

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, MARCH 15, 2018**

President Raimondo convened the General Session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:04 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on March 15, 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; Michael Clarke, Solicitor; Andrew Boegly, Director of Technology; Dr. Liz McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Dr. Leticia Rodríguez, Director of Human Resources; David Szablowski, Business Administrator/Board Treasurer; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Tom Peeler, Audio Visual Technician; Tim McDonald, School Safety Officer; Brandon Cohen and Amanda Nerenberg, Board Student Representatives; Linda Hatch; Juliette Jones; Scott Williams; Amy Williams; Caroline Coffey; Lori Coffey; Tim Coffey; Linda Doll; Donelle Brotz; Thomas Kane; Megan Penrice; Cyndie Slagle; Robert Slagle; Marsha Turner; Chris Epstein; Mark S. Cratin; Caitlin Watson; Beth Miller; Laurel Chapman; MT Sabatino; Dana Coia; Julie Jones; Chris Jones; Tristan Jones; Mary Thiess; Clarence A. Lewis, Jr.; Kristin Hartel; Anne DiSanto; Janette O'Keefe; Lauren Taverna; Nina Pratowski; Donna Sturm; Gary Johnson; Marissa Nerenberg; Jill Forster and Beth Patruno.

Mr. Raimondo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Session Announcements: Mr. Raimondo announced that the Board met in executive session on March 5 to discuss school safety. He noted that the meeting lasted about an hour and a half. He also stated that the Board met in executive session prior to the meeting. Personnel actions, a confidential student placement and a student disciplinary matter were discussed. Mr. Raimondo said that meeting lasted approximately 30 minutes.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Christian introduced Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) track coach Clarence Lewis who recognized junior Tristan Jones, an indoor track state qualifier in the high jump. PWHS Wrestling Coach David Luthy then presented members of his team who had qualified for regional and state championships. They included, Isaac Avelino, Michael Clarkson, Marco DiBattista, Paolo DiSanto, Zach Fisher, David Garcia, Jake Ginesin, Scott Horry, Dylan Moore, Darren Ries, Warren Young and John Zang. Mr. Raimondo expressed appreciation to the students of PWHS who organized an orderly walkout the previous day in support of the National Student Walkout to protest gun violence in schools.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Facilities Management and Transportation (FMT) Committee meeting of February 5; the Curriculum Committee meeting and Community Relations and Student Life/Safety and Wellness Committee meeting of February 12; the General Session of February 15 and the Finance Committee meeting of February 5 as shown in enclosures #1 through #4 and #29.

On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Financial Reports: Mr. Schupack moved and Mrs. Franklin-Becker seconded a motion to approve the financial reports on the list for approval. The reports 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 and the Bond Fund Report shown in enclosures #5 through #15.

On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Northcutt moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month ending February 28, as per enclosure #16.

On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: Linda Doll of Lafayette Hill commented on the Committee Reports. She noted that she had asked a number of questions at the Facilities Committee meeting on March 5 and encouraged the Operations Department staff to answer the questions in the minutes of that meeting. Mrs. Doll spoke for 0:50.

PWHS senior Caroline Coffey noted that since the Parkland, Florida school shooting she has been especially concerned with school security. She recounted an incident of being buzzed into the school through a security door without confirmation of who she was. She noted that she sent email to administrators and received no response. She read the email she sent detailing her concerns over what she felt is a lack of security at the high school. Ms. Coffey spoke for 2:08.

Dr. Christian noted he did not receive an email or would have responded right away. He stated he would be happy to meet with Ms. Coffey after the meeting or tomorrow morning in the high school. He said that her concern is his concern.

Mr. Raimondo expressed appreciation to Ms. Coffey for coming and speaking at the meeting. He said that the Board definitely wants to hear what our young people think.

Staff Report: The Board members and the audience were treated to a performance by several members of the Colonial Middle School orchestra in honor of Music in Our Schools Month.

District Safety Officer Tim McDonald presented an overview of the District safety initiatives, including procedures and applications in place. He shared the Emergency Guide for Parents that details district security measures, drills and relationships with local and county authorities. Dr. Christian also discussed the many mental health supports in place in Colonial, including psychologist and behavioral specialists on staff. Mr. Raimondo thanked Mr. McDonald, Dr. Christian and the District staff for addressing security concerns.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: None.

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 #17 and #18. 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. He added that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List included several spring sports appointments and changes.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mrs. Franklin-Becker 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 noted students' concerns over school safety, both physical safety and emotional safety. She noted the students' participation in the National

School Walkout, the creation of an Anti-Gun Violence Club, and the Unity Walk. She added that students want more security measures and are willing to meet with administrators and the Board. Mr. Raimondo commended Mr. Cohen on his early acceptance to the University of Pennsylvania.

New Business: Mrs. Finegold moved and Mrs. Franklin-Becker seconded a motion to approve the administration's proposal for the 2018 Extended School Year (ESY) Program. See enclosure #19.

On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Northcutt moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to retroactively approve a PWHS students' participation in the Pennsylvania Track and Field Coaches Association Indoor Championships in State College from February 24-25 (see enclosure #20), members of the PWHS swim team participating in the PIAA Swimming Championships at Bucknell University from March 15-17 (see enclosure #21) and a PWHS wrestler's participation in the PIAA State Championships in Hershey from March 7-10 (see enclosure #22).

On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Dow moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve revisions to Board Policy #808.1 – School Lunch/Breakfast Program on a first-read basis. See enclosure #30. Mr. Schupack noted that the policy revisions were necessitated by a new state law that prohibits the shaming of students for not paying lunch balances. Specifically removed from the policy was a provision prohibiting students from walking at graduation.

On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Finegold moved and Mrs. Peduzzi seconded a motion to approve the 2018-2019 Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Member Services Budget. Noted was the District's contribution to the budget of \$82,806 which represents a slight increase from the previous year.

On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Northcutt moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to revise the 2017-2018 school calendar to designate August 29-31, 2017; November 7, 2017 and February 16, 2018 as Act 80 days. Dr. Christian explained that the Department of Education allows for Act 80 days to count towards the mandatory minimum of 180 student days. He stated that Act 80 days can include teacher in-service days, days used for developing and writing curriculum, days for parent-teacher conferences and more. He noted that the District still plans to meet the required minimum of 180 student days and exceed the mandatory minimum of 990 hours of instruction.

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 approve a Board resolution on gun violence prevention and student safety. Mr. Schupack noted that through the resolution the Board was adding its voice to that of the District's students. He added that there are things the Board does not have the authority to control but it's important to advocate for change and urge those who have the power to enact change. He read the resolution. See enclosure #31. Mr. Brodsky stated that all Board members have and/or have had children in schools and all members agree that there is nothing more important than the safety of the students. Mr. Raimondo reiterated Mr. Schupack's message that the Board and community need to get the message to the legislators that it is time to take action on this issue.

On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Clarke stated that he had no report. He apologized for not being in attendance at the last meeting as he was under the weather. He reiterated Mr. Amuso's message from the previous meeting that his firm is looking forward to working with the School Board.

Committee Reports: MCIU: No report.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky stated that Assistant Director Seth Schram laid out some initiatives to stimulate student interest. He added that plans for construction of a greenhouse were approved and Dr. Angela King will begin in May as the new assistant director. Mr. Raimondo added that the tech school is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and will host a community day on April 28.

Human Resources: No report.

Finance: Mr. Schupack stated that despite some projected increase in the state budget the District is still heavily reliant on local revenues. He noted that the administration is heavily involved in the budget preparation process.

Curriculum: Mrs. Finegold stated that the committee met on March 12. She reported that the committee viewed a presentation on science and engineering practices being taught in the fourth and fifth grades that effectively engage students in thinking freely and offering explanations for their conclusions. Mrs. Finegold also stated that the committee was presented with plans for summer programming.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mrs. Franklin-Becker reported on plans to upgrade the varsity softball field, a timeline for the RFP for architectural services for the CMS project and a number of Food Service Department initiatives including school menus on Alexa, the introduction of the new elementary mascot Walter Melon and the CHOW program.

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

Legislative: Mrs. Franklin-Becker reported on a February 21 meeting of the county legislative committee. Among discussion items was the potential impact of proposed charter school legislation, Senate Bill #2.

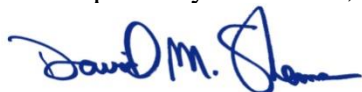
Municipal/Community Liaisons: Mr. Schupack noted that Whitemarsh Township Day will be hosted by the District this year on Victory Fields on Saturday, April 28.

Policy: Mrs. Dow noted that the committee met on March 12 and reviewed and approved the food service policy and the gun violence and student safety resolution that were acted on earlier in the meeting.

Public Comment: Mrs. Doll of Lafayette Hill stated that she had attended the Policy Committee meeting earlier in the month. She noted that since the Board will be reviewing all policies, she urged them to create and approve a policy regarding transparency of campaign donations and gifts received by Board members and follow Governor Wolf's leadership as displayed by approval of the Pay-to-Play law. Mrs. Doll spoke for 1:59.

There being no other comment or business before the Board, Mr. Raimondo adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary