

Colonial School District
District Operations
Facilities Management/Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes
2/3/2012

Committee Chair Bernie Brady called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM.

Other Committee Members Present: Sue Moore, Kathy Oxberry, Julie Knudsen, Mel Brodsky

Other Board Members Present: Chris Frangiosa, Alan Tabachnick

Also Attending: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Superintendent; Terry R. Yemm, Director of Operations; Ms. Linda Doll, Community Resident

Public Comment on the Agenda: None

Information was provided to the Committee about a meeting that took place between Plymouth Township, Plymouth Township Parks and Recreation and the District. The main topic of the meeting was the use of District athletic fields by the Colonial Soccer Club (CSC). The CSC was previously called the Plymouth Soccer Club. The CSC has grown in membership over the years and consequently they have a greater demand for fields than in the past. Currently, in the evenings and weekends during the spring, summer and fall, the CSC uses thirteen (13) soccer fields at the PWHS/CES, CMS, PE and RP campuses. The CSC expressed a concern that, from their perspective, the District is not providing them with the amount of field time that they have had in the past. A review of the use over the last few years has provided that there has not been any reduction in the use of fields. There has been a change in the approval process for the use of the fields. In the past CSC, as well as other athletic programs using District fields, have requested the use of certain fields for substantially greater periods of time than what was actually needed. A recent request was for the use of two fields from 8:00 AM to dusk for every Saturday and Sunday from the first week in March through the end of November. In the past similar requests were granted and it was reported that there were many occasions when the field(s) approved for use were not used at all or only used for a portion of the time approved with the original request. It appears that certain clubs would essentially reserve as much field space as possible rather than requesting the field space based on their actual needs. Due to the amount of community organizations requesting space, the District can no longer approve field use for more time that what is actually needed by any specific club and have asked each organization to refine their request(s) accordingly.

The Committee reviewed proposed language for a sign that will be placed in front of Victory Field 3 and 4. The sign will provide information explaining that Victory Fields 3 and 4 are designed for two purposes, athletic fields and a detention basin. The fields are designed to collect and hold rain water during and after major storm events to prevent

erosion and flooding in adjacent residential areas. The Committee is concerned that many residents are not aware that the fields are designed as a detention basin or the reason for the design. The Committee hopes that the sign will eliminate confusion and inform all about the benefit that the detention basin provides for the adjacent residential areas.

The Committee discussed the "Use Classifications" that are used in determining what category a user of our facilities is classified as when determining an appropriate charge for the use of our facilities and fields. Specific concern was paid to Class VI which is used for determining charges for non-profit organizations not located within our District and individuals charging a fee or seeking to make a profit and by commercial, for-profit organizations when admission is charged or a collection is taken. In an effort to increase revenues, a suggestion was made to develop a new class that will be used solely for for-profit organizations. After a lengthy discussion the Committee decided to move forward with the suggestion. Accordingly, the policy will be changed to accommodate the new class and will be presented as a policy revision first read basis to the School Board as soon as the draft is approved by the Committee.

At the January meeting a request was brought to the attention of the Committee to consider allowing the use of our facilities by entities that would not normally meet our residency rule. The current rule is that the District will only allow groups that have a minimum of 51% of their participants residing in Conshohocken, Plymouth or Whitemarsh Township to use our facilities. The Committee requested that a thorough review of the 51% rule be performed. A review was performed and it was determined that the 51% rule was not included in any formal policy, and was administered as a practice or unwritten rule. The Committee agreed to eliminate the 51% rule and requested that any/all use requests of a significant size be presented to the Committee for review before being approved.

The Committee was informed about two safety initiatives. The first initiative is that the Whitemarsh Township Police Department will have a traffic detail on the PW campus in the next few weeks to enforce the new Teen Driver Seat Belt law. They plan on issuing warning notices to any teens found in violation of the law. Their goal is to achieve voluntary compliance. The District Safety Officer will work with the Principal of PW to coordinate the communication of this initiative to the student body and apprizing them of the importance of the new law and its requirements. The second initiative is that the Director of Security for Germantown Academy contacted the District Safety Officer to discuss the possibility of our District entering into an agreement with Germantown Academy whereby, in the event of an emergency, each school could relocate to the other school in the event a total evacuation is required. Further information about this request will be provided to the Committee at future meetings.

The status of the repair of a storm water pipe was provided for the Committee. While the repair is complete, a brief conversation took place regarding the responsibility for payment of the repair. The storm pipe is designed to handle storm water from Belvoir Road as well as water from roof drains and athletic fields on the Colonial Middle School campus. The District had a discussion with Plymouth Township regarding the possibility

of contributing to the repair costs as the pipe serves a road that is the responsibility of the Township. The Township checked and found that they do not have an easement for the pipe and indicated that they did not feel responsible to contribute to the repair. The Committee asked that the District reach out to Plymouth Township to revisit the request for contribution for the repair. A follow-up will be provided to the Committee at a future meeting.

The Committee was informed that the District has presented a proposal to cut and trim the grass for the Central Montgomery County Technical High School (CMTHS) from April 2012 to November 2012. This effort is a win-win for both entities as this will be a source of revenue for the District and provide a savings for the CMTHS. Official acceptance of the proposal is expected in February 2012.

Additional Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

There being no further business before the committee, Mr. Brady adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:44 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Yemm
Director of Operations