

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

The Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, April 9, 2012 in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:43 p.m. Present were committee chair Beth Suchsland; committee members Leslie Finegold and Christina Frangiosa; Board President Alan Tabachnick; Superintendent Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Karen Berk; Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) Activities Coordinator Charles Forster; Assistant Public Relations Director Kim Newell; Board Student Representative Cindy Ly; Community Relations Coordinator/School Board Secretary David M. Sherman; Tom Davis, Gary Johnson and Linda Doll.

There was no public comment on the agenda.

Ms. Newell stated that the Ridge Park Elementary School and Conshohocken Elementary School third grade choirs will perform the national anthem before the April 13 Phillies game at Citizen's Bank Park. She noted that the District was given an opportunity to show a two-minute video prior to the game. She shared the video with the committee.

Committee members went into an executive session at 5:47 p.m. to discuss a legal issue.

Mrs. Suchsland reconvened the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

Committee members reviewed student trip requests for the Conshohocken Elementary School second grade to attend the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J., the Colonial Players to attend a Broadway show in New York City on April 14, and two PWHS students to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State Orchestra Festival in Lancaster from April 18-21.

The committee reviewed a proposed letter to graduating seniors from the PWHS/Germantown Academy Student Coalition stressing safety at the end of the school year. A number of questions were raised including the origin of the letter, the tone of the letter, lack of reference to specific legal statutes relating to offenses mentioned in the letter, a singling out of the Whitmarsh Township Police Department with no reference to other municipal police departments, and how the letter would be distributed. After considerable discussion, the committee agreed not to support distribution of the letter. The committee would, however, consider providing a web link to the letter if it was posted online by the Whitmarsh Police Department or the District Attorney's Office.

Ms. Newell stated that spring sporting events will soon air on CITV, as will five new episodes of the show "What's Cookin'?"

Committee members were reminded that their next building visit is scheduled for Friday, April 13 at 8:30 a.m. in Conshohocken Elementary School.

Members were informed of the Marine Corps' tent at the Pennsylvania Track Classic at Colonial Field on March 31. It was noted that the \$500 advertising fee has been paid to the District. Members were reminded of planned changes associated with the Colonial Foundation for Educational Innovation and asked to send names of potential future foundation board members to Mr. Sherman.

The committee was apprised that a community e-mail was sent with a link to the *Times Herald* article on the legislative forum hosted by the District on March 20. Community members were reminded of the opportunity to sign up for the legislative e-mail list administered by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA). Approximately six new e-mail addresses were sent to PSBA. Additionally, members were informed of plans to invite legislators to future senior citizen events in the District. Dr. Gorodetzer noted several recent

Times Herald articles promoting alternatives to school district real estate taxes. Mrs. Frangiosa suggested that proposed legislation raised enough of a concern to suggest that Board members log on to the PSBA's advocacy website to express opposition to such bills.

Committee members were reminded of Whitmarsh Township Day on April 28 and Plymouth Township Day on June 2.

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting is on Monday, May 7 at 5:30 p.m.

There being no further business or public comment, Mrs. Suchsland adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Sherman
Community Relations Coordinator
School Board Secretary