

Community Relations and Student Life Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors, January 9, 2012

The Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, January 9, 2012 in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:47 p.m. Present were committee chair Beth Suchsland; committee members Bernie Brady, Leslie Finegold, Christina Frangiosa and Julie Knudsen; Board President Alan Tabachnick; Board Vice President Susan Moore; Board member Mel Brodsky; Superintendent Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Activities Coordinator Charles Forster; Assistant Public Relations Coordinator Kim Newell; Community Relations Coordinator/School Board Secretary David M. Sherman; Board Student Representatives Tom Elvins and Cindy Ly; Linda Doll and Tom Davis.

There was no public comment on the agenda.

Mr. Sherman explained that the District will amend its 2011-2012 calendar to change the in-service day on May 15 to April 24 so as to coincide with the Pennsylvania Primary Election. He noted that the election is moved up this year since it is a presidential election year. He added that the scheduled half-day early dismissal on April 27 will be cancelled. He also noted that May 15 will now be a full day of class for students. Mr. Sherman stated that all of the District's communication tools will be used to inform staff, parents and the community of the change.

The committee was informed of the efforts to communicate the Board's new meeting schedule which eliminates Monday work sessions.

The committee reviewed a number of student trip requests, including separate requests for District 11 band, orchestra and chorus, the PWHS Future Educators Association to attend the national conference in Baltimore, establishing dates for the 2013 Class trip to Florida and for Ridge Park Elementary School second graders to attend the Adventure Aquarium in New Jersey. Mrs. Suchsland inquired if there was overlap with all of the grades that attend the Adventure Aquarium. Dr. Gorodetzer explained that different parts of the curriculum are addressed by the different grades. She noted a review of field trips was previously conducted to eliminate overlap.

The committee discussed the five presented calendar options for the 2012-2013 school year. The committee's preference was option #2 which features a traditional calendar with 184 student days with school in session on primary election day. The calendar would include four built-in snow days.

The committee agreed to schedule no more than two building visits per month for the remainder of the school year to meet with staff.

Ms. Newell shared a video on a promotion around the *Reading Adventures* television series. She also noted that five new episodes of *What's Cookin'?* are being taped this week.

The committee was informed that the administration will attempt to reschedule the Public Education Forum in late February or early March. It was also noted that, barring legal challenges, State Representative Matthew Bradford will begin representing the District on January 12 as part of the state's realignment of legislative districts. Representative Kate Harper will no longer represent Colonial. A meeting with Mr. Bradford will be scheduled.

Mr. Sherman updated the committee on advertising initiatives and sought Board volunteers to serve on an advertising committee moving forward. Mr. Brady, Mr. Brodsky, Mrs. Knudsen, Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Suchsland volunteered.

The committee was informed that the high school received a grant from the Anti-Defamation League to fund a program with John Halligan. Mr. Halligan will work with PWHS students on Feb. 21 and present a community forum on Feb. 22 at Colonial Middle School.

The committee was informed of efforts by the Best Buddies to fundraise for the ball they are hosting in the spring. Conicelli has been secured as a sponsor and may hang a banner at the event.

The committee was reminded that January is School Board Recognition Month. Members were also reminded of the EcoFest scheduled for March 1 and the senior citizens luncheon and matinee on March 17, both in PWHS.

The committee agreed to continue meeting on the first Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. for the remainder of the school year.

There being no further business or public comment, Mrs. Suchsland adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Sherman
Community Relations Coordinator
School Board Secretary