

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462**  
**WORK SESSION MINUTES, NOVEMBER 15, 2010**

President Johnson convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:33 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on November 15, 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; 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; Leigh Brosopf; Jessica Sachs and Samantha Cox.

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

Dr. Cotter confirmed for Mr. Johnson that the Board will recognize the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School Golf Team and Marching Colonials Guard for outstanding achievement on Thursday evening.

**Minutes:** Mr. Johnson stated that on Thursday evening, the Board will act 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 and the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of November 5. See enclosures #1 through #6. Mr. Johnson noted that the minutes of the Curriculum Committee of November 15 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 October 31. See enclosures #7 through #19.

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

**Staff Report:** Dr. Cotter stated that on Thursday evening Robert Fahler, Principal of Colonial Middle School will report on instructional initiatives in the building.

**Old Business:** At Mr. Johnson's request, Dr. Cotter explained that a 2011-2012 calendar draft has been provided for board review and possible action. See enclosure #20. He reminded the Board that they elected to start the school year after Labor Day. Responding to a question from Mrs. Suchsland, Dr. Cotter stated that Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) dates have not yet been established. He did note that the Board may act to adjust the calendar at a later date if needed. Responding to another question from Mrs. Suchsland, Dr. Cotter stated that the calendar outline is published no later than April 1 and that PSSA dates are expected to be known by then.

**Correspondence:** Mr. Johnson stated that Board acceptance is requested for 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.

Mr. Johnson noted that the Board is also asked to accept the donation of a Dell flat screen monitor/printer and recreational systems. See enclosure #22. He noted that both systems are being donated by members of the Plymouth Elementary School staff.

Mr. Johnson informed the Board that two \$1,000 donations have been made to the PWHS Robotics Club. See enclosure #23. He noted that the Board will act to accept those donations on Thursday evening.

Mr. Johnson stated that Board members will consider on Thursday two scholarships. The first is the creation of the Mark Combs memorial scholarship to be awarded on an annual basis to a PWHS senior. See enclosure #24. The second scholarship is to provide a \$500 cash award at the Post Prom to a PWHS senior pursuing a post secondary education.

**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 #25 and #26. He stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contains 10 actions including a resignation, a leave of absence, two replacements, three completed assignments, two returns from leave and one reassignment. 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.

**New Business:** Mr. Zimmer noted that the Board will act Thursday on the 2010-2011 Anti-Vandalism Program. 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 Anti-Vandalism Program. Mr. Zimmer also noted that the Board will act Thursday to establish the funding for the 2011-2012 school year at \$5,000 for PWHS and \$3,000 for CMS.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board is requested to act on an amendment revision to the Declaration of Conservation and Open Space Easements, Covenants and Restrictions regarding the Angus Tract property. See enclosure #28. At Mr. Johnson's request, Mr. Yemm explained that the revision provides for the construction of walking paths on the tract and may increase the District's footprint on the site.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will take action on Thursday on an Act 32 Earned Income Tax resolution. See enclosure #29. Mr. Bickleman explained for Mr. Johnson that the resolution will terminate the District's existing contract with Berkheimer and will enable Berkheimer to serve as the Tax Collector for the newly created Montgomery County Tax Collection District beginning January 1, 2011. He noted 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.

Mr. Zimmer reported that Board action is requested on Thursday regarding three student trips. 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.

**Solicitor's Report:** None.

**Committee Reports:** Intermediate Unit – Mr. Zimmer reported on the October meeting of the MCIU Board. He stated that the Board reviewed the IU's 2011-2012 General Operating Budget including a summary to reduce costs. He added that the Board heard an update regarding the Superintendent's Task Force on Cooperative Services. Mr. Zimmer stated that the monthly spotlight was on the management services division's dual role of providing support to the IU and to member districts. He added that the November meeting is on Wednesday and he will report out on that meeting on Thursday evening.

**Public Comment:** None.

Mr. Johnson welcomed three students in attendance. The students are members of a government class at PWHS.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David M. Sherman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "S".

David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary