

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, JANUARY 22, 2015

President Moore convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on January 22, 2015.

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; A. Kyle Berman, Solicitor; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; Andrew Boegly, Director of Technology; Trevor Jackson, Business Administrator/Board Treasurer; Dr. Leticia Rodríguez, Director of Human Resources; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Sue Castle, Colonial School District Education Foundation (CSDEF) Chair; Mike Morse; Mary Thiess; Beth Miller and Gary Johnson.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Gift Presentation: Mrs. Moore recognized Mrs. Castle who presented a check in the amount of \$30,918.47 to the Board. Mrs. Castle stated that the funds were raised through the CSDEF's 2014 Annual Fund drive, including a silent auction and the Colonial Challenge 5K. Mr. Tabachnick accepted the check on behalf of the Board and thanked the Foundation for its strong support of the District's students.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer noted that January is School Directors Recognition Month. She commented that Colonial is fortunate to have a strong group of volunteer Board members who appreciate the value of and support a strong public education. She then introduced a video tribute to the Board members.

Following the video, Dr. Gorodetzer thanked the Board members for their service.

Mrs. Moore announced that the Board had met in executive session on December 11, 2014 and January 22, 2015.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Moore sought Board action on the minutes of the special board meeting of December 11, 2014; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee meetings of December 11, 2014 and January 8, 2015; the Finance Committee and Human Resources Committee meetings of January 5, 2015; and the Curriculum Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee meetings of January 12, 2015. See enclosures #1 through #6.

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 consider on the financial reports on the list for approval. They include the Budget Transfers for December. She noted that the remainder of the reports are for both December and January. They include the General Fund/Federal Program Bills, the Capital Reserve Fund, the Food Service Bills/Cafeteria Reports, the Outstanding Investment Reports, the Cash Flow Summaries, the Comparisons of Taxes Collected, the Real Estate Tax Escrow Reports, the Trust Fund Reports, the Reconciliations of Cash Accounts, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Reports, the Bond Fund Reports and the Treasurer's Reports. See enclosures #7 through #18.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Finegold 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.

Correspondence: Mrs. Moore informed the Board of a request to accept a \$10,000 grant from the Morgan Stanley Foundation to support after school enrichment opportunities and to purchase iPads and/or laptops to support math and literacy at Conshohocken Elementary School. See enclosure #19.

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

Dr. Gorodetzer noted that the grant is provided on an annual basis and she appreciated the generosity of the Foundation and the work of Principal Denise Marks in securing the grant.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer summarized her report which included the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #20 and #21. She stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List includes three retirements, two resignations, 11 leaves of absence, two appointments, three changes of assignment and the addition of a substitute security officer. She noted that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes one adjustment. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that all actions were reviewed in executive session.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Palmer 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: It was noted that no student representatives were in attendance but Michael Krone has submitted a written report. Mr. Sherman noted that the report will be included in the minutes. Please see Attachment A.

New Business: Mrs. Moore sought nominations from the Board for a Legislative Chairperson for 2015. She noted that Mrs. Frangiosa served in the post the previous year.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to nominate Mrs. Frangiosa to the position. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Moore sought Board nominations for a PSBA Representative for 2015. She noted that Mrs. Frangiosa also served in that role last year.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Tabachnick seconded a motion to nominate Mrs. Frangiosa for the position. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Moore sought nominations from Board members for a 2015 Liaison to the CSDEF. She noted that Mr. Tabachnick served in that capacity last year.

Mrs. Frangiosa moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to nominate Mr. Tabachnick as CSDEF Liaison. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Dr. Gorodetzer provided a draft of the 2015-2016 school calendar for Board consideration. See enclosure #22. She noted that the calendar included the previously approved start date of Tuesday, September 1 and a total of 183 student days or three more than the mandated number. She also highlighted professional development days, a full week of spring break and a targeted last day of school of Friday June 10, 2016.

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

Mrs. Moore sought Board action on the 2015-2016 Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU) General Operating Budgets. She noted that the District's contribution is up slightly to \$79,909.

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

Mr. Brady asked Board members to consider a number of Real Estate Assessment Appeal Settlements. They include parcel # 65-00-03169-00-6 in Whitemarsh Township and parcel #s 49-00-04924-00-4, 49-00-11986-00-7, 49-00-11987-00-6, 49-00-11998-00-4 and 49-00-00109-54-4 in Plymouth Township.

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

Mrs. Palmer sought Board action on two student trip requests. The first is for members of the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) boys' and girls' indoor track team to travel to a meet in Lawrenceville, N.J. on January 28. See enclosure #23. The second is for two students to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association district, region and state band festivals. See enclosure #24.

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

Mr. Brodsky asked Board members to consider a special education services contract with the NHS School for the 2014-2015 school year. See enclosure #25. He noted that tuition is for \$154.92 per day.

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

Mrs. Frangiosa asked board members to act on three policies on a first-read basis. See enclosure #26. The policies include revisions to Policy #004 – Board Committee Functions, Policy #121 – Parent Involvement and Policy #815 – Acceptable Use of Internet and School Computer Network. Dr. McKeaney noted that there would be minimal changes, including a new number for Policy #121 before the Board considers on a second read.

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

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action on a special education agreement in lieu of a Free Appropriate Public Education. He noted that the agreement was reviewed in executive session.

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

Mrs. Suchsland asked Board members to consider an extension to the agreement between the Board and the Teamsters Local Union # 384 through June 30, 2018. She commended administrators and staff members on the collaborative and efficient nature of the negotiating process.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Tabachnick seconded a motion to approve the agreement extension. 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 that the IU Board will meet on January 28 and that will be the final meeting in the current facility.

CMTHS: No Report.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: No Report.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky stated that the committee learned of innovations in technology in place throughout all grade levels in the District. He also encouraged the public to attend future meetings and suggest ideas for topics to be covered.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Tabachnick provided an update on the PWSH renovation project, \$800,000 of scheduled projects at other schools, energy conservation efforts and the expansion of the athletic fields agreement with Chestnut Hill College.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Palmer encouraged the public to review the District's Annual Report which was mailed earlier in the month. She highlighted the opportunity to purchase pavers, glass panels and more in the renovated high school. She also noted that the newly approved calendar will soon be available on the website.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa commented on Governor Wolf's new Secretary of Education, a February meeting of the Montgomery County School Boards Legislative Committee, a busy year ahead with regards to education legislation in Harrisburg and a District advocacy meeting featuring State Representative Matt Bradford on January 29.

Municipal Liaisons: Mrs. Finegold noted that the District met with the Whitemarsh Planning Commission regarding two new artificial turf athletic fields.

Safety and Wellness: No Report.

Public Comment: None.

Dr. Gorodetzer commented that earlier in the evening the Board acted to accept the retirement of long time CITV Director John Quinn. She noted that this was Mr. Quinn's last Board meeting and thanked him for his years of service.

Mr. Tabachnick reminded the public that the CSDEF is accepting computer donations to provide computers to those in need in the District. He also noted that former Whitemarsh Township Supervisor and Montgomery County Commissioner Leslie Richards is now serving as the state's Secretary of Transportation.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary