

Community Relations and Student Life /Safety and Wellness Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors, February 12, 2018

The Community Relations and Student Life/Safety and Wellness (CRSL/SW) Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, February 12, 2018 in Plymouth Elementary School Library.

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. by Committee Member Jennifer Dow. Also present were committee member Cathy Peduzzi; School Board President Felix Raimondo; School Board Vice President Leslie Finegold; School Board members Mel Brodsky, Eunice Franklin-Becker, Susan Moore and Adam Schupack; Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Christian; Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Karen Berk; Community Relations Coordinator/School Board Secretary David M. Sherman; Assistant Public Relations Coordinator Kim Newell and Linda Doll.

There was no public comment on the agenda.

Mrs. Berk explained Colonial Understands Special Education (CUSP). She noted that there were two to three public presentations last year to highlight various aspects of the District's Special Education Program. She noted that CUSP is a way of formalizing the program this year. Mrs. Berk stated that the first presentation will be an information session and overview of IDEA on March 22 at 7 p.m. She said CUSP provides an opportunity to share important special education information with the public.

Mrs. Berk shared a draft of revisions to Policy #916 – Volunteers. She noted that the policy is being updated to reflect current practice which is in line with legislative updates. It was noted that the draft was being provided for information purposes only. The policy will be presented to the Board for an official first read at the March business meeting and a second read at the April business meeting. Responding to a question from Mrs. Peduzzi, Dr. Christian explained that the update at this time was prompted in part by parent questions. There was also discussion about revising the facility usage policy to include a check box to indicate an understanding of child protective services laws by supervisors of outside groups.

The committee was informed that four students trips reviewed at the January committee meeting will be on the Board agenda for approval this month. Additional trips for Board approval reviewed by the committee included trips by the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) indoor guard for competitions in New Jersey, Technology Student Association students taking part in state and national competitions, PWHS students traveling to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and seventh grade students visiting the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J.

Members were updated on the status of the senior citizen luncheon and matinee performances of the high school spring musical. There was discussion about the temporary seating being constructed for the event. Dr. Christian noted that the District will have an independent third party review the construction for structural safety and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Ms. Newell provided an update on work to make the District website ADA compliant. She noted information needs to be keyboard accessible so that individuals may access it without a mouse. Additionally all images must include alternative text. Alternate text describes the contents of a photo to those who cannot see. She also said the current video player on the web does not have captions associated with the video so the District is switching its videos to YouTube, which automatically places captions on all videos. Mr. Raimondo asked about advertising that is associated with YouTube. The administration said it would research and provide an answer. Ms. Newell stated that, at the moment, website compliance with the ADA is a self-audit practice.

There being no further business or comment, Mrs. Dow adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Sherman
Community Relations Coordinator
School Board Secretary