

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 19, 2002**

President Orlow convened the general meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:00 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on September 19, 2002.

Board Members Present: Marc Orlow, Thomas Davis, Gary Johnson, Susan Moore, William Ryan, Steven Slutsky and Thomas Yunker.

Board Members Absent: Lynn Glodek and Hugh Lipshutz.

Also Attending: Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Patricia Iannelli, Director of Research, Assessment and Technology; Gerald Berger, Director of Human Resources; Fred Shipman, Director of Pupil Services; James M. Bell, Director of Support Services/Board Secretary; and Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer; Colleen Dougherty and Stephanie Cousounis, Board Student Representatives; Bob Slagle, CEA President; Lise Hask and Michelle Mowad.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Mr. Orlow requested Board action on the minutes of the General Meeting of 08/15/02, the Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting of 08/20/02, and the Special Meeting of 08/28/02, as shown in Enclosures #1 through #3. Mr. Bell reported that the minutes had been amended since Monday evening to reflect suggestions from Mr. Yunker. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Yunker seconded a motion to approve the minutes, as amended. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Financial Reports: Mr. Orlow asked for Board action on the financial reports that were listed as Enclosures #4 through #17. They included the Bond Fund Report and Capital Projects Report for the month ending 08/31/02; General Fund and Program Bills; the Capital Reserve Fund Report, Food Services Report, Outstanding Investment Report, Cash Flow Summary, Comparison of Taxes Collected, Real Estate Escrow Report and Reconciliation of Cash Accounts for the month ending 08/31/02; the Budget Analyses of 09/02; the Accounts Payable Accrual List and the Contracted and Hourly Payroll Accrual Lists for 06/30/02, and Treasurer's Report for the month ending 08/31/02. Mr. Bickleman reported that one additional bill had been added to the Bond Fund Report. Mr. Davis moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None

Staff Report: Mr. Orlow noted that board members had discussed the District Program Goals for 2002-03 extensively on Monday evening. See Enclosure #31. Mr. Davis asked if there had been any change in the timelines listed in the document. Dr. Gorodetzger indicated that they were coming. (Note: The changes had been included in the yellow pages circulated to the Board that evening.) Ms. Moore moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the goals. On a roll call vote, all except Mr. Yunker voted in favor. Mr. Yunker voted in opposition. The motion was carried.

Old Business: Mr. Orlow reported that the Board had also discussed the Strategic Plan at some length on Monday evening. See Enclosure #18. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the plan. On a roll call vote, all except Mr. Yunker voted in favor. Mr. Yunker voted in opposition. The motion was carried.

Correspondence: None.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter recapped his report from Monday evening and highlighted changes to the report since then. Mr. Yunker asked if there was a vacant executive secretary position in the Curriculum Department. Mr. Berger reported that the position had been filled and confirmed that the move of a current secretary into that position had created a vacancy in the Technology Department. Mr. Orlow asked Dr. Cotter to comment on the effect that filling the planetarium position would have on the science program. Dr. Cotter reported that the planetarium had been under-utilized in recent years and that filling the new slot would give children in the middle school and in the district's other schools an opportunity for a more hands-on learning experience in this area. Dr. Cotter also highlighted changes made since the preceding Monday in the extra-duty, extra-pay list. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Yunker seconded a motion to approve the superintendent's report as contained in Enclosures #19 through #21. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Board Student Representatives Report: Ms. Dougherty welcomed Mr. Yates and Acting Principal of the high school and extended best wishes to Ms. Campbell, the principal on leave. She recapped a number of activities including the 9th grade orientation, class pictures, the issuance of student badges, open house, two fall theater productions, and the senior class assembly of the spring trip. Ms. Cousounis reported on the fall sports season, the 9th grade class elections, the summer reading assessment, the Student Forum at Abington High School, class rings, fundraisers and band activities. Mr. Orlow asked the representatives about the poll on moving graduation off site. Ms. Dougherty expressed mixed feelings about the proposal and reported that most students favored staying on campus. The Board expressed interest in additional input. Dr. Cotter suggested forming a committee to take a field trip to the Villanova site prior to making a decision.

New Business: Mr. Orlow asked for additional Board reaction to the proposed revision of Board Policy #217, Diploma Policy, in Enclosure #22. Dr. Cotter stated that an update had been provided in yellow pages that evening. He also reiterated his position that other sections of the policy needed a close look but required additional interaction with building administrators before proposed changes could be offered. He asked for Board action on the awarding of diplomas to World War II veterans as authorized in House Bill #217. Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the revision. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow requested Board action on two bids that were contained in Enclosures #23 and #24 on the Thursday agenda. Mr. Bell reported that the earlier bids for the public address system had come in at \$52,250.00 and \$55,665.00. He confirmed that the boiler repairs should be completed by mid-October. Mr. Johnson noted that having the boilers down did not affect the supply of hot water to rest rooms, lockers rooms or other areas of the building. Mr. Yunker moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to award the boiler bid to Mechanical Piping Corporation in the amount of \$128,300.00 and the public address systems bid to Intellicom Systems Inc. in the amount of \$46,014.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow directed the attention of board members to a request for approval of a Spanish exchange program. Dr. Cotter summarized the trip as outlined in Enclosure #32. He noted that the students would miss two instructional days in the first semester and seven in the second semester. He also reported that the district would handle the trip as it had handled those in the previous school year and base final travel decisions after speaking with parents and students and considering conditions around the world. Mr. Yunker expressed concern about the days that the students would miss and asked that the students be required to complete all first semester work and exams before the trip. Mr. Orlow asked about potential credit denial because of lost time. Dr. Cotter assured him that there would be no credit denial because the trip would be an approved school activity. He also followed up on a note of concern from Mr. Yunker and assured the Board that only students with good grades and attendance records would be permitted to take the trip. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the trip. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Sultanik recommended that the board accept a proposed settlement of tax assessment appeal on property owned by Highway Materials Inc. He briefly outlined the parameters of the proposed settlement as outlined in correspondence from the solicitor's office. Mr. Davis moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the settlement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: No report.

CMCAVTS: Mr. Johnson reported that the Joint Operating Committee was continuing to discuss the renovations at the Center for Technical Studies and funding for them. He indicated that there was as yet no formal agreement on the issues. Mr. Yunker explained the ongoing discussions on how to fund capital needs. He noted that the center's operating budget was funded by the three sending districts based on enrollment and that the articles of agreement call for capital funding based on property values. He noted that the use of either formula would produce approximately the same cost for Colonial School District but that the impact on the two other districts would be very different based on which funding option was used. Mr. Yunker advised the Board that the center would eventually need to get the Board's opinion on the issues.

Personnel: No report.

Finance: Mr. Slutsky noted that the district continued to monitor potential savings involved in refinancing its 2000 bond issue. Mr. Bickleman noted that the savings would amount to \$310,000 as of the end of the previous week. There was Board consensus to move the action threshold for Board action to lock in potential savings. Mr. Yunker asked Mr. Bickleman to look into how Operation Desert Storm affected interest rates ten years ago.

Curriculum and Program: No report.

Buildings and Grounds/Transportation: Mr. Johnson sought Board authorization to release to Scott Contractors \$100,000.00 of the \$125,000.00 retainage that the district was holding. He noted that all work of the WFIL project had been completed except for some minor grading issues resulting from earlier requests by Whitemarsh Township officials to deviate from approved specifications. The remaining retainage would not be released until those issues had been addressed. Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the payment. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Community Relations: No report.

Legislative: Dr. Ryan advised that there were many versions of tax reform legislation under consideration in the legislature and that the topic would be discussed at the PSBA legislative session. Mr. Orlow noted that there were only three or four serious proposals and that none of them were good for suburban communities in this area.

Additional Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**James M. Bell
Board Secretary**