

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, OCTOBER 20, 2016**

President Moore convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:08 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on October 20, 2016.

Board Members Present: Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Leslie Finegold, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry, Cathy Peduzzi, Felix Raimondo, 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. 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 Chris Johnson, Board Student Representatives; Robin Mitchell; Lauren Dunoff; Beth Miller; Robert Slagle; Gary Johnson; Mary Thiess; Linda Doll and students receiving awards, their friends and families.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board met in executive session prior to the meeting to discuss the hiring of several teachers and support staff and confidential student matters protected by law. She stated that the meeting lasted approximately one hour.

Recognition: Dr. Gorodetzer noted that there were a number of students who had distinguished themselves academically and in academic competitions in attendance to be recognized. She invited Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) Principal Dr. Jason Bacani to the podium. Dr. Bacani presented members of the senior class who are Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars and AP Scholars with Honor. He also introduced students who are National Merit Commended Scholars. Dr. Gorodetzer then introduced Colonial Middle School (CMS) Teacher Clint Rickert who presented PWHS and CMS students who placed among the top 10 at the Technology Students Association National Conference this summer. Please see Attachment A for a complete list of students recognized.

Mrs. Moore presented Dr. Gorodetzer with her plaque for being named the 2016 Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators Instructional Leadership Award recipient.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Moore asked Board members to act on the minutes of the general meeting of September 15, the Finance Committee meeting of October 10, the Facilities Committee and the Human Resources Committee meetings of October 13 and the Community Relations and Student Life/Safety and Wellness Committee meeting of October 10. See enclosures #1 through #2 and #26 through #28.

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

Financial Reports: Mrs. Moore asked the Board to consider the financial reports on the list for approval. They included 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 September 30. See enclosures #3 through #14.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Oxberry 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: Dr. Gorodetzer noted that in recognition of National School Lunch Week, Director of Food Services Lori McCoy was present to provide a look behind the scenes at Colonial cafeterias. Mrs. McCoy showed a video that highlighted the convenience and popularity of the new PWHs cafeteria and the daily use of locally grown fresh fruit and vegetables in cafeterias throughout the District.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: None.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Gorodetzer summarized her report that included the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #15 and #16. She stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List included one resignation, four leaves of absence, three changes of assignment, four appointments and additions to the bus drivers, cafeteria workers, school nurses and custodial substitute lists. 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. Oxberry 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, 9-0.

Board Student Representatives' Report: Miss Dunoff reported on the Academic Awards Ceremony and the success of the volleyball, field hockey and football teams. Mr. Johnson spoke about parent conferences, a community day event at a PWHs football game and Homecoming Week activities, including Wing Bowl, Color Wars and the Powder Puff Game. Ms. Dunoff added that the Homecoming football game and dance are upcoming. She also reported on Cappies Training.

New Business: Mrs. Moore noted that Board direction was requested to establish the start date for the 2017-2018 school year. She stated that it was customary for the Board to set the date early so that parents can plan vacations. Mrs. Moore reported that the Board is recommending that the school year begin the day after Labor Day or Tuesday, September 5, 2017. Mrs. Peduzzi and Mr. Raimondo said they would support the recommendation but hoped there could be more discussion in the future about starting the school year before the Labor Day weekend. Mrs. Suchsland stated that the District has traditionally started the school year after Labor Day, except when the holiday falls late in the first week of September.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Tabachnick seconded a motion to establish Tuesday, September 5, 2017 as the start date for the 2017-2018 school year. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky sought Board approval of a real estate assessment appeal of Parcel # 49-00-10057-00-1 in Plymouth Township. He noted that the property was under assessed.

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

Mrs. Finegold asked the Board to act on both a special education settlement agreement and a placement agreement in Lieu of FAPE in one motion. She noted that the agreements were discussed in executive session.

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

Mrs. Finegold requested Board approval of a contract with Quinn Developmental Services to provide Educational Setting Support (ESS) and Individualized Case Consulting (ICC) for the 2016-2017

school year. See enclosure #17. Mrs. Berk explained that the services were for students with significant needs.

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

Mr. Brodsky explained the Act I Index and noted that the state established index for the 2017-2018 school year was set at 2.5 percent. He asked Board members to approve a 2017-2018 Opt Out Resolution, stating that the Board would not raise the current real estate tax rate beyond the certified 2.5 index. See enclosure #18. Mr. Brodsky stressed that the Board would not be seeking exceptions to raise taxes above the limit. He also noted that this action doesn't mean the 2017-2018 tax rate will increase 2.5 percent.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the Act I Opt Out Resolution. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Finegold asked the Board to act on a request for PWHs College Counselor Pat Tamborello to visit Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., from November 9-11 and George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., from November 13-15. See enclosure #19. Mrs. Finegold noted that there was no cost to the District for the trip.

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

Mr. Brady asked Board members to consider two student trip requests in one motion. The first is for the PWHs Yearbook and Newspaper Club to attend the Columbia University Publications Seminar and Conference in New York City on November 7. See enclosure #20. The second is for PWHs AVID students to travel to King's College, Marywood University, the University of Scranton, Wilkes University and Kutztown University from November 14-15. See enclosure #29.

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

Mrs. Suchsland sought Board action to terminate employee #104396 effective October 5, 2016 as the result of the District's right to terminate during the probationary period.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the employee termination. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The Motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Suchsland asked the Board to act on the Amendment #2 of the Extension to Agreement between the Colonial Board of School Directors and Teamsters Local Union #384 effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018.

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

Mr. Brodsky sought Board authorization for the District to incur non-electoral debt through the issuance of one or more series of General Obligation Bonds and the Refunding of Series 2012 Bonds based on the parameters set forth in Resolution 2016-10-10. See Enclosure #30. Mr. Brodsky noted that the bonds would cover the cost of the expended PWHs renovation project. He added that the District has saved \$3 million over the past six years by refinancing bonds.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mr. Raimondo seconded a motion to approve the Bond Resolution. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Tabachnick asked Board members to consider an amendment to the existing agreement with Chestnut Hill College for upgrades to athletic fields. See enclosure #31. He noted the agreement included the resurfacing of Victory Fields #1 and the construction on a new artificial surface baseball field. Mr. Sultanik stated that Board approval will be subject to administration and solicitor approval

of the final contract wording. Mr. Brodsky noted that the college will pay the District back the entire cost of the project plus interest over a period of 17 years.

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

Mr. Brady asked the Board to act on Policy #247 – Hazing. See enclosure #32. He noted that the policy is mandated by state law and was reviewed at the Community Relations and Student Life/Safety and Wellness committee meeting on October 10.

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

Solicitor's Report: None

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit (MCIU): Mrs. Finegold stated that on September 28, the IU Board approved a number of agreements and contracts for services provided to county school districts. She recounted what many of those services are.

CMTHS: No Report.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: Mr. Brodsky noted that details of the October 10 meeting could be found in enclosure #2. He encouraged the public to attend the committee's next meeting.

Curriculum: No Report.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Tabachnick reported that the PWHS renovation is moving forward. Mr. Yemm noted that the natatorium would be open in early November. He stated that the pool has been filled with water. Mr. Tabachnick added that the planning continues for the addition of four classrooms at both Plymouth Elementary School and Ridge Park Elementary School, as well as the addition of air conditioning at those schools and Whitmarsh Elementary School.

Community Relations and Student Life/Safety and Wellness: Mr. Brady encouraged the community to attend the first Colonial Community Coffee Hour on October 25 at 9:30 in the general meeting room.

Legislative: Mrs. Peduzzi noted that there were two weeks left in the session.

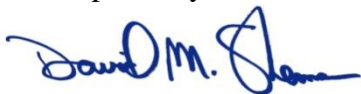
Municipal/Community Liaisons: Mr. Tabachnick stated that this was an exciting time for the Colonial School District Education Foundation and Denise Marks was transitioning into her new role with the organization.

Public Comment: None.

Mrs. Moore reminded the community that schools will be closed on Election Day. She also noted that the November Board meeting has been moved to Monday, November 14 at 7 p.m.

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

AP Scholars

Max Baker
Sydney Brown
Adam Center
Zyanne Clay-Hubbard
Raquel Dunoff
Rebekah Epstein
Zachary Finkelman
Tyler Goldman
Alexander Goldring
Gabrielle Isacc-Herzog
Christopher Johnson
Jesse Krensel
Adlai Lamason
Daniel Margulies
Liam McLaughlin
Antonio Paladino
Nathaniel Reichley
Alex Sandberg
Kylie Shalala
Elizabeth Stricklin
Laurel Suchsland
Sara Tenaglio
Kateryna Ternopolska
Samantha Ward
Shane Westerfer.

AP Scholars with Honor

Evan Berman
Noah Goldstein
Lauren Kim
Sarah Manno
Matthew Walker.

National Merit Commended Scholars

Sydney Brown
Christopher Johnson
Amanda Kan
Lauren Kim
Nathaniel Reichley
Caroline Slagle
Andrew Slutsky
Elizabeth Stricklin
Shane Westerfer
Benjamin Wightman

TSA National Place Winners

Chirag Agarwal
Dhruv Agarwal
Kyle Amon
Casey Sharpe
Victoria Brach
Shreya Bhutani
Jared Conner
Patrick Corpus
Wesley Deeg
Kenny Diamond
Riya Dindigal
Jocelyn Freed
Harrison Glantz
Samantha Horry
Scott Horry
Lauren Kim
Caleb Krizner
Abby Mincecci
Karen Minecci
Kelvin Peng
Angela Richter
Liza Smaliak
Dean Suchsland
Arya Venkat