

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING PA
Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2012

Finance and Audit Committee Chairperson, Kathleen Oxberry, called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday May 2, 2012 in the Superintendent's Conference Room located in the Colonial Elementary School at 230 Flouertown Road, Plymouth Meeting PA.

Finance Committee Members Present: Kathleen Oxberry, Mel Brodsky

Other Board Members Present: Alan Tabachnick, Bernie Brady, Christina Frangiosa, Julie Knudsen, and Leslie Finegold

Others Present: Dr. Mary Ellen Gorodetzer, Superintendent, and Robert Salanik Financial Consultant

Public Present: None

Executive Session:

The board met in executive session to discuss six real estate assessment issues, a delinquent tax issue and legal contracts. The committee discussed these issues and provided direction to the district solicitor's office and the business consultant.

Regular Meeting:

Mrs. Oxberry asked for any public comments on the agenda, there were none. She then asked Mr. Salanik to proceed with the items on the agenda.

Budget 2012-13

Dr. Gorodetzer and Mr. Salanik provided information on the status of the school district budget for 2012-13. The current status of the budget shows that revenues total \$ 92,278,300 and the expenditures total \$95,354,100 which is a 1.51% increase in expenditures over the prior year. This difference of \$3,075,800 will require the use of a tax increase and/or use of fund balance. The district administration is still reviewing the expenditure budget for additional reductions. The committee then reviewed information presented on the homestead/farmstead funding to be received in 2012-13. This funding comes through the state and is a combination of the proceeds from state gaming revenue and a return of some tax dollars paid by district residents to the City of Philadelphia in the form of the City Wage Tax. The total funding amounts to \$ 2,731,093 which will be distributed to 10,690 homestead/farmstead properties and will provide tax relief in the amount of \$ 255.48 per property, up from \$ 232.13 last year. The committee then reviewed an analysis of some of the possible real estate tax increase scenarios that can be used to close the budget shortfall for 2012-13. The committee discussed many of the options and will have further discussions.

Vocational Technical School Bond Refinancing

Mr. Salanik reviewed the potential to “advance” refund the 2004 bond issue of the vocational technical school. The bond issue has a call date of 2014; however refunding this issue prior to the call date to take advantage of current low interest rates may be possible. The district and tech school business administrators will be meeting with the Financial Advisor for the Vocational Technical School in the near future to review the feasibility of an advance refunding and to review the savings from this refunding.

Act 25 Installment Payments

This Act was adopted on June 30, 2011 and provides small businesses (50 or less employees) with the opportunity to pay their real estate tax bill in installments. The consensus of the local school districts is to offer the program to all tax payers. The proposed resolution extends this installment payment opportunity to all tax payers, and has been reviewed by the district solicitor’s office and the new business administrator. The resolution will be presented for adoption at the May 17th board meeting. This action will give the district sufficient time to prepare for this change in designing and preparing the 2012 tax bills.

Board Action Items for the May 17, 2012 School Board Meeting

The committee reviewed several items that will be presented for school board action on May 17th including the Appointment of Bank Depositories, Investment Depositories and the renewal of the Financial and Human Resources software agreement with the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit.

Mrs. Oxberry adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Salanik
Financial Consultant