

Colonial School District
District Operations
Safety and Wellness Committee
Meeting Minutes
5/12/10

Committee Chair Ms. Kathleen Oxberry called the meeting to order at 8:46 AM

Other Committee Members Present: Bernie Brady, Mitch Zimmer, Alan Tabachnick

Other Board Members Present: Sue Moore, Beth Suchsland, Gary Johnson

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. Maryellen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Terry R. Yemm, Director of Operations; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services; Paul Antal, District Safety Officer; Sergeant Fran Wheatley, Whitemarsh Township Police Department; Detective Sergeant Jim Cotter, Whitemarsh Township Police Department; Tom Davis, Community Resident

Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

Pictures of recently installed directional signage were provided for Committee review. The signs are located at the corner of Colonial Drive and Flourtown Road and at the "T" intersection where the drive for the parking lot behind PW exits onto Colonial Drive. The signs provide an alternate route to the Blue Route and PA. Turnpike. The intent is to limit the amount of people using Germantown Pike by directing them to use Flourtown Road as an alternate.

A copy of a Traffic Impact Study was provided for Committee review. The Study was a requirement of the final approval for the Victory Fields athletic field lighting project. The basis for the Study was discussed at a meeting with Whitemarsh Township on April 22, 2010. The meeting was attended by the Whitemarsh Township Engineer, members of the Whitemarsh Township Police Department and representatives of the District. The purpose of the Study was to identify possible impacts on traffic resulting from the addition of lighting on Victory Fields # 1 and # 3. The conclusion of the Study was that "The proposed lighting on Victory Fields will not increase peak period traffic or trip rates to and from Victory Fields."

The District is exploring the potential benefit of the use of a portable electronic sign designed to provide information for large scale events. Whitemarsh Township currently uses a portable electronic sign for events held in the Township. Sergeant Wheatley provided that the Township has been pleased with the benefit provided by the use of the sign. Mr. Yemm told the Committee that the District will attempt to make arrangements to borrow the sign from the Township for use at one of our large events. Based on the results of the use of the sign there may be a recommendation to purchase a sign for the District that can be used at all of our schools.

At the April Parent Council meeting, a request was made to consider installing a flashing yellow light at the crosswalk located at the corner of Mayflower Drive and Germantown Pike. Mr. Antal discussed the request with the Traffic Unit (TU) of the Whitemarsh Township Police Department. The TU provided that, as Germantown Pike is a state highway, any request of this nature must be reviewed and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The TU also pointed out that there are 15 MPH Speed Zone Lights that notify drivers of the crosswalk. The TU did contact Penn Dot and requested additional signage to be placed at this crosswalk. The signage would be for both directions on Germantown Pike. The signs (yellow with black outline) consist of the outline of a pedestrian with an arrow pointing to the crosswalk. The current pedestrian warning devices would be moved back approximately 300' from each side of the crosswalk.

Mr. Yemm presented information regarding the number of American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible parking spaces at each of our schools. The number of accessible spaces, in relation to the total count of spaces, is determined by a formula provided in the 2006 International Building Code. (IBC) A review of the total parking space and accessible space counts provided that all schools, with the exception of Ridge Park and Plymouth Elementary Schools, are in compliance with the IBC. There are two accessible spaces at both schools and, although there has never been a problem reported regarding the spaces, the Facilities Management Department converted existing parking spaces to accessible spaces at each school. The District is in compliance with all applicable codes regarding accessible spaces.

Ms. Berk provided an update on procedures for the control and prevention of pediculosis (lice) at our schools. In addition to the update, the Committee reviewed information regarding specific prevention measures for the classroom, a copy of a parent newsletter from our nursing staff and web site information that provides facts about head lice.

Sergeant Wheatley provided information on a program called S.A.F.E. Coalition (Student Awareness Forum and Education). The program is a Plymouth Whitemarsh Germantown Academy Student Coalition. Sergeant Wheatley explained that the Whitemarsh Township Police Department is in the early stages of developing a community coalition to aid in the prevention of destructive decision making among area students. The program aims to create a partnership between students at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School and Germantown Academy in which an honest discussion about the prevalence of student destructive decision making in the community, and the consequences of such actions may take place. In addition to creating this partnership, and facilitating a better community based approach to addressing the problem of student destructive decision making, the coalition would partner with the Whitemarsh Township Police Department who would provide support to the students. The coalition's goals would include creating a community based dialogue about the problem of student destructive decision making and its consequences, creating programming and literature for area students, developing a mentoring program between high school and middle school students where student concerns about destructive decision making can be addressed in a safe environment, and

reaching out to local businesses and officials to disseminate information about the problem of student destructive decision making in the community.

There being no further business before the committee, Ms. Oxberry adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Yemm
Director of Operations