

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, JULY 18, 2013

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 July 18, 2013.

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

Board Members Absent: Christina Frangiosa.

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/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; Mary Thiess; Gary Johnson and Helene Klein.

Mr. Tabachnick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition/Awards: None.

Mr. Tabachnick announced that the board met in executive session on June 27, July 11 and July 18.

Minutes: Mr. Tabachnick directed the Board to act on the minutes of the General Meeting of June 20; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of June 27 and the Special Meeting of the Board on July 11. See enclosures #1, #2 and #27.

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, 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 June 30. See enclosures #3 through #13.

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, 8-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: None.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed her report which includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List. See enclosure #14. She reported that the Personnel Report includes three resignations, two leaves of absence, three appointments and 12 revised assignments. She added that there are two additional bus drivers on the list for summer program appointments.

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, 8-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: None.

New Business: Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to consider a consortium fuel purchasing bid coordinated by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. See enclosure #15. Mr. Jackson reported that the rates have increased from the previous year but that the District had budgeted appropriately.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the bid.

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

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to act on five special education contract agreements in one motion. The first is with Milagre Kids for tuition for one student at \$69,996 for the school year. See enclosure #16. The second agreement is with Lifeworks for tuition for one student at \$179 per day. See enclosure #17. The third agreement is with The Academy for annual tuition of \$125 per day. See enclosure #18. The fourth contract is with the Vanguard School for tuition for two students at a cost of \$47,000 per student. See enclosure #28. The final agreement is with the Lincoln Center for three community counselors, including two at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School and one at Colonial Middle School, in the amount of \$134,000. See enclosure #19.

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

Mrs. Oxberry sought Board action on a request to have Barbacane, Thornton & Company perform auditing services for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2013 at a cost of \$22,070. See enclosure #20. Mr. Jackson explained that this was a local audit required by law. He noted that the District has used this company for a number of years. He added that the target for completion is January. Mr. Tabachnick referenced a county-wide survey that revealed Colonial is paying one of the lowest rates for its audit.

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

Mrs. Oxberry asked Board members to consider a real estate assessment appeal settlement on parcel #49-00-04927-00-1 in Plymouth Township that was reviewed in executive session. Mr. Jackson explained that the settlement is the result of a 12-month process that included a tax-payer appeal and then re-appeal of their assessment. He stated that the settlement represented a more favorable outcome for the District than what it potentially could have been.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the real estate assessment appeal settlement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick directed the Board to act on a bid from ACE American Insurance Company to provide student accident insurance. See enclosure #21.

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

Mrs. Suchsland sought board action on Board Policy #806 Child/Student Abuse on a first-read basis. See enclosure #22. Mrs. Berk explained that the policy was required under new legislation, Act 126. She stated that the District must train employees on recognizing signs of child abuse and develop procedures for reporting suspected incidents. Mrs. Berk confirmed for Mrs. Suchsland that no funding is provided by the state for this mandate.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Palmer 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, 8-0.

Mrs. Moore made a motion for Board members to ratify the Tentative Agreement reached between the Colonial Food Service Personnel Association and the Board of School Directors of the Colonial School District effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016, subject to: (1) finalizing the wording for the final Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Association and the District; and (2) District Solicitor, Fox Rothschild LLP and the District Administration approving the final wording of the successor Collective Bargaining Agreement; and (3) subject to the Association approving the Tentative Agreement

and final wording of the successor Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Mr. Brady seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick thanked the Association for their collaborative effort to reach an agreement. It was noted that the Association will not vote to ratify the agreement until July 31.

Mrs. Moore made a motion for Board members to approve the following resolution. "Be it resolved that the Board of Directors grant the Superintendent authority to appoint school district personnel between regularly scheduled Board meetings until the start of the 2013-2014 school year. Said appointments will be presented as agenda items at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors to take public action."

Mrs. Oxberry seconded the motion. Mr. Hartz explained that the action will enable the District to assure summer hires that they have a job and can therefore give their current employer proper notice. Mr. Hartz confirmed for Mrs. Moore that teachers and administrators are generally required to give 60 days notice. 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 reported on the IU meeting of June 26. She touched on a number of beneficial partnerships, such as the fuel consortium, a satisfactory fiscal review for Special Education Services, no relief in sight for \$5.2 million in federal funding cuts, another delay in the common core standards and a report on referendum exceptions, most of which dealt with pension costs.

CMTHS: No Report.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: No Report.

Curriculum: No Report.

Facilities Management and Transportation: No Report.

Community Relations and Student Life: No Report.

Legislative: No Report.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary