

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462**  
**GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 15, 2011**

President Johnson convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:04 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on September 15, 2011.

**Board Members Present:** Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Gary Johnson, Kelly Jowett, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry, Beth Suchsland and Alan Tabachnick.

**Board Members Absent:** Jodi Miscannon.

**Also Attending:** Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Superintendent; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; Richard Hartz, Director of Human Resources; Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Jessica Knudsen and Michael Ciesielka, Board Student Representatives; Robin Mitchell; Marsha Swarz; Ken Rovine; Mitch Zimmer; Bob Slagle; Denise Marks and Beth Maza.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board met in executive session on August 24, September 7 and September 12 to discuss legal and personnel matters.

**Recognition/Awards:** Dr. Gorodetzer presented seven Master Teachers for Board Recognition. See enclosure #1. In attendance were Sandy Connelly, Liz Jones and Cecilia Quarino from Plymouth Elementary School and Traci Rovinsky from Colonial Middle School (CMS).

**Minutes:** Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider the minutes of the General Session of August 18, the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of September 2, the Human Resources Committee of September 7 and the Curriculum Committee of September 12. See enclosures #2, #3, #26 and #27.

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, 8-0.

**Financial Reports:** Mr. Johnson sought Board action on the financial reports on the list for approval. They include 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, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending August 31. See enclosures #4 through #15.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Tabachnick seconded a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Public Comments on the Agenda:** None.

**Staff Report:** None.

**Old Business:** None.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed her report that includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List and the Enrollment Report. See enclosures #16 through #18. She noted that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contains one resignation, one return from leave, two leaves of absence, two extensions of leaves, three revised assignments and one appointment. Dr. Gorodetzer reported that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes five new appointments, three

resignations and one revised position. She added that the Enrollment Report shows average class sizes of 17-23 students in the K-3 buildings and 22-23 students in Colonial Elementary School. She noted that class sizes in CMS and Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) are well within contractual limits.

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

**Board Student Representatives Report:** Ms. Knudsen reported that ninth grade orientation was a positive experience for students and parents. She also noted that PWHS has been selected to host the Best Buddies Ball. Mr. Ciesielka reported that the cross country team has moved its home meets to Fort Washington State Park while repairs are made to its regular home course. He also mentioned that the Spanish Exchange Program has begun, the Senior Class held its first trip meeting and a band flea market is this coming weekend.

**New Business:** Mr. Johnson asked the Board to act on a contractual agreement with the Pathway School. See enclosure #19. He stated that the agreement was for one student at a rate of \$48,500 for the 2011-2012 school year.

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

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on an addendum to the District's agreement with Chestnut Hill College regarding the college's financial responsibility for the installation of lighting on Victory Fields #1 and #3, as well as construction of the comfort station abutting the fields. See enclosure #20.

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

Mr. Johnson directed the Board to consider an agreement with Heartland Payment Systems to allow for on-line credit card, debit card and check deposits for student food service balances. See enclosure #28. At Mr. Johnson's request, Mr. Boegly explained that the product is a software package that will allow parents the option of electronically depositing money into their child's Food Services account. Mr. Yemm added that parents may also monitor their child's account to see how the money is spent. Responding to a question from Mrs. Suchsland, Mr. Yemm stated that the service is expected to be operational in mid-October.

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

**Solicitor's Report:** None.

**Committee Reports:** Intermediate Unit: Mr. Brodsky stated that the Board met last month and discussed the approval of goals established by IU Director Dr. Jerry Shiveley. Mr. Brodsky stated that one issue he will keep the Board apprised of was the relocation or renovation of the IU building. Mr. Brodsky noted that was a concern given the state of the economy.

CMTHS: No report.

Human Resources: Mrs. Moore stated that the committee met on September 7 and discussed the enrollment report. She noted that all other business was confidential in nature.

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry stated that the committee did not meet this month. She reported that the Act I index for the 2012-2013 budget year was set at 1.4 percent. She noted the index was 1.7 percent for the current year, down from 4.8 percent for the 2008-2009 budget year. Mrs. Oxberry also stated that the Pennsylvania State Employees Retirement System realized investment earnings of 20.3 percent for the 2010-2011 budget year. She said that was the highest return in the history of the fund.

Curriculum: Mr. Tabachnick stated that the committee met on September 12 and reviewed a compilation of student work in advanced scientific activities. He noted that the publication is online. He also reported on curriculum updates in personal fitness and nutrition, financial literacy and an action plan for the band. Additionally, Mr. Tabachnick stated that, because of the appointment of a new superintendent, the District received a three-month extension to complete its strategic plan midpoint review.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Brady stated that the Ridge Park Elementary School window replacement project was complete and that there will be a full report on the Victory Fields lighting review at the next committee meeting. Responding to a question from Mr. Tabachnick, Mr. Yemm reported that construction on the new utility field behind Colonial Elementary School has begun and a portion of the large mound has been removed. He added that the project is behind schedule because of the weather. Mr. Brady commended Mr. Yemm and his staff for the way they have handled the excessive rain. Mr. Yemm deflected the praise to his staff, stating that many were on site to check the facilities during the recent hurricane. Mr. Yemm also stated that completion of the retention basin in McCarthy Park, by Whitmarsh Township, has resolved the flooding issues in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Suchsland noted that the committee did not meet in September. She asked the community to stop by the District's tent at the Conshohocken Fun Fest on September 17.

Safety and Wellness: Mrs. Jowett stated that the committee will meet on September 21. She noted that the committee will review a Fuel Up for Breakfast grant and discuss CPR/AED training for coaches.

Legislative: Mrs. Suchsland stated that the fall legislative session begins soon. She also reported that she, Dr. Gorodetzer and Mr. Sherman met with State Representatives Mike Gerber and Kate Harper to open lines of communication. She also stated that meetings with State Senators Daylin Leach and Vincent Hughes are planned.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

**Public Comment:** None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary