

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462**  
**GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, FEBRUARY 14, 2013**

President Tabachnick convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:01 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on February 14, 2013.

**Board Members Present:** Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Christina Frangiosa, Leslie Finegold, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry, Heather Palmer and Alan Tabachnick.

**Board Members Absent:** Beth Suchsland.

**Also Attending:** Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Superintendent; Marc Davis, 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 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; Cindy Ly and Tom Elvins, Board Student Representatives; Mary Thiess; Tony Fioriglio, Nathan Enslin; Mary Beth Enslin; Devon Landgraff; Marshall Gorodetzer and Gary Johnson.

Mr. Tabachnick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Recognition/Awards:** Dr. McKeaney described the Colonial School District Master Teacher Program and recognized the 12 Master Teachers who recently began three-year terms. They include: Glen Hackett (English) and Chris Manero (social studies) from Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS); Adrienne Ames (science), Gina Nelson (math), Mike DeCaro (language arts) and Carie Litz (science) from Colonial Middle School (CMS); Emily Kurtz and Katie Johnson from Plymouth Elementary School; Kristen Gamble, Marna Caintic and Jeff Yeakel from Whitmarsh Elementary School and Amy Venkus from Ridge Park Elementary School.

Mr. Tabachnick announced that the Board had met in executive session on January 10, January 16 and February 14.

**Minutes:** Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider the minutes of the General Meeting of January 10; the Special Meeting of January 31; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of February 1; the Human Resources Committee and the Finance Committee of February 6; and the Curriculum Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of February 11. See enclosures #1 through #3 and #38 through #41.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Moore 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 January 31. See enclosures #4 through #13 and #42.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Brodsky 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. Gorodetzer promoted the upcoming musical productions by CMS and PWHs. She then introduced members of the PWHs Colonial Players who performed several songs from *Guys and Dolls*.

**Old Business:** None.

**Correspondence:** Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider three donations in one motion. They include a \$2,500 gift from the Deed of Trust of Joshua Morris (see enclosure #14), a \$2,000 anonymous gift in support of Conshohocken Elementary School (see enclosure #15), and a \$10,000 grant from the Colonial School District Education Foundation and the Morgan Stanley Corporation for Conshohocken Elementary School (see enclosure #16).

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Oxberry 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 reviewed her report, including the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #17 and #18. She stated that the Personnel Report includes six resignations, nine leaves of absence, one return from leave, two appointments, 19 revised assignments and five extensions of assignments. She added that additional substitute teachers, instructional aides and food services personnel are included. Dr. Gorodetzer reported that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List contains spring appointments.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Frangiosa 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 the National Art Honor Society induction, the Spanish Exchange Club trip to Spain, final exams and the second semester open house. Mr. Elvins provided an update on winter sports teams, rescheduled ACT exams and the Montco Band Concert.

**New Business:** Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to approve the 2013-2014 Preliminary Budget in the amount of \$103,004,384 and the filing of Act 1 Referendum Exceptions. She noted that the budget is 8.06 percent more than the current year budget and sets the real estate tax rate at 19.662 mils. See enclosure #19. Mrs. Oxberry explained that the application to exceed the Act 1 index must be filed by March 7 and the intent to file must be advertised no later than February 28. Mr. Jackson explained that approving a preliminary budget was just the initial phase in the budgeting process.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the preliminary budget and file for Act 1 exceptions. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to act on the acceptance of the June 30, 2012 Local Audit Report. Mr. Jackson explained that the report was a "clean opinion" with no findings. He added that the District's fund balance had increased by more than \$2 million.

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

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action on the District's proposed 2013 summer programs. See enclosure #20. He noted that the programs include primary and intermediate grade reading programs, the Girls in Technology program, and various music programs.

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

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider three professional conference requests in one motion. They include the attendance of Bob Fahler and Ms. Litz at a conference on "Strategies for Students to Deal with Bullying" in East Brunswick, N.J. on February 20 (see enclosure #21), Mr. Hartz, Mr. Jackson, Karen Ottaviano and Kathy Ellis at the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials Conference in Pittsburgh, Pa., from March 19-22, and PWHs Principal Jason Bacani at the National

Association for Secondary School Principals Conference in Washington, D.C., from February 28 to March 2 (see enclosure #43).

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

Mrs. Moore asked the Board to act on several high school student trip requests. The first is for the annual Ski Club trip to Killington, Vermont from February 22-24. See enclosure #22. The second is for Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students to attend the FBLA State Leadership Conference in Hershey, Pa., from April 15-17. See enclosure #23. The third is for students to attend the DECA State Career Development Conference in Hershey from February 27 through March 1. See enclosure #24. Mrs. Moore noted that the cheerleading competition referenced in enclosure #25 was cancelled.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the high school student trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Moore sought Board action on three middle school student trip requests. The first is for 40 students to attend the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, N.J. on May 21. See enclosure #26. The second is for 35 students to visit the Marine Science Consortium at Wallops Island, Va., from May 1-4. See enclosure #27. The final request is for approximately 40 students to attend the Technology Student Association State Competition in Champion, Pa., from April 17-20. See enclosure #28.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the middle school trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Solicitor's Report:** None.

**Committee Reports:** Intermediate Unit: Mrs. Finegold summarized the January 23 MCIU Board meeting. Highlights included an update on the IU's new facility in Norristown and an extensive legislative update by Tina Viletto, Director of Legislative Services and Grant Development.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky reported that Dr. Gorodetzer is the Superintendent of record for CMTHS for the next two years.

Human Resources: No report.

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry stated that the committee met on February 6 and heard an update on the Governor's proposed budget. She also noted that the Capital Projects Fund will be directly linked to the five-year Capital Projects Plan moving forward.

Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to consider a contract with Whitemarsh Media Group that is before Board members as a blue page. Mr. Jackson explained that the group will analyze the District's advertising potential and compile and sell advertising packages on behalf of the District. Mr. Jackson confirmed for Mrs. Moore that the Board will have final say on all proposed advertising.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the contract with Whitemarsh Media Group. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to act on a request to increase the Tax Collector Compensation for Conshohocken by \$100 per year over a four-year period. See enclosure #29. Mr. Jackson explained that the District has an in-house tax collector for Plymouth Township and Whitemarsh Township. Mr. Jackson noted that the Conshohocken tax collector has not had an increase in eight years. Mr. Davis reminded the Board that they were acting on the salary for the position, not the individual.

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

Mrs. Oxberry sought Board action on a resolution approving the revised Act 192 Schedule of Costs for the collection of earned income taxes (EIT). See enclosure #30. Mr. Jackson explained that this was part

of the new countywide collection of the EIT.

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, 8-0.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky noted that the committee met on February 11 and that the minutes of the meeting are quite comprehensive.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mrs. Frangiosa summarized the meeting of February 1, including a report on the bidding process for construction projects, consideration of new signage for the PWHS/Colonial Elementary School campus, and challenges associated with traffic flow at the end of the school day at CMS.

Community Relations and Student Life: No report.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa noted that the Advocacy Committee met and addressed the need for additional mental health supports. She also summarized three resolutions before the House, and commented on HB2 which deals with the special education funding formula.

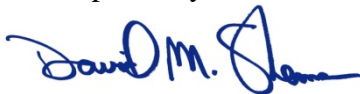
Municipal Liaisons: Mrs. Finegold reported that the Whitmarsh Parks and Recreation Department is collaborating with the District to host Ecofest on Thursday, February 28 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in PWHS cafeteria west.

Mr. Brodsky stated that all committee meetings were opened to the public and he invited community members to attend and get involved.

**Public Comment:** None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary