

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, OCTOBER 17, 2013

President Tabachnick convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:01 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on October 17, 2013.

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 McKeane, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; Leticia Rodriguez, Interim Director of Human Resources; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Kim Newell; Assistant Public Relations Coordinator; Devica Bhutani and Brett Paul, Board Student Representatives; Marsha Turner; Abby Turner; Brian Hanlon; Kerri Hanlon; Kelly Spencer; Mark Spencer; Mary Thiess; Jill Forster; Alice Flint; Bruce Flint; Donelle Brotz and Gary Johnson.

Mr. Tabachnick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Tabachnick announced that the Board had met in executive session on October 17.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer invited Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Principal Jason Bacani to the podium to introduce the school's National Merit and Advanced Placement Scholars. For a complete list of students honored, please see attachment A.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Tabachnick sought Board action on the minutes of the General Meeting of September 9; The Human Resources Committee and the Finance Committee of October 2; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of September 27; and the Curriculum Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of October 7. Please see enclosures #1 through #6.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Oxberry 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: Mr. Tabachnick 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, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report, and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending September 30. See enclosures #7 through #17.

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, 9-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Ms. Newell explained the purpose behind the new District website and detailed some features that the previous site did not include. Mrs. Suchsland thanked Ms. Newell for her hard work in organizing and populating the new website and promptly responding to parent feedback. Mrs. Suchsland noted that community comments on the new site have been very positive.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Tabachnick noted that the District is in receipt of a \$2,000 anonymous donation to support instructional programs at Conshohocken Elementary School. See enclosure #18.

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

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 #19 and #20. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List includes four resignations, six leaves of absence, six revised assignments, two returns from leave, one extension of leave and one appointment. She noted that the list includes the end of assignment in memorium for Director of Human Resources Richard Hartz. Dr. Gorodetzer said that Mr. Hartz served the District for five years and will be greatly missed. Dr. Gorodetzer added that the substitute lists includes teachers, instructional aides and a school nurse. She concluded that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list included several appointments and changes for academic and activity assignments.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Brodsky 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 the success of the PWHS fall sports teams and individuals. Ms. Bhutani previewed Homecoming Week activities. Mr. Paul spoke about a student Florida trip meeting and a presentation by the counseling department on understanding college testing. Mrs. Bhutani discussed a motivational assembly and parent conferences.

New Business: Mrs. Suchsland asked Board members to consider the start date for the 2014-2015 School Calendar. She noted that the recommendation from the administration is to begin the year on Tuesday, September 2, 2014. See enclosure #21.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to establish Tuesday, September 2, 2014 as the start date for the 2014-2015 school year. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to act on a real estate assessment appeal settlement that was reviewed in executive session. The settlement is for parcel #49-00-08206-00-7 in Plymouth Township. At Mrs. Oxberry's request, Mr. Jackson stated that the appeal was initiated by the taxpayer in 2010 at which time the taxpayer was granted a reduction. Mr. Jackson stated that the appeal was in the District's favor.

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, 9-0.

Mrs. Frangiosa sought Board action on a request to approve a two-year contract agreement with Comcast to provide back-up Internet service for all schools at a cost of \$174.85 per month. See enclosure #22. At Mrs. Frangiosa's request, Mr. Boegly explained that the service enables the District to re-route traffic in the event of a service interruption.

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

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider a request for Whitemarsh Elementary School Principal Donna Drizin and Special Education Teacher Marna Caintic to attend the National Blue Ribbon School Recognition Ceremony in Washington, D.C., from November 17-19. See enclosure #23.

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

Mrs. Moore asked the Board to act on an independent contractor agreement between Dr. Leticia Rodriguez and the Colonial School District, effective October 6, to provide direction and support to the Human Resources Department.

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

Mrs. Suchsland sought Board action on four student trip requests. The first is for students to attend a journalism workshop at Columbia University in New York City (NYC) on November 4. See enclosure #24. The second is for the Colonial Players to see the Radio City Christmas Spectacular in NYC on December 13. See enclosure #25. The third is for Latin Club students to travel to Italy for nine days during the summer of 2014. See enclosure #26. The final trip request is for students to participate in an exchange program and travel to Spain and France from January 17, 2014 through February 4, 2014. See enclosure #27.

Mrs. Suchsland 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, 9-0.

Solicitor's Report: None

Committee Reports: MCIU: Mrs. Finegold reported on the September 18 IU Board meeting. She stated that the IU is beginning to work on its comprehensive plan which has a due date of November 2014. She also noted that the IU has partnered with Microsoft to offer the Shape the Future Program, which offers discounts to schools for the purchase of new electronic devices.

CMTHS: No Report.

Human Resources: Mrs. Moore asked board members to approve salaries and wages for District employees for the 2013-2014 school year. She noted that a list of wages is available for public review in the Human Resources Office.

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

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry reported on the October 2 committee meeting. She highlighted a report by Director of Food Services Lori McCoy and the 2014-2015 Budget calendar.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky asked the community to review the minutes of the October 7 meeting that may be found in enclosure #5. He noted that items of interest were the common core, instructional media and the new School Performance Profile. He urged community members to attend the next meeting.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mrs. Frangiosa noted that the committee met on September 27 and referred everyone to the minutes found in enclosure #4.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Suchsland encouraged the community to attend the legislative forum on October 30 and the Parents Council meeting on October 29. She added that the Annual report will be mailed before the end of the month.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa highlighted the federal government shutdown, Special Education Act #2 of 2013, HB 618 a charter school funding reform bill and proposed pension reform legislation. She also noted that there will be a regional legislative breakfast on March 28.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary

National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalists:

Connor Hanlon
Sierra Spencer.

National Merit Commended Scholars:

Caroline Littlejohn
Brett Paul
Katherine Sellers
Jonah Wasserman.

AP scholars With Distinction:

Ahmad Attia
David Pontari
Anton Smaliak

AP Scholars with Honor:

Connor Hanlon
Brad Keller
Brendan Mooney
Austin Rose
Sierra Spencer.

AP Scholars:

Erin Bailey
Michael Barrett
Megan Boris
Mark Cylinder
Phoebe Flint
Michael Fuhrmeister
Samuel Kavetski
Jennifer Klein
Delia McDade
Sydney Miller
Haley Moyer
Brett Paul
Jacob Paul
Carolyn Pontari
Samantha Schwartz
Katherine Sellers
Abigail Turner
Michael Krone
Ross Slutsky.