

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462**  
**GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, MAY 21, 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 May 21, 2015.

**Board Members Present:** Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Leslie Finegold, Christina Frangiosa, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry, Beth Suchsland and Alan Tabachnick.

**Board Members Absent:** Heather Palmer.

**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; Dr. Leticia Rodríguez, Director of Human Resources; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Mike Morse; Andrew Fisher; Dave Suchsland; Samantha Suchsland; Christina Minecci; Meenu Bhutani; Pramod Bhutani; Yimei Chen; Mary Thiess; Renard Rose; Beth Miller and Gary Johnson.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Recognition/Awards:** Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) Principal Dr. Jason Bacani who presented PWHS and Central Montco Technical High School (CMTHS) students who had participated in the Pennsylvania HOSA and SkillsUSA competitions. Dr. Gorodetzer then invited Colonial Middle School teacher Clint Rickert to the podium to introduce the Technology Student Association (TSA) students who qualified for the National TSA Conference. For a complete list of students honored, please see Attachment A.

Mrs. Moore announced that the Board had met in executive session on May 6 and 21.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Moore asked the Board to consider the minutes of the general meeting of April 22; the Human Resources Committee and Finance Committee of May 4; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of May 14 and the Curriculum Committee of May 18. See enclosures #1 through #3, #35 and #36.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Financial Reports:** Mrs. Moore sought Board action 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 April 30. See enclosures #5 through #15.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Public Comments on the Agenda:** None.

**Old Business:** None

**Correspondence:** Mrs. Moore asked Board members to accept a \$10,000 donation from Dr. Hallee Adelman to support technology initiatives at Conshohocken Elementary School. See enclosure # 37.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to accept the donation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Gorodetzer summarized her report which was comprised of the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #16 and #17. She stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List includes five retirements, six leaves of absence, one appointment, three salary adjustments, two position reclassifications and three position changes. Dr. Gorodetzer also noted that summer program appointments are included. She stated that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes two changes for spring sports and activities. Dr. Gorodetzer added that all actions were reviewed in executive session.

Mrs. Frangiosa moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Board Student Representatives Report:** None.

**New Business:** Mr. Brodsky noted that in order to fulfill state budgetary requirement 6-687, the District must approve a Proposed Final Budget. He asked Board members to act on a request to approve the previously endorsed Preliminary Budget and subsequent revisions as the Proposed Final Budget. He detailed that the Proposed Final Budget (2015-2016) totals \$112,158,458 which is an increase of \$7,658,458 or 7.33% over the 2014-2015 spending plan. The Proposed Final Budget includes a real estate tax of 20.6131 mils, an increase of 2.50 percent. The new real estate tax equates to an additional \$50.28 per year for each \$100,000 of taxable assessed value or an increase of \$74.76 on the District's median assessed value of \$148,690.

Mrs. Moore noted that the budget is a work in process and that this approval fulfills a state mandate. She noted that this is not the final budget and that the Board and administration are still working diligently on the spending plan. Mrs. Moore added and Mr. Brodsky confirmed that the 2.5 percent noted in the budget is the maximum amount that taxes would be raised.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the Proposed Final Budget. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Moore asked the Board to act on the appointment of a Board Treasurer per Section 404 of the Public School Code.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to appoint Trevor Jackson to the position of Board Treasurer. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Moore asked the Board to consider the appointment of a Board Secretary per Section 404 of the Public School Code.

Mrs. Frangiosa moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to appoint David M. Sherman to the position of Board Secretary. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Moore sought Board action on the appointment of an Assistant Board Secretary per Section 404 of the Public School Code.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to appoint Trevor Jackson to the position of Assistant Board Secretary. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Brady asked the Board to approve the CSD Real Estate Tax Installment Payment Plan that is an option for all taxpayers to pay their bills in installments. See enclosure #19.

Mr. Brady moved and Mr. Tabachnick seconded a motion to approve the CSD Real Estate Tax Installment Payment Plan. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Brady sought Board action on the request that the Pennsylvania Liquid Asset Fund, in conjunction with PNC Bank serve as the primary depository for school funds. And that the banks and depositories found on the list in enclosure #20 be solicited for interest rates on school investments during the 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the banks and depositories as requested. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Suchsland noted that approval is sought for the Administrator Compensation Plan between the Colonial Board of School Directors and the Colonial Administrators and Supervisors Education Association effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the Administrator Compensation Plan. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Suchsland stated that approval is sought for the Administrative Assistant Compensation and Benefit Plan effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the Administrative Assistant Compensation and Benefit Plan. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider two placement agreements in lieu of a Free and Public Education. He noted that the agreements were reviewed in executive session for reasons of confidentiality.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the placement agreements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Frangiosa moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to appoint Fox Rothschild, LLP as Solicitor for the Colonial School District for the time period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 based upon the following: a) A retainer of \$24,823.00 per year; b) A base hourly rate of \$180.00; c) Alternate rates in accordance with the enclosed Engagement Letter dated March 6, 2015; d) Rates as established by the insurance carrier where Fox Rothschild, LLP is an approved provider and e) Motion to approve the HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between Colonial School District and Fox Rothschild, LLP as the result of Fox Rothschild, LLP handling cases that involve protected health information on behalf of the District. Mrs. Frangiosa voiced appreciation to Fox Rothschild noting that it has been four years since there has been a rate increase associated with this agreement.

On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action on a Pupil Services renewal contract with the Comprehensive Learning Center with annual tuition set a \$91,000 for the 2015-2016 school year. See enclosure #21. Mr. Brodsky noted that the cost was a 2.25 percent increase over the current rate. Responding to a question from Mr. Tabachnick, Mrs. Berk explained that the center provides 12-month, one-on-one services for students with extraordinary special needs.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the contract renewal. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to act on a three-year contract renewal with Lakeside Educational Network for the next three school years. See enclosure #38.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the contract renewal. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Brady sought Board approval of a real estate assessment appeal settlement for parcel #05-00-05900-00-8 in Conshohocken Borough.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the real estate assessment appeal settlement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Oxberry asked Board members to consider a request for PWHS Advanced Placement Literature students to travel to Washington, D.C. on May 21 to visit the Smithsonian and Folger Theater. See enclosure #22. She noted that there is no cost to the District.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the trip request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick sought Board approval of recommended supply bids for the 2015-2016 school year including Art Supplies, General Supplies and Paper and Office Supplies (see enclosure #23), PWHS Athletic/Phys Ed Supplies (see enclosure #24) and CMS Athletic/Phys Ed Supplies (see enclosure #25).

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the supply bids. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Tabachnick sought Board action on a recommended contract for the removal of specific building materials in support of the PWHS renovation project. See enclosure #26.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the contract. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Suchsland directed Board members to consider approval of an agreement addendum with Substitute Teacher Services (STS) for the 2015-2016 school year. See enclosure #27. Responding to a request from Mrs. Moore, Dr. Rodríguez explained that STS provides substitute teachers and instructional aides for the District. She stated that the agreement raises the rate for Instructional Aide assignments.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the agreement addendum. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to accept a \$4,796 grant from the Colonial School District Education Foundation to purchase four Bukito 3D printers and accessories for use in the District's K-3 technology labs. At Mr. Brodsky's request, Curriculum Supervisor Sergio Anaya explained that the printers will be used in the Creativity and Design Unit that begins in kindergarten and introduces students to understanding basic currents and conductivity and progresses to learning about circuits.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to accept the grant. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Solicitor's Report:** None

**Committee Reports:** MCIU: Mrs. Finegold stated that the IU Board met on April 22 in their new facility in Norristown. She highlighted services the IU provides and noted that there was a well-attended dedication of the new IU building on April 24.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky congratulated all CMTHS students who performed well in state competitions and qualified for national events. He also noted that the CMTHS Recognition and Awards Program is scheduled for May 28.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: No Report.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky highlighted a report from high school personnel on the Naviance college and career planning online tool.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Tabachnick stated that the PWHS renovation project was moving along. He noted that the deadline for bids has been extended one week to June 4. He also stated that the District tennis courts would be re-surfaced over the summer.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve a \$5,000 advertising package with Butler Pike Family Dentistry. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Suchsland also highlighted upcoming community programs on new child protection legislation and pupil services behavioral support services. She also noted that the District will have a presence at Plymouth Township Day on May 30 and kindergarten registration is ongoing.

Safety and Wellness: Mrs. Finegold called attention to the school safety page under the parents tab on the District website.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa noted that the legislative session resumes on June 1 and the focus will be the passage of a budget. She stated that there is concern whether or not a budget will be approved on time. Mrs. Frangiosa detailed legislation regarding pension reform efforts, property tax reform and an attempt to streamline the PlanCon process.

Municipal/Community Liaisons: Mrs. Finegold noted that the District's request for a land use waiver for the turf fields construction project has been tabled by the Whitmarsh Township Supervisors. Efforts to obtain the waiver continue.

**Public Comment:** None.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary

**HOSA**

Samia Allen  
Gillian Bogle  
Patrick Kelly  
Adam Lloyd  
Phillip Lorenz  
Erika Perry  
Demi Sunkens

**SkillsUSA**

Gino DePaul  
Andrew Fisher  
Mark Jones  
Zach Miscavage  
Domenic Procaccino  
Gustavo Reyes-Altamirano  
Jordan Rose  
Jesus Torres  
Jacob Walter

**TSA**

Shreya Bhutani  
Shannon Bower  
Jillian Bukstel  
Owen Butler  
Matthew Center  
Evan Chan  
Chris Cifoletti  
Jared Conner  
Pat Corpus  
Anna Deeg  
Riya Dindigal  
Giancarlo Donnini  
Nicole Esposito  
Amira Ferjani  
Luke Gaumer  
Jordyn Goldring  
Sophia Gross  
Chris Guarini  
Scott Horry  
Samantha Horry

Nathan Hyer  
Chris Johnson  
Julia Song  
Lauren Kim  
Sydne Klein  
Nikki Knudsen  
Jacob Kurtz  
Seamus Malley  
Leslie Miller  
Karen Minecci.  
Angela Richter  
Isabella Schaffer  
Lina Shi  
Kevin Shi  
Tyler Simpson  
Liza Smaliak  
William Stanczak  
Dean Suchsland  
Jackson Versak  
Jamie Werther