

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, JANUARY 21, 2016**

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 January 21, 2016.

Board Members Present: Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Leslie Finegold, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry, Cathy Peduzzi, Felix Raimondo, Beth Suchsland and Alan Tabachnick.

Board Members Absent: None.

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; Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Dr. Leticia Rodríguez, Director of Human Resources; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Kim Newell, Assistant Public Relations Coordinator; Tom Peeler, Audio Visual Technician; Alexa Augustine and Luke Mascio, Board Student Representatives; Mark Bill; Barry Bosket; Dillon Johnson; Mary Thiess; Shana Genkin; Robert Slagle; Raquel Dunoff and Beth Miller.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Tabachnick invited Mark Bill to the podium for a special presentation. Mr. Bill, the co-chair of the Colonial School District Education Foundation (CSDEF), presented a check in the amount of \$43,573.36 to the Board. The check was the result of the Foundation's 2015 Annual Fund efforts.

Dr. Gorodetzer noted that January is School Director Recognition Month. She thanked Board members for their tireless voluntary service and introduced a video produced in their honor.

Mrs. Moore announced that the Board had met in executive session on December 1 and January 21.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Moore sought Board action on the minutes of the reorganization meeting and special meeting of the Board of December 1, 2015; The Facilities Committee meeting of December 11, 2015; the Human Resources Committee meeting of January 4, 2016; the Curriculum Committee meeting of December 14, 2015 and the Community Relations and Students Life/Safety and Wellness Committee meeting of January 11, 2016. See enclosures #1 through #6.

Mr. Tabachnick 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, 9-0.

Financial Reports: Mrs. Moore noted that the financial reports for Board consideration were for both November and December. They include the Budget Transfers, the General Fund/Federal Program Bills, the Capital Reserve Funds, the Food Service Bills/Cafeteria Reports, the Outstanding Investment Reports, the Cash Flow Summaries, the Comparisons of Taxes Collected, the Real Estate Tax Escrow Reports, the Trust Fund Reports, the Reconciliations of Cash Accounts, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Reports, the Bond Fund Reports and the Treasurer's Reports for the months ending November 30 and December 31. See enclosures #7 through #18

Responding to a question from Mrs. Peduzzi regarding state funding, Mr. Jackson explained that in addition to a general education supplement, state funding is for a variety of things including

special education and transportation subsidies. He added that monies from the state are generally received quarterly.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Brodsky asked Board members to consider the acceptance of three grants in one motion. They included a \$5,900 grant from TruMark Financial to Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) to be used to purchase resources related to teaching money management and personal finance (see enclosure #19), a \$10,000 grant from the Morgan Stanley Foundation to Conshohocken Elementary School (CE) to support continuation of the after school Chess Club and to purchase playground equipment (see enclosure #20) and a \$2,700 grant from the Outreachers of Whitemarsh to CE to support an all-school field trip (see enclosure #21).

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to accept all of the grants. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer summarized her report that included the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #22 and #23. She stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List included one retirement, two resignations, 14 leaves of absence, seven appointments, seven changes to assignments and additions to the substitute support staff list. She noted that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list contained several appointments and changes. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that all items were reviewed in executive session.

Mrs. Peduzzi moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Board Student Representative's Report: Ms. Augustine and Mr. Mascio reported on the senior winter concert for senior citizens, a financial aid presentation, a bingo fundraiser, a talent show, the National Art Honor Society Induction, Keystone exams and first semester final exams.

New Business: Mrs. Moore sought nominations from the Board for a Legislative Chairperson for 2016. She noted that Christina Frangiosa served in the post the previous year.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Raimondo seconded a motion to nominate Mrs. Peduzzi to the position. There were no other nominations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor of Mrs. Peduzzi. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Moore sought Board nominations for a PSBA Representative for 2016. She noted that Mrs. Frangiosa also served in that role last year.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Tabachnick seconded a motion to nominate Mrs. Peduzzi for the position. There were no other nominations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor of Mrs. Peduzzi. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Moore sought nominations from Board members for a 2016 Liaison to the CSDEF. She noted that Mr. Tabachnick served in that capacity last year.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to nominate Mr. Tabachnick as CSDEF Liaison. There were no other nominations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor of Mr. Tabachnick. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Dr. Gorodetzer sought Board approval to establish the 2016-2017 School Calendar as found in enclosure #24. She noted that previously the Board had established Tuesday, September 6, 2016 as the start date for the school year. She added that the calendar sets June 15, 2017 as the last day of the school year. Dr. Gorodetzer explained that the calendar included 183 student days and 191 teacher days with traditional winter and spring breaks. She stated that the Colonial Education Association leadership had reviewed the suggested calendar.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the calendar as presented. On a roll call vote, all but Mr. Raimondo voted in favor. Mr. Raimondo abstained. He noted that the calendar was discussed prior to his joining the Board. The motion was carried, 8-0-1.

Mr. Brady asked Board members to consider four student trip requests in one motion. They included the annual Colonial Middle School eighth grade Oceanography Club trip to Wallops Island, Va., from May 4-7 (see enclosure #25), the PWHS track team competition in the Hispanic games in New York City on January 9 (see enclosure #26), PWHS orchestra students to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) district, regional and state festivals (see enclosure #27) and PWHS band members to participate in the PMEA district, region and state band festivals (see enclosure #28).

Mr. Brady moved and Mr. Tabachnick seconded a motion to approve the student trips. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Finegold sought Board action on a request for Mr. Boegly and Craig Leanness to attend the 2016 CoSN Conference in Washington, DC from April 3-7. See enclosure #29. Mr. Boegly noted that the subject of the conference was computer networking.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the conference request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Finegold asked Board members to act on a special education settlement agreement as discussed in executive session.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to approve the settlement agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Suchsland asked Board members to consider three policy changes in one motion. She noted that this was a part of the Board and administration review of outdated policies. Policy #807 – Opening Activities (see enclosure #30) had not been updated since 1965. Policy #404 – Employment of Professional Employees (see enclosure #31) had not been updated since 1991. Mrs. Suchsland noted that Policy #819 – Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response (see enclosure #32) is a new policy. Responding to a question from Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Berk noted that the policy fulfills a state mandate and was compiled from a suggested template.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the policies. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Suchsland sought Board action on a request to approve independent contractor agreements between the District and Patricia Mueller (effective December 14), Carol Chasen (effective January 20) and ProCare Therapy (effective January 4) to provide assistance and support to the Pupil Services Department on an interim basis. She noted that the need was the result of a staff member's passing.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the agreements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked Board members to consider a resolution notifying the community of the District's intent to modify its existing Amusement Tax. See enclosure #38.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Peduzzi seconded a motion to approve the resolution. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion carried, 9-0.

Solicitor's Report: None

Committee Reports: MCIU: Mrs. Finegold reported that the last meeting of the IU Board was on November 21, 2015. She touched on an effort to increase state pre-school funding, a 2014-2015 audit report with no findings and a grandparents mentoring program. She added that the IU is operating on borrowed funds.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky stated that the Technical School Distinguished Alumni Organization selected two inductees for this year. Both are PWHS graduates.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: No Report.

Curriculum: Mrs. Finegold reported on the new PWHS schedule and course offerings as well as Keystone exams. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that legislation waiting for the Governor's signature will delay the requirement that makes passing Keystone exams a requirement for graduation. She added that the exams add remediation costs to school districts and have had a negative effect on technical school enrollment as students don't have enough time to prepare for exams and complete technical school coursework.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Tabachnick noted that the PWHS renovation project remains on schedule and on budget. He stated that the Board is considering options to renovate the west gymnasium. He also provided an update on the turf fields project and noted that the Colonial Field sound system will be upgraded.

Community Relations and Student Life: No Report

Legislative: Mrs. Peduzzi commented on a cover photo in the *Whitemarsh Enterprise* related to Whitemarsh Elementary staff presenting at the National Blue Ribbon Schools Conference. She stated it was a nice honor for the school district.

Safety and Wellness: No Report.

Municipal/Community Liaisons: No Report.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary