

Colonial School District
District Operations
Facilities Management/Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes
4/14/2016 – 6:30 PM

Board Committee Liaison and School Board Member Alan Tabachnick called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Other Committee Members Present: Bernie Brady, Felix Raimondo

Other Board Members Present: Sue Moore, Leslie Feingold, Cathy Peduzzi, Mel Brodsky

Also Attending: Terry R. Yemm, Director of Operations; Trevor Jackson, Business Manager; Dave Sherman, Community Relations, Linda Doll, Community Resident, Ms. Dresnin, Community Resident

Public Comment on the Agenda: Ms. Doll stated that she heard that Chestnut Hill College was having financial problems and enrollment was down which could add to financial problems. She asked for an update on their ability to finance the 2 new turf fields since it has been awhile and I remember that CSD got rid of the escrow part of the agreement. Mr. Yemm said that he had actually heard the opposite and that their enrollment is up. Ms. Moore said that CSD isn't anticipating any issues because Chestnut Hill College has always paid on time for the existing turf field. Mr. Raimondo said that he had heard the same rumor as Ms. Doll, so he'd like to hear that everything is going as planned with the financial aspect of the agreement. Trevor Jackson then stated that he had already explained to those concerned that all is fine with the financials and Chestnut Hill College.

Ms. McCoy, Food Service Director, provided information about how the scatter-serve process in use in the new cafeteria at the high school is in compliance with the National School Lunch Program. In addition, she provided information regarding the reimbursements that the district receives for its participation with the free and reduced cost lunches. Specifically information was provided on the process that the school district has in place for ensuring that families that are qualified to participate in the program are offered the opportunity to do so.

Ms. McCoy also shared the results of the Pennsylvania Department of Education three-year administrative review for the Food Service Department. The audit is comprised of three separate components. The three components are wellness, resource management and professional standards. The wellness component of the audit was held on April 4th and 5th at the Whitmarsh Elementary School and Immaculate Heart of Mary. The wellness component of the audit was completed with only three (3) items requiring corrective action. This was exceptional in view of the fact that the district received fifteen (15) items requiring corrective action during the last audit and the average amount of corrective items issued in this region is between 10 and 25. The district also received notice that we have successfully passed the resource management component and should be receiving results of the professional standards component within the next 30 days. Mr.

Yemm took the opportunity to acknowledge Ms. McCoy's efforts over the last few months. In addition to preparing for a three year audit, Ms. McCoy was dealing with a personnel issue that had a substantial impact on the department's daily operations and the opening of a new kitchen/cafeteria at the high school.

An update was provided on the status of the PW renovation. At the present time there is a temporary delay in the work that is being performed in the natatorium and adjoining locker rooms. Material that was used for insulating pipes years ago was uncovered when the walls were removed. There are specific guidelines that need to be followed for the removal of this type of material. The paperwork and permitting necessary to remove the material takes a minimum of 10 days to secure and the work that was scheduled in this area has been placed on hold until the material is removed. A contractor is scheduled to remove the material during the week of April 18th. At that point the contractors will resume with all construction activities.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the proposed design of the west gymnasium. The design that was shown to the committee was somewhat different than the design that was presented to the Board at the retreat in March. The proposed design changes were the result of information provided in meetings that took place with many of the stakeholders for the west gymnasium. The committee provided input on the design and suggested that the administrative team set up additional meetings with the stakeholders to review all suggested changes. The second round of meetings will take place with all the stakeholders and the results will be brought back for committee consideration as soon as possible.

Short term and long-term plans for the anticipated increase in enrollment were provided for committee consideration. The short term plans include consolidation of classroom spaces at the K-5 level, placement of new enrollments in schools outside of the current boundary once capacities are reached and a possible change of the feeder pattern for students living in two apartment complexes in Conshohocken. The long-term plans include the construction of additional classrooms at RP and PE. Schematic plans were shown depicting the proposed locations of the additions at each site. The committee discussed a timetable for the proposed additions. The initial plan was to have the new additions at each site ready for use in September of 2018. A question was raised regarding the ability to have the additions at one or both schools ready for use in September 2017 in the event the enrollment increases for next year are substantially higher than anticipated. Mr. Yemm indicated that they could fast track the planning and approval process for both schools and have bid packages ready by January 2017. At that time we will have a better handle on the enrollment increases and a decision can be made whether to go out for bid at that time or continue on a schedule to have the additions ready for September 2018. The committee agreed and provided approval to move forward with the planning phases for additions at both schools.

An update was provided on the synthetic turf project. A meeting was held regarding the excavation and site work required for the baseball complex as well as Victory Field #2. Due to recent changes in regulations specifically related to the Wissahickon watershed the costs for storm water management for Victory Field #2 are substantially higher than originally anticipated. Essentially Montgomery County is requiring that a detention basin

be built under Victory Field #2. During the planning phase of the project everyone involved with the storm water management felt confident that the design and construction of the drainage system would be the same as the system that was used on Victory Field #1. We challenged the logic of building a detention basin under Victory Field #2 since the existing field already drains into a detention basin. The engineers indicated that they had challenged it is well and were told it was due to problems with the Wissahickon watershed. As the costs are excessive there's a possibility that we will not move forward with Victory Field #2.

The district has had several meetings with representatives of Whitemarsh Township regarding the upcoming high school graduation in June. There is major concern this year with parking for graduation as many of the areas that are traditionally used for parking are not available due to the construction project at the high school. The township also expressed a concern about the timing for the start of construction on the baseball complex as that field is also used to park as many as 200 to 300 cars. In an effort to make sure that the campus is as safe as possible for everyone the township and the district have agreed to hold off beginning construction on the baseball complex until after graduation on June 8th.

Mr. Jackson provided specific details about a request for a parent transportation contract for one of our students. In this specific situation it is in the student's best interest to be transported by the parent. Based on the information, the committee agreed to allow the parent contract. An update was provided regarding the Sague Bus contract.

Pictures of the front of the science wing at PWHS were provided for committee review. Mr. Yemm explained that the white limestone copings on the top of the building and top of the brick walls were pressure washed during the spring break. In addition, many of the brick surfaces were cleaned. The difference in appearance is substantial. In addition to the copings on the science wing the front sign at the high school was cleaned as well as the north side of the Colonial Elementary School. In addition to the improvement in appearance, cleaning these surfaces on a periodic basis will help to increase their life expectancy.

Additional Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

There being no further business before the committee, Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Yemm
Director of Operations