

Community Relations and Student Life Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors, August 7, 2014

The Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Thursday, August 7, 2014 in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m. Present were committee chair Heather Palmer; Board Vice President Beth Suchsland; Board members Kathleen Oxberry and Alan Tabachnick; Superintendent Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Karen Berk; Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) Activities Director Charles Forster; Assistant Public Relations Director Kim Newell and Community Relations Coordinator/School Board Secretary David M. Sherman.

There was no public comment on the agenda.

The committee reviewed a student trip request for the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School Colonial Marching Colonials to compete in the Bands of America Grand National Marching Band Championships from November 13-16 in Indianapolis, Ind. There was considerable discussion regarding the size of the band. Mr. Forster reported that there are about a dozen more students participating. It was noted that a recruitment effort and changes to the program are beginning to show positive results.

Committee members examined a letter signed by all Board members to be sent to members of the Senior Citizen Gold Card list along with a copy of the 2014-15 District Activities Calendar.

Committee members were provided a list of teachers for the Fall Adult Evening School Classes.

The committee discussed plans for the communication of the PWHS renovation project. Plans included the taping a of CTIV show with Terry Yemm, a staff presentation at the September School Board Meeting, a public meeting on Thursday, October 9, a dedicated page on the District website and more.

Committee members also discussed fundraising options to support the PWHS renovation project. It was noted that the administration is exploring options for recognizing donors in the building with engraved pavers, floor tiles, etched glass and more.

The committee was informed that the Colonial School District (CSD) will turn 50 years old on December 9, 2015. A committee will be formed to begin planning events to celebrate the anniversary.

Mr. Sherman provided an update on the Colonial School District Education Foundation (CSDEF) Annual Fund and Colonial Challenge 5K, as well as the Community Day event on September 13. He also reported on a new organizational structure for the CSDEF.

The committee engaged in considerable discussion regarding broadening the scope of the Advocacy Committee and finding more ways to engage the community.

The future of Parent Council meetings was discussed. Included in the conversation were holding fewer meetings and inviting more constituent groups to attend. There was considerable discussion regarding the time the meetings are held. The administration will continue to research ways to increase attendance at the meetings.

Ms. Newell provided an update on planned changes to the CSD website, including revision of the top navigation bar, sizing of school home pages and changing Friday Folders to a "Community Events" section. There was discussion regarding how cancelled sporting events and activities are posted on the website.

Committee members were informed that the annual Conshohocken FunFest will be held on Saturday, September 20 at 11 a.m. at Sutcliffe Park.

There being no further business or comment, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David M. Sherman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Sherman" clearly legible.

David M. Sherman
Community Relations Coordinator
School Board Secretary