

Community Relations and Student Life Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors, October 3, 2011

The Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, October 3, 2011 in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. Present were committee chair Beth Suchsland; committee members Bernie Brady, Kelly Jowett and Jodi Miscannon; Board President Gary Johnson; Board members Mel Brodsky and Susan Moore; Superintendent Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Karen Berk; Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Activities Coordinator Charles Forster; Curriculum Supervisor Donna Gaffney; Fine Arts Director and PWHS Band Director Tonia Kaufman; Assistant Public Relations Coordinator Kim Newell; Community Relations Coordinator/School Board Secretary David M. Sherman; Board Student Representative Tom Elvins and Linda Doll.

There was no public comment on the agenda.

Mrs. Gaffney spoke to the CSD Band Action Plan that was collaboratively developed by the Band Directors at PWHS, Colonial Middle School (CMS) and Colonial Elementary School. The plan is designed to recruit and retain student participants and develop the band programs. Mrs. Kaufman highlighted efforts including orientation programs and visits to CMS, newsletters, distribution of T-Shirts, a picnic at the Plymouth Community Center, Band Buddy Mentors or pairing upperclassmen with freshmen and more. The annual band trip, this year to compete in Pittsburgh, Pa., also helps in the recruiting effort. Mrs. Kaufman ended with a report on the success of the annual Cavalcade of Bands Night that was hosted by PWHS on October 1.

Mr. Sherman reviewed the 2011-2012 Communications Plan, including a Food Services Department Marketing Plan and communication goals for the coming year. He noted an emphasis is being placed on developing partnerships with the local business community. He added that a different approach to promoting kindergarten registration, using data from the 2010 census, will be employed in January.

The committee reviewed a number of annual student trips, including AVID college visits, the Spanish Exchange Program, a baseball game in Aberdeen, Md., the fourth grade field trip to the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J., Cheerleading competitions in Pittsburgh, Pa. and Williamsburg, Va., Mock Trial Club training at Harvard University and an Art Majors' trip to New York City.

The committee discussed potential dates for a student town meeting at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. Members suggested finding a date during the second week in December.

Ms. Newell reported on new CITV initiatives including the *Reading Adventures* and *What's Cookin?* programs. She shared a flyer promoting the reading series and previewed a clip from one of the shows. Mrs. Suchsland suggested e-mailing preschools in the area to promote the reading program.

Mrs. Suchsland commented that visits with State Representatives Mike Gerber and Kate Harper were positive in opening the lines of communication. She noted a meeting with State Senator Daylin Leach was scheduled for Wednesday morning. Mr. Sherman added that the administration would like to schedule a community forum on education topics and both representatives stated that they would participate.

Mr. Sherman noted that the District will again host the Eco Fest this school year. The event is scheduled for March 1, 2012. Representatives from Whitemarsh Township, Plymouth Township and Conshohocken Borough will assist with the planning.

Mr. Forster commented on positive feedback from the beginning of the school year convocation and added that the high school administration is hosting a barbeque on October 6 prior to a football game. He stated that 150 staff members had already signed up.

Mrs. Suchsland stated that the next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, November 7.

There being no further business or public comment, Mrs. Suchsland adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David M. Sherman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".

David M. Sherman
Community Relations Coordinator
School Board Secretary