

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462  
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 15, 2016**

President Moore convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on September 15, 2016.

**Board Members Present:** Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Leslie Finegold, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry, Cathy Peduzzi and Alan Tabachnick.

**Board Members Absent:** Felix Raimondo and Beth Suchsland.

**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 Sam Cohen, Board Student Representatives; John Carroll; Joe Bonus; Mary Theiss; Maria Robinson and Jill Forster.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session to discuss personnel issues prior to the meeting.

**Recognition:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Moore sought Board action on the minutes of the general meeting of August 18, the special meeting, the Community Relations and Student Life/Safety and Wellness Committee and the Curriculum Committee meetings of August 22, the Human Resources Committee and the Facilities Committee meetings of September 8 and the Finance Committee meeting of September 12. See enclosures #1 through #3 and #23 through #26.

Mr. Brady moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

**Financial Reports:** Mrs. Moore asked the Board to consider 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 August 31. See enclosures #4 through #15.

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, 7-0.

**Public Comments on the Agenda:** None.

**Staff Report:** Mr. Yemm and Mr. Tabachnick showed a portion of a CITV program updating the status of the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) renovations and other summer facilities projects. They noted that the fourth of eight phases of the high school renovation is now in progress. That phase includes the north gymnasium and the transformation of the former technology hallway into the new counseling suite.

**Old Business:** None.

**Correspondence:** Mrs. Finegold asked Board members to consider acceptance of two grants in one motion. The first is for \$3,000 from the American Library Association to PWHS for the 2016 Teen Read Week and AASL event. See enclosure #16. The second is from the Quaker Chemical Foundation in the amount of \$3,000 to support the Girls in Technology Summer Program. See enclosure #17. Responding to a question from Mrs. Oxberry, Dr. Gorodetzer stated that AASL stood for the American Association of School Librarians.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mrs. Peduzzi seconded a motion to accept both grants. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

**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 #18 and #19. She stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List included two retirements, two resignations, seven leaves of absence, four changes in assignment and 12 appointments. She added that several changes and appointments to the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List were included. 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, 7-0.

**Board Student Representatives' Report:** Miss Dunoff stated that the students have had a good start to the school year and love the air conditioning in the newly renovated east wing. She inquired about outdoor seating for the cafeteria. Mr. Yemm noted that the furniture has been ordered. Mr. Cohen commented on the fall sports season and the Freshman Orientation and Activities Fair. Miss. Dunoff reported on auditions for the fall production of a play written by a current student and training for the ADL Peer Trainers. Responding to a question from Mrs. Moore, Miss Dunoff stated that students were adjusting to the new five-block schedule, which allows students to take more electives.

**New Business:** Mrs. Finegold asked Board members to act on two placement agreements in lieu of FAPE. Due to confidentiality and privacy restrictions she noted that the agreements were discussed in executive session.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve both placement agreements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Tabachnick sought Board approval of an agreement with General Healthcare Resources, Inc. for substitute nurse services. See enclosure #27. Responding to a question from Mr. Tabachnick, Dr. Rodríguez noted that the agency is used as a back-up for supplying substitute nurses for the District.

Mr. Tabachnick moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to act on two new policies mandated under the federal Uniform Grant Guidance Procedures. He noted that both policies were reviewed at the Board's September Finance Committee meeting attended by a quorum of members. The first is Board Policy #626.1 Travel Reimbursement Federal Programs. See enclosure #28. Mrs. Oxberry received confirmation that travel is reimbursed at the IRS prescribed rate.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the policy. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

The second policy is Board Policy #827 Conflict of Interest. See enclosure #29.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mr. Tabachnick seconded a motion to approve the policy. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Brodsky sought Board action on a number of real estate assessment appeal withdrawals for properties in Whitemarsh Township. He stated they included:

- Parcel #65-00-04513-05-7
- Parcel #49-00-04177-00-4 (2011 only)
- Parcel #49-00-04177-01-3 (2011 only)
- Parcel #49-00-04177-02-2 (2011 only)
- Parcel #49-00-04177-03-1 (2011 only)

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Peduzzi seconded a motion to approve the real estate assessment appeal withdrawals. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Brodsky asked the Board to consider several real estate assessment appeal settlements in Plymouth Township. They included:

- Parcel #49-00-04129-00-7
- Parcel #49-00-04177-00-4 (2009 & 2010 only)
- Parcel #49-00-04177-01-3 (2009 & 2010 only)
- Parcel #49-00-04177-02-2 (2009 & 2010 only)
- Parcel #49-00-04177-03-1 (2009 & 2010 only)
- Parcel #49-00-08011-06-7

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Peduzzi seconded a motion to approve the real estate assessment appeal settlements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Jackson noted that the properties listed under assessment appeal withdrawals were not all located in Whitemarsh Township. He stated that the parcels beginning with #49 were located in Plymouth Township. Mr. Sultanik noted that the Board did not need to revote on motion as long as the correction was noted in the minutes.

**Solicitor's Report:** None

**Committee Reports:** Intermediate Unit (MCIU): Mrs. Finegold stated that the IU Board met on August 28. She noted that the Board approved dozens of agreements for special education and web-based services. She also highlighted a summer professional development program.

CMTHS: No Report.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: Mr. Brodsky noted that details of the recent meeting could be found in enclosure #26 of the agenda. He added that the next meeting would be on October 10 at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Brodsky added that Board members toured the renovated east wing of PWHS prior to the evening's meeting. He noted that the project remained on schedule and on budget and commended all for their hard work.

Curriculum: Mrs. Finegold recapped the August meeting, which included an overview of the District's summer programs.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Tabachnick noted that construction of additions to Ridge Park Elementary School and Plymouth Elementary School was scheduled to begin this winter. He reminded the audience that both schools and Whitemarsh Elementary School would also be outfitted with air conditioning. All work should be completed by the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year. He added that the construction of the new baseball field on the PWHS/Colonial Elementary School campus could begin at any time.

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

Legislative: No Report.

Municipal/Community Liaisons: Mrs. Peduzzi noted that the Conshohocken Funfest was scheduled for the coming Saturday, September 17. She noted that the District would staff a table at the event.

**Public Comment:** Mr. John Carroll of Lafayette Hill thanked the Board for their cooperation in working with the new community aquatic club, Colonial Community Aquatics.

Mrs. Moore commended Dr. Gorodetzer on receiving the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators 2016 Award for Instructional Leadership. It was noted that the award is presented annually to a school system leader who demonstrates a commitment to excellence in teaching and learning by developing, nurturing and supporting exemplary programs that support the academic achievement of particular student populations, enrich student learning in a particular content area, or implement strategies to enhance student learning across the curriculum.

Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the award was the result of teamwork on the part of all District administrators and staff. She added that the award includes a \$1,000 scholarship that may be presented to a current senior.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary