

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462**  
**GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, OCTOBER 18, 2012**

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 October 18, 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; 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; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Jason Bacani, Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) Principal; Joe Lally, Operations Coordinator; Lori McCoy, Director of Food Services; Tim McDonald, School Safety Officer; Tom Elvins, Board Student Representative; Dave Santoro; Mark Wolfheimer; Beth Miller; Tony Fioriglio; Robert Slagle; William Blubaugh; Courtney Young; Mary Thiess; Ken Fulmer; Joanne Walker; Debra Berger and Gary Johnson.

Mr. Tabachnick led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board members had just returned from the Ridge Park (RP) Elementary School 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. He thanked the RP administration, staff and PTO for organizing the event.

**Recognition/Awards:** Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Mr. Bacani, who presented Advanced Placement Scholars and National Merit Scholars for Board recognition. See Attachment A for a complete list of students honored.

Mr. Tabachnick announced that the Board had met in executive session on September 20 and October 9.

**Minutes:** Mr. Tabachnick sought Board action on the minutes of the General Session of September 20, the Human Resources Committee and the Finance Committee of October 3; The Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of October 5; and the Curriculum Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of October 8. See enclosures #1 through #6.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Brodsky 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 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 September 30. See enclosures #7 through #17.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Frangiosa 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. Yemm, along with Mrs. McCoy, Mr. Lally, Mr. McDonald and Mr. Bacani presented a PowerPoint on how the District provides a secure and healthy learning environment for students. Mrs. McCoy described the District's commitment to nutrition, new federal nutrition guidelines and improved breakfast participation. Mr. Lally discussed the Environmental Protection Agency's Tools for Schools.

Mr. McDonald spoke to the District's security procedures and practices. Mr. Bacani noted building initiatives such as No Place for Hate and Peer Trainers and stated that the quality environment is conducive to high academic achievement. Responding to questions from Mrs. Suchsland, Mrs. McCoy confirmed that students must take two vegetables or a fruit and a vegetable when purchasing a full lunch. She also stated that national studies are being conducted to ascertain if students are consuming the fruits and vegetables.

**Old Business:** Mrs. Suchsland asked Board members to consider Policy #001, By-Laws, on a second-read basis. See enclosure #18.

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

**Correspondence:** Mr. Tabachnick asked Board members to act on three donations in one motion. The first is a \$2,135 gift from UBS Financial Services to Conshohocken Elementary School. See enclosure #19. The second is a \$3,000 grant from the Quaker Chemical Foundation. See enclosure #20. The third is a gift of 15 digital cameras valued at \$2,250 from Lenovo to Colonial Elementary School (CES). See enclosure #43.

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.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed her report that includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #21 and #22. She stated that the Personnel Report includes one resignation, five leaves of absence, eight appointments, one return from leave, and seven revised assignments. She said a number of substitute teachers, instructional aides, secretaries, custodians and cafeteria workers are included on the Substitute List. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List included appointments and changes.

Mrs. Suchsland 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:** Mr. Elvins reported on the freshman class elections, a Band Boosters flea market and the band's fourth-place finish at a competition in Virginia, senior portraits, class ring orders, the Spanish exchange program, Harry Potter movie night, a college admissions and financial aid night and homecoming week activities. He also updated the progress of fall sports teams and noted that 280 seniors were signed up for the class trip to Florida.

**New Business:** Mr. Tabachnick sought Board action on establishing the first day of the 2013-2014 school year. See enclosure #23. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the start date of the school year is established early so that families may plan their vacation schedules. She noted that the recommended date is September 3, 2013, the Tuesday after Labor Day. Dr. Gorodetzer added that the remainder of the calendar, including holidays and in-service days, will be built over the next few months.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve Tuesday, September 3 at the start date for the 2013-2014 school year. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Suchsland asked the Board to consider revisions to Policy #801, Public Records, on a first-read basis. See enclosure #24. At Mrs. Suchsland's request, Mr. Sherman stated that the revisions were prompted by changes to the Pennsylvania Right to Know Law and were recommended by the solicitor. He stated that the revisions relate to how school districts respond to requests.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Moore 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.

Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to consider a resolution to commit the surplus from the 2011-2012 Independence Blue Cross Insurance Premium in the amount of \$123,725.60 to be used for future healthcare related costs. See enclosure #25. Mr. Jackson explained that the funds represented a surplus of premiums paid versus claims sought.

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

Mrs. Oxberry sought Board action on a resolution outlining the parameters for refunding the 2004 bond issue with the Central Montco Technical High School. See enclosure #26. Mr. Jackson confirmed that this is similar to the District's recent debt financing and stated that the District may realize \$150,000 in savings.

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

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider a third party trust agreement for the benefit of a student. He noted that the case was reviewed in executive session because of restrictions regarding student confidentiality and privacy.

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

Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to take action on a professional conference request for RP Principal Dr. Michael McKenna and a teacher to attend a Blue Ribbon School Recognition Ceremony in Washington, D.C. See enclosure #27.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Oxberry 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 Board members to act on a series of student trip requests in one motion. They include the PWHS Future Business Leaders of America Club traveling to the annual conference in Orlando, Fla., from April 26-28 (see enclosure #28), PWHS journalism students attending a journalism workshop at Columbia University in New York City on November 5 (see enclosure #29), PWHS art students traveling to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City on March 1 (see enclosure #30), the PWHS Spanish Exchange program from January 18 through February 5 (see enclosure #31), PWHS Advanced Placement Literature students visiting the Folger Theater and the Shakespeare Research Institute in Washington, D.C., on May 17 (see enclosure #32), the PWHS Ski Club's annual trip to Stratton Mountain, Vt. from January 4-6 (see enclosure #33), the PWHS cheerleaders participating in a competition in Williamsburg, Va., from April 4-7 (see enclosure #34), and CES fourth graders visiting the National Liberty Museum in Philadelphia in late October and early November and fifth graders visiting the National Constitution Center in late October (see enclosure #35).

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: No report.

CMTHS: No Report.

Human Resources: Mrs. Moore stated that the committee met on October 3 and reviewed salaries and wages for the 2012-2013 school year. She noted that a copy of the salaries may be viewed by appointment in the District Office.

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry stated that the committee met on October 3 and reviewed the 2013-2014 budget calendar. She added that the 2013-2014 Act I Index will be 1.7 percent.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky stated that the committee met on October 6 and heard a comprehensive report on student achievement by Dr. McKeaney. He added that the students are performing well. Mr. Brodsky stated that the next meeting is scheduled for November 12.

Facilities Management and Transportation: No Report.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Suchsland stated that the committee met on October 8 and discussed the District's outreach initiatives. She commented on the Advocacy Committee meeting of October 11 and discussed a productive meeting with State Representative Kate Harper. Mrs. Suchsland also reported on attending a CES PTO meeting and a credit card program used by PTOs with local businesses.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa recounted two meetings of the Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee. She detailed legislation on assessment appeals and charter schools that the legislature did not pass. She credited the District's advocacy efforts in helping to ensure the two measures were not enacted. Mrs. Frangiosa also touched on potential legislation to repeal local property taxes and possible cuts in federal funding. Mr. Tabachnick stated that the District's advocacy effort is working.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

**Public Comment:** None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary

**AP Scholar with Distinction**

Thomas Elvins

**AP Scholar with Honor**

Claudia Deeg  
Kaitlyn Elgart  
Charli Grayson  
Jenna Leva  
Daniel McGrath  
Kathryn Sweeney  
John Walker  
Jordan Wolfheimer

**AP Scholar**

Blair Averett  
Adam Baker  
Robert Biddle  
Patrick Cosgrave  
Melyssa Eigen  
Edward Gallo  
Kathryn Garvey  
Kevin Gatta  
Zachary Goldstein  
Luke Hoban  
Emily Katz  
Sarah Lotkowski  
Cindy Ly  
Isabelle Mercurio  
Cara Miller  
Robert O'Brien  
Danielle Parylak  
James Richter  
Joshua Robbins  
Zakary Rosenberg  
Charlotte Searle  
Cassidy Silverthorn  
Dalton Versak  
Corinne Watson  
Mariah Wedul  
Michael Willis

**National Merit Scholars**

**Semifinalists**

Claudia Deeg  
Kathryn Sweeney

**Commended**

Melyssa Eigen  
Thomas Elvins  
Luke Hoban  
Robert O'Brien  
Joshua Robbins  
Jordan Wolfheimer