

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462**  
**GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 20, 2012**

President Tabachnick convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:04 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on September 20, 2012.

**Board Members Present:** Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Christina Frangiosa, Julie Knudsen, Leslie Finegold, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry, 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; Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; John Quinn, Director of CITV; Kim Newell, Assistant Public Relations Director; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Tom Elvins and Cindy Ly, Board Student Representatives; Robin Mitchell; William Butler; Kristin Butler; Kaylin Butler; Kay Boyce; Mary Thiess; Robert Slagle; Tony Fioriglio; Jen Rich; Katy Geare; Amy Grossman; Jennifer Smith and Gary Johnson.

Mr. Tabachnick led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked those in attendance to observe a moment of silence for Plymouth Township Police Officer Bradley Fox, who was killed in the line of duty on September 13.

**Recognition/Awards:** Dr. Gorodetzer was pleased to announce that Ridge Park Elementary School was one of just eight schools in Pennsylvania and 269 nationally to be named a National Blue Ribbon School. She noted that schools no longer randomly apply for the honor but rather have to be selected to apply. She stated that the Board will formally recognize Ridge Park at their November meeting after Ridge Park is officially recognized in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Mr. Sherman, who presented Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) senior Kaylin Butler to the Board. Ms. Butler was presented with a framed copy of the 2012-2013 Colonial School District Activities Calendar, which featured her artwork on the cover.

**Minutes:** Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to act on the minutes of the General Session of August 16, the Human Resources Committee and the Finance Committee of September 5; The Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of September 7; and the Curriculum Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of September 10. See enclosures #1 through #6.

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 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 August 31. See enclosures #7 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:** Mr. Sherman outlined the District's Communications Strategic Plan that focuses on three areas of outreach and development. They include Advocacy, Fundraising and Partnerships. Mr. Sherman noted that the District needed to engage its constituents and encourage them to act on behalf Colonial's students and programs. He noted that the theme of the plan is "Invest in Colonial." Mrs. Suchsland stated that she, Dr. Gorodetzer and Mr. Sherman had recently spoke with State Senator Daylin Leach about the advocacy initiative. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that an October meeting with State Representative Kate Harper is scheduled. Mr. Tabachnick added that the District plans to launch its new website as part of this plan.

**Old Business:** None.

**Correspondence:** Mrs. Suchsland stated that the Board is asked to accept a gift in the amount of \$200 from the People to People Ambassador Program. See enclosure #17. She noted that the gift was in response to the use of PWHS classrooms to hold meetings.

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

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed her report that includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosure #18 and #19. She stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List includes 10 resignations, one end of assignment, five leaves of absence, one return from leave, 17 replacements, two revised assignments and a number of substitute teachers, instructional aides and support staff. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List included appointments and changes for a number of sports and activities.

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. Elvins reported on the freshman class orientation, a successful first day of school, class meetings, the introduction of the new administrative team and auditions for the Colonial Players' fall production of *Father of the Bride*. Ms. Ly reported on a large turnout for the first semester open house, the first Florida trip meeting for the senior class, the upcoming freshman class elections and the band flea market. Mr. Elvins also noted the counseling staff's launch of the Naviance internet program that will aide in the college admission process.

Mr. Tabachnick thanked the administration for a smooth opening to the school year.

**New Business:** Mrs. Suchsland sought Board action on two policies on a first-read basis. The policies include #001 By-Laws (see enclosure #20) and #006 Meetings (see enclosure #21). Mr. Sherman stated that both policies are presented to the Board in the new format, which references relevant section of the Pennsylvania School Code. He added that a section regarding Board Member Qualifications was added to the By-Laws policy and the section on the bonding of select employees was updated. He also noted items referencing meeting procedures were removed and updated to create the Meetings policy. Also included in the Meetings policy is a section related to public comment.

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

Mr. Tabachnick noted that there are a number of Board policies that needed updating and the Board will begin to address them in the coming months.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider two special education placement agreements and a contractual agreement. He stated that the two placement agreements were reviewed in executive session because of restrictions regarding student privacy and confidentiality. Mr. Brodsky noted that the contractual agreement is for one student to attend the Mill Creek School during the current school year at a tuition rate of \$39,960. See enclosure #22.

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

Mrs. Suchsland sought Board action to approve the admission of an exchange student from Brazil to PWHS for the current school year.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the admission of the exchange student. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Moore asked the Board to act on a memorandum of understanding between the Colonial Board of School Directors and Colonial Food Service Personnel Association, ESPA/PSEA/NEA. See enclosure #23.

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

Mrs. Oxberry asked Board members to consider three assessment appeal settlements. See enclosures #24 through #26. Mrs. Oxberry thanked Mr. Jackson and Loren Szczesny from the Solicitor's Office for handling the settlements.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the assessment appeal settlements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Oxberry sought Board action on approval of delegates to serve on the Montgomery County Tax Collection Committee as recommended by Mr. Jackson. See enclosure #27.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the appointment of delegates as recommended. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

**Solicitor's Report:** None.

**Committee Reports:** Intermediate Unit: Mrs. Knudsen reported on the August meeting, which included an update on summer workshops, Special Education Department initiatives, IDEA funding, professional development, the annual homeless initiative book bag drive, and the IU's education foundation fall harvest and silent auction.

CMTHS: No Report.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry stated that the committee will begin budget preparations at its next meeting. Responding to a request from Mr. Tabachnick, Mr. Jackson noted that the budget cycle is 25 days later this year based on the date of the primary election being in May and not April.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky stated that there were 22 people in attendance at the September 10 meeting. He noted that the committee heard a presentation on the Navience program that will allow students to plan their high school program for four years in preparation for college. Mr. Brodsky stated that the program makes the college and career planning process much easier for students and parents.

Facilities Management and Transportation: No Report.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Suchsland reported that the committee reviewed the Communications Strategic Plan at its meeting on September 10. She also noted that the District will staff a table at the Pumpkin Festival on October 13. Mrs. Suchsland noted that the next committee meeting is scheduled for October 8 at 5:30.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa stated that the first meeting of the Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee is next week. She expects one of the topics to be charter school legislation.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

**Public Comment:** None.

Mr. Brodsky stated that the Ridge Park Elementary School's selection as a National Blue Ribbon School was more than nice. He stated that it was an incredible achievement to be one of 269 schools chosen nationally out of approximately 500,000 eligible schools.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary