

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, FEBRUARY 20, 2014

President Moore convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:04 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on February 20, 2014.

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

Board Members Absent: Bernie Brady.

Also Attending: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Superintendent; Jeffrey T. Sultanic, 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; Devica Bhutani and Michael Krone, Board Student Representatives; Joanne Walker; Mary Thiess; Diane Crocco and Gary Johnson.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) Assistant Field Hockey Coach Jen O'Brien. Coach O'Brien recognized students for being named All-State and Academic All-State by the Pennsylvania Field Hockey Coaches Association. Honored were Courtney and Rachel Konowal, Sierra Spencer, Monica Mellon and Alison Spinelli,

Mrs. Moore announced that the Board had met in executive session on February 10 and February 20.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Moore directed Board members to act on the minutes of the General meeting of January 9; the Special meeting of February 10; Facilities Management and Transportation Committee meetings of January 23, February 6 and February 17; the Human Resources Committee meeting of February 10, the Finance Committee meeting of January 23; The Curriculum Committee meetings of January 6 and February 10; and the Safety and Wellness Committee meeting of February 6. See enclosures #1 through #7 and #41.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Palmer seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Financial Reports: Mrs. Moore 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 #8 through #18.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Tabachnick 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: Mrs. Oxberry introduced Mrs. Berk and Mr. Yemm who presented a power point outlining the structure of the Board's Safety and Wellness Committee and defining the types of issues the committee will address. Specifically, the committee will deal with issues related to school safety and security and student and staff wellness.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mrs. Finegold asked the Board to consider an annual donation from the Deed of Trust of Joshua Morris in the amount of \$2,500 to be used for educational purposes. See enclosure #19.

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

Mrs. Finegold sought Board action on a gift in the amount of \$6,637 from Lifetouch National Studios, Inc. to benefit the PWHS Scholarship Fund. See enclosure #20. She noted that the gift represents the commission for student portraits.

Mrs. Palmer moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to accept the gift. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer summarized her report which includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #21 and #22. She stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List includes one retirement, 13 leaves of absence, 13 changes of assignments, one salary adjustment, one appointment and a list of substitute teachers, instructional aides, food service workers and bus drivers. Dr. Gorodetzer added that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list includes spring appointments.

Mr. Brodsky 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: Mr. Krone reported on first semester final exams, the start of the second semester, the second semester open house and a league championship for the wrestling team. Ms. Bhutani stated that the boys' basketball team won their league championship and the girls' basketball team finished second. She added that seven swimmers and seven track athletes qualified for district competitions.

New Business: Mrs. Suchsland asked the Board to act on two items not listed on the agenda but are provided to members as blue pages. Both items pertain to the District's prescription drug coverage. The first item is a recommendation for the District to withdraw from the Southeastern Pennsylvania Schools Trust effective June 30, 2014. The second item is for the District to migrate its prescription drug coverage to the Bucks and Montgomery County Schools Health Care Consortium Trust effective July 1, 2014. Mr. Jackson explained that the District would realize a financial benefit while maintaining the same level of coverage.

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

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action to approve the District's summer educational programs. See enclosure #42. He noted that the programs include the Summer Literacy Program and the Girls In Technology Summer Academy.

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

Mrs. Palmer asked the Board to consider 10 student trip requests. They include: PWHS students attending the Future Business Leaders of America Conference in Hershey, Pa., from April 6-9 (enclosure #23); the PWHS Ski and Snowboarding Club traveling to Stratton, Vermont from February 21-23 (enclosure #24); the PWHS cheerleaders taking part in the PIAA Championship from January 24-26 in Hershey, Pa.; the PWHS Indoor Guard and Drumline competing at the Tournament Indoor Association Championships in Wildwood, N.J., from May 1-4 (see enclosure #25); PWHS students attending the DECA State Career Development Conference in Hershey from February 25-28 (see enclosure #26); Whitmarsh Township Police Sergeant Jeffrey Nowak taking four PWHS students and security guard Dave Santoro to the National Service Learning Conference in Washington, D.C., from

April 9-12 (see enclosure #27); the PWHS wrestling team participating in the District Wrestling Championships in Oxford, Pa., from February 21-22 (see enclosure #43); Colonial Middle School (CMS) Art Club students traveling to the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, N.J., on May 20 (see enclosure #28); CMS and PWHS students participating in the Technology Student Association State Competition in Champion, Pa., from April 9-12 (see enclosure #29); and CMS Oceanography Club students traveling to the Chincoteague Bay Field Station on Wallops Island, Va., from April 30-May 3 (see enclosure #30).

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

Mrs. Frangiosa sought Board action on two policy revisions and a policy removal. The first policy is #201 – Admission of Beginners. See enclosure #31. Mrs. Berk explained that the policy is being revised to eliminate the provision for early admission to kindergarten. The second policy is #004 – Board Committee Functions. See enclosure #32. Mrs. Frangiosa noted that policy #201.1 – Entrance Age to Kindergarten is recommended for removal because of redundancy with policy #201.

Mrs. Frangiosa moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve both policy revisions on a first-read basis and to remove policy 201.1. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Finegold asked the Board to act on seven real estate assessment appeal settlements involving parcels #49-00-01534-00-1, #49-00-08212-00-1, #49-00-09331-00-7, #49-00-10100-00-3 and #49-00-10120-01-9 in Plymouth Township and #05-00-11852-00-5 and #05-00-11908-00-3 in Conshohocken. Mr. Jackson explained that the settlements are the result of the new mediation program and were settled before going to court thereby saving the District legal and court fees.

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

Mrs. Suchsland asked Board members to consider a contract with Substitute Teacher Services for support and professional substitute services. See enclosure #33. Dr. Rodríguez explained that the contract will become effective on July 1. She added the service will handle all per diem substitutes for the District.

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

Solicitor's Report: None

Committee Reports: MCIU: Mrs. Finegold stated that the IU Board only held an executive session on January 22 because of inclement weather.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky highlighted the success of PWHS students who participated in the SkillsUSA district competition hosted by CMTHS. He stated that Victoria Johnson, Steve Benedetto, Zack Miscavage and Dashawn Anderson-Mabry won bronze medals. Owen Farrell, Ian Blundin, Brad Kahny, Nilson Richards-Fernandez, Kayla Walker, Joshua Pierce, Demi Sunkens, Carley Weber and Stephen Krosky won silver medals. Andrew Fisher, Gino DePaul, Jake Walter and Nicole Martini won gold medals.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: No Report.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky noted that minutes of the January and February meetings can be found in enclosure #6. He highlighted a review and analysis of state mandated testing programs.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Tabachnick noted that the committee met three times since the last Board meeting. Items he highlighted included the redemption of 2008 series bonds to

save the District \$70,000, a switch to leasing instead of purchasing technology to better keep up with changes and obtaining the consensus to move forward with planning to renovate PWHS.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Palmer thanked Darren Sudman of Simon's Fund for a \$800 gift to the Colonial School District Education Foundation. She also promoted the upcoming spring musicals at CMS and PWHS as well as the annual District blood drive. Mrs. Palmer also noted that the committee will keep the community advised as to the progress of the PWHS renovation process through Parents Council and other meetings. She also confirmed the Board's previous decision that June 16 and 17 would become school days to make up for days lost to snow, that spring break would remain intact and that graduation would not be moved. She added that the decision is in line with the school calendar approved and printed last year.

Safety and Wellness: Mrs. Oxberry noted that the newly reinstated committee met on February 6. She highlighted an upcoming Mother's Day screening by Simon's Fund, a new school lockdown theory, and the new nationwide Run-Hide-Fight protocol.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa reported that the Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee discussed the governor's budget and Senate Bill 1085. She noted that SB 1085 will take local control away from school districts in terms of the charter school approval process. She noted that the bill also would remove public discussion about charter schools before they are approved.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

Public Comment: None.

Mr. Tabachnick thanked members of the District support staff who worked tirelessly around the clock to remove the snow during the recent storms.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary