

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462**  
**WORK SESSION MINUTES, OCTOBER 17, 2011**

President Johnson convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:32 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on October 17, 2011.

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

**Board Members Absent:** Jodi Miscannon and Alan Tabachnick.

**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 announced that the Board met in executive session on September 21, October 12 and October 17.

**Recognition/Awards:** Dr. Gorodetzer reported that a number of students will be recognized on Thursday evening, including National Art Honor Society members whose artwork is in the organization's traveling art show and those students who are Advanced Placement and National Merit Scholars.

**Minutes:** Mr. Johnson asked the Board to look at 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.

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

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

**Staff Report:** Dr. Gorodetzer noted that Plymouth Elementary School Principal Judi Lipson will present an update on school initiatives on Thursday evening.

**Old Business:** None.

**Correspondence:** Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider 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.

**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 28 actions. They consist of three resignations, four leaves of absence, four extensions of leaves, 13 revised assignments, three returns from leave and one appointment. Dr. Gorodetzer reported that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes five new appointments and one resignation.

**New Business:** Mrs. Moore reported that the Board will take action on Thursday to establish the start date for the 2012-2013 school year. See enclosure #26. She noted that the Board is considering September 4, 2012, the Tuesday following the Labor Day holiday. Mrs. Moore added that the end date would be Friday, June 14, 2013.

Mr. Johnson noted that board action is requested 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. Suchsland asked the Board to consider a number of student field trips. See enclosures #28 through #35. They include the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Mock Trial Team's participation in training at Harvard University from November 11-13; PWHS Milestone and Town Crier students to attend a journalism workshop at Columbia University on November 7; PWHS AP Drawing and Art Majors and AP and Honors Art History Majors to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on November 18; PWHS AVID students to visit Penn State, Bucknell, Susquehanna and Millersville Universities from October 27-28; the PWHS exchange program's trip to Spain and France from January 13-31, 2012; fourth graders to attend the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J., the PWHS Baseball Team's participation in a game in Aberdeen, Md., on March 24, 2012 and the PWHS Cheerleaders to take part in competitions in Pittsburgh, Pa., from November 18-20 and Williamsburg, Va., from March 30, 2012 to April 1, 2012.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Jowett seconded a motion to approve all student trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

**Solicitor's Report:** None.

**Committee Reports:** Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Suchsland noted that the committee was presented details of a district-wide Band Action Plan that was collaboratively developed by the Band Directors at PWHS, Colonial Middle School and Colonial Elementary School. She noted that the plan is designed to recruit and retain student participants and develop the band programs. Mrs. Suchsland added that the committee reviewed the Communications Plan for the year, which featured an emphasis on developing relationships with the local business community.

Legislative: Mrs. Suchsland stated that community members may sign up to receive e-mail updates on educational budget issues and legislation relating to school vouchers, charter school expansion and other complicated issues from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. She stated that interested persons should e-mail Mr. Sherman to get on the list.

**Public Comment:** None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary