

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, APRIL 12, 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 April 12, 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; Mark Fitzgerald, Solicitor; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; Dr. Elizabeth McKeane, 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; Jessica Knudsen and Tom Elvins, Board Student Representatives; Mary Thiess; Cindy Cox; Dan Carr; Sabrina Koenig; Jamie Finkelstein; Mark Clark; Bob Slagle; Cindy Ly; students receiving awards and their families.

Mr. Tabachnick led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board met in executive session on March 15, February 28 and April 12 to discuss legal and personnel issues.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Nate Wachter, who presented Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHs) student Justin Staudenmayer, a qualifier for the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) Wrestling Championships, for Board recognition. Dr. Gorodetzer then introduced PWHs boys' swimming coach Taren Igou, who recognized several swimmers and a diver at the PIAA Swimming and Diving Championships. Dr. Gorodetzer also invited Colonial Middle School (CMS) field hockey coaches Brenda Scioli and Cyndi Slagle to present members of their unbeaten seventh grade team. Dr. Gorodetzer invited PWHs teacher Meghan Carragher to present students who qualified for the Pennsylvania DECA competition. Finally, Dr. Gorodetzer noted that the District Art Show held its opening prior to the Board meeting. She introduced PWHs art teacher Candace Maggioncalda to present art students to be honored. For a complete list of all students honored, please see attachment A.

Minutes: Mr. Tabachnick sought Board action on the minutes of the General Session of March 15; the Special Meeting of March 28; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of March 30; and the Curriculum Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of April 9. See enclosures #1 through #3, #32 and #33. Mr. Tabachnick also noted that the Finance Committee minutes of April 11 were before Board members as a blue page.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Brodsky 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 asked the Board to consider 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 March 31. See enclosures #4 through #15.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mr. Brady 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 CMS Principal Robert Fahler who shared a video on a collaborative technology education effort between CMS and PWHS to design and construct laptop computer storage carts.

Mr. Salanik shared a PowerPoint presentation updating the status of the 2012-2012 Budget. He noted that since the passing of the preliminary budget in January, the Board and administration have cut more than \$3.4 million in expenses. In its current form, the budget stands at \$96,025,000 and uses \$1,025,000 of the District's Fund Balance. The budget is 2.2 percent higher than the current-year budget. In its current form, the budget also calls for a 4.0 percent real estate tax increase, which would still leave Colonial with the third lowest tax burden in Montgomery County. Mr. Tabachnick reiterated Mr. Salanik's point about reductions made since the preliminary budget. Mrs. Suchsland also stated that the budget is not in its final form and is still being reviewed. Mr. Salanik added that the Board will approve a Final Proposed Budget on May 17. The Final Budget adoption is scheduled for June 21.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mrs. Moore asked the Board to act on three donations in one motion. They include a donation of scientific and graphing calculators from Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schwab worth approximately \$2,000 to CMS; gifts of \$100 from the Jewish Community Foundation of Central Pennsylvania, \$250 from the Schwab-Silfen Foundation and \$400 from Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schwab to the CMS Library; and Calculators from Mr. and Mrs. Schwab valued at \$400 to Colonial Elementary School. See enclosures #16 through #18.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the donations. 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. See enclosure #19. She reported that the Personnel Report includes 14 transactions, including five leaves of absence, one extension of a leave and eight revised assignments. She added that the Substitute List included a number of additions including teaching and cafeteria aides.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Suchsland 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. Levins reported on a fashion show, the spring musical, spring sports, and the Mr. PW Pageant. Ms. Knudsen reported on sales for end-of-year senior class events, the upcoming Senior Class Trip, and the District Art Show.

New Business: Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider two special education contract agreements in one motion. The first is for tuition of \$16,310.95 for one student to attend the Vanguard School for the remainder of the school year. See enclosure #20. The second is for tuition of \$57,750 for the current school year for one student to attend The Timothy School. See enclosure #21. At Mr. Tabachnick's request, Mrs. Berk explained that the schools provide extraordinary and unique services that the District cannot accommodate in-house.

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

Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to accept an unqualified independent audit report conducted by Barbacane, Thornton and Company for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2011. She added that the report is stellar, contains no issues, and represents the best the District could possibly do.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to accept the independent audit report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Suchsland asked the Board to act on four student field trips in one motion. They include a request for the PWHS Colonial Players to attend a Broadway play in New York City in April (see enclosure #22), two PWHS students to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All-State Orchestra Festival in Lancaster, Pa., from April 18-21 (see enclosure #23), the Conshohocken Elementary School second grade to attend the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J., on May 31 (see enclosure #24), and one PWHS student to attend the PMEA All-State Chorus Festival in Lancaster, Pa., from April 18-20 (see enclosure #34).

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Oxberry 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: Intermediate Unit: No Report.

Committee Reports: No Report.

CMTHS: No Report.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry recapped the April 11 meeting, which included information on the independent audit report, 2012-2013 budget update and the option for taxpayers to take part in the Act 25 installment payment plan.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky stated that the committee heard a comprehensive report on the math program at CMS. He urged community members to attend committee meetings to learn what is going on in the District and to provide input.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Brady reported that the District has solicited bids for the natural gas conversion project. He added that the application for the electronic sign permit in front of PWHS has been finalized.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Suchsland reminded community members that April 24 is primary election day and there will be no school for students. She encouraged residents to exercise their right to vote. She added that the Parents Council meeting scheduled for April 24 has been moved to April 23, and will feature Mr. Salanik's budget update. She also encouraged residents to visit the District table at Whitemarsh Township Day on Saturday, April 28. Finally, she noted that the District Art Show will be on display in the District Office hallways through April 23.

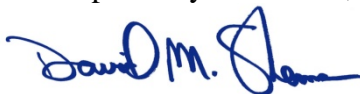
Legislative: No Report.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary

Wrestling (Nate Wachter)

Justin Staudenmayer

Diving (Dave Stewart)

Lize Keefer

Swimming (Taren Igou)

Francis Garvey
Kyle Lukens
Tyler Sauder
Evan Sherkness

DECA (Meghan Carragher)

Jason Foreman
John Fritz
Zak Glaser
Matt Goldberg
Ani Greenspan
Andre Harris
Sami Heller
Sami Herman
Will Kane
Josh Klempner
Scott Leopold
Ryan Lunney
Cindy Ly
Taylor Mitchell
Madison Nagy
Sami Newman
Allyson Paul
Jess Pogust
Jonah Rice
Erica Rosenberg
Jared Seiler
Corey Somers
Jordan Wolfheimer

CMS Field Hockey Team (Brenda Scioli)

Kerin Bechtel
Kolby Bechtel
Amanda Colton
Calista Costa
Cilia Curry
Angelina DiSanto
Emily Greberman
Danielle Harper
Samantha Mangine
Hannah McGee
Brenna Murray
Frankie O'Brien
Caroline Slagle
Emma Truong
Samantha Wert
Jenna Weikel

PWHS Art (Candy Maggioncalda)

PSEA:

Christine Chung
Jamie Finkelstein
Debbie Kim
Maya Thomas
Madeleine Willis-Lorenz

MCCC:

Ashley Carlin
Carly Cumens
Jamie Finkelstein
Carly Garman
Lize Keefer
Kristen Harkins
Sabrina Koenig
Kate McGinley
Natalee Means
Ally Paul
Tori Totaro
Hannah Young