

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462  
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, OCTOBER 17, 2017**

President Moore convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:01 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on October 17, 2017.

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

**Board Members Absent:** None.

**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. Leticia Rodríguez, Director of Human Resources; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Tom Peeler, Audio Visual Technician; Lori McCoy, Director of Food Services; Brandon Cohen and Amanda Nerenberg, Board Student Representatives; Eunice Franklin-Becker; Diane Crocco; Linda Gatch; Lauren Fuhrmeister; Kezia Jemison; Robert Slagle; Rosemary Northcutt; Marsha Turner; Chris Epstein and students receiving awards, their families and friends.

Mrs. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Executive Session Announcements:** Mrs. Moore announced that the Board met in executive session for approximately 30 minutes on October 2 to discuss a confidential personnel matter. She also noted that the Board met in executive session immediately prior to the meeting to discuss actions on the Personnel Report. She said the meeting lasted about one hour.

**Recognition/Awards:** Dr. Christian introduced Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Principal Dr. Jason Bacani who presented National Merit Scholars and Advanced Placement Scholars to the Board for recognition. See Attachment A for a complete list of students honored.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Moore sought Board action on the minutes of the Community Relations and Student Life/Safety and Wellness Committee meeting of September 18; the General Meeting of September 19 and the Finance Committee meeting of October 2. See enclosures #1 through #3.

Mr. Brodsky moved and Mrs. Peduzzi 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 directed the Board to act on 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 #4 through #15.

Mr. Raimondo 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, 9-0.

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

**Staff Report:** Dr. Christian introduced Mrs. McCoy who presented a PowerPoint of National School Lunch Week activities and other initiatives in the Food Services Department.

**Old Business:** None.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Christian noted that his report includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List (see enclosure #16) and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List (see enclosure #17). 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. Oxberry moved and Mr. Brodsky 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:** Mr. Cohen noted the opening of the front entrance to the high school and Foundation Day activities. Ms. Nerenberg stated that members of the Feminist Club attended the Pennsylvania Conference of Women and heard Michelle Obama speak. The students also reported on fall sports teams and the National Honor Society Induction.

**New Business:** Mrs. Peduzzi stated that Board members are asked to consider an opening date for the 2018-2019 school year. Dr. Christian stated that it is the administration's recommendation to begin the year after Labor Day on Tuesday, September 4.

Mrs. Peduzzi moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to establish Tuesday, September 4 as the first day of school for the 2018-2019 school calendar. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Raimondo asked the Board to act on an administrative recommendation to approve a 2018-2019 Act I Opt Out Resolution. See enclosure #18. He noted that the resolution indicates that the Board will not raise taxes above the established Act I index which has been set at 2.4 percent for fiscal year 2018-2019. Mr. Brodsky clarified that the Board is not voting to increase taxes 2.4 percent, but rather establishing 2.4 percent as the ceiling for any possible tax increase.

Mr. Raimondo moved and Mrs. Finegold seconded a motion to approve the 2018-2019 Act 1 Opt Out Resolution. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Finegold sought Board action on four professional conference requests. The first is for PWHS Art Teacher Candy Maggioncalda to attend the Pennsylvania Art Education Association Conference in Pittsburgh from October 19-21. See enclosure #19. The second is for PWHS World Language Teacher Rich Madel to attend and present at the American Council of Teaching of Foreign Languages Conference in Nashville, Tenn. from November 16-18. See enclosure #20. The third is for PWHS Library Media Specialist Sara Frey to attend and present at the American Libraries Association Conference in Louisville, Ky. on November 3. See enclosure #21. The fourth is for PWHS Business Teacher Nancy Labricciosa to attend the Jumpstart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy in Washington, DC on November 3. See enclosure #22.

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

Mrs. Peduzzi asked Board members to consider changes to Policy #220 – Student Wellness on a first-read basis. See enclosure #23. Mrs. Peduzzi thanked Mrs. McCoy for her work on updating the policy.

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

Mrs. Peduzzi asked Board members to consider the addition of Board Policy 808.1 – School Lunch/Breakfast Program on a first-read basis. See enclosure #24. Mrs. Oxberry inquired if recommended changes were made to the policy. Dr. Christian confirmed that wording clarifying that secondary students will receive a basic lunch if their account is in arrears was added.

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

Mrs. Peduzzi sought Board approval of an outdoor advertising contract with John Kennedy Subaru. See enclosure #25.

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

Mr. Raimondo asked Board members to act on a list of contracted bus drivers employed by First Student and Philly Trans for the current school year. See enclosure #26.

Mr. Raimondo 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, 9-0.

Mr. Raimondo sought Board action on the appointment of Benefits Manager Colleen Techtmann as Colonial School District Management Trustee on the Bucks and Montgomery County Schools Health Care Consortium effective October 9.

Mr. Raimondo moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve Ms. Techtmann's appointment to the health care consortium. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Raimondo asked the Board to act on a request to appoint Mark Digian as Interim Board Treasurer effective October 23.

Mr. Raimondo moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Digian Interim Board Treasurer effective October 23. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

**Solicitor's Report:** No report.

**Committee Reports:** MCIU: Mrs. Finegold stated that the IU Board met on September 27 at its offices in Norristown. She highlighted the refinancing of the IU's 2012 Bond Series that was used to purchase and renovate the Norristown facility. She noted the refinancing is expected to save the IU \$300,000. Mrs. Finegold also commented on professional development for Google Suite and the expanding Pre-K Program.

CMTHS: No report.

Human Resources: No report.

Finance: Mr. Raimondo recounted the October 2 meeting. He highlighted the ongoing annual local audit. Mr. Raimondo also thanked Mr. Jackson for his service and noted that Mr. Jackson will be moving on from the District.

Curriculum: Mrs. Finegold stated that the committee heard a comprehensive report on the District's 2016-2017 academic performance, including PSSA, Keystone, ACT and SAT test scores. She stated that the scores were impressive and well above the county and state averages.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mrs. Suchsland noted that the high school entrance was open. She commented on all of the renovation projects that were completed in the past six months, at Ridge Park Elementary School, Plymouth Elementary School, Whitmarsh Elementary School and the high school and thanked Mr. Yemm and his staff for all of their good work in a short amount of

time. She also commented on the ongoing work with the baseball field and west gymnasium at the high school.

Community Relations and Student Life/Safety and Wellness: Mrs. Peduzzi commented on Foundation Day and commended Denise Marks and Kim Newell for their work in making the day a success. She also stated that the first Colonial Community Coffee Hour will be held on October 25 at 9:30 a.m. Mrs. Peduzzi said that the next committee meeting will be on November 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Legislative: Mrs. Peduzzi reported that there has been no progress on a revenue plan to pay for the state budget. She reminded every one of the local elections on November 7 and commented on a ballot question that would amend the state constitution to allow local agencies to give a homestead/farmstead exemption of up to 100 percent of a property's assessed value.

Municipal/Community Liaisons: No report.

**Public Comment:** None.

There being no other comment or business before the Board, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary

National Merit Scholar Semifinalist  
Justin Hong

National Merit Commended Scholars  
Alexandria Dippolito  
Nikolas Elvins  
Zachary Fisher  
Savanna Goldstein  
Anya Popko  
Christopher Ward  
Sara Yuter

AP Scholars with Honor  
Brandon Cohen  
Sam Cohen  
Meghan Ely  
Savanna Goldstein  
Ryan Heaton  
Eric Jordahl  
Amanda Nerenberg  
Thomas Weinstein.

AP Scholars  
Gozzal Berdimuratova  
Joshua Berger  
Shreya Bhutani  
Mollie Blum  
Alexandria Dippolito  
Nikolas Elvins  
Maddy Fair  
Steven Fandozzi  
Jessica Freels  
Alyssa Green  
Robert Gutman  
Joshua Joffe  
Ari Kaganovsky  
Sanya Kunicki  
Michelle McGrath  
Bridget McTamney  
Erin Moore  
Brian Paul  
Anya Popko  
Jake Tassoni  
Christopher Ward  
Remi Weinstein.