

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, JANUARY 9, 2014

President Moore convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:08 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on January 9, 2014.

Board Members Present: Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Leslie Finegold, Christina Frangiosa, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry, Heather Palmer, 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; Trevor Jackson, Business Administrator/Board Treasurer; Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Leticia Rodríguez, Director of Human Resources; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; John Quinn, Director of CITYV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Kim Newell, Assistant Public Relations Coordinator; Devica Bhutani and Brett Paul, Board Student Representatives; Robert Slagle; Beth Miller; Mary Thiess and Gary Johnson.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer noted that January is School Director Recognition Month. She thanked Board members for their service to the District and presented a video that recognized the members.

Mrs. Moore announced that the Board had met in executive session on December 16, 2013 and January 9, 2014.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Moore sought Board action on the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of December 16, 2013; the Board Reorganization Meeting and Special Meeting of December 3, 2013; the Special Meeting and Human Resources Committee of December 16, 2013; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of December 6, 2013; and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of January 6, 2014. Please see enclosures #1 through #6 and #24.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Tabachnick seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Financial Reports: Mrs. Moore asked the Board to consider 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 and the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report. All reports except for the Budget Transfers, are for November and December. The Budget Transfers are for December only. See enclosures #25 through #34.

Mrs. Frangiosa moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Moore directed the Board to act on the Treasurer's Report for November and December. See Attachment #35.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Mr. Yemm and Mr. Jackson who presented a power point on the current condition of Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS). The presentation showed a need to update the infrastructure of the building, most of which is more than 50 years old. Mr. Yemm and Mr. Jackson stressed there are currently no health or safety concerns with the building. Following the presentation there was considerable discussion. Members touched on the proactive nature of facilities renovations throughout the District and considerable energy savings which have resulted. Mr. Jackson also noted that the District has one of the lowest debt ratios among school districts in the area, which will enable the District to receive a favorable rate on a loan. He added that interest rates are the best they have been in 25 years. Dr. Gorodetzer also assured members that the administration would carefully plan any renovation so that there is no disruption of instruction. It was noted that no definitive plans for a renovation of the high school have been made and the Board is still in the exploratory phase.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mrs. Moore stated that the District is in receipt of a \$10,000 grant from the Morgan Stanley Foundation to support after-school enrichment opportunities, an all-school field trip and the purchase of books and iPads for Conshohocken Elementary School. See enclosure #36.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to accept the grant. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed her report which includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #7 and #8. She stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List includes one resignation, two retirements, nine leaves of absence, 20 revised assignments, one salary adjustment and a list of substitute teachers, instructional aides and food service workers. Dr. Gorodetzer added that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list included three revisions.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brady 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. Paul stated that a financial aid night was held on January 7, he also noted that the boys' and girls' basketball teams were leading their respective leagues. Ms. Bhutani reported on students who qualified for district musical festivals, Keystone exams and preparation for first semester final exams.

New Business: Mrs. Moore noted that her three-year term on the Central Montco Technical High School Joint Operating Committee (JOC) has expired and the Board is required to appoint a member to fill another three-year term. She noted that Mr. Brodsky has one year remaining on his three-year term and that Mr. Brady has two years left on his term.

Mrs. Suchsland made a motion to nominate Mrs. Moore for the vacant three-year term. Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to close the nominations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Moore sought Board action to appoint a legislative chairperson to take part in the Pennsylvania School Boards Association's (PSBA) legislative action program. She noted that Mrs. Frangiosa filled that roll during the past year.

Mr. Tabachnick moved to nominate Mrs. Frangiosa for the position. Mrs. Finegold moved and Mrs. Palmer seconded a motion to close the nominations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Moore sought Board action to appoint a representative to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. She noted that Mrs. Frangiosa filled that roll during the past year.

Mrs. Suchsland moved to nominate Mrs. Frangiosa for the position. Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to close the nominations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Moore asked the Board to appoint a representative to the Colonial School District Education Foundation for 2014. She noted that Mr. Tabachnick served in that capacity last year.

Mrs. Frangiosa moved to nominate Mr. Tabachnick for the position. Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to close the nominations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Dr. Gorodetzer presented a 2014-2015 school calendar for Board consideration. See enclosure #9. She noted the previously approved school year start date of Tuesday, September 2. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the calendar includes 183 student days, which is three more than is mandatory. She added that the calendar includes professional development days and traditional holidays.

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

Mrs. Finegold asked the Board to consider the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit's 2014-2015 General Operating Budget. Mr. Jackson stated that while the budget is decreasing overall, the District's portion is increasing less than one percent or about \$78,000.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the IU budget. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brady sought Board action on a series of financial resolutions. The first resolution addresses reserve funds for pension costs (see enclosure #10), the second deals with reserve funds for assessment appeals (see enclosure #11) and the third involves reserve funds for post employment benefits (see enclosure #12). Mr. Jackson explained that the resolutions are proactive measures that utilize the District's fund balance to address future needs.

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

Mr. Brady asked the Board to act on a real estate assessment appeal settlement involving parcel #49-00-04927-00-1 in Plymouth Township. Mr. Jackson explained that the appeal was related to the Plymouth Meeting Mall and was initiated in 2008. He stated that the mall is one of the District's largest tax payers. Mr. Jackson explained that the settlement represented a positive compromise for the District that would save on future legal costs.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the real estate assessment appeal. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Moore directed the Board to consider a stipulation of value agreement with Whitmarsh Senior Village. See enclosure #13. Mr. Jackson explained that this was an agreement with a developer who is providing low income senior citizen housing. He stated that the development will raise the assessed value of the property and help senior citizens.

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

Mrs. Suchsland sought Board action on a contract with Netchemia, LLC for electronic application services. Dr. Rodríguez explained that the services will streamline all job applications and move the District to a paperless system.

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

Mrs. Palmer asked the Board to act on five student field trip requests. The first request is for the PWHS Ski Club to travel to Lake Placid, N.Y. from February 14-16. See enclosure #15. The second is for the PWHS track team to travel to a meet in New York City on January 25. See enclosure #16. The third request is for one PWHS student to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District Choral Festival at Neshaminy High School from January 9-11. See enclosure # 37. The fourth request is for two PWHS students to attend the PMEA District Band Festival at Upper Moreland High School from February 6-8. See enclosure #38. The final request is for the Ridge Park Elementary School second grade to travel to the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J. on February 11. See enclosure #39.

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

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action on two professional conference requests. The first is for Mr. Boegly and PWHS Assistant Principal Steve Price to attend the 2014 CoSN Annual Conference in Washington, DC from March 19-22. See enclosure #17. The second request is for PWHS teacher Rich Madel to attend the Northeast Conference of Teachers of Foreign Languages in Boston, Mass., from March 27-29. See enclosure #18.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the conference requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Solicitor's Report: None

Committee Reports: MCIU: Mrs. Finegold stated that the IU Board met on November 20. She noted that Chief Executive Officer Dr. Jerry Shiveley announced his retirement effective June 30.

CMTHS: Mrs. Moore noted that Mr. Brodsky was elected president of the CMTHS Joint Operating Committee.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: No Report.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky commended Dr. McKeaney and all of the curriculum supervisors for putting together the comprehensive student achievement report that was presented at the meeting. He stated that Keystone exam scores were 40 percent higher than the state average. He also noted that any areas of deficiency will be addressed.

Facilities Management and Transportation: No Report.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Palmer advised that the District is beginning its drive to register kindergarten students for the 2014-2015 school year. She noted that all students who turn five years of age by September 15 are eligible to enroll. She encouraged parents to enroll students early so that the District may budget accordingly.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa reported that the Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee will meet on January 15.

Mrs. Oxberry reported that the Board has revived the Safety and Wellness Committee and she will report on that committee in the future.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David M. Sherman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "S".

David M. Sherman
Board Secretary