

Colonial School District
District Operations
Facilities Management/Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes
10/7/2011

Committee Chair Bernie Brady called the meeting to order at 7:34 AM.

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

Other Board Members Present: Gary Johnson

Also Attending: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Superintendent; Terry R. Yemm, Director of Operations; Sheriff Eileen W. Behr, Montgomery County Sheriff; Ms. Linda Doll, Community Resident

Public Comment on the Agenda: None

Sheriff Eileen W. Behr, Montgomery County Sheriff, provided some insight into the opportunities that are available for our District through the District Attorney's office. These opportunities include partnering with the District Attorney's office for many initiatives and grants for internet safety and bullying prevention. One or two day internships are available for students interested in law enforcement. There is an opportunity for students in our robotics club to work directly with the Montgomery County Bomb Squad. Additionally, the Sheriff's Department will provide guest speakers for any District events that may be appropriate.

The Committee was provided with updates on two requests for consideration for bus stop relocations or additional bus stops on existing routes. One of the requests resulted in the relocation of an existing bus stop at North Gravers and Johnson Road to North Gravers and Monterey Drive for three (3) of the four (4) runs requested. The new location will shorten the route for three (3) runs and eliminate two sharp turns that are often difficult to make with a seventy-two (72) passenger bus. The existing stop at North Gravers and Johnson Road will stay as the first stop for the afternoon bus from Plymouth Elementary School. Further analysis will be performed on a request to change the route for the afternoon run from Plymouth Elementary School. The other request was to add a stop on Bethlehem Pike in Flourtown. This stop was requested by a parent that originally had a house stop. The District Safety Officer and Director of Transportation were not in favor of adding a stop on Bethlehem Pike based on a safety consideration and the time factor. The parent will be contacted and given the option of having the house stop reinstated.

The Committee reviewed a plan to increase the height of the spillway of the detention basin that runs parallel to fields 6 and 7 at the PWHS. The purpose of the spillway is to allow storm water to flow out of the detention basin so that it does not breach the sides of the basin. The District received a complaint from the homeowner of the property that the storm water runs on to when it flows out of the basin. Raising the height of the spillway

will allow more water to be stored in the detention basin during a large storm event decreasing the chances that storm water will flow on to the homeowner's property. A preliminary design for raising the spillway has been completed by the engineer and this information has been provided to the township engineer for consideration. If the township engineer agrees to the plan the district will move forward with the project.

A request for the purchase and installation of an electronic sign for the front of PWHS was reviewed and discussed by the Committee. The request is from the current senior class of PWHS. They would like to use money collected from their class as a contribution toward the purchase of the sign. Mr. Yemm indicated that it would be prudent to discuss this request with Whitemarsh Township to determine if electronic signs are permissible under the existing zoning code. If not, the District would have to incur some costs in an effort to obtain a variance to the zoning code in order to be permitted to install the sign. Whitemarsh Township will be contacted and the information obtained will be provided to the Committee as soon as possible.

An update was provided regarding a noise complaint by a resident that lives in a neighborhood next to the Colonial Middle School. The complaint is about excessive noise with the air conditioning unit that is installed on the side of the building. In response to the complaint the District employed the services of an engineer to determine if there is any ability to lessen the noise. The recommendation of the engineer was provided to the Committee for review. Further investigation is required and any alterations that are decided upon will be implemented in the spring of 2012 prior to the start of the cooling season.

Three proposals for correcting problems with the cabling required for the cable TV/Internet system were reviewed. While the Committee understood the need for the repair, a decision was made to have the proposals refined to more clearly represent the exact costs for the repairs. In addition, the Committee requested a clear understanding of the cost centers that will be used for the repairs. The vendor will be contacted and asked to clearly define the proposals and a plan for the payment of the work will be presented to the Committee as soon as possible.

A copy of the recently conducted audit of the lights on Victory Fields was presented for review. The audit was conducted on September 14, 2011 by engineers from the Musco Lighting Corp., the manufacturer of the lights and Suburban Lighting Company, a consultant hired by Whitemarsh Township. The results of the audit provided that there was no increase in the measurable light levels at the property line created by the lights. Mr. Yemm reported that after it was determined that there was no increase in the measurable light levels at the property, the District did request Musco to adjust the lights in an effort to decrease some of the glare and vertical spillage at the property line. There was a noticeable decrease in the amount of glare and vertical spillage after the adjustments were made. The engineers report providing the results of the audit will be provided to Whitemarsh Township.

The Committee was provided with an update on the solar energy project. As of the middle of September the solar panels on CES and PWHS were producing energy. There was a delay in the finalization of the project at CMS. The inspector required an additional part to be installed before issuing final approval. The part was ordered and expected to be onsite within a few days. Once the part is received and installed the system will be inspected and, upon approval, the system will be placed on-line. In addition, a meeting is scheduled for October 11th to finalize the rollout of the curriculum component of the solar project. If all goes according to plan the solar systems at PWHS, CES and CMS will be fully operational and the curriculum component will be in place within a week or two.

Additional Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

There being no further business before the committee, Mr. Brady adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:46 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Yemm
Director of Operations