

## **Community Relations and Student Life /Safety and Wellness Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors, October 10, 2016**

The Community Relations and Student Life /Safety and Wellness Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, October 10, 2016 in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. Present were Committee Chair Bernie Brady; Committee members Leslie Finegold, Cathy Peduzzi and Felix Raimondo; Board President Susan Moore; Board Vice President Beth Suchsland; Board member Mel Brodsky; Superintendent Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Karen Berk; Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) Activities Director Charles Forster; Community Relations Coordinator/School Board Secretary David M. Sherman; Assistant Public Relations Coordinator Kim Newell; PWHS Assistant Principal Steve Price and Linda Doll.

There was no public comment on the agenda:

Mr. Price noted that current seniors requested eliminating the white robes at graduation and going with a gender-neutral dark color, such as red or blue. After some discussion, the committee agreed that the robes should be one color. A suggestion was made to research if both school colors could be incorporated in the robes.

The committee reviewed a student trip request for PWHS Yearbook and Newspaper Club students to attend the Columbia University Publications Seminar and Conference in New York City on November 7.

Mrs. Berk shared a draft of a new Board Policy on Hazing. She noted that the policy is mandated by a new state law passed during the summer. Mrs. Berk stated that the District had complied with the law by providing all coaches with copies of the Board Policy on Bullying and including language about hazing. However the District still needs to approve a hazing policy. The policy will be considered at the October Board meeting.

Dr. Gorodetzer informed the committee that it has been the Board's practice to establish the start date of the next school year at October's meeting. Four draft versions of calendars for the 2017-2018 school year were provided for review, two with start dates before Labor Day and two with start dates after Labor Day. After considerable discussion, Board members stated they wished to hear from the Operations Department regarding the late August status of renovations to PWHS, Plymouth Elementary School and Ridge Park Elementary School before making a decision. Mr. Forster explained that no matter what the first day of school is, the football team will begin heat acclimation drills on August 7, 2017 with all fall sports teams beginning practice on August 14, 2017.

Ms. Newell stated that STEAM will be the focus of the first Colonial Community Coffee Hour on October 25. She noted that the program is being widely promoted.

Committee members were informed that the Open House to showcase the progress of the PWHS renovations has been postponed. The event had been scheduled for October 21. A makeup date has not yet been established.

There being no further business or comment, the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Community Relations Coordinator  
School Board Secretary