

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
WORK SESSION MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

President Johnson convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:31 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on September 12, 2011.

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

Board Members Absent: None.

Also Attending: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Superintendent; 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 and Jay Murray.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and congratulated Dr. Gorodetzer on a successful opening to the school year. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that everything has gone well, in spite of the bad weather. She reported that the district-wide convocation held on August 30 was a positive, unifying event and was well received. She added that kindergarten students began their school year today.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board met in executive session on August 24, September 7 and September 12.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer reported that seven Master Teachers will be presented for recognition on Thursday evening. See enclosure #1. They include Linda Colantonio from Ridge Park Elementary School, Sandy Connelly, Liz Jones and Cecilia Quarino from Plymouth Elementary School, George Hankins and Traci Rovinsky from Colonial Middle School (CMS) and Jill Ruggiero from Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS).

Minutes: Mr. Johnson asked the Board to review the minutes of the General Session of August 18 and the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of September 2. See enclosures #2 and #3. He reported that minutes of the Human Resources Committee of September 7 and the Curriculum Committee of September 12 will be available for review as yellow pages on Thursday evening.

Financial Reports: Mr. Johnson asked the Board to examine the financial reports on the list for approval on Thursday. 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.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Dr. McKeaney and Mrs. Berk reported on the District's summer programs. Dr. McKeaney stated that the District held three summer literacy programs from June 20 through July 14. Programs included one for District students in grades K-2 and one for District students in grades 3-5 at Conshohocken Elementary School, and one at Ridge Park Elementary School for non-public students residing in the District. She said that a total of 125 students took part in the programs and all maintained or improved their reading skills. Dr. McKeaney also reported on the Summer Bridge Program that accommodated 125 incoming freshman to PWHS. Students took part in four, four-hour sessions weekly between August 1 and August 18. Students gained familiarity with the school, the ninth grade curriculum, their teachers and schedules and also took part in team building activities. Dr. McKeaney

noted that 30 students participated in an online credit recovery program, assisted by a PWHS teacher between June 21 and July 20. She added that 18 girls took part in the second annual Girls In Technology program where they received two weeks of instruction in computer animation, robotics and engineering classes.

Mrs. Berk reported on the Extended School Year Program which focuses on individualized instruction for students with disabilities. She stated that the District's IEP team ascertains a student's eligibility for the program. She noted that 52 students took part in the five-week program, including 36 in four elementary classes and 14 full-time and two part-time students in secondary classes. She said that all students maintained or showed improvement in all targeted goals.

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 leave of absence and two revised assignments. Dr. Gorodetzer reported that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes three new appointments, two resignations and one revised position. She added that the Enrollment Report shows average class sizes of 17-21 students in the K-3 buildings and 22-23 students in Colonial Elementary School. She noted that class sizes in CMS and PWHS are well within contractual limits.

New Business: Mr. Johnson asked the Board to examine 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.

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

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: None.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary