

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

President Moore convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:02 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on April 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; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Michael Krone, Board Student Representative; Mike Morse; Glenn Quinn; Barry Bosket; Mary Thiess; Jill Forster; Michaelle Khatchadorian; Earl Ries; Kerry Ries and Gary Johnson.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on April 13 and 22.

**Recognition/Awards:** Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Wrestling Coach Justin Giovinco who presented his Suburban One League American Conference championship team. Dr. Gorodetzer also noted that Mr. Giovinco was named the conference Coach of the Year. She then invited PWHS Art Teacher Candy Maggioncalda to the podium. Mrs. Maggioncalda presented students who had been recognized in various art shows and contests. See Attachment A for a complete list of students recognized.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Moore sought Board approval of the minutes of the general meeting of March 19; the Finance Committee and the Human Resources Committee of April 6; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of April 9 and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee and the Curriculum Committee of April 13. See enclosures #1 through #5 and #36.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Palmer 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 the Board to act on the financial reports on the list for approval. They include the Budget Transfers, 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 March 31. See enclosures #6 through #17.

Mr. Brodsky 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.

**Staff Report:** Dr. Gorodetzer noted that the American Association of School Librarians recognize April as School Library Month. She introduced PWHS Instructional Media Specialist Sara Frey who presented a PowerPoint highlighting the many significant advances in the high school library, including the integration of technology and exciting new opportunities for students.

**Old Business:** None

**Correspondence:** None.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed her report including 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 six retirements, two resignations, two leaves of absence, two appointments, three changes of assignment and additions to the support staff substitute list. She noted that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes changes for spring sports and activities. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that summer appointments will be presented in May. She added that all actions were reviewed in executive session.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Suchsland 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 reported on the senior class trip to Florida, ACT Testing, spring sports teams, spring break, the end of the third quarter and a jazz festival. He also noted that the PWS senior Odyssey of the Mind team had qualified for the World Finals and that 41 District students qualified for the national Technology Student Association conference. Mr. Krone also highlighted end of year activities.

**New Business:** Mr. Brodsky sought Board action on a contract with Speech Pathology Consultants to provide speech and language services for the 2015-2016 school year at a rate of \$79 per hour. See enclosure #20.

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

Mr. Brodsky asked Board members to consider an agreement with MK Therapy Services, LLC to provide physical and occupational therapy at a rate of \$73 per hour for the 2015-2016 school year.

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

Mrs. Oxberry asked the Board to act on a legal services contract with Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams, LLP for the 2015-2016 school year in the amount of \$8,000. See enclosure #37. Mrs. Oxberry noted that there has been no rate increase for this contract in the past six years.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Palmer seconded a motion to approve the legal services contract. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Finegold asked the Board to consider physician and dentist agreements for the 2015-2016 school year. See enclosure #38. She noted that the agreements are for general physical and dental examinations, sports physicals and physician services for home football games.

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

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action on a contract renewal with the Nexus School with annual tuition established at \$67,000 per year. See enclosure #39.

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

Mr. Brady stated that Board approval is sought for the Central Montco Technical High School 2015-2016 Operating Budget. See enclosure #22. He noted that Colonial's share of the \$9,528,120 plan is \$2,181,947 or \$30,710 more than the previous year.

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

Mrs. Finegold directed Board members to act on the District's 2015-2016 Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Cost Plan which covers special education services purchased through the IU. See enclosure #23.

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

Mrs. Moore asked the Board to consider the appointment of six students to serve as junior student representatives to the School Board for the 2015-2016 school year. She noted that the students are recommended by the high school administration.

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

Mr. Tabachnick sought Board action on proposed rental rates for the Montgomery Early Learning Center (MELC) 2015-2016 before and after school programs in all District elementary schools, a MELC summer camp at Whitmarsh Elementary School in 2015 and office space in a District school building. See enclosure #24.

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

Mr. Brady sought Board approval of a real estate assessment appeal settlement for parcel #49-00-03439-00-4 in Plymouth Township.

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

Mrs. Palmer asked Board members to consider two student trip requests. The first is for the Conshohocken Elementary School second grade to visit the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J. on June 3. See enclosure #25. The second is for the PWHS Colonial Players to attend a Broadway show in New York City on May 13. See enclosure #26.

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

Mrs. Frangiosa asked for Board consent to delete outdated Board Policy #404 Certifications, #405 Substitute Teachers, #407 Student Teachers, and #550 Medical Benefits Pertaining to Family Members of Deceased Employees. See enclosure #27. Mrs. Frangiosa noted that the District has systematically begun to review all policies and will recommend those policies that no longer reflect current practice be deleted. She stated that several of the policies recommended for removal at this time had not been updated since 1965.

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

Mr. Brodsky requested that Board members consider the adoption of textbooks for biology and math as reviewed by the Curriculum Committee and shown in enclosure #28. At Mr. Brodsky's request, Dr. McKeaney explained that both texts include online resources, 3D images and interactive activities which are updated and can be differentiated based upon an individual student's need.

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

Mr. Tabachnick sought Board action on an agreement with Chestnut Hill College for the installation of synthetic turf on Victory Field #2 and the construction of a baseball complex to include athletic field lighting and synthetic turf. See enclosure #29. Mr. Tabachnick noted that the District is excited to continue and expand its partnership with the college. He also noted that there will be no cost to the District. Mr. Jackson stated that the District will front the cost of the project with capital from the Fund

Balance but will receive payment with interest from the college over the next 15 years. Mr. Jackson confirmed for Mrs. Suchsland that the interest rate the District will receive is a better rate than if the money was invested elsewhere. Mr. Jackson also noted that the college is submitting a redevelopment grant in an effort to reimburse the District quicker. Mr. Yemm stated that the plan is to begin construction this summer or fall.

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

**Solicitor's Report:** None

**Committee Reports:** MCIU: Mrs. Finegold stated that the annual cooperative fuel bid will save participating school districts more than \$2.6 million. She also highlighted, the IU renewal of the contract with Solicitor Jeffrey Sultanik and Fox Rothschild, LLP, a goal of increasing professional development over the next few years and the IU's new facility dedication.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky noted that two of the four inductees at the CMTHS 30<sup>th</sup> Distinguished Graduates Dinner were PWHS graduates. He noted that the inductees' background and accomplishments were quite diverse.

Human Resources: Mrs. Suchsland stated that the committee is monitoring kindergarten enrollment. She encouraged families to register their children if they have not already done so.

Finance: Mr. Brady sought board approval to submit PlanCon Section F to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to grant approval to submit the document. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky stated that the committee reviewed the District's extensive advanced placement offerings. He noted that the next meeting is scheduled for May 18.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to approve conditions of a Land Development Waiver from Whitemarsh Township regarding the new athletic fields project approved earlier in the meeting. The conditions include the need for the District to obtain an Earth Disturbance Permit, the planting of tall vegetation to block light spillage to neighboring homes, inclusion of a sound regulator on the baseball complex public address system and a waiver to not install lights on Victory Fields #2 for 20 years.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the conditions of the Land Development Waiver. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Tabachnick also noted that the District received approval from PDE for PlanCon Sections D and E. He noted that the approval letters will be included as attachments to the minutes of this meeting. See Attachments B and C.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Palmer stated that the District will have a presence at Whitemarsh Township day on April 25 and Plymouth Township Day on May 30. She noted there will be samples of pavers and glass panels that may be purchased to support the high school renovation on display.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa highlighted an anti-bullying bill and a new proposed tax relief plan.

Municipal/Community Liaisons: Mr. Tabachnick noted that the Colonial School District Education Foundation has supplied four computers to students in need. He also encouraged the public to support the Foundation's 2015 Annual Fund Drive, noted that the Foundation is now supporting the PWHS Scholarship Fund and spoke to a successful fundraiser at Chipotle.

Safety and Wellness: No Report.

**Public Comment:** None.

Dr. Gorodetzer noted that PWSHS will hold its annual Distinguished Graduates Induction on May 7. She stated that there are three new inductees this year and information is available on the District website.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David M. Sherman". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary

**Wrestlers**

Alex Akers  
Matt Aprile  
Ben Billings  
Rob Brooke  
Ray Clarkson  
Ajani Deshield  
Marco DiBattista  
Gianpiero DiBattista  
Tommy Disisto  
Zach Fisher  
Scott Horry  
Andrew Karaszkievicz  
Francesco Palagruto  
Darren Ries  
Dan Smith  
Nick Sudell  
Jake Tassoni  
Andrew Vo  
Zach Wakefield  
Quincy Williams  
Warren Young

**Art Students**

**Penna Touch the Future Arts Show**

Lydia Ciaffone

**Photographer's Forum magazine's 35th Annual College & High School Photography Contest**

Emmy Schildt

**Montgomery County Community College Art Show**

Lydia Ciaffone  
Laura Pichioni  
Emma Lepore  
Jamie Ehrlich  
Kara Wilson

**Tri-County High School Art Exhibit**

Annie Okonski  
Rachel Silberman