

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, APRIL 10, 2014

President Moore convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:01 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on April 10, 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 CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Brett Paul and Devica Bhutani, Board Student Representatives; Greg Sudell; Beth Miller; David Luthy; Mary Anne Ries; Brendan Willis and Gary Johnson.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board met in executive session on March 5, March 20, March 21 and April 10.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Activities Director Charles Forster. Mr. Forster noted the accomplishments of PWHS alumnus and current wrestling coach Justin Giovinco, who led his team to a conference championship and was named Coach of the Year in District 1. Coach Giovinco then introduced his team members. Next, Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Curriculum Supervisor Sergio Anaya, who spoke to the professional development accomplishments of PWHS Spanish Teacher Rich Madel. Finally, Dr. Gorodetzer invited PWHS DECA sponsor Megan Carragher to the podium. Ms. Carragher detailed the achievements of freshman Kateryna Ternopolska, who placed first at the state competition in the International Business Plan event. For a complete list of all students honored, please see Attachment A.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Moore sought Board action on the minutes of the general meeting of March 20; the Finance Committee meeting of April 2; and the Curriculum Committee meeting of April 7. See enclosures #1, #28 and #29.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Suchsland 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 Board members to act 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 #2, #3, #30 and #4 through #10.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Palmer 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 consider the Treasurer's Report for the month ending March 31. See enclosure #11.

Mrs. Frangiosa moved and Mrs. Oxberry 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 Director of Food Services Lori McCoy, who presented a power point on the nutritional initiatives in the school district. Mrs. McCoy described the importance of students eating a healthy breakfast, Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act regulations, becoming the first school district in Pennsylvania to take advantage of the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program, and made to order salads at PWHS. Mrs. Frangiosa congratulated Mrs. McCoy on her resourcefulness in taking advantage of the Department of Defense program. Mr. Brady commended Mrs. McCoy for the financial turnaround in the Food Services Department.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: None.

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 #12 and #13. She stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List includes one resignation, one retirement, six leaves of absence, three changes of assignments, one appointment and various additions to the substitute list. Dr. Gorodetzer added that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list includes several appointments and changes.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Finegold 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: Ms. Bhutani reported on the Mr. and Miss PW contests, and the Senior Class Trip to Florida. Mr. Paul also commented on the class trip, and touched on a college information session presented by the guidance office, the PWHS Jazz Festival, and spring sports. Responding to a question from the Board, Mr. Paul noted that he has been accepted to attend the University of Pennsylvania.

New Business: Dr. Gorodetzer sought Board approval to amend the 2013-2014 school calendar to include Monday, June 16 and Tuesday, June 17 as snow make-up days. See enclosure #14. She noted that the calendar in enclosure #14 lists February 14 and February 17 as holidays, but stated that it will be corrected to note that school was scheduled to be in session those days.

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

Mr. Brady sought Board action on the Central Montco Technical High School 2014-2015 Budget. See enclosure #15. He noted that Colonial's share is \$2,151,237, an increase of \$713,660 from the previous year. At Mr. Brady's request, Mr. Jackson explained that the increase was attributed to boosts in enrollment and debt service.

Mr. Brady moved and Mr. Tabachnick seconded a motion to approve the CMTHS 2014-2015 Budget. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to appoint Fox Rothschild, LLP as Colonial School District Solicitor from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 based upon the following: A retainer of \$24,823 per year; A base hourly rate of \$180; Alternate rates in accordance with the enclosed Engagement Letter dated March 7, 2014 (see enclosure #16); Rates as established by the insurance carrier where Fox Rothschild, LLP is an approved provider.

Mrs. Moore further moved to approve the HIPPA Business Association between the district and Fox Rothschild, LLP as the result of Fox Rothschild, LLP handling cases that involve protected health information on behalf of the district.

Mrs. Oxberry seconded both of Mrs. Moore's motions. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motions were carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Suchsland asked Board members to consider the next two agenda items in one motion. The first is a 2014-2015 contract with Staffing Plus to provide services of a speech-language pathologist at a rate of \$80 per hour. See enclosure #17. The second is a 2014-2015 agreement with MK Therapy Services, LLC to provide physical and occupational therapy at a rate of \$73 per hour. See enclosure #31.

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

Mrs. Palmer asked the Board to act on the appointment of Luke Mascio and Alexa Augustine as student representatives to the School Board per Board Policy #004.1 and Administrative Regulation #004.1.

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

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action on a special education placement agreement in lieu of a Free Appropriate Public Education with the Hill Top School for the 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years. He noted that the tuition for the current year is not to exceed \$19,595. Annual tuition for the later two years is not to exceed \$39,800. Mr. Brodsky stated that the agreement was reviewed in executive session.

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

Mr. Tabachnick asked Board members to consider two rental agreements for the 2014-2015 school year in one motion. The first is with Montgomery Early Learning Centers for before and after school programs in all district elementary schools, a summer camp at PWHS and office space in one of the district's buildings. See enclosure #18. The second agreement is with Montgomery County Head Start to lease space in one of the four K-3 elementary buildings. See enclosure #19. At Mr. Tabachnick's request, Mr. Yemm explained that the rate for both agreements has increased 4.53 percent from the previous year.

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

Mrs. Palmer asked the Board to act on three student trip requests. The first is for the Marching Colonials to attend the Scott Lang Leadership Workshop at Pitman (N.J.) High School on May 6. See enclosure #20. The second is for Kateryna Ternopolska to attend the DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta, Ga. from May 3-6. See enclosure #21. The final trip request is for the Conshohocken Elementary School second grade to travel to the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J. on June 5. See enclosure #22.

Mrs. Palmer moved and Mrs. Finegold 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 sought Board action on a request for Rebecca Duffy, PWHS English Teacher, to attend the Pennsylvania Institute for Instructional Coaching Conference at Penn State University from May 5-7. See enclosure #23.

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

Mr. Brady sought Board approval to add Valley Green Bank to the district's existing list of investment depositories.

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

Mrs. Moore asked Board members to act on an agreement with the Whitemarsh Foundation regarding the district's interests, rights and obligations concerning the Colonial Farmhouse located on Flourtown Road. See enclosure #32. Mr. Jackson explained that the agreement would terminate the district's rights to the property in exchange for a one-time payment of \$18,000 and 10 annual payments of \$15,000.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On a roll call vote, all but Mr. Brady voted in favor. Mr. Brady voted against. The motion was carried, 8-1.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider a request to purchase a new textbook, entitled *T'es Branche?* Series 10th edition, to replace the current French text series. See enclosure #33.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Palmer seconded a motion to approve the text book. 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 March 26. She reported on the installation of a redundant fiber network that will maintain internet service in the event of a system outage. She also noted that the IU budget ballots were approved, Fox Rothschild was retained as solicitor, and the IU is undergoing a communications audit and looking for a new branding image as it prepares to move into its new building. Mrs. Finegold noted that renovation of the building has started. She also stated that approximately 7,000 students took part in the recent Reading Olympics.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky stated that the CMTHS Board is scheduled to meet with the Superintendents of the three sending school districts in May to discuss the possibility of adding new programs.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: No Report.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky stated that the committee reviewed a presentation on a new master schedule for Colonial Middle School. He reported that the new schedule would be a block hybrid. Mr. Brodsky also stated that the school will begin to revise curriculum for the new schedule next year. He noted that the district is seeking input from parents and students.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Tabachnick reported that the committee will meet on April 21 at 5 p.m.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Palmer noted that approximately 500 senior citizens attended the March luncheon and matinee and contributed \$1,600 to the Colonial Players to help offset the cost of their production. She added that the Colonial School District Education Foundation raised \$7,000 at its silent auction and is planning a 5K run and community day event for September 13. Mrs. Palmer also invited the public to visit the district table at Whitemarsh Township Day on April 26 and reminded everyone about the Simon's Fund heart screenings to be held on Mother's Day weekend.

Safety and Wellness: No Report.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa stated that the Montgomery County School Boards Legislative Committee will meet in May.

Municipal Liaisons: Mrs. Finegold reported on a meeting with Conshohocken Borough officials in an effort to come to an amicable solution for repairing the alley adjacent to Conshohocken Elementary School.

Public Comment: None.

Dr. Gorodetzer reminded everyone that Kindergarten registration is underway. She encouraged the public to register children as soon as possible. Dr. McKeane added that the district will hold parent outreach programs on kindergarten literacy preparation in May.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David M. Sherman". The signature is stylized and cursive.

David M. Sherman
Board Secretary

**Plymouth Whitemarsh High School
2013-14 Wrestling Team**

Matt Aprile
John Dob
Ben Billings
David Gianitsos
Robert Brook
John O'Rourke
Anthony Cotteta
Francesco Palagruto
Ajani Dashield
Austin Pollock
Ryan Dempsey
Matt Prestia
Gianpiero DiBattista
Earl Ries
Tommy DiSisto
Dan Smith
Ben Swan
Andrew Vo
Zach Wakefield
Quincy Williams

Staff Award

Rich Madel, Spanish Teacher

DECA

Kateryna Ternopolska