

Colonial School District
District Operations
Facilities Management/Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes
1/6/2010

Committee Chair Bernie Brady called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM.

Other Committee Members Present: Sue Moore, Alan Tabachnick

Other Board Members Present: Kathy Oxberry

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. Maryellen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Terry R. Yemm, Director of Operations; Tom Davis, Community Resident

Public Comment on the Agenda: None

Information was provided regarding the length of a bus run for students requiring alternative education. The District is investigating the ability to decrease the length of time of the run as a few students are on the bus for more than 1-1/2 hours. The length of time for the run has increased from September to the present time as a result of an increase in the number of students being transported to the schools. The amount of students on this specific run has increased from four (4) students in September to seventeen (17) students in the month of December. If additional students are added to this bus run the District may have to add an additional bus in order to maintain acceptable run times.

The Committee reviewed information for the replacement of the exhaust systems for two back-up electric generators. The generators are located at the Colonial Elementary School (CES) and the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS). In both cases the mufflers and related piping will be replaced and the exhaust piping will be installed so that the outlet is a minimum of three (3) feet above the roof line per applicable codes.

Information was provided on technological equipment being considered for the General Meeting Room at CES. The equipment includes one stationary wall mounted camera, a character generator and listening devices that can be used by anyone with hearing impairment. The equipment and installation will be included with the bond funding for the CES renovation project.

Mr. Yemm provided information on the installation of lightning protection required for the football stadium at PWHS. In the month of November the light pole located in the southwest corner of the stadium was struck with lightning. The lightning strike caused substantial damage to the field lighting controller, field lights and ballasts, scoreboard and equipment in the press box. The repairs were made in November and the District filed a claim with our insurance provider. The equipment being installed will increase

the ability to protect our equipment from potential damage caused by lightning strikes in the future.

A property restoration agreement between the District and Whitemarsh Township was provided for Committee consideration. The Township will use the driveway and adjoining piece of land at the Facilities Management Center as the construction entrance for the McCarthy Park Detention Basin project. The agreement provides that the Township is obligated to restore the District property to the same condition it is/was prior to the start of the construction project. The Committee requested that additional language be added specifying that the District has the ultimate right to determine the acceptance of the property at the end of the project. Based upon acceptable language the Committee will recommend that the agreement be approved by the Board on Wednesday January 13, 2010.

The Committee viewed a video of flood conditions created by the storm event that occurred on December 9, 2009. Approximately two inches of rain fell in the Whitemarsh area over a six (6) hour period of time during the morning hours of December 9th. The video provided a view of the conditions at the Joshua Knoll detention basin, the woods and open field in McCarthy Park, the connection of Fairway Drive and the walking path and the Victory Fields detention basin. The video provided that the flooding that occurred at the bike path at Fairway Road was caused by water flowing from the Joshua Knoll detention basin and McCarthy Park. At the time of the flooding on Fairway Road the Victory Fields detention basin was performing as designed and contained well over three million gallons of water. The water detained in the Victory Fields detention basin was metered out of the basin over a four day period following the storm event.

Mr. Yemm provided an update on information previously provided to the Committee on a program designed to test the radon levels in our schools. Several years ago our School District made the decision to partner with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with a program called "Tools for Schools." The "Tools for Schools" program provides our District with information, guidelines and specific recommendations regarding indoor air quality. During the month of December the testing procedure was completed in all K-3 schools. Colonial Middle School and Colonial Elementary School are being tested this week and the testing will be completed in the PWHS by the end of January. The results of the testing process will be provided to the Committee once received from the EPA.

The Facilities Management Department is continuing to remove the old televisions from the K-3 schools. All televisions were removed from the Plymouth Elementary School in the end of December and the televisions will be removed from the Ridge Park Elementary School by the end of January. This same process will continue at the Conshohocken and Whitemarsh Elementary Schools once the removal process is completed at Ridge Park. As is the case with all of the televisions removed from the Colonial Elementary School and approved by the School Board, the old equipment will be donated to Team Children.

Mr. Yemm provided an update on the approval process for the proposed installation of the athletic field lighting planned for Victory Fields. On Wednesday June 3, 2009, the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) of Whitemarsh Township voted in favor of our request for a special exception to the zoning ordinance to allow the installation of athletic field lighting on Victory Fields #1 and #3. Based on testimony presented at the hearing and the request for conditions by the BOS, the ZHB did recommend that certain conditions be included with the recommendation. The most significant condition was the request for the installation of a permanent restroom facility for the Victory Fields complex. Accordingly, the District will now move forward with attempting to obtain the necessary approvals and permits to install the lights. An application for land development was submitted to Whitemarsh Township in late July. The District appeared in front of the Whitemarsh Township Planning Commission (WTPC) in early October. The WTPC reviewed the project and did not make any recommendation requesting that the District consider alternate locations for a proposed comfort station. An alternate location was reviewed by the Committee. The District will move forward with the approval process and attempt to get on the agenda of the WTPC as soon as possible.

Additional Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

There being no further business before the committee, Mr. Brady adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Yemm
Director of Operations