

Community Relations and Student Life Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors, March 10, 2014

The Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, March 10, 2014 in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. Present were committee chair Heather Palmer; committee members Mel Brodsky and Christina Frangiosa; Board President Susan Moore; Vice President Beth Suchsland; Board members Leslie Finegold, Kathleen Oxberry and Alan Tabachnick; Superintendent Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Karen Berk; Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Activities Director Charles Forster; Assistant Public Relations Director Kim Newell; Community Relations Coordinator/School Board Secretary David M. Sherman; Board Student Representatives Brett Paul and Lily Hart; and Linda Doll.

There was no public comment on the agenda.

The committee reviewed a student trip request for the Conshohocken Elementary School second grade to visit the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J. on June 5.

Members reviewed text of a resolution passed by Lower Merion, Wissahickon and other local school boards opposing the passage of Senate Bill 1085 regarding charter school reform. Mrs. Frangiosa noted that, among other issues that concern public schools, the proposed legislation removes all local control over charter school approval. The committee agreed to have the resolution added to the March board agenda.

Committee members were informed that a Colonial Conversations program updating the community on the need for renovations to PWHS is now airing on CITV and online. The Communications Office will work with the Operations Office to schedule public meetings beginning in April to facilitate necessary approvals from Whitemarsh Township.

Ms. Newell explained that a new digital on-air playback system, budgeted by the Board at a cost of approximately \$10,000, has been installed at CITV. The system will allow CITV to move from airing content off of tape to airing digital files. She highlighted other benefits of the system, which include the ability to be controlled remotely, new overlay templates to provide emergency communication, the elimination of degradation due to playing off of tape, ease of transferring edited video to on air and more.

The committee engaged in considerable discussion regarding communication to parents re: late buses and issues at schools. Mr. Sherman noted that the Transportation Office has had discussion with the bus contractor to facilitate better communications with the District. He also noted that internal communication protocols have been addressed to improve future emergency communication.

Committee members were informed of schedule changes and plans for the last seven days of the school year. June 9, 10 and 11 will be full days for students in all schools, with the exception being that Plymouth Whitemarsh High School students will be dismissed at 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11. June 12, 13, 16 and 17 will be half days.

An updated schedule of Board member visits to building staff was provided. Members are scheduled to visit Plymouth Elementary School on March 19, PWHS on April 9 and Colonial Elementary School (CES) on May 7.

Ms. Newell provided a synopsis of Google Analytics for the District website. She noted that the tool provides data on how many visitors the website receives and what information is viewed. A detailed breakdown will be provided for future review.

The committee was reminded of the Colonial School District Education Foundation's silent auction on March 28, which will include 40-50 auction items. To date, approximately 40 of 200 tickets have been sold. The Foundation will also sponsor a 5K run on Saturday, September 13 on the PWHS/CES campus.

Members were reminded that the District will host more than 550 guests at the annual Senior Citizen Luncheon and Matinee on Saturday, March 22, and that the next Parents Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25 at 9:30 a.m.

It was announced that the next CRSL Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 7.

There being no further business or comment, Mrs. Palmer adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Sherman
Community Relations Coordinator
School Board Secretary