

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

President Moore convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 6:04 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on March 20, 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; Kyle Berman, Solicitor; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; Trevor Jackson, Business Administrator/Board Treasurer; Dr. Elizabeth McKeane, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Leticia Rodríguez, Director of Human Resources; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Brett Paul, Board Student Representative; Pam Seeley; Candy Maggioncalda; Bruce Gast; David Smith; Woody Fulmer; Dana Fulmer; Brendan Willis and Gary Johnson.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Recognition/Awards:** Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) Swimming Coach Taren Igou. Coach Igou recognized freshman Hannah McGee, who qualified for the PIAA Swimming Championships and set a new PWHS record in the 50-yard freestyle. Dr. Gorodetzer then invited PWHS Boys' Basketball Coach Jim Donofrio to the podium. Coach Donofrio presented his Suburban One League American Conference championship team. Dr. Gorodetzer then asked PWHS Art Teacher Candy Maggioncalda to present her award-winning students. Please see Attachment A for a complete list of students honored.

Mrs. Moore announced that the Board had met in executive session on March 5.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Moore asked Board members to consider the minutes of the General meeting of February 20; the Finance and Human Resources Committee meetings of March 5; and the Curriculum and Community Relations and Student Life Committee meetings of March 10. See enclosures #1 through #5.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brady 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 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 and the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report. See enclosures #6 through #15.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Brady 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 asked the Board to act on the Treasurer's Report for the month ending February 28. See enclosure #16.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brady 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:** Mr. Sherman presented a brief update on the District's fund raising efforts as they related to the Colonial School District Education Foundation.

**Old Business:** Mrs. Oxberry asked Board members to consider two policy revisions on a second-read basis. The first is Policy #201 – Admission of Beginners. See enclosure #17. At Mrs. Oxberry's request, Mrs. Berk explained that the policy identifies the age for admittance to kindergarten and first grade. The second policy is Policy #004 – Board Committee Functions. See enclosure #18. Mrs. Oxberry noted that the policy is updated to include the reactivation of the Safety and Wellness Committee.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve both policies on a second-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

**Correspondence:** None.

**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 #19 and #20. She reported that the Personnel Report and Substitute List includes one retirement, four leaves of absence, three changes of assignments and additions to the substitute lists, including teachers, instructional aides, a staff nurse and a security officer. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list includes appointments and revision for spring sports and other activities.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Suchsland 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 reported on a college discussion by the guidance office, a foreign languages oral efficiency competition, the opening of the spring musical, the Mr. PW Competition, SATs, parent conferences, winter and spring sports, and the Florida trip meeting for parents.

**New Business:** Mrs. Finegold sought Board action on the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Special Education Cost Plan. See enclosure #21. At Mrs. Finegold's request, Mrs Berk explained that the plan includes technical services such as audiometer calibration, itinerant support services and out-of-district placements.

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

Mr. Brady asked the Board to consider a request to add Multi-Bank Securities and Meridian Bank to the District's existing list of investment depositories. Mr. Jackson explained that the District has amounts of less than \$250,000 invested in dozens of banks based on interest rates. He noted that the two institutions presented currently have higher rates.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the additions of Multi-Bank Securities and Meridian Bank to the list of investment depositories. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brady requested ratification of the previously approved four year technology lease through the E-Plus Group, inc., for laptops and surfaces, as reflected in the documents dated February 12, 2014. See enclosure #22. Mr. Brady noted that the lease amount is nearly \$99,000 per year for four years. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that it is easier to keep up with technology changes by leasing equipment for higher end uses. She added that the District will continue purchasing technology as well.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to ratify the previously approved leasing agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked members to act on a list of summer music programs presented for Board approval. See enclosure #23.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the list of summer music programs. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky also asked the Board to consider the proposed Special Education Summer Program for Extended School Year services. See enclosure #24.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the Special Education Summer Program. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Palmer sought Board action on three student trip requests. The first is for approximately 50 PWHS art students to attend the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on May 19. See enclosure #25. The second is for PWHS French Exchange students to visit New York City and Washington, DC. The third trip request is for approximately 30 PWHS and Colonial Middle School students to attend the Technology Student Association National Conference at the Gaylord National Conference Center in National Harbor, Md. from June 27-July 1. See enclosure #26.

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

Mr. Brodsky asked Board members to consider three professional conference requests. The first is for Gina Nelson to attend the NCTM Annual Meeting and Exposition in New Orleans, La., from April 9-12. See enclosure #27. The second is for Olga Sominina to attend a BER conference in Cherry Hill, N.J. on April 2. See enclosure #28. The third conference request is for Dr. Katy Giovanisci and Rachel Milleo to attend a conference on increasing the power of guided reading in Greensburg, Pa. See enclosure #29.

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

Mrs. Frangiosa asked the Board to adopt a resolution opposing the passage of Senate Bill 1085. See enclosure #30. Of primary concern, she noted that the bill removes local control for approval of charter schools and allows colleges and universities to unilaterally approve charters. She noted that currently there must be public meetings and discussions on the validity of a charter school before one can be approved.

Mrs. Frangiosa moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to adopt the resolution. 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 February 26. She reported on plans to renovate the IU's new building in Norristown. She noted that construction would begin on April 1 with a targeted completion of December. Mrs. Finegold also touched on the search for a new Executive Director, the Special Education budget and a Reading Olympics public service announcement featuring children's author Jerry Spinelli.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky stated that CMTHS is exploring the possibility of adding new programs. He noted that the leadership has viewed programs at other sites including service occupation programs to prepare students for careers in the hospitality industry. He stated that the CMTHS also plans to look at secretarial programs.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: No Report.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky reported on an outside review of the District's technology. He noted that there were good areas and other areas needing improvement that are already being addressed. Mr. Brodsky stated that April's meeting will focus on scheduling at the middle school.

Facilities Management and Transportation: No Report.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Palmer highlighted the upcoming senior citizen luncheon prior to the matinee performance of the PWHS spring musical. She also reminded everyone of the Colonial School District Education Foundation Silent Auction and noted that tickets are still available.

Mrs. Oxberry commented on the success of the PWHS Indoor Guard at a recent competition, the citation State Representative Mary Jo Daley presented to the PWHS Marching Colonials, and the CMS spring musical.

Safety and Wellness: No Report.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa stated that there was no meeting of the Montgomery County School Boards Legislative Committee in March.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

**Public Comment:** None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary

**Plymouth Whitemarsh High School  
Boys' Basketball  
Suburban One League American Conference Champions**

DeAngelo Chisholm  
Andrew Conboy  
Manuel Herezi  
Cameron Johnson  
Will Kane  
Mike Lotito  
Max Milkman  
Ethan Miller  
TJ Minetola  
Grady Minick  
Andre Mitchell  
Devon Monteiro-Gray  
Jimmy Murray  
Brett Paul  
Jake Paul  
Ben Raeder  
Oakley Spencer  
Alex Williams

**Students who had work juried into the  
2014 PSEA Touch the Future Exhibit**

Dillon Gast  
Christian Kim  
Josh McMaster  
Sarah Silbiger  
Cooper Smith  
Nyla Thomas Watkins

**Students who won awards for the  
Laurel House 2014 Teen Dating Violence Poster Contest**

Alexis Elliott  
Olivia Gaber  
Caitlin Renner  
Sarah Silbiger  
Hannah Young