

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, FEBRUARY 18, 2016**

President Moore convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:20 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on February 18, 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/Board Treasurer; 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; Tom Peeler, Audio Visual Technician; Alexa Augustine and Chris Johnson, Board Student Representatives; Bob Slagle; Beth Miller; Peggy O'Neill; Holly Brenneman; Jen Schindler; Mary Thiess; Raquel Dunoff and friends and family of students performing.

Mrs. Moore stated that since the preceding special meeting ran long, she would like to alter the agenda to allow students to perform first. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that both of the high school and middle school musicals will be held prior to the next Board meeting. To introduce a preview of the middle school performance of Willy Wonka, she invited Colonial Middle School teacher Amy Venkus to the podium. Ms. Venkus acknowledged her co-director Maria O'Connor and had a portion of the cast sing two songs from the show.

Mrs. Moore announced that the Board had met in executive session on February 18. Mr. Sultanik noted that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss personnel matters and legal issues with regards to the amusement tax resolution.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Moore asked Board members to consider the minutes of the general meeting of January 21, The Finance Committee meeting of February 1, The Facilities Committee meetings of January 14 and February 4, and the special board meeting of February 11. See enclosures #1, #2, #27 and #28.

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

Financial Reports: Mrs. Moore sought Board action on the financial reports. 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, the Bond Fund Report and the Treasurer's Report for the months ending January 31. See enclosures #3 through #14.

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.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed her report that included the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #15 and #16. She stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List included two leaves of absence, two appointments, two changes to assignments and one salary change. She said that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list contained appointments for spring sports. Dr. Gorodetzer added that all items were reviewed in executive session.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mrs. Peduzzi 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. Johnson reported that Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) senior Lina Shi was named a Presidential Scholar Candidate and spoke about the boys' and girls' basketball playoffs, the second semester open house, the online sale of spring musical tickets, the success of other winter sports teams and a good showing by Technology Student Association students at a regional competition.

New Business: Mrs. Finegold sought Board action on the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit's Membership Services Budget. She stated that the District's contribution was \$80,947, a slight increase from the previous year.

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

Mr. Brady asked Board members to consider three student trip requests in one motion. The first is for PWHS students to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 11 Chorus Festival at Lower Merion High School from February 4-6. See enclosure #17. The second is for PWHS students to attend the Pennsylvania DECA State Career Development Conference in Hershey from March 1-3. See enclosure #18. The third is for PWHS girls' indoor track team members to compete in the PTFCA Indoor State Championship at Penn State University from February 27-28. See enclosure #29.

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

Mrs. Finegold asked Board members to act on two professional conference requests. The first is for John Luke Menke and Scott Francik to attend the PowerSchool Users Group Conference in Atlantic City, N.J., from March 14-16. See enclosure #19. The second is for PWHS Assistant Principal Heather King to attend the AVID District Director Training in Charlottesville, Va., from March 15-18. See enclosure #20.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mr. Tabachnick seconded a motion to approve both professional conference requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Suchsland sought Board action on an administration request to approve an agreement with Substitute Teacher Services for continued substitute services. See enclosure #21. Responding to a question from Mrs. Peduzzi, Dr. Rodríguez stated that the District has used the service for two years and that the contract is for two additional years. Before that, substitutes were arranged in-house.

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

Mr. Brodsky asked Board members to consider an Amusement Tax Exemption Resolution. See enclosure #22. He noted that if approved, one of the tax's exemptions applicable to amusements for children would be changed as set forth in the resolution.

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

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to act on a real estate assessment appeal settlement for Parcel #49-00-09250-00-7 in Plymouth Township.

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

Mr. Brodsky asked Board members to consider proposed revisions to Board Policy #611 – Requisitions/Purchase Orders. See enclosure #23. Mr. Brodsky noted that Policy #611 – Requisitions will be merged with Policy #611.1 Purchase Orders to create the new policy which reflects current practices and conforms to the PA School Code. He added that the policy was reviewed in the February Finance Committee meeting and was part of an ongoing effort by the Board to update older policies.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the policy revision and delete Policy #611.1. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Finegold sought Board action on a special education placement agreement in lieu of a Free and Public Education. She noted that the agreement was discussed in executive session.

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

Solicitor's Report: None

Committee Reports: MCIU: Mrs. Finegold reported that the last meeting of the IU Board was held on January 27. She noted that the IU was awarded a Pre-K Counts Grant that will assist up to 100 children. She also stated that the IU is repurposing its former building for use as an early learning academy. Additionally, Mrs. Finegold reported that the IU reached an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Education Food and Nutrition Services Department to provide a food plan for its Head Start Program.

CMTHS: No Report.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: Mr. Brodsky stated that the committee reviewed options for refunding bonds. He noted that action will be taken at the Board's March meeting to pursue the matter and that the District is looking to achieve a minimum of \$320,000 in savings.

Curriculum: Mrs. Finegold stated that the next committee meeting will be on February 22.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Tabachnick noted that the PWHS renovation project remains on schedule and on budget. At Mr. Tabachnick's request, Mr. Yemm stated that the next phase of the project will focus on the swimming pool and east wing beginning on March 7. Mr. Tabachnick added that the District will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the first phase of the project on March 4.

Community Relations and Student Life/Safety and Wellness: Mr. Brady confirmed that the public was invited to the ribbon cutting and open house for phase I of the PWHS renovation project at 4 p.m. on March 4.

Legislative: Mrs. Peduzzi noted that the Pennsylvania House and Senate are currently on recess.

Municipal/Community Liaisons: Mrs. Peduzzi noted that Whitemarsh Township has agreed to waive fees associated with the PWHS renovation project saving the District approximately \$1 Million.

Dr. Gorodetzer commented on the ongoing state budget impasse and implored all legislators to resolve the issue. She noted that Back End Referendum apparently is back on the table, which is a concern to the District.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary