

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Safety and Wellness Committee Meeting Minutes

Superintendent's Conference Room, District Office
March 12, 2015 - 8:30 am

Committee members present: Leslie Finegold, Bernie Brady, Heather Palmer

Other Board members present: Sue Moore, Beth Suchsland, Mel Brodsky, Christina Frangiosa, Kathleen Oxberry, Alan Tabachnick

Administrators present: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Karen Berk, Terry Yemm

Mrs. Finegold, Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:45 am

Public Session

There were no public comments.

Emergency Management Plan – Part 1

District Safety Officer, Tim McDonald, reported that the plan is the culmination of 16 months of collaboration with Whitmarsh, Plymouth, and Conshohocken Township Police Departments and the Montgomery County Safe Schools group.

The new Colonial School District Emergency Management Plan is based upon a model plan created by the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety. The model plan was reviewed and changed to reflect the specifics of the Colonial School District. It incorporates information previously contained in the CSD Emergency Operations Plan as well as new practices and procedures recommended by all levels of government.

The document has been reviewed several times by members of this work group. It is a living document that will still, and continually, be undergoing changes. However, this is an appropriate time for it to be reviewed by members of the CSD.

PWHS Renovation Project Safety Plan

Director of Operations, Terry Yemm, reported that, in conjunction with the PW renovation, the district will be utilizing an environmental control plan to ensure the safety of all students, staff, and visitors. The primary focus of the environmental control plan is the remediation of asbestos located in the areas of the renovation. Mr. Yemm explained that the district is required to work under the guidelines of a Federal program titled the Asbestos Hazardous Emergency Response Act (AHERA). Mr. Yemm indicated that he felt the name of the act was misleading. The reality is that all of the asbestos in the building is safe and does not create a health issue for anyone. There are plans to have a town meeting in May. The purpose of the town meeting is to explain to the public the remediation process for the asbestos.

Preliminary information was provided regarding parking and traffic flow during the renovations. Several parking lots will be out of use for students, staff and visitors at various times during the project. Arrangements are being made to shift parking to other lots on the site. In addition, the district will monitor the amount of student parking passes that are applied for during the spring months and make every effort to limit that number to the spaces that are available at the high school. Plans are also being developed for the safe passage of construction vehicles during the renovation process. During phase one construction vehicles will need to enter the court yard area to gain access to the area where the cafeteria is being constructed. In so doing they will need to pass through the connection between the art

hallway and natatorium hallway. As students are continually traveling through this area between classes, a person will be stationed at that location to direct the construction vehicles so that the area is safe for students crossing from one building to the other.

Student flow in the corridors is another area of concern that will be monitored closely during the renovation. With each phase of work different areas of the building will be cordoned off and a plan for evacuation will be established and approved by the fire marshal.

Healthy Hunger-Free Act – UPDATE

Lori McCoy, Director of Food Services, presented an update on the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act. She discussed the implications since implementation, inclusive of a nationwide decrease of 1.4 million meals along with an increase of 1.2 billion dollars in expenses. She proceeded to discuss the sequence of congressional acts that have been introduced since the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act was introduced, all in efforts to provide more flexibility with meal planning. She shared a document which is being widely used in advocacy efforts this year in preparation for Child Nutrition Reauthorization. She also discussed the new Professional Standards Regulation, which aims to institute education and certification standards for all school nutrition personnel. Specified annual training requirements will be mandated for all employees to ensure school nutrition professionals can plan and create nutritious, safe and enjoyable school meals.

School Safety Website Page

A new School Safety page has been created on the Colonial School District Website. The page, which will be updated on a regular and emergency basis, can be accessed through the parent portal and includes basic information related to a variety of topics pertaining to school safety. The page provides definitions of important school safety terms, describes what parents can do to help promote school safety, and informs parents of what they should do during a school emergency. Parents can also print out a copy of the CSD *Emergency Guide for Parents* brochure.

Wellness Information - UPDATE

Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education, provided an update on the one case of chicken pox reported at CES this year. There have been no additional cases reported.

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen B. Berk
Director of Pupil Services & Special Education

Terry Yemm

Director of Operations