

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, JANUARY 18, 2018**

President Raimondo convened the General Session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:03 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on January 18, 2018.

Board Members Present: Mel Brodsky, Jennifer Dow, Leslie Finegold, Eunice Franklin-Becker, Susan Moore, Rosemary Northcutt, Cathy Peduzzi, Felix Raimondo and Adam Schupack.

Board Members Absent: None.

Also Attending: Dr. Michael L. Christian, Superintendent of Schools; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; Andrew Boegly, Director of Technology; Dr. Liz McKeane, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Dr. Leticia Rodríguez, Director of Human Resources; David Szablowski, Business Administrator; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Tom Peeler, Audio Visual Technician; Brandon Cohen and Amanda Nerenberg, Board Student Representatives; Tim McDonald; Art Poole; Chris Epstein; Mark Epstein; Marsha Turner; Christopher Denolfi; Donelle Brotz; Stephanie Brennan Malarski; Deanna Durante; Christine Sullivan; Marco DiBattista; Matt Galanti; Mark Cratin; Karen Schrader; Gary Johnson; Brian Daly; Lauren Fuhrmeister; Emily Koval; Peggy Smith; Jill Forster; Erin Saulino; Kim McGurk; Shana Genkin; Charlene Koretz; Hope Garfinkle; Lisa Watkins; Amy Cratin; Maria Weidinger; Linda Doll; Lisa Dresnin; Anne Pearsall; Mary Thiess; Lauren Taverna; Beth Miller; BG Gangwish; Lisa Dunleavy; Ursula Rottloff; Felix Raimondo; Robert Slagle; Andrea Moore; Greg Stokes; Jason Paul; Mary Sucro; Joe Giovanisci; Jason Salus; Cheryll Darby; R. Daufenbach; Joey Bowman; Beth Patruno and Malinda Procaccino.

Mr. Raimondo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Christian noted that January is School Director Recognition Month. He thanked the Board members for their service to the Colonial Community and introduced a video tribute.

Executive Session Announcements: Mr. Raimondo announced that the Board met in executive session on December 13, 2017 and December 18, 2017 to interview respondents to the Request For Proposals (RFP) for solicitor services. He also noted that the Board met on January 10 to review a personnel grievance. He added that the Board met in executive session prior to the meeting to review the personnel report and a confidential student placement agreement.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Raimondo sought Board action on the minutes of the General Session of November 16, 2017; the Reorganization meeting of December 4, 2017; the Curriculum Committee meetings of November 13, 2017 and December 11, 2017; the Facilities Management and Transportation (FMT) Committee meeting of November 16, 2017; and the Human Resource Committee and Finance Committee meetings of January 10, 2018. See enclosures #1 through #4, #35 and #36.

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

Financial Reports: Mr. Raimondo asked Board members to act on the financial reports on the list for approval. He noted they are all for the months of November and December 2017. 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 and the Bond Fund Report. See enclosures #5 through #15.

Mrs. Franklin-Becker 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, 9-0.

Mr. Raimondo asked the Board to consider the Treasurer's Reports for the months of November and December 2017. See enclosure #16

Mrs. Peduzzi moved and Mrs. Northcutt seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's Reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: Brian Daly of Plymouth Meeting recognized Board members on School Director Recognition month. He thanked them for their dedication to the students and the community. He congratulated new Board members on their election and singled out Mrs. Dow for her advocacy for students. He stated that there was concern at the last meeting regarding the RFP for solicitor services and stated that from personal experience an RFP is a prudent way to get creative ideas and new levels of service. Mr. Daly stated that he was confident that the Board would have a productive discussion on the issue. He spoke for 1:25.

Karen Schrader, a long-time District resident, also paid tribute to the Board and thanked the members for their voluntary service. She noted that they have a difficult task in balancing the needs of the community and the needs of the students while maintaining the high standard of excellence of which the District is accustomed. She also noted she attended the December meeting and hoped that the Board could coalesce into a productive, cooperative Board that respects different opinions. Ms. Schrader spoke for 1:31.

Beth Patruno, a member of the Ridge Park (RP) Elementary School PTO stated that she watched the December Board meeting on TV and was very concerned. She added that she emailed the Board with questions regarding the meeting and stated that her questions were not answered. Mrs. Patruno said that the successes of the RP PTO were built on openness, honesty and transparency. She questioned the need to rush the RFP for solicitor services and sought a reason why. Was there something about the current solicitor or something the current solicitor did that the Board didn't like? She asked what qualifications the Board was seeking in a solicitor and what would happen if there were conflicts of interest with the new solicitor. She also raised the question of campaign financing and how that was related to this decision. Mrs. Patruno spoke for 3:52.

Chris Epstein of Plymouth Meeting urged the Board to choose a solicitor based solely on qualifications and experience. She stated that the District has some positions unfilled – not because there aren't qualified candidates – but, because those candidates may not check all of the boxes that meet the District's high standards. She said that she hoped the Board would pick a solicitor experienced in education law. She reviewed the qualifications of the RFP respondents and found that the current solicitor is extremely qualified and represents 90 school entities statewide. Mrs. Epstein reported that Sweet Stevens, LLP only practices education law. She added that Wisler Pearlstein, LLP has 14 attorneys dedicated to education law and represents 10 public school districts. She stated that Sean Kilkenny has no education law experience. She added that Mike Clarke of Rudolph Clarke, LLP specializes in personal injury law and business litigation. Mrs. Epstein encouraged the Board to make a decision with the best interest of the students in mind. She spoke for 4:00.

Mr. Daly returned to the podium to state that it was common practice in civic business to replace a solicitor when there is turnover in leadership. He noted that Plymouth Township and the Plymouth Zoning Board recently did just that. He added that it seemed to be standard operating procedure. Mr. Daly spoke for 42 seconds.

Robert Seltzer of Conshohocken stated that he was a lifelong resident of the District, and that he and his family and extended family all attended District schools. He stated that he was disappointed in the December meeting and was surprised at the name calling among Board members. He singled out Mrs. Peduzzi and stated that it was inappropriate and not the right example adults should be setting for our students. He stated that the Board needs to be sensitive to and careful about the example they are setting. Mr. Seltzer spoke for 2:44.

Erin Saulino of Plymouth Meeting stated that she was a Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) graduate and long-time District resident. She admitted she has not been to a Board meeting since she was a senior in high school. She said she was disappointed in what she saw of the last Board meeting. Mrs. Saulino said that she and her husband decided to stay in the District so that their children could get the best education possible. However, she said that the last Board meeting gave her pause because she said the discussion was not about the best interests of the children. Mrs. Saulino questioned the timing of the RFP and stated that after reading the agreement with the current solicitor she determined the rates were very reasonable. She said there was no good reason for an RFP and was looking for an explanation. Mrs. Saulino said she hoped the Board would work together toward the goal of providing the best education possible for the children. She spoke for 4:07.

Correspondence: Mr. Raimondo stated that Board acceptance is requested for a \$10,000 grant from the Morgan Stanley Foundation to support the before and after school Chess Club at Conshohocken Elementary (CE) School (see enclosure #17) and a \$1,000 check from Cotiviti Cares to support CE climate goals (see enclosure #18).

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

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Christian stated that his report includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #19 and #20. He noted that all appointments for promotion, employment or transfer are subject to the presentation of valid credentials, employment verification documentation and state mandated requirements.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Northcutt 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: Ms. Nerenberg reported on the Interact Club's work with the Salvation Army, the \$400 raised by the Anti-Domestic Violence Club, Taylor O'Brien becoming the all-time leading scorer in PWHS basketball history and the upcoming final exams. Mr. Cohen reported on the Ski Club trip to Vermont, a mock trial competition at the University of Pennsylvania and the upcoming Cupid's Cuties campaign by the student council.

New Business: Mrs. Finegold noted that the Board needed to appoint a Legislative Chairperson for the coming year. She stated that the position is involved with the Pennsylvania School Boards Association's (PSBA) legislative action program.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mr. Schupack seconded a motion to appoint Mrs. Franklin-Becker as the Legislative Chairperson. Mrs. Moore commented that Mrs. Peduzzi has served the Board well in that position for the past two years and expressed disappointment that there will be no continuity. On a roll call vote, all but Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Peduzzi voted in favor. Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Peduzzi were opposed. The motion was carried, 7-2.

Mrs. Finegold sought Board action on the appointment of a PSBA Representative. She noted that the representative is responsible to attend a minimum of two regional cabinet meetings per year, develop and maintain two-way communication between the Board and PSBA's regional structure, share PSBA reports at Board meetings, assist in planning future regional meetings and provide input and

guidance to various members serving on PSBA committees. The PSBA Representative also acts as the Employee Relations contact.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mr. Schupack seconded a motion to appoint Mrs. Franklin-Becker as the PSBA Representative. On a roll call vote, all but Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Peduzzi voted in favor. Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Peduzzi were opposed. The motion was carried, 7-2.

Mrs. Finegold asked Board members to consider an appointment to fill the role of Board liaison to the Colonial School District Education Foundation (CSDEF). She noted that the liaison holds a seat on the Foundation's board.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mrs. Peduzzi seconded a motion to appoint Mrs. Moore as the Board's CSDEF liaison. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to appoint Mrs. Franklin-Becker as a representative to the Central Montco Technical High School (CMTHS) Joint Operating Committee (JOC) for the 2018-2020 term. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Northcutt sought Board action on establishing the 2018-2019 school year calendar as displayed in enclosure #21. Mrs. Peduzzi asked if the PSSA testing windows were established yet for next year. She was informed that the testing window is between April 15 and May 3, 2019.

Mrs. Northcutt moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the 2018-2019 school calendar as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Northcutt asked Board members to act on four student trip requests, some of which will be considered retroactively. The first request is for PWHS Chorus members to participate in District 11, regional and state music festivals. See enclosure #22. The second request is for PWHS Band members to participate in District 11, regional and state music festivals. See enclosure #23. The third request is for the PWHS boys' and girls' indoor track teams to compete in two different events in New York City. See enclosure #24. The final request is for the PWHS wrestling team to compete in a tournament in Silver Spring, Md. See enclosure #25.

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

Mrs. Northcutt moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to approve the list of Adult Evening School instructors for the winter and spring 2018 sessions as shown in enclosure #26. Mr. Schupack encouraged community members to take advantage of the classes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Schupack asked the Board to consider an End User Agreement with BoardDocs to manage agendas, minutes and policies online. He noted the product would enable the District to save paper and manage documents better. See enclosure #27.

Mr. Schupack moved and Mrs. Franklin-Becker seconded a motion to approve the BoardDocs End User Agreement. Mrs. Peduzzi stated that she was super excited to be moving to this online system and commended Dr. Christian for moving it forward. Mr. Raimondo stated that it was much needed and would improve document management. He noted that Dr. Christian used BoardDocs in his previous District. Dr. Christian stated that it was a very powerful tool for managing agendas, minutes and policies while also providing public access. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Franklin-Becker moved and Mrs. Northcutt seconded a motion to approve the list of school bus drivers employed by First Student and Sague for the 2017-2018 school year per enclosure #28. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the settlement with respect to Grievance #01, 2017-2018 between the Colonial School District and the Colonial Education Association. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Schupack moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to appoint David Szablowski as Board Treasurer effective January 19, 2018. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Schupack moved and Mrs. Peduzzi seconded a motion to appoint David Szablowski as the District's representative to the Tax Collection Committee effective January 19, 2018. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Raimondo moved and Mr. Brodsky seconded a motion to authorize Dr. Christian to sign any and all contracts, grants and/or licenses with the Pennsylvania Department of Education electronically as per enclosure #29. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve a settlement agreement in lieu of a Free Appropriate Public Education that was reviewed in executive session. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Schupack moved and Mrs. Peduzzi seconded a motion for the Board to accept the June 30, 2017 Audit Report. Mr. Szablowski stated that it is a clean audit and accurately reflects the financial position of the District. He added that the report shows the District to be very sound financially and that the 2016-2017 budget results were better than expected. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Raimondo stated that the Board issued a RFP for solicitor services in December and received responses from five firms. They include Fox Rothschild, LLP – Rudolph Clarke, LLC – Sean Kilkenny with Dischell Bartle Dooley, P.C. – Sweet, Stevens, Katz and Williams, LLP – and Wisler Pearlstein, LLP. He noted that firms were asked to fill out a questionnaire as part of the process and each participated in interviews with the same questions and time requirements. Mr. Raimondo stated that all of the firms were more than qualified, the process was comprehensive and the District was fortunate to have such a strong field of candidates.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mr. Schupack seconded a motion to immediately terminate the agreement with Fox Rothschild, LLP effective January 22, 2018 while permitting the firm to complete all pending projects under terms of its current agreement – and to appoint Rudolph Clarke, LLC as District Solicitor effective January 22, 2018 and running through June 30, 2018 based on the fee structure submitted by the firm in its proposal of a \$24,000 annual retainer, \$175 per hour for legal services not covered under the retainer and \$125 per hour for paralegal services.

Mr. Brodsky stated that he found the process to be fair, open and informative. He stated that he sought references from seven superintendents and an IU director. Mr. Brodsky said based on the interviews, the references and personal research he could support three of the candidates but could not support the motion. He added that he felt the three were better qualified and more experienced in education law and hoped that the board would consider them.

Mrs. Peduzzi asked and was informed that she could offer a motion to amend the motion currently on the table and if seconded the new motion would take precedence over the current motion. Mrs. Peduzzi moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to continue the current contract with Fox Rothschild, LLP and then have further discussion regarding solicitor services when the current contract expires.

Mrs. Moore added that in her 16 years on the Board she hasn't heard of anything egregious enough about the solicitor to justify termination of the contract in this manner. She questioned why this route is being taken.

Mr. Raimondo stated that the Board is exercising its right to conduct due diligence over professional services to be certain it has confidence in its representation. He added that a review has not been conducted in a long time. Mrs. Moore again questioned the timing of the move and stated that the review could happen later without terminating a contract.

Mrs. Franklin-Becker stated that the Board has 125 policies that have not been updated in 10 years, 91 that have not been updated in 20 years and 68 that have not been updated in 30 or more years. She added that she would have expected the solicitor to advocate for the updating of policies.

Mrs. Peduzzi noted that the Board has been updating policies and stated it is the role of the Board and administration to do so and has nothing to do with the solicitor. Mr. Brodsky agreed.

Mr. Raimondo agreed but stated that he expects to have guidance from the solicitor and needs to have confidence in the solicitor to guide the process. He said he felt the District needed a fresh approach.

Mrs. Moore asked if the superintendent and cabinet had input into this decision since the solicitor works primarily with them. She noted that the Board doesn't hire anyone without the input of the superintendent and cabinet and felt their input would matter a great deal.

Responding to a question from Mrs. Peduzzi, Mr. Sultanik noted that the role of the solicitor with regard to Board policy is not addressed in the School Code. He added that while solicitor review is important, it is the Board's responsibility to develop policy.

Mrs. Northcutt left the meeting at 8:10 p.m. because of an illness.

Considerable discussion ensued as to whether or not the new recommended solicitor would have to recuse himself from District business with Plymouth Township since the firm also represents the township. Included in the discussion was the added cost of hiring additional attorneys in the event the solicitor needs to recuse himself. It was noted that given the large number of commercial properties in the District the added cost could be significant.

Dr. Christian was asked if he had input into the decision. Dr. Christian stated that he advocated for the process. He added that whatever decision was made with this issue the District needs to move on because many more decisions need to be made. Dr. Christian said that the two firms he worked with in previous school districts did not apply. He stated that he has had positive experiences with Fox Rothschild and Sweet Stevens and can work with anybody.

Mrs. Dow thanked the public for attending the meeting and showing interest. She stated that she felt all of the solicitor candidates were qualified. She added that Rudolph Clarke LLC impressed her with their experience in the areas of technology, intellectual property, social media and cyber bullying. She cited several policies from the firm on those topics that she thought were quite specific and well-written.

Mr. Schupack also thanked the public for attending and encouraged them to continue attending meetings in the future. He said he felt it was time to move in a new direction with regards to the solicitor. He said Rudolph Clarke, LLC was on the cutting edge with regard to current social values and issues and there were advantages to going with a smaller firm.

Mr. Raimondo added that Rudolph Clarke, LCC has several former and current school board members on staff and he views that as a positive.

Mr. Raimondo called for a vote on the overriding motion to continue with Fox Rothschild, LLC. Mr. Brodsky, Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Peduzzi voted in favor. Mrs. Dow, Mrs. Franklin-Becker, Mrs. Finegold, Mr. Raimondo and Mr. Schupack voted against. The motion was defeated, 5-3.

Mr. Raimondo called for a vote on the original motion to appoint Rudolph Clarke, LLC as District solicitor effective January 22, 2018 through June 30, 2018. Mrs. Dow, Mrs. Franklin-Becker, Mrs.

Finegold, Mr. Raimondo and Mr. Schupack voted in favor. Mr. Brodsky, Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Peduzzi voted against. The motion was carried, 5-3.

Mrs. Franklin-Becker moved and Mrs. Peduzzi seconded a motion for the Board to adopt a resolution opposing Senate Bill #2. See enclosure #37. Dr. Christian summarized the bill as providing an education savings account similar to previous voucher bills that remove funding from public education. He added that money follows the students and funds coming into a district for a student may not equal the cost to educate a student in that district. Mr. Schupack asked if the PSBA recommends support of the resolution. Dr. Christian noted that it had and that the resolution has received wide support. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor of the resolution. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Solicitor's Report: No report.

Mrs. Moore wanted Mr. Sultanik to know how much she appreciated working with him and thanked him for the fabulous job he did for the District.

Committee Reports: MCIU: No report.

CMTHS: No report.

Human Resources: No report.

Finance: Mr. Schupack noted that Mr. Szablowski was working on some accounting changes and beginning to start the budget process.

Curriculum: Mrs. Finegold noted there have been two meetings since her last report. She stated that on December 11 the committee reviewed proposals for courses at PWHS. Among them were a course in marine science and one in computational mathematics in Python. Mrs. Finegold added that the committee met on Tuesday of the current week at RP and saw student demonstrations on computer coding and programming.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mrs. Franklin-Becker stated the committee received an update on projects and discussed options for addressing enrollment increases at Colonial Elementary School (CES) and Colonial Middle School (CMS) at its most recent meeting. Mr. Yemm reported on the west gymnasium construction at the high school, stated that the high school lobby should be completed soon and added that the three recent elementary school projects were completed. Mr. Yemm also noted that the District will have new electrical service installed to support the CES and PWHS campus this summer. It was noted that the next committee meeting will take place at the middle school on Feb. 5 to address plans and options to accommodate the expected enrollment increase.

Notes: Mrs. Peduzzi left the meeting at 8:50 p.m. and returned at 8:52 p.m. Mr. Brodsky left the meeting at 8:51 p.m. and returned at 8:53 p.m.

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

Legislative: No Report.

Municipal/Community Liaisons: No report.

Public Comment: Ms. Durante asked and received confirmation that there are no fines or penalties for terminating the solicitor contract early. She added that a good way for Board members to engage the public would be to respond to emails. She commented that this meeting was the first time she heard such discussion and concern over policies and asked Mr. Raimondo to direct her to minutes of meetings where that has been addressed previously. Ms. Durante noted that the Board said "we think" the new solicitor is a better fit and asked if there were previous conversations between Board members

about the issue. Mrs. Finegold stated there have been various conversations among Board members at different times, which is fine as long as a quorum is not present. Ms. Durante also inquired as to reasons other than policies that the Board would not have confidence in the solicitor. Mr. Raimondo stated that there was no need to rehash previous discussions. Ms. Durante asked Mr. Schupack about a transgender case he mentioned that had been appealed all the way to the state Supreme Court and if that was the type of legal wrangling he wanted the District to be involved in. Mr. Schupack said that as a general rule, no, but if it meant advocating for our students and it was the right thing to do he would support it. He said he preferred there to be no need for litigation. Mrs. Durante was at the podium for 4:48.

BG Gangwish of Lafayette Hill stated that her email to District teachers has gone to spam. She asked the best or preferred way to communicate with the Board. Mrs. Peduzzi encouraged her to attend meetings and committee meetings. Mr. Raimondo said the meetings are the first and second Monday of each month beginning at 5 p.m. There was considerable back and forth among Ms. Gangwish, Mrs. Moore and Mr. Schupack about emails. Mrs. Moore stated her emails don't go to spam. Mr. Schupack noted he tries to respond to all emails although some he may forward to an administrator or the Board president for a response. Ms. Gangwish was at the podium for 4:52

Mark Epstein of Plymouth Meeting disputed the Board's opinion that all solicitor candidates were qualified. He also stated that if a policy is a good policy, it doesn't need to be changed. Mr. Epstein questioned what policy the Board was following and encouraged the public to remember what happened this evening. Mr. Epstein spoke for 1:42.

Mr. Daly questioned seeming accusations against the Board that the solicitor decision was driven by campaign financial contributions. He stated that he worked on the grass roots campaign with a lot of people who worked through the political process and, he was not aware of any financing issues by one person. Mr. Daly also noted that he had familiarity with the RFP process and stated it was common for a firm to bring on additional personnel to meet specific needs. An example he cited was if Rudolph Clarke, LLC did not have enough experience in an aspect of education law. Mr. Schupack stated that the firm is experienced in education law and represents two other school districts. He added that the District may also contract with others firms for specific issues similar to the current practice of using Sweet, Stevens for special education matters. Mr. Daly spoke for 1:37.

Chris Epstein of Plymouth Meeting noted that the December Board meeting video received 1,800 hits online. She said change was good but only if it is moving in the right direction. Mrs. Epstein commented on the issue of policies noting that many may not need changing. She expressed disappointment in the Board's decision regarding a solicitor. She stated you get what you pay for and would have preferred a firm with experience in education law rather than civil and union law. She encouraged people to begin attending committee meetings to let their voices be heard. Mrs. Epstein spoke for 4:35.

Mr. Schupack echoed the comment that the community should attend committee meetings and get involved. He added that the majority of the District's employees were union members.

With regards to policies, Mr. Raimondo agreed that not all policies need to be changed but stated that all policies should be reviewed every three to five years. He stated that has not happened.

Mrs. Moore explained that over the past few years cabinet members have been tasked with reviewing policies in their departments and bringing any policies that needed changing quickly to the Board. She noted that with the recent contract with PSBA to review policies, the update and review process will be much more efficient.

Mrs. Saulino commented that she was an attorney, but not in education law. She said she knew nothing about education law and would expect the Board would go to experts in that specialty. She also stated that she didn't understand how the Board could enter into an agreement with a firm

knowing that firm will likely need to recuse itself from issues because of conflicts of interest. She suggested that Board members find out what everyone is supposed to do, establish goals and put plans in place to accomplish them. She said Board members should learn what is expected of them. Mrs. Saulino spoke for 5:07.

PWHS student Felix Raimondo disagreed with earlier comments or suggestions about what a solicitor can or can't do. He also expressed dissatisfaction with the PWHS renovations and hoped the work at CMS and CES would be better. He spoke for 1:04.

Mrs. Peduzzi thanked everyone for their comments. She stated that she thought the dialog was open and respectful. She apologized to Mr. Seltzer, her fellow Board members and anyone who took offense to anything she said. She asked the community to give the Board a chance. She stated the past is in the past and it's time to move forward.

Mr. Brodsky echoed that sentiment and encouraged everyone to get involved and attend committee meetings especially with major decisions needing to be made soon to address the enrollment increase.

Ms. Durante returned to the podium and asked Mrs. Franklin-Becker if she had signed a campaign financial disclosure form that Ms. Durante was holding. After inspecting the form Mrs. Franklin-Becker confirmed it was her signature on the form and added that she may have signed another. Ms. Durante was at the podium for 40 seconds.

There being no other comment or business before the Board, Mr. Raimondo adjourned the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary