

## **Community Relations and Student Life /Safety and Wellness Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors, January 16, 2018**

The Community Relations and Student Life/Safety and Wellness (CRSL/SW) Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 in a Ridge Park Elementary School Classroom.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Committee Chair Rosemary Northcutt. 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; Director of Operations Terry Yemm; Director of Food Services Lori McCoy; Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) students Sarah Forchielli and Kaley Ryder; Linda Doll and Chris Epstein.

There was no public comment on the agenda.

Mr. Yemm presented a PowerPoint on a proposal for creating an Athletic Hall of Fame in the lobby of the new gymnasium at PWHS. He referenced an Athletic Hall of Fame at Upper Dublin High School and a digital display at Wissahickon High School. The digital display also included information about teachers and alumni in the military. Mr. Yemm sought direction from the committee to begin planning a digital Athletic Hall of Fame for PWHS and noted there would be a demonstration of a potential product for those who wished to view it. Considerable discussion ensued with a number of questions posed. Mr. Yemm was asked about the cost of the hardware and software to display and run the information as well as the durability and expected life of the equipment. Members questioned how an Athletic Hall of Fame would affect the Distinguished Graduates Organization (DGO) which has an athletics category. (**Note:** The DGO was established in 1986 and has inducted 132 alumni in the categories of Academics, Arts, Athletics, Business, Humanities and Public Service. Eighteen [18] alumni have been inducted in the athletics category, three of whom were professional athletes and three of whom were Olympic athletes.) Committee members suggested including the DGO in the digital display and having kiosk locations throughout the school in addition to the gymnasium lobby. Mr. Yemm was advised to continue planning for the project.

Mrs. McCoy discussed the formation of a Wellness Committee mandated by Board Policy #220 – Student Wellness that was approved in November. She identified individuals who have agreed to serve on the committee and indicated she was still seeking participation from a District physical education teacher. Mrs. McCoy described the duties of the committee and noted it would report to the Board's CRSL/SW Committee. She explained that all school districts that participate in the National School Lunch Program must have a Wellness Committee.

Mrs. McCoy also reported that the District's lunch menus are compatible with the online Google Assistant Alexa.

Mrs. McCoy updated committee members on the implementation of the digital scanning of students at the lunch serving line at Plymouth Elementary School. She noted that only a couple of parents decided to opt their children out of the program. Dr. Christian stated that the District would gather information from a larger sample size before recommending expansion of the program.

Dr. Christian reported that student ticket prices for athletic events have been reduced by 50 percent to \$2 per ticket. He indicated the administration will have a family ticket package option in place for the next school year.

The committee was informed that student art will be the theme of the 2018-2019 District Activities Calendar. Art teachers will discern the best way to represent art from the District's seven schools.

Committee members were apprised that the administration will begin promoting Kindergarten registration this month. Among the outreach planned is a targeted mailing to District households that include four to six year-olds; communication with area preschools, daycare centers, community centers and doctors' offices; use of signage at schools, Miles Park and the Plymouth Meeting Mall; and the District website, social media and email.

The committee reviewed a number of student trip requests including:

- PWHS Band members participating in PMEA District, Region and State festivals
- PWHS Indoor Track Teams participating in two meets in New York
- The PWHS wrestling team participating in a tournament in Maryland
- PWHS UNICEF Club members participating in a UNICEF Student Summit in Washington, DC
- PWHS FBLA Club members participating in their state conference in Hershey
- The Colonial Middle School Oceanography Club traveling to Wallops Island, Va.
- PWHS DECA Club members participating in their state conference in Hershey

Dr. Christian noted that the Pennsylvania School Boards Association representative who will be reviewing the District's policies will be on site on January 22. He also noted training for BoardDocs is scheduled for February.

Committee members were provided an update on the District's two annual senior citizen events. The District welcomed approximately 350 guests to the winter concert and luncheon and invitations have been sent for the March spring matinee and lunch. It was noted that seating for the matinee is limited to 200. As a result, seniors will chose to attend the one-hour show beginning at 11 a.m. or the one-hour show beginning at 2 p.m. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. Given the reduced number of seats, seniors have also been given the option to just attend lunch. A concern was raised about handicapped access to the limited temporary seating. The administration will research the issue.

The committee was provided an update on fundraising activities by the Colonial School District Education Foundation (CSDEF). Since July, the CSDEF has received \$20,000 in annual fund gifts, a \$10,000 grant from Morgan Stanley, a \$5,000 gift from Waste Management under the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program, \$2,000 for advertisements on the gymnasium video boards and more than \$1,500 in raffle ticket sales. The Foundation has also received Firstrust Bank's initial payment for the signage at the new baseball field. Additionally, the CSDEF plans to run its "Feel the Love Campaign" again this winter and has preliminary plans to hold its second Foundation Day on September 29, 2018.

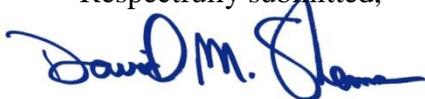
Committee members were informed of plans for a winter community newsletter as a way to provide more timely information to the larger Colonial community.

Plans to feature the Arts in STEAM at the January 30 Colonial Community Coffee Hour were provided, as was a brief update on the District's work to make its website compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. A detailed update and demonstration will be provided at the next meeting.

Mrs. Peduzzi broached the subject of the Board formally opposing PA Senate Bill #2 which allows the use of educational savings accounts for students in underperforming schools to attend the school of their choice.

There being no further business or comment, Mrs. Northcutt adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Community Relations Coordinator  
School Board Secretary