

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, FEBRUARY 16, 1999**

President Kessler convened the February Work Session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:44 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on February 16, 1999.

Board Members Present: Stuart Kessler, Marc Orlow, Beverly Brown, Robert Carroll, Rich Connolly, Gary Johnson, Robert O'Neill, and Jack Pinheiro.

Board Members Absent: Thomas Yunker.

Also Attending: Dr. Stanley Durtan, Superintendent; Dr. Ann Stormes, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; James M. Bell, Director of Support Services/Board Secretary; Joseph Bickleman, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer; R. Scott Klinger, Director of Personnel; Fred Shipman, Director of Pupil Services; Frank O'Hara, Solicitor; Patricia Iannelli, Curriculum Coordinator; Charles Forster, Director of Activities at the high school; Carol Cohen, CEA; Sam Tuzza, Gilbane; Fred Citron; Tom Davis, Colonial Foundation for Educational Innovation; Allan Dovberg; A. J. DauleRio; Dr. Hugh Lipshutz; Michael Macaninch; Dr. Darilyn Moyer; and Amy Stohner.

Mr. Kessler led the Pledge of Allegiance. He apologized for the late start of the meeting and advised that the Board had met in executive session from 7:30 p.m. until just prior to the work session to consider personnel and legal matters.

Mr. Kessler directed Board attention to the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of 11/11/98, the Community Relations Committee Meetings of 01/06/99 and 01/13/99, the Finance Committee Meeting of 01/13/99, the Work Session of 01/18/99, the Curriculum Committee Meeting of 01/21/99, the General Meeting of 01/21/99, the Personnel Committee Meeting of 01/25/99, and the Curriculum Committee Meeting of 02/04/99, as shown in Enclosures #1 through #9. Mr. Bell reported that summaries of the Community Relations Committee and Legislative Committee reports had not been included in the minutes of the General Meeting of 01/21/99. He indicated that corrections to the minutes would be available to the Board at Thursday's general meeting as yellow pages.

Financial Reports: Mr. Kessler referred board members to the Budget Transfers Reports of 02/99; the Bond Fund, Capital Project and Capital Reserve Fund Reports for the month ending 01/31/99; Food Service Bills/Cafeteria Reports of 10/31/98, 11/30/98 and 12/31/98; Outstanding Investment Reports, Cash Flow Summaries, Comparisons of Taxes Collected, Real Estate Tax Escrow Reports, and Reconciliation of Cash Accounts for the month ending 01/31/99; the Budget Analysis of 02/08/99; and the Treasurer's Report for the months ending 01/31/99, as shown in

Enclosures #10 through #20. Mr. Orlow asked for and received an explanation from Mr. Bickleman on monies due the General Fund from a technology purchase and the Whitemarsh Township Land Development Escrow PLGIT Account Balance. The former represented a reimbursement for a purchase made in lieu of a lease. The latter is the interest-bearing escrow account that was required by the township but is refundable to the district with interest when the construction of the high school annex is complete.

Staff Report: Mr. Kessler recognized Mr. Tuzza of Gilbane, the district's Construction Manager for the construction of the high school science annex. Mr. Tuzza reported on the progress to date on the addition, as outlined in his written report added to these minutes as Attachment #1. Board members asked questions about the re-routing of the pipes for the sprinkler system in the annex, the mock-ups of the brick façade of the annex, and the timing of work on the storm water retention basin between the soccer fields and residential properties along School House Lane. Mr. Tuzza indicated that the architect was rerouting the water lines to address township code concerns, that the brick mock-ups were to assist in matching the façade of the annex with that of the main building, and that work on the retention basin was scheduled to begin on 03/15/99. He also advised that the township and architect were reviewing the number of sprinklers necessary to protect the building at a designated hazard level and that a new brick mock-up was planned. Board members asked a number of questions about change orders and received assurances that they were being handled within the parameters set by the Board as outlined in its contract with Gilbane. The Board asked that the Buildings & Grounds Committee advise it of change orders even if they were approved under the guidelines. In response to a Board query, Mr. Tuzza reviewed the process by which the construction manager and the architect cooperated to process payment requests for construction work completed. Mr. Bickleman confirmed that the Board was approving the payments through their action to approve the payment of bills on the monthly bills list.

Mr. Forster, Director of Activities at the high school, presented information to the Board on the use of the stadium field by outside groups. He reported that there were approximately 28 contests on the field each fall, including 16 for high school and middle school programs and 12 for Catholic high schools. He then presented a brief history of the condition of the field last summer and fall, noting the dry weather conditions, the ineffective irrigation system available to the district, and a failure to control weeds. Mr. Bell confirmed the basic points made by Mr. Forster and provided some details on the district's attempts to maintain the fields under the conditions noted. He cited the inadequate irrigation as the primary obstacle to maintaining a well-groomed field. Mr. Forster explained some of the benefits of the district making its field available to outside schools. He noted in particular the goodwill it generated in the community and the additional revenue in brought to the district for field maintenance. In response to Board queries, Mr. Bell confirmed that the fees probably covered the routine maintenance required by outside use but

did not provide funds for the district's planned upgrade of its irrigation system. Several Board members spoke in favor of making the fields available for outside use but felt that rental organizations should participate in the full cost of maintaining the field, including any irrigation costs.

Mr. Forster addressed Board and community concern about and interest in a girls soccer program. He reviewed the history of interest in the community for such a program and cited the lack of appropriate fields as the major obstacle to establishing such a program in the near future. He noted that the district would require access to a field six days a week and that flexibility in field use was essential as the team adjusted schedules to cope with inclement weather and the like. He noted that Plymouth Township fields were not available to outside teams and that the main field at the Parks and Recreation Center would be closed to all play in the spring for field restoration work. He reported that neither Whitemarsh Township nor Conshohocken Borough had facilities available for district use. He also provided information on how high school athletic events were scheduled and noted that the league had established basic schedules for the 1999-2000 school year last fall. When asked how soon he would require notice of field availability to do any kind of girls soccer program in the year 2000, Mr. Forster responded that he would need notice that night. Mr. Forster suggested that a coed ninth grade team could be established in 1999-2000 in anticipation for an independent girls' team the following year. He also noted that there were advocates for adding additional sports programs to those already available at the high school, including boys lacrosse and ice hockey. He indicated, however, that in order to meet Title IX parameters the next addition to the list of district-sponsored sports teams should be a girls' sport.

NOTE: Recognizing that discussions earlier in the meeting had taken up much of the Board's meeting time for the night and that board members had no major issues of old business, correspondence or the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Kessler delayed discussions of these items until the general meeting the following Thursday.

Old Business: None discussed during the meeting. However, a charter school application and bids for energy conservation were on the agenda for the general business meeting the following Thursday.

Correspondence: None discussed during the meeting. However, there were three items of correspondence on the agenda as Enclosures #22 through #24 for the general meeting the following Thursday.

Superintendent's Report: None discussed during the meeting. However, the superintendent had three sets of personnel actions, listed as Enclosures #25 through #27 on the agenda for the general meeting the following Thursday.

New Business: Mr. Kessler recognized Ms. Iannelli who presented the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Kindergarten Enrichment Program. She walked the

Board the process for arriving at a recommendation on a provider for the kindergarten enrichment program at district elementary schools for the next three school years. She advised the Board that the committee had met seven times and had conducted a survey of those families with children in the program and learned that stability in staffing was a major concern. Ms. Iannelli reported that and RFP had been sent to three potential vendors and that two had responded. Members of the committee analyzed the responses placing heavy emphasis on the three of the most important issues for the district and for parents with children participating in the program: program location, program quality and staff quality and stability. Based on their analysis, committee members unanimously recommended that Montgomery County Early Learning Centers be appointed to provide the before school, after school and half day enrichment programs in the district from 07/01/99 to 06/30/2002. Dr. Durtan advised that the committee's recommendation on the vendor would be presented for Board action at its meeting of February 18, 1999 and that a final contract would be negotiated and presented for Board approval in April. See Enclosure #28.

Mr. Kessler postponed discussion of the remaining items of new business until the general meeting the following Thursday. These items included a student trip request to a regional band competition, participation in and funding for the summer arts consortium, a comprehensive assessment plan, and approval of 1999 bond issue bids, as outlined in Enclosures # 29 through #32, and a reimbursement resolution.

Solicitor's Report: None. Proposed settlements of tax appeals would be presented for Board consideration at Thursday's general meeting.

Committee Reports: None. Mr. Carroll read a press release urging residents of Plymouth Township to support a new ZIP code for the township.

Public Comment: Mr. Dovberg suggested a revision to the language used on page #2665 of the enclosed minutes to reflect more accurately the intent of his comments at an earlier Board meeting. Mr. Bell indicated that he would make the necessary changes. Mr. Dovberg asked if Enclosure #32 would be included in the agenda for the meeting on Thursday and learned that it would. He expressed his agreement with Mr. Connolly's point that it would be important to take the time to make the right decision on a girls soccer program and not to make the decision in haste. Mr. Dovberg reminded the Board and the community that the Technology 2000 Expo was coming up on March 13th, that 20 of 21 local school districts would be represented and that there would be 42 exhibits. He noted that members of the community would be honored, urged local support for the event and thanked Dr. Durtan for his support.

Dr. Moyer commented that Ms. Iannelli had put a huge behind-the-scenes effort into the Ad Hoc Committee on the Kindergarten Enrichment Program and thanked her for her effort.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Kessler adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

**James M. Bell
Board Secretary**