

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462**  
**GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, APRIL 18, 2013**

President Tabachnick convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:05 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on April 18, 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; Mark Fitzgerald, Solicitor; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; Andrew Boegly, Director of Technology; Richard Hartz, Director of Human Resources; Trevor Jackson, Business Administrator/Board Treasurer; Dr. Elizabeth McKeane, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Kim Newell, Assistant Public Relations Coordinator; Tom Elvins and Cindy Ly, Board Student Representatives; George Wolfinger; Tony Fioriglio; Candy Maggioncalda; Samantha Zrada; Hope Bluhm; Rachel Guerra; Joshua Remyszewski; Trevon Kenavy; Jill Forster and Deborah Kim.

Mr. Tabachnick led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on April 9 and April 18.

**Recognition/Awards:** Dr. Gorodetzer mentioned the District Art Show currently on display and invited Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) teacher Candy Maggioncalda to the podium to recognize a number of art students. Dr. Gorodetzer then introduced assistant wrestling coach Justin Giovinco, who presented a student-athlete for Board recognition. See Attachment A for a list of all students recognized.

Dr. Gorodetzer introduced a video that highlighted the District Art Show and the art curriculum.

**Minutes:** Mr. Tabachnick sought Board action on the minutes of the General Meeting of March 21; the Human Resources and the Finance Committee of April 3; and the Curriculum Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of April 8. See enclosures #1 through #5.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Suchsland 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 directed the Board to act 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 March 31. See enclosures #6 through #16.

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 noted that the video highlighting the District Art Show was presented in lieu of a staff report.

**Old Business:** Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to consider approval of the purchase of Skyward's Accounts Receivable module. See enclosure #17. She noted that the first-year cost of the product is \$9,965, which will be paid from the 2013-2014 budget. At Mrs. Oxberry's request, Mr. Jackson explained that the product is part of the new Human Resources and Finance software package. He noted that the product will improve efficiency and replace the system currently in use.

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

**Correspondence:** Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider a donation to Conshohocken Elementary School from ASTM International. See enclosure #18. He noted that the \$2,500 gift will support an after school nature club and third grade field trip.

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

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Gorodetzer summarized 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 four resignations, three appointments, four leaves of absence, four revised assignments and two extensions of assignments. She added that additional substitutes are included on the substitute list. Dr. Gorodetzer reported that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List contains one appointment.

Mrs. Frangiosa moved and Mrs. Moore 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:** Ms. Ly reported on a successful and enjoyable senior class trip to Florida. She also commented on the PWHs Pops Concert and the District Art Show. Mr. Elvins highlighted the PWHs Jazz Festival, a benefit courtyard concert, a "Best-Foot Forward" assembly for freshmen and sophomores, and Cappies Award nominations. Responding to a question from Mr. Tabachnick, Mr. Elvins reported that he will attend the University of Pittsburgh next Fall. Ms. Ly said she plans to attend Drexel University.

**New Business:** Mrs. Moore made a motion that the Board ratify the Tentative Agreement reached between the Colonial Education Support Professionals (CESP) and the Board of School Directors of the Colonial School District effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016, subject to: (1) finalizing the wording for the final Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Association and the District; and (2) District Solicitor, Fox Rothschild LLP, and the District Administration approving the final wording of the successor Collective Bargaining Agreement; and (3) subject to the Association approving the Tentative Agreement and final wording of the successor Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Mrs. Finegold seconded the motion to ratify the agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Moore thanked Mary Thiess and the CESP leadership for a positive negotiating process. She also read a note from Mrs. Thiess, who thanked the Board for the respectful way in which the negotiations were handled.

Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to act on the administrative recommendation that Michael Krone and Lily Hart be named Board Student Representatives per Board Policy #004.1. He noted that both students interviewed with the Board and were impressive.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Krone and Ms. Hart. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider a revision to Board Policy #815, Acceptable Use of Internet and School Computer Network, on a first-read basis. See enclosure #23.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the policy revision on a first-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to act on new Board Policy #815.1, Use of Electronic Communication, on a first-read basis. See enclosure #22.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the policy on a first-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action on new Board Policy #237, Electronic Devices, on a first-read basis. See enclosure #22.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the policy on a first-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider approval of a new textbook for the Advanced Placement Government and Law classes. See enclosure #24. He noted that the textbook being replaced is 11-years old.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the new textbook. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Frangiosa asked the Board to act on rental rates for the Montgomery County Head Start program to lease space in a District building for the 2013-2014 school year. See enclosure #25. Mr. Yemm noted that the rate is a slight increase over the previous year and that the space to be rented is located in Conshohocken Elementary School.

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

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider approval of a contract with Lakeside Educational Network for the 2013-2014 school year. See enclosure #35. Mrs. Berk explained that Lakeside provides alternative school programming in a supportive and restrictive setting.

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

Mrs. Suchsland asked Board members to act on two student trip requests in one motion. The first is for Conshohocken Elementary School second graders to attend the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J. on May 28. See enclosure #27. The second request is for Colonial Elementary School fourth graders to visit the aquarium on several dates in May. See enclosure #36.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Frangiosa 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 March 27 MCIU Board meeting. She touched on key curricular themes for the coming year including the Common Core and Keystone Exams, academic competitions, Pennsylvania House approval of a bill to privatize the state's liquor stores, a new special education funding formula and more.

CMTHS: No Report.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry reported that the committee met on April 3 and heard a presentation from Whitmarsh Media Group regarding the solicitation of advertising revenues for the District.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky noted that the three policies approved by the Board on a first-read basis were the result of more than a year of research into the Bring Your Own Device program, a practice where students may use their own technology in classrooms. He noted that a pilot program is underway at the high school. He stated that the Board is seeking parental feedback and encouraged parents to attend the May Curriculum Committee meeting of the Board. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the administration will have a progress report at the July board meeting.

Facilities Management and Transportation: No Report.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Suchsland noted that the committee met on April 8. She encouraged community members to visit the District table at Whitemarsh Township Day on April 27.

Legislative: No Report.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

**Public Comment:** Mr. Kenavy stated that the board should not be approving textbooks as he felt students should be using the internet and other electronic resources instead. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that the District is required to use the Advanced Placement curriculum and textbooks recommended. She noted that the board rarely approves textbook purchases as the District's curriculum is predominantly digital.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary

**The Following had their digital photographs juried into the *PSEA Touch the Future Art Show* at Arcadia University in the Commons Gallery**

Tori Gissi  
Sarah Silbiger

**The following participated in the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Montgomery County Invitational High School Exhibition and Competition:**

Hope Bluhm,  
Rebecca Carbo,  
Jess Cohn,  
Melyssa Eigen,  
Pat Gaffney, *Excellence in Photography Award*  
Rachel Guerra,  
Alina Hansberry,  
Kelly Owens,  
Caitlin Renner,  
Caroline Schivick,  
Sarah Silbiger.  
Nyla Thomas Watkins,  
Laruen Wojciechowski,  
Samantha Zrada,

**The Following student won a medal at the PIAA AAA Wrestling Championships**

Justin Staudenmayer