

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, NOVEMBER 15, 2012

President Tabachnick convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:06 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on November 15, 2012.

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

Board Members Absent: Kathleen Oxberry.

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; Robert Fahler, Colonial Middle School (CMS) Principal; Maico Azcona, CMS Assistant Principal; Jared Gamble, Colonial Elementary School Assistant Principal; Cindy Ly and Devica Bhutani, Student Representatives; Christine Donovan; Lisa Watkins; Paul Houghton; Jack Curran; Larry Byron; Linda Doll; Mary Thies; Tony Fioriglio, Gary Johnson and students being honored, their families and friends.

Mr. Tabachnick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer introduced a number of coaches who recognized student athletes for success outside of the classroom. Those recognized included state champion tennis player Cristina Kaiser; the league champion Plymouth Whitmarsh High School golf team; and the seventh and eighth grade girls field hockey teams, the seventh grade boys' soccer team and the CMS unlimited weight football team, all of which were unbeaten. See Attachment A for a complete list of students honored.

Mr. Tabachnick announced that the Board had met in executive session on October 23 and November 15.

Minutes: Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider the minutes of the General Session of October 18; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee and the Human Resources Committee of November 9; and the Curriculum Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of November 12. See enclosures #1 and #30 through #33.

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

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 October 31. See enclosures #2 through #12.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Suchsland 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: Mrs. Doll commented on Policy #006 Meetings. She stated that she has never spoken at a Board meeting before, and appreciates the work of the Board members, but is not in favor of limiting public comment to five minutes. Mrs. Doll stated that she did not think the Board should create such a policy. Mrs. Suchsland explained that the five-minute limit is not something new. In fact it has been the practice of the Board for longer than anyone can remember. She stated the time limit has been printed on the inside cover of the Board agenda in the past and is now being formalized in

a policy. Mrs. Suchsland further explained that research showed the majority of school boards in the Commonwealth limited speech to five minutes, while some limited it to three minutes. She noted that anyone with an important item to discuss may call to have it placed on the agenda. Mrs. Moore and Mr. Tabachnick both thanked Mrs. Doll for her input, and both stated that the Board does not intend to keep anyone from getting their point across.

Staff Report: Mr. Fahler, Mr. Gamble and PWS senior writing fellow David Escobar Martin presented a PowerPoint on how the District prepares and encourages students to be leaders and what leadership opportunities are available to them.

Old Business: Mrs. Suchsland asked Board members to consider Policy #006, Meetings, on a second-read basis. See enclosure #34. There was considerable discussion on the policy. Mrs. Finegold stated that she planned to vote against the policy because she deemed it unfair and arrogant. She stated that it is a tax payer's right to speak, and that it was unconscionable for the Board to follow suit with other districts and stifle public comment. Mrs. Knudsen also stated that she would vote against the policy because public comment has not been an issue, and she sees no reason to impose a time limit. Mr. Brodsky stated that the Board is merely formalizing a practice by including the time limit in the policy. He noted that the public is encouraged to attend committee meetings and speak freely. Mrs. Frangiosa reiterated Mrs. Suchsland's previous comment that the public is welcome to suggest items for the agenda.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the policy on a second-read basis. On a roll call vote, all but Mrs. Finegold and Mrs. Knudsen voted in favor. Mrs. Finegold and Mrs. Knudsen voted against. The motion was carried 6-2.

Mrs. Suchsland asked the Board to act on changes to Policy #801, Public Records, on a second-read basis. See enclosure #13. She noted that the policy changes are required because of changes to the Right-To-Know Law.

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

Mrs. Moore sought Board action on an administration request to withdraw a reverse assessment appeal filed on Parcel #65-00-00542-00-6. At Mrs. Moore's request, Mr. Jackson explained that the original appeal was denied, and that the District has 30 days to appeal the decision. He stated that the administration is recommending not proceeding with an appeal on this residential property.

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

Correspondence: Mr. Tabachnick asked Board members to act on two donations in one motion. The first is a \$1,900 donation from The Outreachers of Whitemarsh to be used to purchase protective covers for iPads and books at Conshohocken Elementary School. See enclosure #14. The second is a grant from the Colonial School District Education Foundation in the amount of \$501.50 to purchase ingredients for the CITV-produced *What's Cookin'? Program*. See enclosure #15.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to accept the donations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer stated that her report includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #16 and #17. She noted that the Personnel Report includes three resignations, one leave of absence, one return from leave, and five revised assignments. She said a number of substitute teachers, instructional aides, secretaries and cafeteria workers are included on the Substitute List. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes appointments for winter 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, 8-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: Ms. Ly reported on fall parent conferences, interrupted and rescheduled Homecoming Week activities and the Admission Open House at PWHS. Ms. Bhutani spoke to the success of fall sports teams, noted that winter sports were underway and baseline concussion testing for winter sports athletes was completed. She also promoted the Colonial Players' Fall Production of *Father of the Bride* and the upcoming National Honor Society Induction.

New Business: Mrs. Moore sought Board action on a resolution approving penalty, interest and fee schedule for collection of delinquent real estate taxes. See enclosure #18. At Mrs. Moore's request, Mr. Jackson explained that the Montgomery County Board of Assessment updated its tax collection policy to require fees for delinquent taxes to be paid by the tax payer directly to the county. Mr. Jackson explained this will not have a negative impact on Colonial since the District already uses the county to collect delinquent taxes. He confirmed the new policy may negatively impact districts that use a third party to collect delinquent taxes.

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

Mrs. Moore asked the Board to consider a Section 356 Agreement from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue for local earned income tax data from the year 2010. See enclosure #19. Mr. Jackson explained that the data is used to reconcile local and state taxes to ensure the District receives what it is owed.

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

Mrs. Moore asked the Board to act on a request to approve settlement information from a reverse assessment appeal for parcel #49-00-10294-00-7.

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

Mrs. Moore sought Board action on a settlement agreement for Parcel #65-00-064-00-9 for the collection of delinquent real estate taxes.

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

Mr. Tabachnick asked Dr. Gorodetzer to review options for the 2013-2014 school year calendar. See enclosure #20. Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed four versions of the calendar, each with a start date of September 3, 2013 and an end date of June 13, 2014. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that three of the versions have 184 student days and one has 183 student days. She noted that the Colonial Education Association preferred version A2, which included 184 student days and two professional development days, but no professional development on the date of the May primary election. Mr. Tabachnick stated that the Board will act on the calendar at a later meeting.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to take action on a professional conference request for PWHS College Counselor Pat Tamborello to visit Merrimack College in North Andover, Mass., on from December 11-12. See enclosure #21.

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

Mrs. Suchsland asked Board members to act on a student trip request for Ridge Park Elementary School second graders to attend the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J., on November 30. See enclosure #22.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the student trip request. On a roll

call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Brady asked the Board to act on revisions to Policy #707, Use of School Facilities and Equipment, on a first-read basis. See enclosure #35. Mr. Yemm explained that a new classification and fee schedule is added to address facilities usage by for-profit entities.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Moore 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, 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 stated that the committee met on November 12 and heard an enlightening presentation on student support programs from Mrs. Berk and her staff. He noted that the District provides a holistic approach to education in which students feel good about themselves and perform better.

Facilities Management and Transportation: No Report.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Suchsland stated that the committee met on November 12 and agreed to hold a Town Meeting on Thursday, January 31 to discuss the preliminary 2013-2014 budget and its effects on the District's programs. She noted that feedback will be solicited prior to the meeting. Mrs. Suchsland also stated the District plans to host another legislative forum in the winter. She also noted that the District's Partnership Committee will meet on November 29 and the Advocacy Committee will meet on December 13.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa spoke about the November 8 Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee meeting that featured State Representative Steven McCarter. Among topics discussed were the PSERs retirement plan, charter school and cyber charter school reform, the Act 1 Index, reverse assessment appeals, the crippling effects of unfunded state mandates, and a county-wide legislative forum in April.

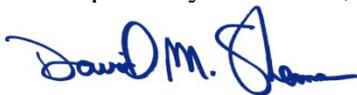
Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

Mr. Tabachnick noted that Board members and administrators have met with township officials to open dialog, improve collaboration and bring the community together.

Public Comment: Larry Byron, a teacher at the Central Montco Technical High School expressed disappointed that there has been no CMTHS report at recent Board meetings. He wanted Board members to be aware that teachers are still working without a contract. He also encouraged the Board and community to take advantage of the many services and opportunities available at the school.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary

7th Grade Field Hockey

Jessica Bendl
Alena Disanto
Jessica Dixon
Katelyn Duff
Julia Fiddler
Sarah Forchielli
Angela Henkel
Katherine Houghton
Sophie Kolkka
Emily Koval
Michelle Mcgrath
Gia Schweitzer
Haley Sedgwick
Sabrina Snyder
Phoenix Spencer
Emma Stanley
Emily Trask
Sara Yuter

8th Grade Field Hockey

Kerin Bechtel
Kolby Bechtel
Amanda Colton
Calista Costa
Celia Curry
Angelina Disanto
Emily Greberman
Danielle Harper
Sami Mangine
Brenna Murray
Frankie O'brien
Caroline Slagle
Emma Truong
Jenna Weikel
Sami Wert

7th Grade Boys' Soccer

Ryan Clancy
Brandon Cohen
Kenny Diamond
Marco Dibatista
Matt Disisto
Daniel Green
Darius Grosch
Ryan Heaton

Gavin Hendrick
Scott Horry
Alex Lefkowitz
Noland Lockard
Stephen Longo
Stephen Maslij
George mcmonagle
Jason Paul
Adam Ring
Jake Tassoni
Tyler Wooten

**CMS Unlimited Weight
Football**

Christian Jones
Anthony Mirabile
James Han
Tyler Poglitsch
Josh Kurman
Adam Center
Dan Margulies
Colin McEleney
Nick Sudell
John Brody
Joey Kinsinger
Ryan Dougherty
Steven Malason
Nick Troilo
Mike Perymon
John McGinley
Blaise Gravinese
Xavier Bowers
Terron Brown
Musa Thompson
Sean Betham
Luke Paladino
Vince Willey
Tristan Johnson
Sean Zack
Leonard Galante
Darren Ries
Eric Smith
Andre Robinson
Eddie Robinson
Mason Jones
Danny Madonna

PWHS Tennis

Cristina Kaiser

PWHS Golf

Evan Beaty
Zak Glaser
Domenick Aprile
Corey Stasak
Jake Mingione
Carter Field
Dave Pontari
John Hansell
Justin Eigan