

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462  
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, MARCH 17, 2016**

President Moore convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:01 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on March 17, 2016.

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

**Board Members Absent:** Bernie Brady and Alan Tabachnick.

**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 Luke Mascio, Board Student Representatives; Frank Whitehead; Gary Johnson; Beth Miller; Meghan Hector; Raquel Dunoff; Ellen Jacobs; Shannon McAllister; Claire McAllister; Austin Stewart and friends and family of students performing.

Dr. Gorodetzer noted that March is “Music in Our Schools Month” and a group of students is present to perform. She introduced Mrs. Elise Derewitz, who presented her advanced grade 5 orchestra students. The students performed two pieces for the Board members and audience.

**Recognition:** Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) Assistant Track Coach Alysha Cook who presented PWHS junior Ayana Tull to the Board. Miss Tull qualified for the Pennsylvania Track and Field Coaches Association Indoor State Championships in the 60-meter hurdles. She placed 16<sup>th</sup> in the state.

Mrs. Moore announced that the Board had met in executive session on March 11 and March 17 to discuss legal and personnel matters.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Moore asked Board members to act on the minutes of the special meeting of February 18; the general meeting of February 18; the Curriculum Committee meeting of February 22; the Facilities Committee meetings of March 3 and the Community Relations and Student Life/Safety and Wellness Committee and Finance Committee meetings of March 7. See enclosures #1, #2, #39, #40, #3 and #4.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

**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 month ending February 29. See enclosures #5 through #16.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Peduzzi seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

**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 #17 and #18. She stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List included one retirement, five leaves of absence, one appointment, three changes in assignment and additions to the support staff substitute list. She noted that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list contained appointments and changes for spring sports and one other position. Dr. Gorodetzer added that all items were reviewed in executive session.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

**Board Student Representative's Report:** Ms. Augustine and Mr. Mascio reported on the success of winter sports teams, the start of the spring sports season, the opening of the new central cafeteria, the spring musical, the second semester open house and a meeting on the upcoming senior class trip to Florida.

**New Business:** Mrs. Finegold asked Board members to consider plans for summer educational programs. See enclosure #19.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the programs. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mrs. Finegold asked Board members to act on a proposal for the 2016 Extended School Year (ESY) Program. See enclosure #20.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the 2016 ESY Program. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Oxberry asked board members to consider five PWHs student trips in one motion. The first is for the Class of 2017 trip to Disney World. See enclosure #21. The second is for Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish students to attend a Spanish language theater production in New York City (NYC) on March 16. See enclosure #22. The third is for AP/Honors Art History students to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC on May 17. See enclosure #23. The fourth is for wrestlers competing in a district tournament in Oxford, Pa. on February 26 and 27. See enclosure #24. The fifth is for AVID students to visit PSU Susquehanna and Bloomsburg University March 31-April 1. See enclosure #25.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the PWHs student trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mrs. Oxberry asked board members to consider two Colonial Middle School (CMS) student trips as one item. The first is for PWHs and Colonial Middle School students to attend the Technology Student Association (TSA) state competition, in Champion, Pa., from April 13-16 and the National TSA Conference in Nashville, Tenn. from June 28-July 2. See enclosure #26. The second is for CMS Art Club students to visit the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, N.J. on May 11. See enclosure #27.

Mrs. Oxberry moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve both trips. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mrs. Finegold directed Board members to act on three professional conference requests in one motion. The first is for PWHs College Counselor Pat Tamborello to visit George Mason University from April 4-5 and the University of Connecticut from April 18-19. See enclosure #28. The second is for Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney, Dr. Jason Bacani and Dr. Katy Giovanisci to attend the ASCD conference from March 30- April 4 in Atlanta, Ga. See enclosure #29. The third is for Curriculum Supervisor Sergio Anaya, assistant principals Steve Price and Phil Chang and teachers Krystyn Satko, Traci Rovinsky, Brian Adams, Tom Pierantozzi and Rich Evan to visit Elizabeth Forward

School in Pittsburgh, Pa. See enclosure #30. Responding to a question from Mrs. Suchsland, Dr. McKeaney noted that the ASCD conference focuses on supervision and curriculum development.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mrs. Peduzzi seconded a motion to approve the three professional trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mrs. Finegold sought Board action on a request for textbook approvals for two physics text books and two chemistry text books. See enclosure #31.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the text books. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to act on proposed wording changes to Board Policy #602 – Budget Planning and Board Policy #603 – Budget Preparation. See enclosure #32. Mr. Brodsky noted that the changes were reviewed at the March Finance Committee meeting and bring the policies in line with current practice.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the policy revisions. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked Board members to consider proposed revisions to Board Policy #208 – Student Health Examinations/Screenings. See enclosure #33. Mr. Brodsky again noted that the changes bring the policies in line with current practice and were reviewed at the March Community Relations and Student Life/Safety and Wellness Committee meeting.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the policy revision. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action to authorize the administration to work with Public Financial Management Inc., as independent Financial Advisor, Fox Rothschild LLP as Bond Counsel, RBC Capital Markets LLC as Underwriter, and the Solicitor to proceed with the issuance of not more than \$10 Million of General Obligation Bonds, Series A of 2016, the proceeds of which will be used to refund all or a portion of the District's Series of 2010 and 2011 bonds at a minimum savings target of \$320,000.

Mrs. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to authorize the bond refinancing. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

**Solicitor's Report:** None

**Committee Reports:** MCIU: Mrs. Finegold reported that the last meeting of the IU Board was held on February 24. She highlighted IU professional development and education service contracts with member districts and a county-wide fuel consortium bid.

CMTHS: No Report.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: Mr. Brodsky noted that the committee will meet on April 4 and at that time will get its first detailed look at the 2016-2107 budget. He explained the Act I budget process and noted that the District previously agreed not to raise taxes above the 2016 Act I index of 2.4 percent. He stressed 2.4 percent was the ceiling and noted the Board and administration are working hard in an effort to keep any increase below that figure.

Curriculum: Mrs. Finegold reviewed the minutes of the February 22 meeting, highlighting changes to align curriculum to the PA Common Core. She noted that the next meeting on April 14 will focus on the District's STEAM initiative.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Yemm highlighted the PWSH cafeteria opening and stated that the next phase of the building renovation, focusing on the swimming pool and east wing, has begun.

Community Relations and Student Life/Safety and Wellness: No Report.

Legislative: Mrs. Peduzzi noted that the Pennsylvania Legislature still has not passed a budget.

Municipal/Community Liaisons: No Report.

**Public Comment:** None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary