

Community Relations and Student Life Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors, June 10, 2013

The Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, June 10, 2013 in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

The meeting was called to order at 5:48 p.m. Present were committee chair Beth Suchsland; committee members Leslie Finegold, Christina Frangiosa and Heather Palmer; Board Vice President Susan Moore; Board members Mel Brodsky and Kathleen Oxberry; Superintendent Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Karen Berk; Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Activities Director Charles Forster; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney; Curriculum Supervisor Maria Wileczek; Assistant Public Relations Director Kim Newell; Community Relations Coordinator/School Board Secretary David M. Sherman; Board Student Representatives Tom Elvins, Cindy Ly, Devica Bhutani and Brett Paul; Linda Doll; Bill English and Susan Vacchiano.

There was no public comment on the agenda.

Former Colonial School Board President and Plymouth Councilman Bill English and Susan Vacchiano, the Recreation Publications and Information Administrator for Plymouth Township Parks and Recreation, spoke to the committee about Harriet Wetherill Park. Mr. English described the location of the park, discussed its history and the Township's original thought to create a nature center there. He noted that the Township is still researching and looking for ways to use the park as a resource. He urged the Board to continue sending representatives to Township meetings and to keep up to date on the park's status. Mrs. Vacchiano described some of the features of the park including a butterfly garden, defined walking trails, interpretive signage and more. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the park was a beautiful property and noted that School Board members did visit there a few years ago. Responding to committee members' questions, Mrs. Vacchiano stated that the Township is considering adding public bathrooms to the park as well as an access point from Butler Pike.

Committee members were informed that advertising initiatives in the District are on hold until a new rate card can be established. It was also announced that the community newsletter was at the printer and should be in homes prior to the June Board meeting.

An update on the rollout of the District website was provided as well as feedback received from staff, parents and community members. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with some constructive suggestions included. Committee members also provided positive feedback and discussed the importance of keeping the site up to date. It was confirmed for members that there was an emergency notification aspect to the District homepage. That feature will be expanded to include the homepages of each school.

Committee members were provided an update on the three community outreach committees. To date, 68 donors have given nearly \$13,000 to the Colonial School District Education Foundation Annual Fund Drive. It was noted that the foundation raised just \$2,500 all of last year. It was also noted that the donor list is posted on the new website. An email was sent to the Advocacy list on June 7 seeking action regarding potential charter school reform legislation. And, a partnership survey will be sent to parents, community members and local businesses within the week. The survey and Annual Fund Drive are also highlighted in the community newsletter.

Senior Student Board Representatives Tom Elvins and Cindy Ly were recognized for their service to the Board over the past two years. Mr. Elvins thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Brett Paul asked how the new website will be marketed to students. Mr. Sherman stated that he will work with Mr. Paul over the summer to develop a plan.

Mrs. Suchsland stated that the next CRSL committee meeting will be in September.

There being no further business or public comment, Mrs. Suchsland adjourned the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David M. Sherman". The signature is stylized and cursive.

David M. Sherman
Community Relations Coordinator
School Board Secretary