

Colonial School District
District Operations
Facilities Management/Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes
7/15 /2015 – 7:30 AM

Board Committee Liaison and School Board Member Alan Tabachnick called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM.

Other Committee Members Present: Kathy Oxberry, Bernie Brady

Other Board Members Present: Sue Moore, Leslie Finegold, Mel Brodsky, Heather Palmer, Christine Frangiosa

Also Attending: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Superintendent; Terry R. Yemm, Director of Operations; Dave Sherman, Community Relations; Mrs. Linda Doll, Community Resident

Public Comment on the Agenda: None

Dr. Gorodetzer presented detailed information about a bus audio policy. The transportation department would like to move forward with the adoption of this audio policy. Accordingly, the policy will be presented to the school board on a first read basis at the July Board meeting.

An update was provided to the committee on the status of the renovation at the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School. All of the contracts have been signed and the contractors are in the process of staging the site for construction. A substantial amount of progress has been made on the environmental control plan. The environmental control contractors have completed the removal of the material in the classrooms that surround the courtyard where the new cafeteria will be constructed. The contractor will now move to the east wing and begin removing the floor tile and adhesive in each classroom. The plan is to leave the concrete floor in its renovated condition until the renovation takes place next year. The request for the waivers of the permit fees from Whitmarsh Township for the renovation project will be on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors July meeting. The meeting is scheduled for July 16th. The installation of the ultraviolet filtration system is scheduled for early August. Plans are being made to install the system at a time that will not interfere with use of the pool.

The district will appear in front of the Whitmarsh Township Board of Supervisors on July 16th to finalize the request for a waiver of the land development process for the synthetic turf project. The district will present the project and answer questions from residents and/or members of the Board of Supervisors. The resolution that was crafted for the project was presented for review by the committee members. After a brief discussion all committee members agreed to the resolution.

Information was provided to the committee regarding the Facilities Management Department tree maintenance program. Many of the trees on our properties are trimmed and maintained by our Turf Management Department. Next week our staff members will remove two oak trees at RP and one oak tree at PE. After the trees are removed and cleaned up the crew will continue trimming dead branches on all of the trees on our campuses. In addition, a report was provided about a large oak tree that was struck by lightning in the front of the PWHS. Within 24 hours of the lightning strike an arborist was onsite to evaluate the damage. The arborist recommended that the tree be removed immediately as it had split down the middle and was unsafe. In addition the arborist recommended that a professional tree removal service be brought in to remove the tree because it would be difficult to control which way the tree would fall because of the split damage from the lightning. The tree was removed over the 4th of July weekend.

A list of old equipment was presented to the committee along with a recommendation to deem the equipment obsolete. Mr. Yemm explained that this will be a common occurrence throughout the entire PWHS renovation process. As each area of the building is renovated all staff members are instructed to evaluate what equipment will no longer be needed after the renovation is completed. Mr. Yemm asked for committee approval to work with the IT Department in determining what obsolete equipment has salvage value and what equipment should simply be disposed of. Plans will be put in place to sell any equipment that may have an interest in buying or salvage same for the highest price. The committee agreed to the request.

The committee reviewed a request to dispose of a 2001 Dodge dump truck. The vehicle has close to 100,000 miles on the odometer and has not been used in over two years. The amount of money required to try to get it to a point where it “might” pass inspection is more than the value of the vehicle. The committee agreed to move forward with disposing of the vehicle.

Status reports were given on the library projects at PE and CMS as well as the resurfacing of the tennis courts. A classroom is being constructed on the first floor of the existing library at PE. The room will be used for a new program called STEAM. STEAM is an acronym that stands for science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. The center core circulation desk and offices of the library at CMS will be demolished and the room will be used for computer testing and large group instruction. The resurfacing of the tennis courts is complete and ready for use. To date many people have provided compliments about the color selection for the tennis courts.

Information was provided to the committee regarding notification of facilities issues when school is not in session. This notification process was developed as a result of the issues presented during ongoing discussions for the approval process for the synthetic turf project. Several residents commented that there is no one to call or communicate with on a weekend or evening regarding problems on the athletic fields or parking areas of our campuses. A plan was developed to provide a phone number that anyone can call to report a problem or concern on any of our campuses. The caller is instructed to leave a

voice message which is immediately sent out to multiple people that have the ability to address any concern that may be presented. The phone number will be posted on our campuses and will also be posted on our website. The goal is to react to concerns or problems immediately rather than waiting until the next school day.

Additional Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

There being no further business before the committee, Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:38 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Yemm
Director of Operations