

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, MARCH 21, 2013

President Tabachnick convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on March 21, 2013.

Board Members Present: Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Leslie Finegold, Christina Frangiosa, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry, Heather Palmer, Beth Suchsland and Alan Tabachnick.

Board Members Absent: None.

Also Attending: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Superintendent; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; Andrew Boegly, Director of Technology; Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Brett Paul, Devica Bhutani and Tom Elvins, Board Student Representatives; Chad Murray; Erin Dooley; Robert Slagle; Candy Maggioncalda; Paul McMahan; Catherine McMahan; Mary Thiess; Colleen DiFabio; Gary Johnson; Beth Miller; Darryl Schick; Pam Schick; Tommie Wilkins and Adonna Longo.

Mr. Tabachnick led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on February 26, March 6 and March 21.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Colonial Middle School teacher Bill Price who presented his unbeaten seventh grade boys' basketball team to the Board. Dr. Gorodetzer then welcomed Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) teacher Kevin Blair to the podium. Mr. Blair recognized three students who performed well at the state DECA competition. Additionally, Dr. Gorodetzer invited PWHS teacher Candy Maggioncalda and Tommie Wilkins from Laurel House to present a poster contest winner. Please see attachment A for a complete list of all students recognized.

Minutes: Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider the minutes of the General Meeting of February 14; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of March 1 and the Finance Committee of March 6. See enclosures #1 through #3.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Financial Reports: Mr. Tabachnick sought Board action on the financial reports on the list for approval. They include the Budget Transfers, 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 February 28. See enclosures #4 through #14.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Dr. Gorodetzer announced that March is Music in our Schools Month and stated that Colonial was once again named a Best Community for Music by the National Association of Music Merchants. She then introduced a group of ninth grade orchestra students, under the direction of PWHS and CMS Orchestra Director Elise Derewitz, who performed two arrangements for strings.

Following the performance, Mrs. Oxberry commented on the rich music programs in the Colonial School District.

Old Business: Mr. Tabachnick directed Board members' attention to suggested revisions for the previously approved 2013-2014 school calendar. See enclosure #15. Dr. Gorodetzer explained that snow makeup days were included within spring break and are recommended to be removed. She noted that families plan vacations around spring break and hardships would occur if school was held during that time. She stated that under the revision the makeup days would be removed and, if needed, days would be added to the end of the school year.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the calendar revisions. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Correspondence: Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider two donations to Colonial Elementary School in one motion. They include 50 digital picture frames, valued at \$4,762.50 provided by Lenovo. See enclosure #16. The second donation is for 30 TI-15 calculators, valued at \$400, provided by D&H Calculators. See enclosure #17. Mrs. Suchsland inquired how the digital picture frames would be used. She was informed the frames will be used to display photos of school teambuilding and other events.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to accept the donations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider a donation to PWHS. See enclosure #18. The donation includes 20 TI-84 PLUS Scientific Calculators valued at \$2,000 from Mr. Michael Schwab.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to accept the donations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed her report which includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #19 and #20. She reported that the Personnel Report includes three retirements, seven leaves of absence, four returns from leave, 16 revised assignments and three extensions of assignments. She added that additional substitute teachers, instructional aides and food services personnel are included on the substitute list. Dr. Gorodetzer reported that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List contains a number of appointments.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: Mr. Paul reported on senior Florida trip meetings for parents and students, the spring musical, the senior citizen matinee and the pops concert. Ms. Bhutani reported on the District blood drive, the Class of 2014 Tea Party fundraiser and parent conferences. Mr. Levins reported on the Best Buddies Bingo Night, the Ecofest, the beginning of the spring sports season and spring break.

New Business: Mrs. Moore made a motion that the Board: (1) enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Colonial School District and the Colonial Education Association/PSEA/NEA for the purposes of entering into the Bucks and Montgomery County Schools Health Care Consortium; (2) enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Colonial School District and the Colonial Educational Support Professionals Association/PSEA/NEA for the purposes of entering into the Bucks and Montgomery County Schools Health Care Consortium; (3) enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Colonial School District and the Colonial Food Service Personnel Association/PSEA/NEA for the purposes of entering into the Bucks and Montgomery County Schools Health Care Consortium; (4) enter into a Participation Agreement between the Colonial School District and the Bucks and Montgomery County Schools Health Care Consortium; and (5) enter into any other agreements, including but not limited to the Consortium Trust Agreement found in enclosure #36.

At Mrs. Suchsland's request, Mrs. Moore explained that the Board, through these agreements, is attempting to minimize employee healthcare costs moving forward while maintaining the quality of

healthcare offered. She thanked CEA president Bob Slagle, CESP president Mary Thiess and the Food Service leadership for their assistance in this effort.

Mr. Brady seconded Mrs. Moore's motion to enter into the agreements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Frangiosa asked the Board to act on a request to set rental rates for the Montgomery County Early Learning Center (MELC) 2013-2014 before and after school programs in all elementary schools, 2013 summer camp programs at PWHS and office space rental at Conshohocken Elementary School. See enclosure #21.

Mrs. Frangiosa moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the rental rates as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action on the Special Education Cost Plan for 2013-2014 services purchased through the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. See enclosure #22. Mr. Brodsky said the plan was not inexpensive but that it was absolutely necessary.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the 2013-2014 Special Education Cost Plan. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider a proposal for the 2013 special education Extended School Year (ESY) Program. See enclosure #23.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the ESY program. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to act on a request for PWHS college counselor Pat Tamborello to attend a counselor conference at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., from April 4-5. See enclosure #24.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the conference request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Suchsland asked the Board to consider four student trip requests in one motion. The first is for the PWHS Indoor Guard to participate in the 2013 Tournament Indoor Association All-Chapter Championships in Wildwood, N.J., from May 3-5. The second is for the PWHS Indoor Guard to compete at Haddon Heights High School in Haddon Heights, N.J., on April 21. See enclosure #26. The third is for the Colonial Players to attend a Broadway show in New York, N.Y., on May 1. See enclosure #27. The final trip request is for 26 PWHS and CMS students to attend the Technology Student Association National Conference and Competition in Orlando, Fla., from June 28 through July 2. See enclosure #28.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the student trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: Mrs. Finegold summarized the February 27 MCIU Board meeting. She noted that the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) School Performance website, scheduled to launch in April has been pushed back. The School Performance Profile is a replacement for the School Report Cards. Mrs. Finegold also reported on additional PDE funding for the Common Core Standards, the MCIU's third annual Autism Resource Fair, an anticipated 5.3 percent reduction in federal funding because of sequestration, and an in-service held for more than 200 health and physical education educators.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky reported that all bargaining contracts had been ratified by all groups.

Human Resources: Mrs. Moore stated that the March 6 meeting dealt with the health care contracts approved earlier in this meeting.

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry reported that the committee met on March 6 and heard a report on the final federal program allocations. She stated that in most cases funding was decreased or remained level.

Curriculum: No Report.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mrs. Frangiosa highlighted the March 1 meeting. She touched on the priority list for capital projects, a plan to improve traffic flow at CMS, an increase in the drop-off area at Plymouth Elementary School, an update on the recycling program, a plan to increase food service revenues and a review of school kitchens.

Community Relations and Student Life: No report.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa reported on a meeting with the Montgomery County School District Legislative Committee, one focus of which was the 5.0 percent collection fee for delinquent taxes. She also spoke to legislation in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives that privatizes the state's wholesale and retail liquor industry. She noted that funds originally targeted for education had been removed from the legislation. Mrs. Frangiosa and Mrs. Suchsland encouraged community members to contact their legislators and urge them to return the education funding originally proposed by the Governor.

Municipal Liaisons: Mrs. Palmer reported that the Aqua PA water project in Whitemarsh Township will likely continue through the end of the school year.

Mr. Tabachnick reported that he and Dr. Gorodetzer have met with representatives of Whitemarsh and Plymouth Townships and plan to meet with Conshohocken Borough representatives tomorrow. He stated that the object of the meetings is to enhance communication between the District and municipalities.

Public Comment: Mr. Slagle thanked the Board for including the CEA in the solution to maintain healthcare costs while maintaining the quality of coverage. Mrs. Thiess thanked the Board for working with CESP. She noted that she is pleased with the positive working environment. Mr. Tabachnick thanked both unions on behalf of the Board.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary

Seventh Grade Boys' Basketball

Dan Cooper
Kenny Diamond
Alex Lefkowitz
Stephen Longo
Danny Green
Jason Paul
Matt Disisto
Alan Glover
Tristan Johnson
Kaeleb Moghal
Malachi Jones
Dan Farrer
Billy Gallagher
Jonny Ma
Shane McCullough
Coach Mike Acquaviva

PWHS DECA

Skyler Goldstein
Ali Cohen
Benjamin Gilbert

Laurel House Poster Contest Winner

Olivia Malone