

## **Community Relations and Student Life Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors, April 8, 2013**

The Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, April 8, 2013 in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. Present were committee chair Beth Suchsland; committee members Leslie Finegold, Christina Frangiosa and Heather Palmer; Board President Alan Tabachnick; Board members Mel Brodsky and Kathleen Oxberry; Superintendent Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Assistant Public Relations Director Kim Newell; Community Relations Coordinator/School Board Secretary David M. Sherman; Board Student Representatives Tom Elvins, Devica Bhutani and Brett Paul; Linda Doll; Gary Johnson and Darryl Schick.

There was no public comment on the agenda.

The committee reviewed a trip request for 10 students from the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) Gladiator Club to participate in a competition in Morristown, N.J., on Saturday, April 20. There is no cost to the District. Dr. Gorodetzer explained that the group was a martial arts-type group run by a PWHS teacher's aide. She noted the club advisor is not an Extra Duty/Extra Pay Position.

Committee members were informed that the Pennsylvania House of Representatives will be on break the week of April 29 through May 3. The administration is attempting to schedule a legislative forum that week. Representative Kate Harper is available on Monday, April 29 and Senator Leach is available on Wednesday, May 1. Discussion centered on what would be the focus of the forum and whether or not County Commissioners should be invited. The administration was asked to consult with Tina Viletto, the Director of Legislative Services at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit.

Mr. Schick raised the issue of folders containing advertising provided directly to students by the Music and Arts Corporation. He was concerned that parents did not have the opportunity to screen the advertising. The administration explained that the folders were requested by music teachers and were provided at no cost to the District. Approximately 1,500 folders are provided, saving the District an estimated \$3,500 per year. It was also noted that students attending various music competitions and festivals throughout the state also receive folders from other vendors with advertising included in them. Mr. Schick was advised that his company is welcome to provide folders to the District with advertising included. He then raised the question as to who would decide which folders are distributed. Committee members stated that they would study the issue further.

The committee was provided suggested dates for a Board/Student Town Meeting at PWHS. The dates will be provided to all Board members for feedback.

Committee members were informed that the Community Spring Newsletter will be produced and mailed after the May 21 primary election. The focus will be an update on the efforts of the District's Outreach and Development Committees. Members were informed of a survey and letters being developed to send to parents and local businesses to obtain contacts for the business partnership data base. The data base will be used as a reference for students looking to obtain internship and job-shadowing opportunities. Ms. Buhtani noted that it is difficult to schedule internships during the school day and inquired if there was any flexibility for arranging opportunities outside normal school hours.

Committee members were informed that at present more than 55 donors have contributed in excess of \$7,000 to the Colonial School District Annual Fund Drive. Mrs. Doll expressed some concerns with the effort.

The committee was apprised that Mr. Sherman and Ms. Newell traveled to Baltimore on March 20 to meet with the vendor that is building the new District website. Designs for all pages were finalized and the site is now being populated. The District portion of the site is targeted for completion in May with the entire site scheduled to go online prior to the end of the school year. A preview will be presented at the Parents Council meeting on April 30.

Members were informed that the District will staff a table at Whitemarsh Township Day on Saturday, April 27 from noon to 5 p.m. at Miles Park. Middle school students participating in an energy project with PECO will be present.

Board members were reminded that their final building visit of the year is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24 at Plymouth Elementary School.

There being no further business or public comment, Mrs. Suchsland adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Community Relations Coordinator  
School Board Secretary