

Colonial School District
District Operations
Facilities Management/Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes
9/2/2009

Committee Chair Sue Moore called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM.

Other Committee Members Present: Kelly Jowett

Other Board Members Present: Gary Johnson, Mitch Zimmer

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. Maryellen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Terry R. Yemm, Director of Operations; Christy Sfida, Ashwood Lane Resident; Scott Porter, Ashwood Lane Resident; Vince Gillen; Joe Gale

Public Comment on the Agenda: None

The Committee reviewed a request for a new bus stop from several residents that reside on Ashwood Lane. The request is to locate a stop on the corner of Ashwood Lane and Jolly Road. The current bus stop for students residing on Ashwood Lane is at the corner of Princeton and Jolly Road. The basis of the request is one of a safety concern. In response to the request the Safety Officer will investigate the existing stops in an around the area and the Transportation Department will explore the feasibility of rerouting the bus run. Based on the results of the investigation and the information provided by the Transportation Department a decision will be made on the request for the new stop.

Information was provided about a program called E-Link. E-Link is a component of the Versatrans transportation software program that is currently used by the Transportation Department for bus routing. The program provides the ability for parents to obtain information about their children's bus transportation including the location of the bus stop, time for pick-up and drop-off, bus number, etc. This information would be accessible via a web site and would be password protected so that the information would only be available to the recipient of the password or the recipient's designee. The E-Link program will be reviewed by the Transportation Department. If the program is deemed beneficial for District use it will be presented to the Committee and a decision will be made regarding the potential implementation of the program for next September.

The Committee reviewed a document containing information about the performance of the Victory Fields detention basin during the August 2nd storm event. The document, containing specific engineering details, pictures of the basin and a high water mark survey, was provided to the Supervisors and Township Manager of Whitemarsh Township. The information was provided to the Township in an effort to ensure that the Township had accurate information about the performance of the basin before during and after the storm of August 2nd.

An update was provided on the traffic concerns at the Whitemarsh Elementary School. Several initiatives were put in place during the summer months in an effort to improve the flow of traffic and eliminate or minimize the congestion in the parking lot and entrance drive. The initiative included a revised schedule for specific classes that allows seven (7) buses to drop off students in the morning and pick-up students in the afternoon twenty (20) minutes ahead of the normal schedule. In addition, the students being picked up by parents will be released from the school seven (7) minutes earlier than last year and the bus riders will be released after the cars have cleared from the parking lot. The initiatives put in place resulted in a substantial improvement in clearing the congestion and improving traffic flow for the first two days of school. The real test will be after September 8, 2009. That is the date that the kindergarten students begin school. The District will continue to monitor the situation throughout the year.

A sample of the revised flip charts was presented to the Committee for review. The flip charts were revised over the last year by a committee comprised of members of District Administration, teachers and members of local law enforcement departments. The flip charts will be installed in each classroom and office in each school over the next few weeks.

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. A schedule for appearances in front of the various entities, required for approval, is expected in the near future.

The Committee was informed about damage to the Colonial Stadium athletic field lighting and public address systems. The light pole, located in the southwest corner of the stadium, was struck by lightning during the weekend of August 21, 2009. The lighting controller and the amplifier for the public address system were damaged beyond repair. The cost for repair is approximately \$20,000. The District's insurance policy will cover the cost of the repairs.

Updates were provided on the status of various construction projects;

- The underground fuel tank was removed at the Conshohocken Elementary School during the week of July 20, 2009. The new tank was installed on Friday July 31, 2009. The soil excavated from the tank area was sent out for testing to determine if it was contaminated with fuel. The initial tests on the soil did not show any signs of contamination. In addition, it was

determined that the existing tank base pad was able to be used to secure the new tank saving the District \$6,000. The project was completed in the middle of August.

- The District solicitor is working on the necessary steps to secure an easement on a property on Schoolhouse Lane adjacent to the detention basin on the west side of PW field #7. The outlet pipe of the detention basin is located in the backyard of the property. The District will be required to bury this pipe underground and extend the outlet to the street. Once the easement is finalized the District will be able to proceed with gaining final approvals and permits for the construction of the proposed baseball field behind the Colonial Elementary School.
- The demolition of the boilers and domestic water system equipment is complete at the Colonial Middle School. The results of environmental testing required the removal of bulk materials used to insulate the old boilers. Once the material was removed the boilers were demolished and removed from the property. The installation of the new boilers and domestic water system equipment will be completed prior to the heating season this fall.
- The security cameras have been replaced at the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School and the Colonial Elementary School. The contractor is in the process of installing the cameras at the Colonial Middle School.(CMS) Once completed at CMS the contractor will install cameras at each of the K-3 schools. The project should be completed by the beginning of October.

Additional Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

There being no further business before the committee, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Yemm
Director of Operations