

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462**  
**GENERAL SESSION MINUTES, AUGUST 19, 2010**

President Johnson convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:02 p.m. in the District Office General Meeting Room on August 19, 2010.

**Board Members Present:** Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Gary Johnson, Susan Moore, Kathleen Oxberry, Tom Sigafos, Beth Suchsland and Mitch Zimmer.

**Board Members Absent:** Alan Tabachnick.

**Also Attending:** Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer; Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; Richard Hartz, Director of Human Resources; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Mary Thiess and Robert Franz.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on August 11 and August 16. He also stated that the Board will meet in executive session following this meeting.

**Minutes:** Mr. Johnson asked Board members to act on the minutes of the General Meeting of July 15; the Human Resources Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee of August 4; the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of August 5; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of August 6 and the Curriculum Committee of August 16. See enclosures #1 through #5 and #33.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Financial Reports:** Mr. Johnson sought Board action on the financial reports on the list for approval. They include the Bond Fund Report, the Capital Projects Report, the General Fund/Federal Program Bills, the Capital Reserve Fund, the Food Service Bills/Cafeteria Report, the Outstanding Investment Report, the Cash Flow Summary, the Comparison of Taxes Collected, the Real Estate Tax Escrow Report, the Trust Fund Report, the Reconciliation of Cash Accounts, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending July 31. See enclosures #6 through #17.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Public Comments on the Agenda:** Mr. Franz inquired as to the nature of services provided by the Crefeld School and Wyncote academy referenced in regards to special education service agreements. Mrs. Berk explained that the schools were approved private school for students with learning differences.

**Staff Report:** Dr. Cotter presented the District Goals for the 2010-2011 school year. See enclosure #18. He noted that the goals encompass the areas of student achievement, systemic reform, high school reform and fiscal responsibility. He noted that administrators were also working on a variety of sub goals. Dr. Cotter stated that best practices, differentiated instruction and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills were the focus within student achievement. He reported that curriculum rigor, world languages, counseling, continued technology integration and a second generation of PW PrEP initiatives by new high school principal Heather Nuneviller were among the areas of emphasis within systemic reform and high school reform. Dr. Cotter also said that the projected tax index for the 2011-2012 budget year is between 0.9 percent and 1.4 percent, which projects into a difficult budget year that will demand a focus on fiscal responsibility.

**Old Business:** Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider the Acceptable Use Policy #815 on a second-read basis. See enclosure #19.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to approve the policy on a second-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson noted that the Memorial Recognition policy was tabled on Monday evening. He asked Mr. Brady to include the policy on the next Facilities Management and Transportation Committee agenda.

**Correspondence:** Mr. Johnson sought action on a request from Conshohocken Elementary School (CE) Principal Denise Marks for Board approval of a donation from ASTM to sponsor field trips to the Riverbend Environmental Center. See enclosure #21.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the donation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Cotter stated that his report includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list, the Adult Evening School Fall Class List and the Enrollment Report. See enclosures #22 through #25. He stated that the Personnel Report includes a blue page listing the appointment of three instructional aides. He also noted that 10 additional actions, in addition to the 26 he detailed on Monday evening, are included in the yellow pages. Dr. Cotter stated that a department liaison position was added to the fall sports and club positions listed on the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list. He said that the Adult Evening School Fall Class List includes 55 self-sustaining classes and the names of the teachers who are offering those classes. Dr. Cotter noted that enrollment is trending as predicted with class sizes ranging from 16-23 in most grades. He stated that class size in the high school varies depending on the course offered.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**New Business:** Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider two transportation contracts in one motion. The first contract is with St. Joseph's Preparatory School at a rate of \$7.24 per student per day. See enclosure #26. Mr. Johnson noted that the rate for the 2009-2010 school year was \$7.03 per student per day. The second contract is an agreement to reimburse a parent \$.50 per mile or the established IRS rate for each day the parent transports the pupil to school. See enclosure #27.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the transportation contracts. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a request to authorize a list of vendors resulting from a collective bidding process for milk, dairy, juices, ice cream and paper related products. See enclosure #28.

Mr. Sigafoos moved and Mrs. Suchsland seconded a motion to approve the vendor list. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider extending the approved vendor list for the District's 457 Salary Deferral Plan. See enclosure #29. Mr. Bickleman explained that this action will add eight vendors to the 457 plan vendor list so that it mirrors the list of vendors on the District 403B Plan.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Oxberry seconded a motion to extend the 457 Plan vendor list. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to act on two special education service agreements in one motion. The first is with the Crefeld School for tuition for a student not to exceed \$12,450 in the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years. The second is with Wyncote Academy for tuition for one student not to exceed \$27,800 in the 2010-2011 school year.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the special education service agreements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Solicitor's Report:** Mr. Sultanik sought Board action on two real estate settlement stipulations that were discussed in executive session. He noted that the stipulations detail assessment reductions for parcel #65-00-08758-00-6 and parcel #65-00-08785-00-6.

Mrs. Suchsland moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a nomination to approve the real estate settlement stipulations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Sultanik also sought Board approval to authorize 2011 assessment appeals on three parcels, #05-00-11848-20-7, #65-00-04573-00-6 and #49-00-04509-0203, based upon recent resale prices of those properties.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the assessment appeals. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Committee Reports:** Intermediate Unit: No report.

CMTHS: No report.

Human Resources: No report.

Finance: Mrs. Oxberry summarized the Finance Committee meeting minutes found in enclosure #3. She highlighted a reduction in the District's share of the cost of the Central Montco Technical High School 2010-2011 budget; a reduction in the mandated employer rate for the PSERS contribution from 8.22 percent to 5.64 percent; the current estimate for the Act 1 index for the 2011-2012 budget year; the amendment to the 457 Plan vendor list; the establishment of a District PayPal account and the county's Act 32 Tax Collection Committee.

Curriculum and Program: Dr. Gorodetzer reviewed the committee minutes found in enclosure #33. She touched on summer programs and noted positive student performance data from those programs, changes to the high school guidance caseload, AYP results, the financial literacy curriculum, school improvement awards, a review of world languages, the new teacher induction program and a reduction of \$28,000 in Federal Title III Program funding.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Brady reported that all summer construction projects are proceeding nicely and the lights on Victory Fields were installed today.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mr. Zimmer reviewed the committee minutes which can be found in enclosure #4. He also noted that the District is looking forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday, August 30.

Safety and Wellness: No report.

Legislative: No report.

Municipal Liaisons: No report.

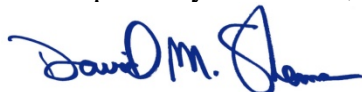
Mr. Johnson wished Mr. Sigafos well in his new position and thanked him for his service to the School District.

**Public Comment:** Mr. Franz sought and received clarification as to two of the properties mentioned in the solicitor's report. He also reiterated his suggestion that the District charge a fee for student participation in sports and extra curricular activities. He estimated that the District spends \$2 million on sports and activities but receives no contribution from the students. He suggested a fee of \$100 per student with a reasonable cap on families with multiple children.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board will accept applications for Mr. Sigafos' seat until noon on Wednesday, September 15. He reported that the Board will interview prospective candidates beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 20.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary