

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

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 February 26, 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; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; Andrew Boegly, Director of Technology; Trevor Jackson, Business Administrator/Board Treasurer; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Micheal Krone, Board Student Representative; Mike Morse; Mary Thiess; Beth Miller, Benjamin Leace and Gary Johnson.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition/Awards: The Board recognized Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) senior Nicole Abbott who was named to the Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association All-State Team.

Mrs. Moore announced that the Board had met in executive session on February 9, 12 and 26.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Moore asked Board members to act on the minutes of the general meeting of January 22; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee meeting of February 12; the Human Resources Committee meeting of February 9 and the special board meeting of February 9. See enclosures #1 through #4.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Brodsky 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 sought Board action regarding 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, the Bond Fund Report and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending January 31. See enclosures #5 through #16.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Brady 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: Dr. Gorodetzer noted that a highlight of Music in our Schools Month in March was the annual musical performances by the high school and middle school. She introduced PWHS teacher Mickey Engel who spoke about the Colonial Players' upcoming production of Disney's Tarzan. Several of the cast members performed numbers from the musical.

Correspondence: Mrs. Moore noted a request for Board acceptance of a donation from ASTM International supporting field trips and after school programs at Conshohocken Elementary School. See enclosure #17.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Finegold 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 reviewed her report which included the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #18 and #19. She stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List includes three retirements, one resignation, five leaves of absence, one appointment, five changes of assignment and the addition of Food Service and Nurse substitutes. She noted that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes appointments for spring sports and activities. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that all actions were reviewed in executive session.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Frangiosa 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. Krone spoke to the success of the boys' basketball, wrestling and swimming teams, the Indoor Color Guard, regional and all-state band, first semester final exams, the start of the second semester and the beginning of the spring sports season. He also promoted the spring musical, Tarzan.

New Business: Mr. Brodsky asked Board members to consider approval of summer programs, including primary and intermediate grade reading programs, the Girls in Technology Summer Program, choral program, band lessons, composition classes and a strings camp. See enclosure #20.

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

Mrs. Palmer sought Board action on a number of student trip requests, including PWHS students attending the Future Business Leaders Conference in Hershey from April 13-15 (see enclosure #21), PWHS students participating in the state DECA conference from February 24-26 (see enclosure #22), PWHS AP US History students traveling to Washington, DC from May 17-18 (see enclosure #23), PWHS students traveling to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City on May 18 (see enclosure #24), the participation of the PWHS Indoor Guard in competitions in Monmouth Junction, N.J. on March 7 and April 25 and in Deptford, N.J. on April 11 (see enclosure #25), the PWHS 2016 Senior Class Trip to Orlando, Fla., from April 6-11, 2016 (see enclosure #26), PWHS students attending the National Service/Learning Conference in Washington, DC from April 8-10 (see enclosure #27), the participation of a PWHS student in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Region VI Orchestra at Oxford Area High School from March 12-14 (see enclosure #28), Colonial Middle School (CMS) students traveling to the Chincoteague Bay Field Station at Wallops Island, Va., from May 6-9 (see enclosure #29) and participation of PWHS and CMS students in the Technology Student Association State Competition in Champion, Pa., from April 15-18 and the national conference in Grapevine, Texas from June 28-July 2 (see enclosure #30).

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

Mrs. Frangiosa asked board members to act on two policy number changes and three policies on a second-read basis in one motion. She sought approval to change Policy #121 to #918 and Policy #918 to #922. She noted that the changes would bring the District policy manual more in line with the Pennsylvania School Boards Association numbering system. She stated that the policies to be considered on a second-read basis were Policy #004 – Board Committee Functions, Policy #918 – Title I Parent Involvement and Policy #815 – Acceptable Use of Internet and School Computer Network. See enclosure #31

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

Mr. Brady asked Board members to consider a two Real Estate Assessment Appeal Settlements. They include parcel # 65-00-09997-00-9 in Whitemarsh Township and parcel # 49-00-04120-01-6 in Plymouth Township.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Suchsland 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. Suchsland sought Board action on a memorandum of understanding between the Colonial Education Association and the Colonial Board of School Directors regarding CMS hybrid schedules. It was noted that the memorandum was reviewed during the February 9 Human Resources committee meeting. The memorandum is required to amend the teachers' contract.

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

Mr. Tabachnick asked Board members to act on a request to award a contract for the exterior concrete canopy restoration at Colonial Elementary School. See enclosure #39. Mr. Yemm explained that the canopy is 48-years old. He noted that work is expected to start during spring break.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the bid award. 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 met on January 28 and that was the last meeting in the old building. She summarized the special education budget, the move to the new building and a new position structure for the IU staff.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky reported on a positive negotiating session with teachers and noted that a handshake agreement was in place.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: No Report.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky stated that the committee will meet on March 17. He noted that a lot of the Board's work is done in committee and encouraged the public to attend. Mr. Brodsky also asked the Board to act on a settlement agreement in lieu of a free and public education that was reviewed in executive session.

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

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Tabachnick stated that the high school renovation project was moving forward on schedule. He also noted a review of traffic flow behind the high school and encouraged the public to attend the next meeting on March 12 at 7:30 a.m. Mr. Tabachnick also sought Board approval of the entire PlanCon process, covering sections A-K, where applicable, to apply for Commonwealth reimbursement for the PWHS renovation project. He noted that the Board previously approved the submission of PlanCon A and that sections B, D and E have been reviewed by the Board's Facilities Management and Transportation Committee.

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

Note: Attachments A and B contain communication from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) regarding PDE approval of PlanCon A and B.

Community Relations and Student Life: No Report

Safety and Wellness: Mrs. Oxberry noted that the committee will meet on March 12 at 8:30 a.m.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa reported on a meeting of the Montgomery County School Boards Legislative Committee. She highlighted federal legislation relating to AYP and state legislation on charter school reform, Keystone Exams, property tax reform and more.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:41 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