

COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA
Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2016

The Finance and Audit Committee meeting was held on September 12, 2016 in the Superintendent's Conference Room located in the Colonial Elementary School at 230 Flouertown Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA. Trevor Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

Finance Committee Members Present: Kathleen Oxberry

Other Board Members Present: Susan Moore, Alan Tabachnick, Beth Suchsland, Leslie Finegold and Cathy Peduzzi

Others Present: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer and Trevor Jackson

Public Present: None

Regular Meeting:

Mr. Jackson asked for any public comments on the agenda; there were none.

Dr. Gorodetzer provided the committee with an update regarding the Lower Merion tax rate case. Both she and Mr. Jackson attended a county-wide meeting at the MCIU where the solicitor of the Lower Merion district spoke about the details of the case. It was noted that Lower Merion did not break any laws, legislation or state guidelines regarding their budget process and approval of the tax rate. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that Lower Merion has appealed the judge's decision and it is possible we could hear something from our community. Mr. Jackson provided the committee with some information regarding Colonial's fund balance amount and some talking points in the event this becomes a topic for discussion in our community.

Mr. Jackson informed the committee of an IRS audit that took place in late June regarding the district's 403b and 457 retirement plans. Mr. Jackson informed the committee that participation in these plans is not mandatory and that once a year a representative from Kades-Margolis comes to the district to inform employees of the benefits of these programs. Mr. Jackson highlighted that the Colonial SD has a very high participation rate as compared to other public entities. The result of the audit was that there were no findings or recommendations for the program.

Mr. Jackson presented two new board policies as a first read. These two policies are mandated under the new Uniform Grant Guidance procedures implemented at the federal level. Mrs. Oxberry asked if the district could use a hyperlink to reference other district policies where applicable. A second read will take place on Thursday night at the regular board meeting.

Mr. Jackson informed the committee of new assessment appeal procedures currently being implemented at the county level. Mr. Jackson noted that Judge Del Ricci is looking to reduce the large backlog of appeals and issuing case management orders to get both the taxpayer and

taxing authority to try and settle these appeals. The Judge is focusing on the oldest appeals first and ordering both sides to submit an opinion of value and a realistic settlement value for the property at issue. The notice for these hearings has shown to be approximately four weeks which typically is not enough time to get approval from the committee to get an appraisal report (if needed) for the hearing. Mr. Jackson requested to get subsequent approval for any appraisal report that might be needed for this new county process. Mr. Jackson agreed to provide that same rationale that is normally provided for prior approval of such report. The committee agreed to this process and understood the time sensitive nature of the request.

Mr. Jackson asked for any public comments on non-agenda items; there were none.

Mr. Jackson stated that an executive session would be held at the conclusion of the public meeting.

As there was no further business to be conducted, the meeting was adjourned at 5:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trevor S. Jackson
Business Administrator