

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, NOVEMBER 19, 2015

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 November 19, 2015.

Board Members Present: Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Leslie Finegold, Christina Frangiosa, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry, Heather Palmer, 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. 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; Thomas Peeler; Cathy Peduzzi; Gary Johnson; Mary Thies and students receiving awards, their families and friends.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition/Awards: Mrs. Moore acknowledged Dr. Gorodetzer who invited Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) Assistant Field Hockey Coach Charise Young to the podium to present the members of the Colonials Suburban One League American Conference Championship team. For a list of team members, please see Attachment A.

Mrs. Moore then recognized outgoing Board members Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Frangiosa. Each was commended for their years of service to the District's students and presented with a bouquet of flowers and a personalized clock. Dr. Gorodetzer thanked Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Frangiosa on behalf of the administration.

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

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Moore directed Board members to consider the minutes of the general meeting of October 15; the Finance Committee meeting of November 2; the Curriculum Committee meeting of October 19 and the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee and Safety and Wellness Committee meetings of November 12. See enclosures #1 through #3, #33 and #34.

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

Financial Reports: Mrs. Moore asked Board members 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 October 31. See enclosures #4 through #15.

Mr. Brady 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: Mr. Yemm showed a video describing the controls in place to monitor the quality of work being done to renovate PWHS. Mr. Yemm noted that the project remained on schedule. Responding to a question from Mr. Brodsky, Mr. Yemm explained that an independent engineer was employed to monitor phases of the project to provide an unbiased, third-party opinion of the work.

Correspondence: None.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer summarized her report which included the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list. See enclosures #16 and #17. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contains three retirements, one resignation, seven leaves of absence, three appointments, 11 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 Mrs. Suchsland 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 Representatives Report: Mr. Mascio reported on Homecoming week, the Non-Public Admissions Open House and the Colonial Players production of *The Westing Game*. Mr. Johnson reported on SAT testing, a band competition, the start of winter sports practices and the National Honor Society Induction.

New Business: Mrs. Suchsland sought Board approval of an agreement between the Colonial School District and the Resource Development Company, Inc., to provide market survey data. Dr. Rodriguez explained the survey is for the Act 93 administrative group.

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

Mrs. Palmer sought Board action on a number of student trip requests. Trips involving high school students include the baseball team traveling to Vero Beach, Fla., from March 19-24, 2016 (see enclosure #18), the Ski and Snowboard Club trips to Killington, Vermont from January 8-10, 2016 and to Stratton, Vermont from February 26-28, 2016 (see enclosure #19), the Yearbook and Newspaper Club to attend the Columbia University Publications Seminar and Conference in New York City on November 2 (see enclosure #20), French exchange students to visit New York City from February 19-20, 2016 and Washington, DC on February 23, 2016 (see enclosure #21) and the Indoor Guard to participate in competitions in Monmouth Junction, N.J., on February 27-28, 2016, March 5, 2016 and April 16, 2016 (see enclosure #35). Trips involving middle school students include a seventh grade trip to the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J. on December 21 (see enclosure #23).

Mrs. Palmer 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.

Dr. Gorodetzer noted that the Board would table the request for PWHS students to travel to Spain and France noted in enclosure #22.

Mr. Brady asked Board members to consider two real estate assessment appeal settlements. One is for parcel #05-00-00028-00-3 in Conshohocken Borough. The other is for parcel #65-00-10658-01-4 in Whitemarsh Township.

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

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action on two professional conference requests. The first is for PWHs Assistant Principal Heather King to attend the AVID District Director training in St. Petersburg, Fla., from October 27-30. See enclosure #24. The second is for Whitmarsh Elementary School Principal Donna Drizin and three teachers to attend the National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Conference in Orlando, Fla., from November 30 – December 4. See enclosure #25.

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

Mr. Brodsky sought Board approval of changes to Board Policy #108 – Adoption of Textbooks. See enclosure #26. He noted that the policy is very out dated and stated that the revisions reflect current practice and requirements of the school code.

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, 9-0.

Mrs. Suchsland asked Board members to consider recommended revisions to the extra-curricular contracts as listed in “Addendum C” Salary Guide for Supplemental Pay for Extracurricular Activities effective November 20, 2015 through August 14, 2017.

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

Mr. Brady asked Board members to act on a resolution to commit a portion of its unassigned fund balance for future capital costs. See enclosure #36. Mr. Jackson explained that approximately \$8.2 million is recommended to be committed to address future capital projects. Mr. Yemm confirmed that none of the projects relates to the high school renovation.

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

Mr. Brady recommended that the Board accept the June 30, 2015 Local Audit Report as provided by Mr. Jackson. Responding to a question from Mrs. Frangiosa, Mr. Jackson confirmed that the report contained no findings and noted strong local controls.

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

Solicitor’s Report: None

Committee Reports: MCIU: No Report.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky stated that the Tech School Joint Operating Committee heard a report from the Distinguished Alumni Organization which is considering six former students, five of whom are PWHs graduates.

Human Resources: Mrs. Suchsland asked Board members to consider a Separation and Release Agreement between the District and Employee #100861 effective October 15, 2015.

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

Finance: No Report.

Curriculum: Mr. Brodsky noted that the committee will next meet on December 14.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Tabachnick stated that the committee met on November 12 and considered plans to renovate the west gymnasium of PWHS, received an update on the artificial turf project and discussed improvements to the Colonial Field public address system and the middle school auditorium lighting.

Community Relations and Student Life: No Report

Legislative: Mrs. Frangiosa provided an update on the Pennsylvania budget stalemate. She detailed education spending as outlined in the Governor's compromise budget proposal, She also discussed legislation on the table that would remove local control over setting property tax rates. She encouraged continued advocacy to maintain local control of school budgets..

Safety and Wellness: Mrs. Finegold reviewed the committee's November 12 meeting. She touched on bullying prevention, the crisis response program "Run, Hide, Fight," a Safe Schools Grant and suicide prevention and awareness.

Municipal/Community Liaisons: No Report.

Public Comment: None.

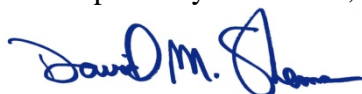
Mrs. Palmer thanked Board members and the administration for their support during her time on the Board.

Responding to a question from Mr. Tabachnick, Mr. Jackson stated that the lack of a state budget was not having a significant effect on the District budget. Mr. Jackson noted that the District receives only moderate state funding and could make it through the school year by making modest cash flow adjustments.

Mr. Tabachnick commented on a successful 50th anniversary event hosted by the Colonial School District Education Foundation. He thanked the alumni musicians who played at the event.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary

**2015 Plymouth Whitemarsh High School
Varsity Field Hockey Team**

Kerin Bechtel
Kolby Bechtel
Victoria Byrne
Jessica Dixon
Julia Fiddler
Ciara Flanagan
Carli Kligerman
Sophie Kolkka
Sami Mangine
Claire McAllister-Captain
Michelle McGrath
Grace McGuire-Captain
Aurora Mills-Captain
Frankie O'Brien
Amara Quazi
Kennedy Reardon
Gia Schweitzer
Ashley Sergio
Sam Spera
Paige Totten