

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, OCTOBER 16, 2014

President Moore convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:03 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on October 16, 2014.

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

Board Members Absent: Heather Palmer and Alan Tabachnick.

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; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Michael Krone and Lily Hart, Board Student Representatives; Mike Morse; Pramod Bhutani; Meenu Bhutani; Devica Bhutani; Christine Minecci; Sital Agarwal; Ronda Goldstein; Donald Goldstein; Jeff Levine; Maria Hyer; John Hyer; Ken Fulmer; Beth Miller; Mary Jeanne Smith; Mary Thiess; Sandi Krone; Gary Johnson and Brendan Wills.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board met in executive session on October 13 and prior to the meeting.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer first introduced Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) Principal Jason Bacani who presented National Merit, National Achievement and Advanced Placement Scholars. She then invited Colonial Middle School (CMS) Teacher Clint Rickert to the podium to present the Technology Student Association (TSA) students who won medals at the TSA National Conference over the summer. Finally, Dr. Gorodetzer asked PWHS Cheerleading Advisor Debra Tornetta to present her All-American Cheerleaders. Please see Attachment A for a complete list of students honored.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Moore sought Board action on the minutes of the general meeting of September 18; The Human Resources Committee and Finance Committee meetings of October 6; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee meetings of September 11 and October 9; The Curriculum Committee meetings of September 15 and October 13; the Safety and Wellness Committee meeting of October 9 and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee meeting of October 13. See enclosures #1 through #4, #31, #5 and #32 through #34.

Mrs. Moore 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, 7-0.

Financial Reports: Mrs. Moore asked Board members to act on 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 and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending September 30. See enclosures #6 through #16.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff report: Mrs. Suchsland noted that the scheduled staff report was being deferred until next month.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mrs. Finegold noted that board acceptance is requested for a \$2,600 donation from the Outreachers of Whitemarsh to Conshohocken Elementary School. See enclosure #35.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to accept the donation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer summarized her report which included the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List and a list of Substitution Rates for 2014-2015. See enclosures #17 through #19. She stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List includes one resignation, seven leaves of absence, two changes of assignment, one appointment and a list of substitute cafeteria aides and secretaries. She noted that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes appointments and changes, and the list of Substitution Rates reflects changes for the current school year.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: Ms. Hart reported on the freshman class election, status of fall sports teams, a cap and gown assembly and senior night assembly. Mr. Krone spoke to the academic awards ceremony, the college admissions fair, the cavalcade of bands, Homecoming activities and playoff games for the field hockey and boys' and girls' soccer teams.

New Business: Mrs. Frangiosa asked Board members to consider three student trip requests in one motion. All three requests are for PWHS students to travel to New York City. The first request is for Milestone and Town Crier students to attend the Scholastic Press Conference at Columbia University on November 3. See enclosure #20. The second request is for American Musical Theatre and Chorus students to see *Les Miserables* on Broadway on December 3. See enclosure #21. The third request is for 10th grade English students to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Barrymore Theater on December 17. See enclosure #36. Mrs. Frangiosa noted that there is no cost to the District for any of the trips.

Mrs. Frangiosa moved Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action on a professional conference request for PWHS Math Teacher Lori Lynch to attend the Carnegie Learning – 2014 Digital Learning Summit in Savannah, Ga., from October 27-29. See enclosure # 22. Mr. Brodsky noted that there is no cost to the District.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the conference request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked Board members to act on a Special Education Placement Agreement in lieu of a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE). He noted that the agreement was reviewed in executive session.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the placement agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Brady sought Board authorization for the District to incur non-electoral debt through the issuance of one or more series of General Obligation Bonds and the refunding of Series 2009 A Bonds based on the parameters set forth in Resolution 2014, 10-16. See enclosure #23. Mrs. Suchsland asked Mr. Jackson to explain the two transactions. Mr. Jackson stated that the refunding will to take advantage of good market conditions to refinance debt and the General Obligation Bonds, totaling \$39.99 million, are to begin the financing of the PWHS renovation project. Mr. Jackson confirmed for Mrs. Frangiosa

that under current market conditions the District expects to save a minimum of \$192,000 on the refinancing, which would be reflected in next year's budget. Mrs. Suchsland noted that the District has saved \$3.7 million by refinancing bonds eight times over the past 12 years. Mr. Jackson confirmed for Mrs. Oxberry that the District would not borrow all of the money for the high school renovation at one time, but rather as needed for the project. He also confirmed that the District can invest the funds until needed for the project.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to authorize the issuance of the General Obligation Bonds and refunding of Series 2009 A Bonds. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Brady asked the Board to consider a request to withdraw assessment appeals on the following parcels: 65-00-10651-50-7, 65-00-10651-00-3 and 65-00-10651-01-2 all located in Whitemarsh Township. Responding to a question from Mrs. Oxberry, Mr. Jackson explained that the parcels were large homes that the owners are trying to sell. He noted that when applying fair market value to the properties the District did not have a strong case to continue.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to withdraw the assessment appeals. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mrs. Oxberry sought Board approval to submit PlanCon A, which is the PWHS renovation project description, to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. At Mrs. Oxberry's request, Mr. Yemm explained that this was the first step in the process to apply for the state program which may provide the opportunity for some reimbursement for the renovation project.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the submission. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Solicitor's Report: None

Committee Reports: MCIU: Mrs. Finegold reported on the renovation of the new IU headquarters in Norristown. She noted that the project completion is expected to be in January. She added that the District would bear no cost for the renovation. She also noted that new Executive Director Dr. John George was schedule to begin his term on October 20.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky noted that the CMTHS Open House was ongoing at the moment. He also noted the promotion of the school's new Landscape Design and Construction Program, and the submission of school safety grants to be used to purchase equipment.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: No Report.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky reported that the committee heard plans for new class schedules at CMS, slated to begin next school year, and PWHS, slated to begin in time for the 2016-2017 school year.

Facilities Management and Transportation: No Report.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Suchsland noted that the public meeting on the PWHS renovation has been moved from Colonial Elementary School to the PWHS library.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa reported on HB1816 known as Pass the Trash. The bill provides new procedures for conducting thorough reviews of new employees beyond current state and federal guidelines. Responding to a question from Mrs. Moore, Mr. Sultanik stated that there is no additional funding provided to conduct the reviews.

Safety and Wellness: Mrs. Oxberry reported on an update on preventive measures to combat the Enterovirus. She also noted that the committee heard a report on the District's thorough and extensive concussion monitoring program. Mrs. Oxberry stated that the committee would meet again early next year.

Municipal Liaisons: No Report.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David M. Sherman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".

David M. Sherman
Board Secretary

Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars

AP Scholars with Distinction

Michael Krone
Samuel Levine
Ross Slutsky

AP Scholars with Honor

Eric Brown
Anya Forsberg
Evan Friedland
Miranda Katz

AP Scholars

Kyle Campbell
Ilan Crawley
Adam Deeves
Ian Dinda
Tessa Dolt
Graham Ely
Stephanie Fazio
Michelle Ferguson
Alexander Fulmer
Francis Garvey
Ani Greenspan
Christopher Kelly
Patrick Kelly
David Leace
Seamus Malley
Patrick McGrath
Angela Nguyen
Rachel Paciello
Jacob Raeder
Lina Shi
Mariel Tabachnick
Sanjana Venkat
Christina Vikingstad
Andrew Vo
Cassandra Ward

National Merit Scholars

Semifinalists

Kyle Campbell
Graham Ely
Alexander Fulmer
Michael Krone
Sanjana Venkat

Commended

Adam Deeves
Carleigh Humm
Nathan Hyer
Felicia Kan
Seamus O'Malley
Max Robbins

National Achievement Semifinalist

Mark Henry

Technology Student Association

Shreya Bhutani
Thomas Demianovich
Giancarlo Donnini
Nicole Esposito
Chris Guarini
Samantha Horry
Seth Horry
Lauren Kim
Karen Menecci
Gregory Richards
Lina Shi
Tyler Simpson
Josh Stern
Jackson Versak

Cheerleaders

Kaitlyn Hunsicker
Kaillee Hunsicker
Alyssa Jamison
Alexandria Monestero-Stem