

Colonial School District
District Operations
Facilities Management/Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes
9/30/2009

Committee Chair Sue Moore called the meeting to order at 8:18 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; Jodi Sadel, Mike Sadel, Monticello Lane; Wendy Kurtz, Monticello Lane; Allyson Nerenberg, Jeffrey Nerenberg, Monticello Lane; Michelle Barrack, Monticello Lane; Joni Westawski, Monticello Lane

Public Comment on the Agenda: None

The Committee reviewed a request for a relocation of a bus stop from several residents that reside on Monticello Lane. The request is to relocate the existing stop to Monticello Lane. The current bus stop for students residing on Monticello Lane is at the corner of Monticello and Butler Pike. The basis of the request is one of a safety concern. After a thorough review and detailed discussion the Committee agreed to a modification of the original request.

The Committee was informed about an award that the District was selected to receive for the tree revitalization project completed on the PW/CES campus last spring. The award, titled the 2009 PHS Community Greening Award, is presented by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. (PHS) The award will be presented to the District during a ceremony to be held at the PHS headquarters on November 8, 2009. Additionally, the District has been approved for Phase II of the tree vitalize project.

A letter from BusRadio was presented to the Committee. The letter detailed a decision by Bus Radio to close its doors on September 28, 2009. The radio equipment installed on the buses will become the property of the District. The IT department will explore the possibility of using the existing equipment to the benefit of the District.

The Committee reviewed an aerial view of the Colonial Middle School Campus. The review was initiated in an effort to address concerns with parking. On any given day there is a shortage of parking spaces. The Facilities Management Department will explore the possibilities for expanding the existing parking lot in order to provide enough spaces for all staff and visitors. Options for expansion will be presented to the Committee at a future meeting.

Information was provided regarding the need to increase the amount of cooling required for the server room located in the PWHS. A substantial portion of the servers used for the technological needs of the District are housed in this room. The temperature in the room must be conditioned and kept at approximately 70 degrees in order for the equipment to operate properly. If the temperature rises above 80 degrees the equipment shuts down and the District loses all technology controlled from that server room. The room is currently cooled with eight (8) tons of cooling. As a result of the amount of equipment that has been added to the room in the last few years the cooling requirement is now in excess of ten (10) tons of cooling. Accordingly, the Facilities Management Department is investigating the costs associated with increasing the cooling to a minimum of ten (10) tons. Additionally, they are exploring the ability to install a back-up system to maintain temperatures in the event the main system malfunctions.

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 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 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 Whitmarsh Township in late July. On September 17, 2009 the District received a review letter for the project from the Waetzman Planning Group. (WPC) The review of the project by the WPC is one of the steps required by the townships land development process. The recommendation of the WPC is that the project is consistent with the lighting ordinance requirements and intent. Several clarifications that are requested will be provided with the final submission.

Updates were provided on the status of various construction projects;

- 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 Whitmarsh High School and the Colonial Elementary School. The contractor has finalized the installation of the cameras at the Colonial Middle School. (CMS) as well as the installations at the Conshohocken, Plymouth, Ridge Park and Whitmarsh Elementary Schools. The project is essentially complete and certain District Administrators are now receiving training helping us to maximize the use of the camera system.

Additional Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

There being no further business before the committee, Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:16 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Yemm
Director of Operations