

**Colonial School District**  
**District Operations**  
**Facilities Management/Transportation Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**3/12/2015 – 7:30 AM**

Committee Chair Alan Tabachnick called the meeting to order at 7:32 AM.

Other Committee Members Present: Bernie Brady, Kathleen Oxberry

Other Board Members Present: Sue Moore, Beth Suchsland, Leslie Finegold, Mel Brodsky, Heather Palmer, Christine Frangiosa

Also Attending: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Superintendent; Terry R. Yemm, Director of Operations; Dave Sherman, Public Relations; Mrs. Linda Doll, Community Resident

Public Comment on the Agenda: None

A status report was provided regarding the approval process with Whitemarsh Township and the Montgomery County Conservation District (MCCD) for the PW renovation project. The district has received review letters from both Whitemarsh Township and the MCCD. Copies of the MCCD review letters were provided for the committee. The majority of the items is standard and will be answered in a timely fashion. Both approvals are required in order to obtain permits for the project. It is anticipated that we will have our approvals by the middle of May.

Information was provided regarding the Whitemarsh Township Planning Commission (WTPC) meeting that was held on March 10<sup>th</sup>. In January, the WTPC voted to not approve the waiver of the land development process for the Chestnut Hill College (CHC) project and asked the district to try to revise the storm water management plans. The district was able to provide an alternate storm water management plan that was acceptable to the township engineer. Based on this plan, the district appeared before the WTPC on March 10th and was granted a waiver of the land development process. The waiver was conditioned upon three items. The three items are; 1.) The school district is required to put a twenty (20) year ban on athletic field lighting for Victory Field #2; 2.) The district must install a buffer of shrubs or small trees between the baseball complex and the homes on Indian Guide Way; 3.) The district must hire a consultant to determine how to install the public address system proposed for the baseball stadium in a manner that produces the least amount of volume.

Mr. Yemm provided the committee with information about the financial status of the Food Service Department. (FSD) Financial information was provided for January and February 2015 as compared to January and February 2014. At the end of February 2014 the FSD had a year to date loss of \$7,300. At the end of February 2015 the FSD had a year to date loss of \$19,118. This is a difference of \$11,818. In 2014 the FSD was successful in turning the loss into a \$7,000 year-end profit. It will be more difficult to

turn a profit for this year. Several reasons were cited as a cause for the financial problems. Due to the requirements of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act (HHFKA), the cost of food is substantially higher this year than last year. The food expense year to date has increased by \$37,000. In addition, retirement expenses for the staff have increased by \$21,000. There is mounting concern nationwide with the regulations imposed by the HHFKA. While the intent is for students to eat healthier food, the reality is that the students are not buying the food as they do not like taste. U.S. Data shows that since the new rules were implemented 1.4 million fewer children choose school lunch each day. Legislators are currently working to amend or abolish the HHFKA. Updates will be provided at future meetings.

Results of an investigation of the morning student drop-off process at the PWHS were provided. While there are many signs indicating where you are not allowed to drop students off we did not find any signs indicating where the student drop-off is located. In addition, many parents drop off students in areas that are unsafe. A sign has been installed indicating student drop-off locations. The high school security staff members will make every effort to police the parking lot in the morning to ensure the process is being followed. Lastly, information regarding the proper student drop-off process will be placed in the student handbook for September 2015.

Additional Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

There being no further business before the committee, Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:18 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Yemm  
Director of Operations