

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462**  
**GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, AUGUST 16, 2012**

Vice President Moore convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on August 16, 2012.

**Board Members Present:** Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Christina Frangiosa, Julie Knudsen, Leslie Finegold, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry and Beth Suchsland.

**Board Members Absent:** Alan Tabachnick.

**Also Attending:** Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Superintendent; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, 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; Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Dave Santoro; Mary Thiess and Gary Johnson.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on August 14 and August 16.

**Minutes:** Mrs. Moore sought Board action on the minutes of the General Session of July 19, the Human Resources Committee of August 13 and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of August 14. See enclosures #1, #29 and #30.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Financial Reports:** Mrs. Moore asked the Board to consider the financial reports on the list for approval. They include 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 July 31. See enclosures #2 through #11.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

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

**Staff Report:** Dr. McKeaney and Mrs. Berk reviewed the summer programs offered in the school district. Dr. McKeaney noted that grades K-2 and grades 3-5 summer reading programs at Conshohocken Elementary School attracted 59 and 46 students, respectively. She added that the K-2 community reading program at Ridge Park Elementary School served 17 students. Dr. McKeaney reported that 85 students took part in the Bridge Program for incoming freshman at Plymouth Whitmarsh High School and that 25 students, a decrease from years past, enrolled in the credit recovery program at the high school. Mrs. Berk spoke to the extended school year programs for students with special needs. She noted that there were four elementary classes and two secondary life skills classes. The students were identified by the IEP team. Both Dr. McKeaney and Mrs. Berk reported that all students maintained or increased their skill levels.

**Old Business:** Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to act on reverse assessment appeals on nine properties. See enclosure #12. Mr. Jackson explained that the appeals are initiated by the school district based on property sales prices and realty transfer taxes.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the reverse assessment appeals. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed her report that includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List, the Adult Evening School (AES) teacher and class list and the Enrollment Report. See enclosure #13 through #16. She stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List includes seven resignations, five leaves of absence, 18 revised assignments, three retirements, four appointments and a number of substitutes and cafeteria aides. She called attention to the fact that among the action items is the appointment of Tara Holdsworth as assistant principal at Colonial Middle School. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List included appointments for fall sports and the AES teacher and class list for the fall semester. She reported that the Enrollment Report shows class sizes of 17-22 students in K-3 classes and all other classes are well below contractual limits.

Mrs. Moore asked the Board to consider the Personnel Report and Substitute List in a separate motion.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List, the AES teacher and class list and the Enrollment Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the Personnel Report and Substitute List. On a roll call vote, all but Mrs. Moore voted in favor. Mrs. Moore abstained. The motion was carried, 7-0. Mrs. Moore noted that her abstention was due to a family member being listed on the Substitute List.

**Board Student Representatives Report:** None.

**New Business:** Mr. Brady sought Board action on two transportation contracts for the 2012-2013 school year. They include an agreement to transport students to St. Joseph's Preparatory School at \$7.68 per student/per day (see enclosure #17), and an agreement for a parent to transport a child at \$.555 per mile or the established IRS rate for each day the parent transports the child (see enclosure #18).

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the transportation contracts. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Oxberry sought Board action on a Tri-County Food Service Bid including vendors for milk, dairy, juices, ice cream and paper related products. See enclosure #19.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the bid. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to act on an agreement for Financial and Human Resources software as noted in enclosure #20. Mr. Jackson explained that the administration vetted potential vendors and that the upgraded software will be more efficient and minimize redundancy. He added that the product cost is within the budgeted amount.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the software agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider a two-year software licensing agreement with Rubicon International for the ATLAS Curriculum Management System. See enclosure #21. He noted that the agreement cost totals \$31,900.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the software licensing agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Moore directed Board members to consider a consulting services contract with Cathy Grayson at a rate of \$120 per hour. See enclosure #22. Mrs. Berk explained that Mrs. Grayson is the school district's autism consultant and that the agreement is reduced this year to time for consults only.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the consulting services contract. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Moore sought Board action on two special education placement agreements. She noted that due to restrictions regarding student confidentiality and privacy, the agreements were reviewed in executive session.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the placement agreements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Moore asked the Board to act on a placement agreement with the Hill Top School for one student at a tuition rate of \$38,050 for the 2012-2013 school year. See enclosure #23.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the placement agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Brady sought Board approval to sell computer wireless access point equipment as noted in enclosure #24. Mr. Boegly stated that the administration has two proposals and is seeking other options that may provide higher returns.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the sale of the equipment. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Suchsland asked Board members to consider an agreement with Silverpoint Web Solutions in the amount of \$26,300 to upgrade the District's website. See enclosure #25. She noted that the Board approval was conditional based upon solicitor approval of the final wording. At Mrs. Suchsland's request, Mr. Sherman stated that a district-wide committee reviewed five potential vendors and recommended Silverpoint as the vendor of choice. He stated that the target launch for the new site is before spring break.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the contract pending solicitor approval of the final wording. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Solicitor's Report:** None.

**Committee Reports:** Intermediate Unit: No Report.

CMTHS: No Report.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: No Report.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 10.

Facilities Management and Transportation: No Report.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Suchsland reported that the district calendar and class assignments would be in the mail before the end of the month. She added that school supply lists are available online. She also invited the community to the first Parents Council meeting of the school year scheduled for Tuesday, September 25 at 9:30 a.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room. Mrs. Suchsland noted that the administration plans to hold another legislative forum after the November election.

Legislative: No Report.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

**Public Comment:** None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary