

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, MARCH 15, 2012

President Tabachnick convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:04 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on March 15, 2012.

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

Board Members Absent: None.

Also Attending: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Superintendent; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; 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, Board Student Representative; Gary Johnson; Amy Grossman; Mary Thiess; Beth Miller; Jesse Gluckman; Robert Slagle; Jacob Gadd; Colleen DiFabio; Daniel Carr; students receiving awards and their families.

Mr. Tabachnick led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board met in executive session on February 15, February 29 and March 15 to discuss legal and personnel issues.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Jennifer LaFemina, Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Girls' Track Coach, who presented Katelynn Williams and Daniele Leace, two students who performed well at the PIAA Indoor Track & Field Championships. Dr. Gorodetzer then introduced PWHS Boys' Track Coach Cardwell Wooten, who recognized Carlos Bennett, another student who excelled at the Indoor Track & Field Championships. Finally, Dr. Gorodetzer invited Kathy Bello of the Central Montco Technical High School to the podium. Ms. Bello presented SkillsUSA medalists Jessica Leedom and Tyler Lester and Health Occupation Student Association state gold medalist Derek Emel for Board recognition.

Minutes: Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider the minutes of the General Session of February 9; the Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Advertising Sub-Committee of February 15; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of March 2; the Curriculum Committee and the CRSL Committee of March 5, and the Human Resources Committee and the Finance Committee of March 7. See enclosures #1 through #5, #44 and #45.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Financial Reports: Mr. Tabachnick directed the Board to act on the financial reports on the list for approval. They include the Budget Transfers, the Bond Fund 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, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending February 29. See enclosures #6 through #17.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Dr. Gorodetzer introduced PWHS Video Production Teacher Chris McWilliams and students Brian Brown and Rich Vose, who presented a student-produced video entitled "PW, A Closer Look." Dr. Gorodetzer then introduced Whitemarsh Elementary School Principal Donna Drizin, who along with kindergarten teachers Susan Hope, Ilene Miller and Randi Metter, presented the school's

online Kindergarten Newsletter.

Old Business: Mr. Tabachnick asked Board members to act on revisions to Policy #004, Board Committee Functions, on a second-read basis. See enclosure #18. Responding to a question from Mr. Tabachnick, Mr. Sherman noted that the revisions reflect the consolidation of committees and several committee name changes. He also noted that the revision would take effect if approved by the Board on a second-read basis.

Mrs. Moore 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, 9-0.

Correspondence: Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider a donation of \$2,500 from ASTM International to Conshohocken Elementary (CE) School for programs conducted by the Riverbend Environmental Center. See enclosure #19.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the donation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed her report that includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #20 and #21. She reported that the Personnel Report includes 25 transactions, including two retirements, two resignations, six leaves of absence, two returns from leave, 10 revised assignments and three extensions of assignments. She noted there are a number of additions to the substitute list. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes one appointment.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: Mr. Ciesielka reported on winter and spring sports, All-State Band and Chorus, the Colonial Players spring production, a robotics competition and the annual foreign language competition.

New Business: Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to authorize the administration to proceed with the preliminary statements, bond rating, internet bidding and all documentation needed to receive bids for refinancing the District's 2008 Bond issue – and authorize Fox Rothschild, LLP to serve as bond counsel and Public Financial Management, Inc. to serve as financial advisor in the matter. At Mrs. Oxberry's request, Mr. Salanik explained that by refinancing the remaining debt at a lower rate, the District hopes to save more than \$250,000.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to authorize the administration to proceed with the bond refinancing procedure. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brady sought Board approval to set rental rates for the Montgomery Early Learning Center (MELC) 2012-2013 Before and After School programs in all District elementary schools, 2012 Summer Camp Program at PWHS, and MELC office space in CE as found in enclosure #22. He also asked the Board to consider, in the same motion, the rental rates for the Montgomery County Head Start Program to lease space in one of four District elementary buildings for the 2012-2013 school year per enclosure #23.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the rental rates. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider the Federal Programs Allocations for the 2011-2012 school year, which includes various Title I Programs and the Pennsylvania Accountability Block Grant. See enclosure #24. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that changes in state and federal funding adversely impacted the District financially. Mr. Tabachnick stated that this was another example of declining revenues for the District.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the allocations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Knudsen sought Board action on the District's Cost Plan for services purchased through the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU) for the 2012-2013 school year. See enclosure #25.

Mrs. Knudsen moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the MCIU Cost Plan. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to authorize further planning for a number of summer programs, including a credit recovery program at PWHS (see enclosure #26), the Bridge Program at PWHS (see enclosure #27), and the Special Education Extended School Year Program (see enclosure #28).

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to authorize planning for the summer programs. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Tabachnick sought Board approval of a three-year renewal contract for the Blackboard Connect communication system. See enclosure #29. Mr. Boegly explained that this was the system used for mass telephone calls to District constituents. He noted that the reduced renewal rate represents savings of \$6,300 per year to the District.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the contract. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider a request for PWHS English Teacher Glen Hackett to attend the East Asian Literature Conference at the University of Indiana in Bloomington, Ind., from July 8-13. See enclosure #30. Mr. Brodsky noted that the request was reviewed by the Curriculum Committee and that Mr. Hackett is one of just 25 teachers in the country invited to attend this conference.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the conference request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Suchsland asked the Board to act on five student field trips in one motion. They include a request for two PWHS students to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Region VI Orchestra at Pennridge High School from March 22-24 (see enclosure #31), four PWHS students to present information on the PWHS Writing Center at the Mid-Atlantic Writing Center Association Annual Conference at Shippensburg University from March 30-31 (see enclosure #32), two PWHS students to attend the National Service Learning Conference in Minneapolis, Minn., from April 11-14 (see enclosure #33), the PWHS Indoor Guard to participate in the Indoor Association All-Chapter Championships in Wildwood, N.J., from May 4-6 (see enclosure #34) and the PWHS Orchestra to travel to New York City to attend an open rehearsal of the New York Philharmonic on June 6 (see enclosure #35).

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the student trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Sultanik asked the Board to consider student stipulations #10-291, #10-1408 and #10-8374 related to various behavioral issues as presented and reviewed in executive session.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the student stipulations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: At Mr. Tabachnick's request, Mr. Sherman stated that the Board needed to elect a representative to a three-year seat on the MCIU Board effective July 1. He noted that even though the Board recently elected Mrs. Knudsen to the IU Board, she is currently filling the remainder of a three-year term which expires on June 30.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to elect Mrs. Knudsen to a three-year term on the MCIU Board. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

CMTHS: No Report.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry noted that the committee received an update on the 2012-2013 budget process and reviewed the recommendation for bond refinancing. She added that the District was currently undergoing a routine state audit. She also encouraged residents interested in the budget process to attend the next committee meeting on April 11.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky stated that the committee heard a presentation on differentiated instruction. He noted that teachers spend a lot of time tailoring lessons to the learning styles of individual students. He also touched on the PWHS students selected to present at the writing conference approved earlier by the Board.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Brady reported that the District plans to convert boilers in Colonial Elementary School, Plymouth Elementary School and Colonial Middle School (CMS) from oil to natural gas in order to reduce fuel costs. He stated that the District expects a return on its investment within two years.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Suchsland invited all community residents to the legislative forum scheduled for March 20. She noted that it is an important opportunity for residents to speak out against unfunded state mandates, which represent 20 percent of the District's budget. She also highlighted a March 27 performance of the United States Air Force Jazz Ensemble.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa reported that the February meeting of the Montgomery County School Director's Legislative Committee focused on PSER's funding and the increased obligation school districts will face in the coming years. She stated that a recommendation from the meeting was to ask legislators for support in finding solutions to this issue. She also promoted the March 20 legislative forum hosted by the District.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

Public Comment: None.

Mrs. Oxberry commended CMS students, Mr. Jeff Cooper and Mr. Bobby Biddle on their successful spring musical production.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David M. Sherman". The signature is stylized and cursive.

David M. Sherman
Board Secretary