

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

President Moore convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:06 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on April 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/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; Raquel Dunoff, Board Student Representative; Gary Johnson; Michaëlle Khatchadourian and students receiving awards, their friends and families.

Mrs. Moore announced that the Board had met in executive session on April 21.

**Recognition:** Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) Art Teacher Candance Maggioncalda who presented art and photography students who had won prizes and had their work accepted into juried shows. Dr. Gorodetzer then called PWHS Wrestling Coach Justin Giovinco to the podium. He recognized his Suburban One League American Conference (SOLAC) Wrestling Tournament championship team to the Board. Dr. Gorodetzer then welcomed PWHS Teacher and Head Basketball Coach Jim Donofrio, who presented his team members and coaches who won the SOLAC and District 1 Championships and advanced to the Final Four of the PIAA AAAA Championships. For a complete list of students honored, please see Attachment A.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Moore directed Board members to consider the minutes of the general meeting of March 17; the Finance Committee meeting of April 4 and the Curriculum Committee and Facilities Committee meetings of April 14. See enclosures #1, #2, #37 and #38.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brady 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 asked the Board to act on the financial reports on the list for approval. 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 March 31. See enclosures #3 through #13 and #39.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Finegold 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.

**Staff Report:** Dr. Gorodetzer noted that April is School Library Month. To highlight innovations taking place in the District's elementary school libraries, she welcomed Whitmarsh Elementary School Library Media Specialist Cathy Campbell who presented a PowerPoint highlighting the changing role of libraries, professional development, the PA Common Core and the many new available technology tools.

**Old Business:** None.

**Correspondence:** Mrs. Moore asked Board members to consider a donation from ASTM International to support the Conshohocken Elementary School After School Nature Club at Riverbend Environmental Center. See Enclosure #14.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to accept the donation. 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 #15 and #16. She reported that the Personnel Report and Substitute List included three resignations, two leaves of absence and additions to the substitute list. She added that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list contained changes to spring appointments. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that all items were reviewed in executive session.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Brady 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. Dunoff reported on an assembly speaker from Rwanda, the Mr. PW contest, upcoming dances and proms, a careers and college information night, spring sports and the Senior Class Trip. She also stated that the students love the new cafeteria.

**New Business:** Mrs. Finegold asked Board members to consider two contracts in one motion. The first is with Speech Pathology Consultants, Inc., for services for the 2016-2017 school year at a rate of \$79 per hour. See enclosure #17. The second is for MK Therapy Services, LLC to provide physical and occupational therapy at a rate of \$78 per hour. See enclosure #18

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

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action on an agreement with Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams, LLP for legal consultation services for the 2016-2017 school year in the amount of \$8,000. See enclosure #19.

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

Mr. Brady asked Board members to act on agreements for general physical and dental examinations, sports physicals and physician services for home football games for the 2016-2017 school year. See enclosure #20.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Peduzzi seconded a motion to approve the physical and dental agreements for the 2016-2017 school year. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky directed Board members to consider an agreement with Edwards Business Systems for additional copiers in the amount of \$4,570.12 per month. See Enclosure #21. Mr. Boegly explained that the machines are for PWHS and Colonial Elementary School and will complete the conversion to newer machines District-wide.

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

Mr. Tabachnick sought Board action on a transportation contract with a parent for the parent to transport a student at the established IRS rate of \$0.54 per mile. See enclosure #22.

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

Mr. Brady asked Board members to act on an agreement with Epic Health Services to provide contracted nursing services at a rate of \$40 per hour beginning July 1. See enclosure #23. Responding to a question from Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Berk explained the services are for students who have extraordinary physical needs and require individual nursing care.

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

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider the Central Montco Technical High School (CMTHS) 2016-2017 Operating Budget of \$9,611,395. See enclosure #24. He noted that the District's share is \$2,315,411, up more than \$130,000 from the previous year. Mr. Brodsky explained the increase was because of an expected rise in PWHS student enrollment.

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

Mr. Tabachnick sought Board action on a request to set rental rates for the 2016-2017 Before and After School Program in all District elementary schools and the 2016 Summer Camp Program at Whitmarsh Elementary School. See enclosure #25.

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

Mrs. Finegold asked Board members to consider three professional conference requests in one motion. The first is for Dr. McKeaney and Curriculum Supervisor Sergio Anaya to attend the Apple Executive Briefing in Reston, Va., from May 5-6, with most meals and one night's lodging provided by Apple. See enclosure #26. The second is for Dr. Rodríguez to attend the Labor Law and Labor Arbitration Conference in Baltimore, Md., from July 25-26. See enclosure #27. The third is for PWHS Counselor Jeff Blizzard to visit Landmark College in Putney, Vt., from April 21-22, with lodging, meals and a travel stipend provided by the college. See enclosure #28. Responding to a question from Mrs. Suchsland, Dr. McKeaney explained that the Apple conference will focus on new instructional technologies and professional development for grades K-12.

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

Mr. Brady asked Board members to act on two student trip requests as one item. The first is for the PWHS Colonial Players to travel to New York City on May 17 to see the Broadway show *School of Rock*. See enclosure #29. The second is for the PWHS Cheerleaders to attend the Pine Forest Cheerleading Camp in Olyphant, Pa., from August 13-16. See enclosure #30. Mr. Brady noted that there was no cost to the District for either trip.

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

Mrs. Finegold sought Board action on a placement agreement in lieu of FAPE. She noted that the agreement was reviewed in executive session for privacy reasons.

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

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to act on a resolution to refund a portion of the Series 2010 and Series 2011 bonds and issue General Obligation Bonds, Series A of 2016. Attorney Collen Rush of Fox Rothschild walked the members through the \$9.5 million bond resolution. Mr. Brodsky noted that the District had hoped to save at least \$320,000 from this refinancing. However, he stated actual savings for the 2016-2017 budget will be nearly \$780,000.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the bond resolution. 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 March 23. Among items she highlighted were budget approvals, Earth Day activities and an Advanced Placement Summer Institute.

CMTHS: No Report.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: Mr. Brodsky stated that the committee reviewed detail of the tentative 2016-2017 District budget at its April meeting. He stated they will receive more details at the May 2 meeting. He encouraged the public to attend.

Curriculum: Mrs. Finegold stated that the focus of the April 14 committee meeting was technology as part of the District's STEAM initiative. She encouraged community members to attend the next meeting on May 9.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Tabachnick noted that the PWHS renovations are now focused on the swimming pool and east wing. He stated that the committee discussed improvements to the west gymnasium at their April meeting. Mr. Tabachnick also touched on plans to accommodate an expected increase in student enrollment over the next 10 years. At Mr. Tabachnick's request, Mr. Yemm reported on the water quality in District schools and detailed the extensive testing that is done regularly. Finally, Mr. Tabachnick noted that security measures have been reviewed for Election Day, when Plymouth Elementary School, Ridge Park Elementary School and Whitemarsh Elementary School will again serve as polling places.

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

Legislative: Mrs. Peduzzi noted that the Pennsylvania Legislature was in recess. She encouraged members of the community to exercise their right to vote on Election Day.

Municipal/Community Liaisons: No Report.

**Public Comment:** None.

Mr. Tabachnick briefly reported on two grants being considered by the Colonial School District Education Foundation. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that PWHS was ranked 24<sup>th</sup> in the state and 1,029<sup>th</sup> nationally by *US News & World report*.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary

## Attachment A

### Art Honorees

Carlin Ash  
Nathalia Campos-Betancur  
Rosena Chan  
Lydia Ciaffone  
Katie Culp  
Jamie Ehrlich  
Megan Eney  
Ciara Flanagan  
Kelsy Gallagher  
Gabe Kim  
Samantha Lacoff  
Emma Lepore  
Jackie Lorensen  
Erin Moore  
Ainsley Nugent  
Gianna Perrone  
Carolyn Rodgers  
Shireen Saidi  
Phoenix Spencer  
Kara Wilson

### Wrestlers

Isaac Avellino  
Ben Billings  
Michael Clarkson  
Marco DiBattista  
Tommy DiSisto  
Zach Fisher  
Vaughan Hart  
Scott Horry  
Justin Oliver  
Darren Ries  
Nick Sudell  
Jake Tassoni  
Zach Wakefield  
Quincy Williams

### Basketball Players

Kevin Ashenfelter  
Davon Burrell  
Danny Cooper  
Alan Glover  
Cheo Houston  
Devon Lawrence  
Michael Lotito  
Naheem McLeod  
Xzavier Malone  
Grady Minick  
Oakley Spencer  
Matt Walker  
Ahmad Williams  
Ahmin Williams

### Basketball Managers

Matt Cooper  
Nick DeBellis  
Justin Donofrio  
Justin Morganstein  
Terrell Tuggle

### Basketball Assistant Coaches

Marc Berman  
CJ Honigman  
Matt Labick  
Michael McClure  
Matt Miller  
Robin Mitchell  
James Shinn