

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, MAY 19, 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 May 19, 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 and Luke Macio, Board Student Representatives; Chris Johnson; Linda Doll; Beth Miller; Robert Slagle; Gary Johnson and students receiving awards, their friends and families.

Mrs. Moore announced that the Board had met in executive session on May 2 and May 19.

Recognition: Dr. Gorodetzer introduced Colonial Middle School Teacher (CMS) Michael Sullivan who brought forth members of the CMS Odyssey of the Mind (OM) team that qualified for the OM World Finals in Ames, Iowa. Dr. Gorodetzer then welcomed CMS Teacher Clint Rickert. Mr. Rickert presented CMS and Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) students who qualified for the Technology Student Association National Conference. Finally, Dr. Gorodetzer noted that the PWHS Girls' Lacrosse Team was scheduled to be honored for their Suburban One League American Conference (SOLAC) Championship, but the team is currently at a District 1 playoff game. She stated that the team will be invited to next month's Board meeting. For a complete list of students honored, please see Attachment A.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Moore sought Board action on the minutes of the general meeting of April 21; the Finance Committee meeting of May 2, the Curriculum Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life/Safety and Wellness (CRSL/SW) Committee meetings of May 9 and the Facilities Committee and Human Resources Committee meetings of May 12. See enclosures #1 through #4, #35 and #36. Mrs. Peduzzi requested that the CRSL/SW minutes be amended to reflect that the notation regarding the need to monitor individual school websites, emphasize the need to specifically monitor the elementary school websites.

Mr. Tabachnick 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 April 30. See enclosures #5 through #16.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Oxberry 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: Linda Doll of Fairway Road in Lafayette Hill posed several questions from the Facilities Committee minutes. She inquired as to whether or not the wrestling room in Colonial Elementary School would be relocated to a new gymnasium in PWHS. Mr. Tabachnick responded that there has been no decision at this point. Mrs. Doll asked about the financial stability of Chestnut Hill College with regards to agreements with the District over artificial surfaced fields. Mr. Yemm explained that the cost to install artificial turf on Victory Fields II was prohibitive because of issues with the Wissahickon Watershed. He stated that the baseball field was moving ahead as scheduled. He also noted that he did not foresee financial concerns with the college.

Old Business: None.

Staff Report: Dr. Gorodetzer, Mr. Yemm and Mr. Jackson shared a PowerPoint presentation on updating the status of enrollment in the District and plans to accommodate additional students. Dr. Gorodetzer summarized the proactive steps the District has taken to address the issue over the past few years. She stated that the K-3 schools will be impacted the most. Plans are to add four additional class rooms to both Plymouth Elementary School and Ridge Park Elementary School. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that redistricting doesn't make sense at this time. Dr. Gorodetzer stressed that enrollment is tight at both schools and additional class room space is needed sooner rather than later.

Correspondence: 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 reported that the Personnel Report and Substitute List included one resignation, six retirements; seven leaves of absence, one change in assignment, one extension of assignment and summer program appointments. 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.

Mrs. Peduzzi 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: Mrs. Moore recognized the service of Alexa Augustine and Luke Mascio, senior Board Student Representatives. Ms. Dunoff reported on end of school dances, the completion of Advanced Placement Exams, the Senior Dinner, the Colonial Players' Closing Night and trip to New York City, and the fashion show. Mr. Mascio spoke to the success of spring sports teams, the hosting of the SOLAC Track Championships, the Senior Prom and spring Color Wars on Colonial Field.

New Business: Mr. Brodsky asked Board members to act on the Proposed Final Budget for 2016-2017. See enclosure #19. He detailed that the Proposed Final Budget totals \$117,792,298 which is an increase of \$5,342,298 or 4.75% over the 2015-2016 spending plan. The Proposed Final Budget includes a real estate tax of 21.0048 mils, an increase of 2.40 percent. The new real estate tax equates to an additional \$49.23 per year for each \$100,000 of taxable assessed value or an increase of \$73.53 on the District's median assessed value of \$149,355. Board members stressed that this is not a final budget and noted that they were still not done working. The public was urged to attend the June 6 Finance Committee meeting for further discussion.

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

Mrs. Moore asked the Board to act on the appointment of a Board Treasurer per Section 404 of the Public School Code.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to appoint Trevor Jackson to the position of Board Treasurer. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Moore asked the Board to consider the appointment of a Board Secretary per Section 404 of the Public School Code.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to appoint David M. Sherman to the position of Board Secretary. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Moore sought Board action on the appointment of an Assistant Board Secretary per Section 404 of the Public School Code.

Mrs. Peduzzi moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to appoint Trevor Jackson to the position of Assistant Board Secretary. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to approve the CSD Real Estate Tax Installment Payment Plan that is an option for all taxpayers to pay their bills in installments. See enclosure #20 Mr. Jackson explained that the plan provided taxpayers an option to pay their bills in installments. However, in doing so, they would forfeit the option to receive a discount for early payment.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the CSD Real Estate Tax Installment Payment Plan. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action on the request that the Pennsylvania Liquid Asset Fund, in conjunction with PNC Bank serve as the primary depository for school funds, and that the banks and depositories found on the list in enclosure #21 be solicited for interest rates on school investments during the 2016-2017 school year. He noted that this was in accordance with Section 621 of the Public School Code

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

Mr. Brodsky asked Board members to consider the Solicitor's agreement for the 2016-2017 school year.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to appoint Fox Rothschild, LLP as Solicitor for the Colonial School District for the time period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 based upon the following: a) A retainer of \$24,823.00 per year; b) A base hourly rate of \$180.00; c) Alternate rates in accordance with the enclosed Engagement Letter dated March 14, 2016; d) Rates as established by the insurance carrier where Fox Rothschild, LLP is an approved provider and e) Motion to approve the HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between Colonial School District and Fox Rothschild, LLP as the result of Fox Rothschild, LLP handling cases that involve protected health information on behalf of the District. Board members voiced appreciation to Fox Rothschild noting that it has been several years since there has been a rate increase associated with this agreement.

On a roll call vote, all voted in favor of the Solicitor's agreement. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Tabachnick asked the Board to act on an agreement with Sague Auto Services, Inc. to provide transportation for students attending St. Philip Neri. See enclosure #22. He noted that the agreement is for three years beginning July 1, 2016.

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

Mrs. Finegold sought Board action on a renewal of the contract with The Comprehensive Learning Center for 2016-2017 at a rate of \$91,000 per student. See enclosure #23. Mrs. Berk explained this was for students who have extraordinary needs, including year-round and in-home care.

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

Mrs. Finegold asked Board member to consider the 2016-2017 school year fee schedule for Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams, LLP. See enclosure #24. Mrs. Berk noted that the agreement is for special education legal services.

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

Mrs. Finegold asked Board members to take action on the District's 2016-2017 cost plan for special education services purchased through the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit #23. See enclosure #25. She noted that the preliminary cost for the year is \$856,071.96.

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

Mrs. More asked Board members to act on the administrative recommendation to appoint Raquel Dunoff and Chris Johnson as Board Student Representatives for the 2016-2017 school year per Board Policy #004.1. She noted that both students were very impressive in their interviews.

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

Mr. Brodsky sought Board approval of recommended supply bids for the 2016-2017 school year including Art Supplies, General Supplies and Paper and Office Supplies (see enclosure #26), PWHS Athletic/Phys Ed Supplies (see enclosure #27) and CMS Athletic/Phys Ed Supplies (see enclosure #28).

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

Mrs. Suchsland directed the Board to act on the Separation and Release Agreement between the Colonial Board of School Directors and Employee # 101859, effective April 21, 2016.

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

Mrs. Finegold sought Board approval to purchase the following textbooks, listed in enclosure #29.

Subject Area: AP United States History, Title: The American Pageant, Copyright date: 2016, Edition: 16th Publisher: Cengage

Subject Area: AP Human Geography, Title: The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to HG, Copyright date: 2013, Edition: 11th, Publisher: Prentice Hall

Subject Area: AP European History, Title: A History of Western Society, Copyright date: 2013, Edition: 11th, Publisher: Bedford/St. Martins

Subject Area: AP Psychology, Title: Psychology: Core Concepts, Copyright date: 2015, Edition 7th, Publisher: Pearson

Subject Area: AP Economics, Title: Krugman's Economics for AP, Copyright date: 2015, Edition: 2nd, Publisher: Bedford, Freeman, Worth

Subject Area: AP Environmental Science, Title: Environment: The Science Behind the Stories, Copyright date: 2014, Edition: 2014, Publisher: Pearson eText

Subject Area: Astronomy, Title: Astronomy Today, Copyright date: 2014, Edition: 8th, Publisher: Chaisson & McMillon

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mrs. Peduzzi seconded a motion to approve the textbook purchases. 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 April 27. Among items she highlighted were waiting lists for Pre-K and Head Start enrollment, an art display on the first floor of the MCIU office building, and a partnership with the Valley Forge Convention and Visitor's Bureau to market the MCIU facilities.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky noted that Senior Recognition Night is May 26 at CMS.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: No Report.

Curriculum: Mrs. Finegold reported on a presentation about "Looping" at the May 9 meeting. She stated that it is a practice where a teacher stays with the same group of students for two years. The program has met with success at Plymouth Elementary School. Mrs. Finegold also reported on the success of the AVID program at CMS and PWHS, noting that 100 percent of the AVID students at PWHS take college placement exams.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Tabachnick stated that the committee is exploring major renovations to the west gymnasium at PWHS. He also noted that the high school renovation project remains on schedule. Mr. Tabachnick reported that parking will be limited for the PWHS commencement and stated that the District is working with a consultant to handle parking for major events.

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

Legislative: Mrs. Peduzzi attended a meeting of the Bucks/Mont School Boards Legislative Committee. She reported the State Representative Matt Bradford was on hand. Mrs. Peduzzi stated that there is hope that pension reform will be included in the next state budget. She also commented on legislation to change the child immunization law.

Municipal/Community Liaisons: No Report.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary

Students receiving recognition:

Odyssey of the Mind

Riley Farbstein
Danielle Goldstein
Tobi Farbstein
Arielle Greenberg
Delaney McCann
Ana Maria Maloney
Chauncey Miller

PWHS Technology Student Association

Chirag Agarwal
Kyle Amon
Matt Center
Jared Connor
Pat Corpus
Wesley Deeg
Riya Dindigal
Ben Epstein
Steven Fandozzi
Allison Helferty
Sam Horry
Scott Horry
Lauren Kim
Karen Minecci
James Phair
Angela Richter
Lina Shi
Tyler Simpson
Jamie Werther

CMS Technology Student Association

Dhruv Agarwal
Jocelyn Freed
Harrison Glantz
Jordyn Goldring
Caroline Kay
Abby Minecci
Casey Sharpe
Liza Smaliak
Arya Venkat