

Colonial School District
District Operations
Facilities Management/Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes
7/2/2009

Committee Chair Sue Moore called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM.

Other Committee Members Present: Kelly Jowett

Other Board Members Present: Gary Johnson, Tom Davis

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

Public Comment on the Agenda: None

An update was provided on a traffic concern that exists at the Whitemarsh Elementary School. The line of parents waiting to pick up the children at the end of the school day backs up onto Joshua Road. The back-up of cars blocks the shoulder of Joshua Road from the school entrance extending south to Third Avenue and beyond. The problem presents a safety concern for cars exiting Third Avenue and could prohibit the ability for emergency equipment to safely pass through the area in the event of an emergency. The District has been working with the Whitemarsh Township Police Department and has monitored this concern over the last few months in an effort to determine a resolution. To date efforts have been successful in improving the traffic flow but no resolution has been determined to eliminate or lessen the concern with student pick-up. Mr. Yemm provided a drawing that included an additional exit lane along with a revised configuration for parents to use for pick-up and drop-off of the students. The revised plan will utilize the existing parking lot for stacking of cars while waiting for pick-up or drop-off. The intent is to utilize enough space in the existing parking so that there will be no need for cars to use the shoulder of Joshua Road. This plan will be discussed with the Traffic Safety Unit and Engineer of Whitemarsh Township on July 9, 2009. Based upon the outcome of the meeting plans may be made to move forward with gaining the necessary approvals for the construction of the exit lane.

Details of the status of the development of the farmhouse at 548 Flourtown Road were provided for Committee review. As of June 1, 2009 the farmhouse became the property of the District as a result of the legal/financial agreement between the Whitemarsh Foundation, Montgomery County and the previous owner of the Angus tract on the Erdenheim Farm. Any/all plans that the District has for the farmhouse must be approved by a review committee. The committee is comprised of representatives from the Whitemarsh Foundation, Montgomery County, Whitemarsh Township and the District. A tentative meeting for the review committee is scheduled for July 29, 2009. The District has already taken steps to improve the appearance of the property and will continue to provide maintenance as required.

The Committee reviewed a request from the Montgomery County Health Department (MCHD) to host the 3rd annual Children's Safety Fair in the spring of 2010. The MCHD will provide interactive displays on weather safety, school bus safety, self-defense, sun, bike and pedestrian safety, fireworks safety and a search and rescue dog demonstration. The preferred venue is the Colonial Elementary School. The event is scheduled for April 10, 2010 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Mr. Yemm provided an update on the approval process for the proposed installation of the athletic field lighting planned for Victory Fields. On Tuesday May 26, 2009, the Planning Commission of Whitmarsh 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. On Thursday May 28, 2009, the Board of Supervisors BOS heard our case and did not take a position in favor of or against the request. Rather the BOS opted to send their solicitor to the Zoning Hearing scheduled for June 3rd to present some conditions that they would like the Zoning Hearing Board to consider while making their decision on our request. On Wednesday June 3, 2009, the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) of Whitmarsh 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 recommendation, including the conditions, was received in mid June. The conditions have been discussed and agreed to by the Committee. Accordingly, the District will now move forward with attempting to obtain the necessary approvals and permits to install the lights.

Details of a preliminary feasibility study for the replacement of the curtain wall on the east wing of the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School were reviewed by the Committee. The existing curtain wall is approximately fifty (50) years old and is in bad need of replacement. The goal is to coordinate the replacement of the curtain wall with the installation of the desiccant cooling system as the improved insulation qualities will have a dramatic impact on the efficiency of the cooling system.

Additional Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

There being no further business before the committee, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:02 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Yemm
Director of Operations