

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, OCTOBER 20, 2011

President Johnson convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:01 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on October 20, 2011.

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

Board Members Absent: Jodi Miscannon and Beth Suchsland.

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; Bob Salanik, Financial Consultant; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Jessica Knudsen and Michael Ciesielka, Board Student Representatives; George Wolfinger; Helene Rosen; Robert Kovacic; Ed Ravitch; Kathy Ciesielka; Julie Knudsen; Kate Tabachnick; Felice Jordall; Beth Miller; Janet McGuire; Mary Thiess; Candy Maggioncalda; Sandy Silbiger; Lynn Bilodeau; Nicole Bilodeau; Susan Gondek; Barbara Grugen; John Wisniewski; Michele Yavorski; Elisa Redican; Alan Fiermonte; Elizabeth Malantonio and Michele Elkes.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Johnson welcomed Bob Salanik, the District's new financial consultant, to his first Board meeting. Mrs. Oxberry stated that long time Chief Financial Officer Joe Bickleman was on an approved leave of absence until he officially retires in June. She spoke to Mr. Bickleman's 33 years of dedicated service to Colonial, thanked him for his contributions and wished him and his family well in his retirement. She stated that in Mr. Bickleman's absence, the Board had contracted with Mr. Salanik for financial and budget development assistance for the remainder of the school year. Mrs. Oxberry noted that Mr. Salanik has 36 years of related experience and has worked in the Wissahickon, Souderton and Palisades school districts. Mr. Salanik thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Mr. Johnson announced that the Board met in executive session on September 21, October 12 and October 17. He added that the Board will also meet in executive session following the meeting.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) art teacher Candy Maggioncalda who reported on the National Art Honor Society Traveling Art Show and recognized several students whose art was selected for the show. Dr. Gorodetzer then presented PWHS Principal Heather Nuneviller who presented current seniors who are Advanced Placement Scholars and National Merit Scholars. For a complete list of students honored, see Attachment A.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider the minutes of the Work Session of September 12; the General Session of September 15; the Special Meeting and the Safety and Wellness Committee of September 21; the Curriculum Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of October 3; the Human Resources Committee and the Finance Committee of October 5 and the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of October 7. See enclosures #1 through #9.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Financial Reports: Mr. Johnson sought Board action on the financial reports on the list for approval. 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, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending September 30. See enclosures #10 through #22.

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, 7-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Plymouth Elementary School Principal Judi Lipson and Master Teachers Liz Jones and Robin Ubaldini presented a power point and video on a student wax museum project. The cross-curricular research project covered a six-week period and culminated with a presentation where students dressed up like and presented information on their subjects.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Johnson asked the Board to act on a request to accept a grant in the amount of \$2,750 from General Mills Food Service. See enclosure #23. He noted that the "Fuel Up for Breakfast" grant is sponsored by General Mills in conjunction with the National Dairy Council to help improve student access to nutritious foods.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to accept the grant. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

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 #24 and #25. She stated that in addition to the Substitute List, the Personnel Report includes 31 actions. They consist of three resignations, four leaves of absence, four extensions of leaves, 13 revised assignments, three returns from leave and four appointments. Dr. Gorodetzer reported that the updated Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes seven new appointments and one resignation.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: Mr. Ciesielka reported on senior class ring orders, student portraits, an SAT review course, the Spanish Exchange Program, a barbecue preceding a home football game, a Cappies review, and the Band Cavalcade. Ms. Knudsen stated that there was a cap and gown meeting for seniors and 281 seniors had made reservations for the class trip. She also reported on the success of the fall sports programs, previewed Homecoming Week activities and stated that the Counseling Department is now on twitter.

New Business: Mrs. Moore asked the Board to establish the start date for the 2012-2013 school year. She recommended beginning the school year on September 4, 2012, the Tuesday following the Labor Day holiday. See enclosure #26. She noted that the Board would establish a full calendar later in the year.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Jowett seconded a motion to establish Tuesday, September 4, 2012 as the start date for the 2012-2013 school year. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a request to approve the attendance of four elementary music teachers at the Orff Schulwerk Association National Conference in Pittsburgh, Pa., from November 10-11. See enclosure #27.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mr. Tabachnick seconded a motion to approve the conference request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Johnson noted that the Board approved the student trip requests on Monday evening.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Sultanik asked the Board to act on a Separation and Release Agreement that was discussed in executive session. He noted that the agreement is between the District, an employee and the Colonial Education Association. He stated that under the agreement the employee would resign effective December 31, 2011.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the Separation and Release Agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: Mr. Brodsky stated that the IU administration is seeking to renovate its current facility or buy another one at a cost of \$6 million to \$10 million. Mr. Brodsky stated that he did not think either proposal had much traction.

CMTHS: No report.

Human Resources: Mrs. Moore stated that much of the information discussed in the October 5 meeting was of a confidential nature. She did state there were two items that required Board action. The first was the 2011-2012 listing of District salaries that Mrs. Moore noted was reviewed in executive session. She added that the salary list is available for public inspection in the District Office.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Jowett seconded a motion to approve the salary list. On a roll call vote, all but Mr. Brodsky voted in favor. Mr. Brodsky abstained noting that his daughter is a District employee. The motion was carried, 6-0.

Mrs. Moore also asked the Board to consider a three-year cabinet level agreement that mirrors the previously approved agreement with the Colonial Administrators and Supervisors Education Association. She noted that the agreement would run through June 30, 2015.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry stated that the committee met on October 5. She reported that Mr. Salanik reviewed the real estate assessment value of the District. She also noted that Act 1 exceptions have been limited to special education costs that exceed the Act 1 index and retirement rate increases above the index. Mrs. Oxberry stated that a review of county tax rates revealed that Colonial still has the third lowest tax rate in the county. Mrs. Oxberry also noted that the 2012-2013 budget calendar has been moved up by one month because the primary election will occur in April of the coming year.

Curriculum: Mr. Tabachnick stated that the committee met on September 12 and reviewed two main items. The first was the academic achievement report that showed all schools met Adequate Yearly Progress targets. He also noted that there will be a comprehensive presentation at the Parents Council meeting on Tuesday. Mr. Tabachnick stated that the other item reviewed was curriculum update. He highlighted the Tangent Energy solar project and the fact that there are now video screens in Colonial Elementary School, Colonial Middle School and PWHS on which students can monitor the energy produced by the solar panels in real time.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Brady reported that the committee heard a request for an electronic sign to be placed in front of PWHS. He stated that the issue will be discussed with Whitemarsh Township.

Community Relations and Student Life: No report.

Safety and Wellness: Mrs. Jowett stated that the committee heard updates on Project Ignition from Sergeant Fran Wheatley of the Whitemarsh Township Police Department. Mrs. Jowett noted that the District has an opportunity to send one student to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for a one-day job shadow program. The District may also have an opportunity to showcase its program at the National Young Leaders Conference in Minneapolis, Minn. in April 2012. Mrs. Jowett also reported on coaches' CPR training and the National School Lunch Program.

Legislative: Reporting for Mrs. Suchsland, Mr. Brodsky stated that the District is trying to schedule a December community forum on proposed legislation that affects public education. He added that the Pennsylvania School Boards Association is providing e-mail updates on the legislation and that interested persons should e-mail Mr. Sherman to get on the list.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

Public Comment: Mr. Fiermonte asked the Board to re-examine its funding priorities and re-stated his disappointment over the planetarium closing following the 2008-2009 school year. He reminded the Board that there was an election coming up. He also described his involvement with the Colonial Foundation.

Mr. Johnson stated that there was no money budgeted to dismantle the planetarium.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary