the same as the current year calendar. Mrs. Moore questioned the first draft with school ending on Thursday, which is the traditional graduation day for PWHS seniors. Dr. Cotter confirmed that under that calendar there would be no school on the following Friday. He did note that an option could be to end the year on that Friday, June 15 and build in another Holiday during the year. Mr. Zimmer received clarification that the Board will only consider the start date for the calendar on Thursday evening. Board members stated that they would prefer to start the school year after Labor Day. Responding to a question from Mrs. Jowett, Dr. Cotter stated that four snow days are built into the two calendar drafts. Mrs. Suchsland questioned when and how half days at the end of the calendar are determined. Dr. Cotter stated that once the start and end dates are established, the administration will then build the calendar including half days. He noted that some half days are carried over from past agreements with teachers. Mrs. Suchsland stated that a whole week of half days is inconvenient to working parents. Dr. Cotter noted that was a valid concern. He added that there is a possibility for the Board to amend the calendar after the winter season, and the possibility of needing snow days, has passed.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board is requested to act on a special education placement agreement on Thursday evening. He reported that the agreement was reviewed in executive session because of privacy issues.

Mr. Tabachnick reported that the Board is asked consider two professional conference requests. The first is for Mrs. Boegly and two teachers to attend the Pennsylvania Council for Exceptional Children at Penn State University, November 11-12. See enclosure #29. The second is for two PWHS World Language teachers to attend the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, November 19-21 in Boston, Mass. See enclosure #30.

Mr. Zimmer stated that the Board will take action on Thursday on a request for the PWHS Mock Trial Team to participate in a training session at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., November 12-14. See enclosure #31.

Mr. Zimmer added that Board action is requested on Thursday regarding two athletic competitions. The first is for the PWHS baseball team to play in a game at the Cal Ripken Baseball Complex in Aberdeen, Md., on Saturday, March 26. See enclosure #32. The second is for the PWHS basketball team to participate in an Invitational Classic in Atlantic City, N.J., February 4-6. See enclosure #33.

Dr. Cotter pointed out that Board members had another trip request before them as a separate

attachment. Mr. Zimmer reported that the request is for all fourth grade students to attend the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J. during the days of November 15-23. He stated that the trip is aligned with the fourth grade science curriculum.

**Solicitor's Report:** None.

**Committee Reports:** None

**Public Comment:** None.

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