

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, JANUARY 19, 2012

President Tabachnick convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:07 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on January 19, 2012.

Board Members Present: Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Leslie Finegold, Christina Frangiosa, Julie Knudsen, Kathleen Oxberry, Beth Suchsland and Alan Tabachnick.

Board Members Absent: Susan Moore.

Also Attending: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Superintendent; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; Richard Hartz, Director of Human Resources; Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Bob Salanik, Financial Consultant; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Michael Ciesielka and Jessica Knudsen, Board Student Representatives; Mary Thiess; Robert Slagle; Beth Miller; Maria Sierra-Deliz and Nathan Orfe.

Mr. Tabachnick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Football Coach Dan Chang, who led the Colonials to the Suburban One League American Conference Championship and a berth in the District One Playoffs. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that Mr. Chang was also named *The Times Herald* Football Coach of the Year. Mr. Chang presented his team and coaching staff for Board recognition. For a complete list of students honored, see Attachment A.

Dr. Gorodetzer then noted that January is School Director Recognition Month. She commended Board members for their dedication to the Colonial School District and its students. She then introduced a video tribute prepared by Assistant Public Relations Coordinator Kim Newell.

Mr. Tabachnick announced that the Board met in executive session on December 6, 2011, December 14, 2011, January 11, 2012 and January 19, 2012 to discuss legal and personnel issues.

Minutes: Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to take action on the minutes of the Work Session of November 14, 2011, the General Session of November 17, 2011; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee and the Safety and Wellness Committee of December 2, 2011; the Curriculum Committee of December 6, 2011; the Special Meeting and the Finance Committee of December 14, 2011; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of January 6, 2012; the Curriculum Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of January 9, 2012 and the Finance Committee of January 11, 2012. See enclosures #1 through #10 and #57.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Financial Reports: Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider the financial reports on the list for approval. He noted that all reports are for both November and December. They include the Budget Transfers, the Bond Fund Report, the Capital Projects Report, the General Fund/Federal Program Bills, the Capital Reserve Fund, the Food Service Bills/Cafeteria Report, the Outstanding Investment Report, the Cash Flow Summary, the Comparison of Taxes Collected, the Real Estate Tax Escrow Report, the Trust Fund Report, the Reconciliation of Cash Accounts and the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report. See enclosures #11 through #22.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick sought Board action on the Treasurer's Report for the months ending November 30,

2011 and December 31, 2011.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Colonial Elementary School Principal Terese Boegly who, along with Health and Physical Education (HPE) Teachers Geoff Bram and Rob Dennis, shared a Power Point on the school's comprehensive HPE programs. The teachers touched on teambuilding activities, regular physical activity, tools for a healthy lifestyle and more.

Old Business: Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to act on a Fund Balance Policy, Policy #620, on a second-read basis. See enclosure #24. At Mr. Tabachnick's request, Mr. Salanik explained that the Policy is a result of Government Accounting Standards Board pronouncement #54, the purpose of which is to standardize fund balance numbers, fund balance terminology and board actions. He added that the policy establishes procedures for how a board may use its fund balance.

Responding to a question from Mr. Tabachnick, Mr. Sherman stated that the policy becomes an official Board policy if approved on a second-read basis.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to approve the policy on a second-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider a recommendation to exchange some obsolete musical instruments for new instruments through a recycling program. See enclosure #25. He noted that the obsolete instruments have been stored in District schools for a minimum of 10 years.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the instrument exchange. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick asked Dr. Gorodetzer to explain the calendar before the board for approval. Dr. Gorodetzer reported that the Board previously established the day after Labor Day, Tuesday, September 4, as the start date for the 2012-2013 school year. She noted that the calendar presented for Board action was one of five versions reviewed by the Board. The recommended calendar features five professional development days prior to the first day of classes, a full week of spring break, 184 student days and four built-in snow days.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the 2012-2013 school calendar as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Correspondence: Mrs. Suchsland asked board members to act on a number of donations and a grant in one motion. They include a \$250 gift to Plymouth Elementary School from Mr. David Huie for the purchase of The Lego WeDo Construction Set (see enclosure #27); A \$10,000 donation to Conshohocken Elementary School from the Morgan Stanley Foundation to support after school enrichment and an all-school field trip (see enclosure #28); the donation of a sousaphone case to PWHS from Sonic's Limeades for Learning Corporation (see enclosure #29); a \$6,288 gift from Lifetouch National Studios, Inc. to the PWHS Scholarship Fund (see enclosure #30); a donation for \$1,000 from the Ellen Rae Greenburg Fund of the Jewish Community of Central Pennsylvania for the purchase of library books at Colonial Middle School (see enclosure #31) and a \$9,304 grant from the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Council for the purchase of digitalized menu boards at PWHS (see enclosure #32).

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the donations and grant. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed her report that includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List and a list of Adult Evening School instructors for the 2012

winter and spring sessions. See enclosures #33 through #35. She stated that the Personnel Report includes 35 actions and a substitute list. The actions consist of one retirement, one resignation, eight leaves of absence, four unpaid leaves, four returns from leave and 17 revised assignments. Dr. Gorodetzer added that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes four appointments.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: Ms. Knudsen reported on December activities, including a class ring breakfast, the town meeting with Board members, the winter concert and the senior citizen concert. Mr. Ciesielka reported on January activities, including Course Planning Night and Course Selection Day, a cheerleading competition, a Best Buddies organization fund raiser, the Miss PW competition, College Financial Aid Planning Night, the National Art Honor Society art opening with state Senator Leach, finals week, the beginning of the second semester and rehearsals for the spring musical.

Mrs. Oxberry congratulated Miss Olivia Flocco on being named Miss PW. Ms. Knudsen stated that she was accepted to attend the University of Pennsylvania.

New Business: Mrs. Oxberry sought Board action on the 2012-2013 Preliminary Budget and authorization to file for exceptions to the Act 1 Index. She stated that the preliminary budget totals \$99,474,015, a 5.89 percent increase over the current budget. See enclosure #36. Mrs. Oxberry stated that the real estate tax rate is 19.215 mils or an increase of 4.0 percent. She noted that the District plans to use over \$5 million of Fund Balance to balance the budget. Mrs. Oxberry stated that the preliminary budget is just a starting point and that the Board is committed to developing a responsible budget by June. She encouraged the public to take part in deliberations at each Board Finance Committee meeting, including the next one at 6:00 p.m. on February 1. Mrs. Oxberry stated that the application to file for Act 1 exceptions must be filed by February 9. She noted that the Act 1 Index for the 2012-2013 budget year is 1.7 percent.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the preliminary budget and authorization to apply for Act 1 exceptions. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick directed the Board to act on an agreement to allow Berkheimer to act as the District's agent to secure taxable compensation data from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. See enclosure #37.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick asked Mr. Salanik to explain the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Budget that is before the Board for consideration. Mr. Salanik explained that the IU Operating Budget consists of four separate budgets, including the Administrative Services Budget, the Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development Services Budget, the Legislative Services and Grant Development Budget and the Technology and Information Services Budget. He noted that Colonial's contribution is less than \$77,000. Mr. Salanik informed the Board that they should have a roll call vote on the entire IU operating budget and then members should fill out and sign the individual ballots they have in front of them. He noted that the ballots should then be forwarded to Mr. Sherman.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the IU Operating Budget. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick sought Board action to appoint Mrs. Knudsen to serve on the IU Board of Directors and fill the seat vacated by Mr. Brodsky's resignation.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to appoint Mrs. Knudsen to the IU Board. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider a contract with the Vanguard School at a prorated tuition amount of \$32,382.87 for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year. See enclosure #38.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the contract. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick directed the Board to act on a request for Curriculum Supervisor Sergio Anaya to attend the Imagine Learning Partnership Forum in Washington, D.C. from February 1-3. See enclosure #38.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the conference request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Suchsland asked the Board to consider six student field trips in one motion. They include a request for a student to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 11 Band from January 5-7. See enclosure #40. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that because of the timing of the December Board meeting this trip is being approved after the fact. She stated that Board members had reviewed the trip in committee. Mrs. Suchsland noted that the other trips are for five students to attend the PMEA District 11 Choral Festival from January 26-28 (see enclosure #41), the PWHS Future Educators Association to attend the national conference in Baltimore, Md. from February 17-19 (see enclosure #42), a student to attend the PMEA District II Orchestra Festival from February 9-11 (see enclosure #43), the 2013 Senior Class trip to Disney World from April 10-15, 2013 (see enclosure #44), and the Ridge Park Elementary School second grade to attend the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J. on February 16 (see enclosure #45).

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve all trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Sultanik asked the Board to consider real estate settlements for a property located on Exeter Lane (see enclosure #46), a property owned by Henkels & McCoy, Inc. (see enclosure #47) and a property owned by Dowel-Conshohocken, LLC (see enclosure #48). Mr. Salanik noted that the Board's Finance Committee reviewed each of the negotiated settlements, which are all compromise settlements.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the real estate settlements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: Mrs. Knudsen will attend her first meeting next week.

CMTHS: No report.

Human Resources: No report.

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry noted that the minutes of the December 14 and January 11 meetings can be found in enclosures #8 and #57, respectively. She encouraged the community to attend the next committee meeting on February 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky stated that the committee met on January 9 and heard a comprehensive report on SIOP the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol, a program to support English Language Learners (ELL). Mr. Brodsky noted that ELLs represent an expanding percentage of the District's student population. He noted that the program has been in operation for three and a half years. Mr. Brodsky stated that the committee also received an update on the Keystone Exams.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Brady reported that a recent water main break at Whitmarsh Elementary School was quickly repaired.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Suchsland reminded everyone that the District will host EcoFest on Thursday, March 1 and the annual Senior Citizen Luncheon and matinee performance of the PWHS spring musical on Saturday, March 17. She noted that the next Parents Council meeting is on Tuesday, January 31 and will feature PWHS College Counselor Pat Tamborello. Mrs. Suchsland also reminded community members of an important calendar change. She stated that the teacher in-service presently scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2012 is being moved to Tuesday, April 24, 2012 to coincide with the Pennsylvania Primary Election which is earlier than normal in this presidential election year. She noted that there will be no school for students on Tuesday, April 24. Also, the half-day early dismissal scheduled for Friday, April 27 is cancelled. April 27 will be a full day for students. Tuesday, May 15 will also become a full day for students.

Safety and Wellness: No Report.

Legislative: No Report.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary