

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, OCTOBER 15, 2015

President Moore convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:04 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on October 15, 2015.

Board Members Present: Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Leslie Finegold, Christina Frangiosa, Susan Moore, Heather Palmer, Beth Suchsland and Alan Tabachnick.

Board Members Absent: Kathleen Oxberry.

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. Leticia Rodríguez, Director of Human Resources; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Kim Newell, Assistant Public Relations Coordinator; Luke Mascio and Chris Johnson, Board Student Representatives; Dr. Jason Bacani, Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Principal; Lori McCoy, Director of Food Services; Gary Johnson; Glenn Quinn, Beth Miller; Mary Thiess; Brendan Wills and students receiving awards, their families and friends.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on October 8, 14 and 15.

Recognition/Awards: Mrs. Moore acknowledged Dr. Gorodetzer who invited Dr. Bacani to the podium. Dr. Bacani noted that PWHS was ranked among the nation's most challenging high schools by *The Washington Post*. He then recognized nine PWHS seniors who were named National Merit Commended Students. They include, Evan Adler, Chirag Agarwal, Matthew Cooper, Wesley Deeg, Carli Fine, Michael Lotito, Emma Quinn, Christopher Symnoski and Talene Tse. The students scored among the top three percent of the more than 1.5 million students who took the 2014 Preliminary SAT.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Moore sought Board action on the minutes of the general meeting of September 17; the Facilities Management and Transportation (FMT) Committee meeting of September 10; The Curriculum Committee and Community Relations and Student Life Committee meetings of September 21 and the FMT Committee meeting of October 8. See enclosures #1 through #4 and #30.

Mrs. Palmer 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, 8-0.

Financial Reports: Mrs. Moore asked Board members to review the financial reports on the list for approval. They include the Budget Transfers, 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 September 30. See enclosures #5 through #16.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Mrs. McCoy presented a PowerPoint detailing National School Lunch week, including current and past year themes for the week, and comparing lunches from years ago to today. She noted that one in four District students participate in the National Free or Reduced Lunch Program.

Old Business: None

Correspondence: None.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed her report which included the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list. See enclosures #17 and #18. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contains one retirement, five leaves of absence, six appointments, five changes in assignment and a number of substitute support staff. She added that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list shows additional appointments for the 2015-2016 school year. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that all appointments were reviewed in executive session.

Mrs. Frangiosa moved and Mr. Tabachnick seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: Mr. Mascio reported on the band flea market, freshman class elections, a bingo night sponsored by the cheerleaders, a cancer awareness car wash, a Cappies meeting, a college counseling night, a cap and gown assembly and parent-teacher conferences. He also provided an update on PWHS fall sports teams and noted that the 1995 District 1 Championship football team was honored at a recent home game.

New Business: Mrs. Moore asked Board members to adopt a start date for the 2016-2017 school year. She noted that the administration recommends Tuesday, September 6, 2016, the day after Labor Day.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve a 2016-2017 school year start date of Tuesday, September 6. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Brady sought Board action on a real estate assessment appeal for Parcel # 05-00-00026-10-4 in Conshohocken.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Frangiosa seconded a motion to approve the assessment appeal. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider a placement agreement in lieu of FAPE. He noted that due to privacy restrictions the agreement was discussed in executive session.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Palmer seconded a motion to approve the placement agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Moore directed Board members to consider a request to approve a 2016-2017 Act 1 Opt Out Resolution. See enclosure #19. She noted that by approving the resolution the Board will not raise taxes above the Pennsylvania Department of Education's established index of 2.4 percent for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Mr. Jackson explained the resolution states that the District will not seek exceptions for special education or retirement payments as it has in years past. He also noted that the District would not have to follow the Act 1 budget timeline and approve a preliminary budget in January. The only requirement will be to pass a budget by the end of June. Mr. Brodsky reiterated that the 2.4 percent is a ceiling for any tax increase. Mrs. Suchsland stressed that the Board has not begun to consider a budget or any increase.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the Act 1 Opt Out Resolution. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action on a request for PWHS Social Studies Teacher Robert Slagle to attend an Advanced Placement workshop for micro and macro economics in Brooklyn, New York on November 3. See enclosure #20.

Mr. Brodsky 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, 8-0.

Mrs. Palmer asked Board members to consider several student trip requests. The first is for the PWHS AVID students to visit the University of Pittsburgh, Shippensburg University and York College from November 11-12. See enclosure #21. The second request is for the PWHS varsity cheerleaders to take part in competitions in Burlington, N.J. on November 8 and Toms River, N.J. on November 14. See enclosure #22. The final request is for Colonial Elementary School (CES) fourth graders to attend the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J. on November 3, 5 and 9. See enclosure #23.

Mrs. Palmer moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the student trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Solicitor's Report: None

Committee Reports: MCIU: Mrs. Finegold stated that the IU Board met on September 30. She stated that the IU is beginning to experience problems caused by the state budget impasse and has approved a contingency plan to establish a \$1 million credit line to borrow money if needed. She also touched on enrollment for the head start program, the delay of a state Pre-K grant, professional development and an increase in Internet bandwidth.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky stated that the Tech School Joint Operating Committee met earlier in the week and considered a number of budget and personnel items. He also noted a decline in enrollment associated with state mandated testing.

Human Resources: Mrs. Suchsland sought Board action on a Teacher on Special Assignment Agreement between the Board and Employee # 101700 effective October 7. She explained that CES Teacher Chad Murray was moved to Plymouth Elementary School to assist with administration of the building.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Finance: No Report.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky noted that the committee will discuss the District's STEAM initiative and hear updates on PWHS and Colonial Middle School (CMS) schedule changes at its meeting on October 19.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Tabachnick stated that the high school renovation project remains on schedule. He also noted that the CMS media center was completed. Dr. Gorodetzer added that there will be an open house for the center on November 16.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mrs. Palmer asked parents to be on the lookout for a mailing of the Emergency Guide for Parents.

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa applauded advocacy efforts surrounding recent legislation regarding real estate assessment appeals. She also commented on Senate Bill 909, which amends Act 1 of 2006 and provides further restrictions on school budgets.

Safety and Wellness: Mrs. Finegold noted that the committee will meet on November 12.

Municipal/Community Liaisons: No Report.

Mr. Tabachnick updated the Board on the efforts of the Colonial School District Education Foundation, including providing computers to families in need and the District's 50th Anniversary Gala to be held on November 7.

Mrs. Suchsland requested that when the administration communicates the start date of the 2016-2017 school year it also includes the start date for fall sports team practices.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary