

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017**

Vice President Suchsland 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 19, 2017.

Board Members Present: Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Leslie Finegold, Gary Johnson, Kathleen Oxberry, Cathy Peduzzi and Beth Suchsland.

Board Members Absent: Susan Moore and Felix Raimondo.

Also Attending: Dr. Michael L. Christian, Superintendent of Schools; Shannon Pierce, 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; Brandon Cohen and Alicia Khatchadourian, Board Student Representatives; Eunice Franklin-Becker; Brian Dougherty; Chrissie Sullivan; Karen Abruzzo; Marsha Turner; Dana Olszewski; Joe Abruzzo; Greg Stokes; John Carroll; Rosemary Northcutt; Robert Slagle; Mary Thiess; Beth L. Miller; Bob Himmelreich; Wendy Davis; Terry Golebiewski; Chris Epstein and students receiving awards, their families and friends.

Mrs. Suchsland led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Session Announcements: Mrs. Suchsland announced that the Board met in executive session on September 11 and noted that details could be found in the minutes of the Human Resources and Finance Committee minutes found in the agenda. She also noted that the Board met in executive session immediately prior to the meeting to discuss actions on the Personnel Report and confidential student matters related to a Free and Public Education (FAPE). She said the meeting last about one hour.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Christian stated that the Colonial Chapter of the Technology Students Association (TSA) performed well at the national competition this summer. He introduced Clint Rickert, Colonial Middle School (CMS) teacher and TSA advisor, who detailed the students' achievements and presented them to the Board. See enclosure A for a complete list of students honored.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Suchsland asked Board members to consider the minutes of the General Meeting of August 17; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee meetings of July 27 and August 29 and the Human Resources Committee and the Finance Committee meetings of September 11. See enclosures #1 through #4 and #33.

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

Financial Reports: Mrs. Suchsland directed the Board to act on the financial reports on the list for approval. They included 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 #5 through #15.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Finegold 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: Eunice Franklin-Becker of Plymouth Meeting thanked the Board for recognizing the TSA students. She stated that it was unfortunate that the Board meeting was scheduled on the same night as Back to School Nights at Plymouth Elementary School and Conshohocken Elementary School. She also encouraged Board members to table the meal charging Policy #801.1 under consideration. She stated that the policy was not clear as to whether or not middle school and high school students would be fed if their accounts are in arrears.

Dana Olszewski of Conshohocken questioned how Policy #707 will affect local clubs and programs in the coming year. Dr. Christian explained that the policy revisions clarified classifications for determining priority for facilities usage. He noted that there are multiple criteria including group size, percentage of participation by community residents and historical use. He stated that the intent of the policy was to ensure that taxpayers were able to use the facilities they pay for and not to exclude anyone. Ms. Olszewski noted that a local soccer group lost time to Chestnut Hill College. Dr. Christian explained that the agreement with Chestnut Hill College was separate from this policy. He noted that Chestnut Hill is paying to resurface the artificial turf field and is in effect renting the field. He added that the college has priority at a certain time of day. It was noted, though, that the District maintains control of the other three fields at Victory Fields.

Bob Himmelreich of the Plymouth Jr ABA noted that the organization has existed for 63 years and sought reassurance that Policy #707 would not jeopardize the club's use of District gyms. Dr. Christian again stated that the intent of the policy was not to exclude anyone from using the facility.

Joe Abruzzo of Plymouth Meeting expressed concern that none of the local groups were informed of the policy change prior to the meeting. Mrs. Suchsland explained that the policy was discussed at two publicly advertised committee meetings and is included in the agenda. Dr. Christian stated that Mr. Yemm would make copies available to anyone who wanted a copy. He also suggested that Mr. Yemm schedule a meeting with representatives of the community groups that use the facilities. Dr. Christian further clarified for Mr. Abruzzo that decisions for awarding usage are District decisions based upon criteria set forth in the policy and the recommendation of the Facilities Department.

Greg Stokes of Lafayette Hill thanked the District for its work on the Policy and stated that it was positive that District residents will continue to have the opportunity to use the school facilities.

Staff Report: Dr. Christian introduced Mrs. Berk who provided a summary of the Extended School Year program. Mrs. Berk explained that the goal was to provide an instructional program beyond the regular school year for students based upon their IEP and for those students to maintain specific skills learned during the school year. She reported that 71 students took part in the 18-day program. Fifty of the students were in grades K-5 and 21 were in grades 6-12. Mrs Berk said that the majority of students were successful in maintaining their skill levels.

Correspondence: Mrs. Finegold stated that Board acceptance is requested of a \$3,500 grant from the Quaker Chemical Foundation to support the Girls in Technology summer program. See enclosure #16.

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

Mrs. Suchsland noted that Board action is requested to accept a \$2,500 grant from No Kid Hungry/Share Our Strength to help increase breakfast participation among students. Acceptance is also requested of a \$250 scholarship from Project Pennsylvania to cover the costs for two food service staff members to attend a two-day culinary training session. See enclosure #17.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to accept the grant and scholarship funds. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Christian noted that items in his report are included in the Personnel Report (see enclosure #18) and on the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List (see enclosure #19). 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. 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: Mr. Cohen stated that the renovated high school classrooms look great, and students like the new air conditioning. He also stated that the administrative offices were more conveniently located, and it was easier to move around the building. He also reported on new clubs, \$1,200 raised by the Micro Finance Club, student tour guides for Foundation Day and the first Senior Class Florida trip meeting.

New Business: Mrs. Peduzzi asked Board members to consider several student trip requests. First the PWS cheerleaders seek to attend competitions in Burlington, N.J. on November 11 and in Toms River, N.J. on November 12. See enclosure #20. Also, the PWS Yearbook and Newspaper Club wish to attend the Columbia University Publications Seminar in New York City on November 6. See enclosure #21.

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

Mrs. Suchsland sought Board action on revisions to Board Policy #707 – Use of Facilities on a second-read basis. See enclosure #22. Mrs. Peduzzi thanked the administration for its work on refining the policy.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Peduzzi seconded a motion to approve the policy on a second-read basis. On a roll call vote, all but Mr. Brady voted in favor. The motion was carried, 6-1.

Mrs. Suchsland directed Board members to act on revisions to Policy # 808.1 – School Lunch/Breakfast Program – Charged Meal on a second-read basis. See enclosure #23.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the policy. Considerable discussion ensued. Mrs. Peduzzi referred to page two of the policy and questioned the thresholds established for accounts to be considered delinquent. Other suggestions included clarifying that students whose accounts are in arrears will still be provided a basic lunch. A suggestion was made to table the policy.

Mrs. Peduzzi moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to table Policy #808.1. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mrs. Suchsland asked Board members to consider two bid recommendations in one motion. The first is a consortium fuel bid coordinated by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU). See enclosure #24. The second is for cleaning and paper supplies for the Food Services Department for the current school year. See enclosure #25.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Peduzzi seconded a motion to approve the bid recommendations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mrs. Finegold sought Board action on four agreements in lieu of FAPE. She noted the agreements were discussed in executive session.

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

Mrs. Suchsland directed the Board to act on a list of recommended school bus drivers employed by First Student and Sague Bus Company for the current school year. See enclosure #27. Mrs. Suchsland noted that the item is taken out of order on the agenda.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Peduzzi seconded a motion to approve the list of drivers. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mrs. Finegold asked Board members to act on the renewal of a contract with The Timothy School at a tuition rate of \$71,000 per student for the current school year. See enclosure #26. Responding to questions from the Board, Mrs. Berk explained that three students currently attend the school, which is an approved private school for students on the Autism spectrum.

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

Mrs. Finegold sought Board action on a request for PWHS Library Media Specialist Sara Frey to attend the Pennsylvania Library Association conference in Pittsburgh on October 16.

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

Solicitor's Report: No report.

Committee Reports: MCIU: Mrs. Finegold stated that the IU Board met on August 23 at its offices in Norristown. Among action taken by the board, she highlighted a number of STEAM related professional development agreements and consortium bids conducted by the IU.

CMTHS: Mr. Brodsky reported that enrollment at the Cental Montco Technical High School (CMTHS) is up by more than 100 students. He stated that the CMTHS enrollment is the highest it has been in over 15 years. He noted that there are 38 tuition paying students from school districts outside of the attendance area. Mr. Brodsky also stated that the CMTHS Distinguished Alumni Organization has selected three former students to honor. He said all three work in the medical profession, and all three are PWHS graduates.

Human Resources: No report.

Finance: Mr. Jackson reported that the Act I index for the next budget cycle is 2.4%.

Curriculum: Mrs. Finegold stated that the committee saw a presentation on new initiatives, including GAIN which provides focused remediation for all students and an aquaponics project at CMS.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mrs. Suchsland noted that a ribbon cutting ceremony for the high school will be held on Oct. 7. Mr. Yemm noted that the front entrance of the building will be operational by mid-October but that the main lobby will not be finished until later in the fall. Also noted were the openings of the classroom additions at Ridge Park Elementary School and Plymouth Elementary School and the demolition of the west gymnasium at PWHS.

Community Relations and Student Life/Safety and Wellness: Mrs. Peduzzi stated that Colonial Foundation Day is Oct. 7 from noon until 6 p.m. at PWHS. She encouraged the public to make use of the District website and visit the Foundation's Facebook page. She also noted that the first Community Coffee hour is scheduled for Oct. 24 at 9:30 a.m.

Legislative: Mrs. Peduzzi reported that the state does not yet have a revenue plan to pay for its budget. She added that the District can operate without state funding and encouraged community members to continue advocating for local control of public schools.

Municipal/Community Liaisons: Mrs. Peduzzi stated that the District will staff at table at the Conshohocken Funfest on September 23.

Public Comment: None.

There being no other comment or business before the Board, Mrs. Suchsland adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary

Technology Student Association national place winners

Dhruv Agarwal
Sean Beausoleil
Cayce Becker
Victoria Brach
Evan Chan
George Clark
Pat Corpus
Thomas Demianovich
Giancarlo Donnini
Caitlin Dougherty
Allie Fergus
Jocelyn Freed
Luke Gaumer
Scott Horry
Caroline Kay
Abby Minecci
Karen Minecci
Nolen Morasco
Blake Rosen
Casey Sharpe
Kevin Shi
Will Stanczak
Dean Suchsland
Arya Venkat