

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, APRIL 21, 2005**

President Orlow convened the general meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on April 21, 2005.

Board Members Present: Marc Orlow, Gary Johnson, Hope Luken, Susan Moore, William Ryan, Pascal Scoles and Mitch Zimmer.

Board Members Absent: Thomas Davis and Steven Slutsky.

Also Attending: Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Gerald Berger, Director of Human Resources; Cassandra DeLong, Director of Pupil Services; James M. Bell, Director of Support Services/Board Secretary; Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; David Sherman, Administrative Assistant, Community Relations; John Quinn, Director of CITV; Dante DeVecchio, reporter; Neil Brown; Janet Cahill, Robert Franz; Carolyn Hanel; David Hanel Bob Grieshober; Jack Hanson; Frank Malkoch; Corey Stricklin; Joanne Walker and Cardwell Wootten; honored students, and their coaches/sponsors and families.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and called upon the coaches of the high school swimming, wrestling and indoor track teams and an art teacher to introduce their award winning students and receive certificates of achievement. A complete list of those honored is attached to these minutes as Attachment #1.

Minutes: Mr. Orlow requested Board action on the minutes of the work session of 03/14/05, the General Meeting of 03/17/05, the Personnel Committee Meeting of 03/31/05, the Facilities Management – Transportation Committee Meeting of 04/04/05, the Finance Committee Meeting of 04/06/05, Community Relations/Student Life Committee Meeting of 04/14/05, and the Curriculum Meeting of 04/18/05. See Enclosures #1 through #5, #45 and #46. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Financial Reports: Mr. Orlow requested Board action on the financial reports on Thursday evening. The reports included Budget Transfers, the Bond Fund Report, Capital Project Report, General Fund/Federal Program Bills, Capital Reserve Fund Report, Food Services Bills/Cafeteria Report, Outstanding Investment Report, Cash Flow Summary, Comparisons of Taxes Collected, Real Estate Escrow Report, Reconciliation of Cash Accounts, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report and Treasurer's Report for the month ending 03/31/05, as shown in Enclosures #6 through #17. Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Orlow announced that the Citizens Advisory Committee on Act 72 had met eight times over four months to discuss the provisions of Act 72 and had unanimously recommended that the Board opt out of the act. He briefly summarized the committee process of reviewing information on Act 72 and the input of many individuals that had been involved in developing the legislation or who had analyzed and had positions on it. He also reviewed the committee findings in Enclosure #18, noted the fundamental changes that the act envisioned and highlighted the importance of public schools on property values in the district. Mr. Orlow then read the resolution contained in Attachment #2 to these minutes. Mr. Johnson made and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the resolution to opt out of Act 72. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow requested Board action on Enclosure #19, an anonymous donation of \$500 per year for the next three years to provide a scholarship or multiple scholarships for one wrestler or wrestlers to attend a summer wrestling camp. Mr. Orlow reported that the Administration was aware of the donor and that the Board had discussed the donation on Monday evening. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to accept the donation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Budget Report: Mr. Orlow reported that board members had received a copy of the preliminary budget for 2005-06 that evening and announced that the Board would take action on the preliminary budget at a special meeting on 05/26/05.

Old Business: Mr. Orlow sought Board action on Board Policy #815, Acceptable Use of Computers, Network, Internet, Electronic Communications and Information Systems, a policy that incorporated three previous policies into one. He noted that the policy was a comprehensive one on the use and operation of technology within the district. Mr. Boegly walked board members through the key changes in the policy since its first reading. Those changes were included in Enclosure #20, as amended, and supplementary materials shared with the Board at the meeting. Dr. Scoles made and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the policy on a second reading as shown in Enclosure #20 and amended by the supplementary materials. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow requested Board action on Board Policy #231.1 – Commercial Exploitation of Students and #231.2 – Soliciting Funds from Students. See Enclosures #21 and #22. He noted that the Board had reviewed the policies on Monday evening. Ms. Luken moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the policies on a second reading. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter reviewed the updated personnel actions listed in Enclosures #23 and #24 of the agenda. He highlighted the changes since Monday evening, noting particularly the additional resignations and the addition of the Curriculum Liaison for School Health. Dr. Ryan wondered if the position was in response to new legislation at the state level. Dr. Cotter reported that Mrs. DeLong had worked on the issue and would work on any new legislation that became law. He indicated, however, that the person selected for the position would handle professional development in the field as well as crossover work in other area. See Enclosure #26. Dr. Cotter reported that the solicitor

had revised the Nurse Substitute Contract Services Proposal to address liability, salary and retirement issues and designed it to protect district interests to the extent that such protections were available. See Enclosure #25. The Board noted that the report also included a request to offer two summer music programs, as outlined in Enclosure #27 and reviewed on Monday evening. Dr. Scoles moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the superintendent's report in Enclosures #23 through #27. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

New Business: Mr. Orlow noted that the Board had opted out of Act 72 of 2004, Homeowner Tax Relief Act, on Monday evening.

Mr. Orlow requested Board action on Board Policy #216, Student Records Policy. He noted that the policy addressed the provision of the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* and *No Child Left Behind* legislation. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the policy on first reading. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow reported that the Board would be taking action in May to reappoint Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Esquire of Fox Rothschild, district solicitor for the coming fiscal year. See Enclosure #29. The annual retainer rate was to increase by \$175 per quarter to \$22,103/year and the litigation rate was to increase \$10 to \$160/hour. Dr. Cotter reported that details of the rates were in the enclosure and that the Administration looked favorably on the solicitor's past service to the district. Mr. Orlow noted that the Administration conducted a multi-level review of the monthly itemized bills submitted by the solicitor.

Mr. Orlow reported that the Administration had provided information requested on Monday evening on renewals of child care leases for the coming school year. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the leases in Enclosures #30 through #33. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on revisions of the CMS and PWHHS Handbooks. Dr. Cotter recapped Dr. Gorodetzer's comments on Monday evening on the advantage of shifting the resource period to midday. He stressed the opportunity for vo-tech to participate in the resource period, for students to form positive relationships with teachers with whom they would spend the period throughout their high school careers and for students in clubs and student government and in need of remediation, test preparation or enrichment services. Dr. Scoles moved and Ms. Luken seconded a motion to approve the revisions. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on a request from a department head to attend the ASCD Summer Conference on Differentiating Instruction and Understanding by Design in New York City from 07/27/05 through 07/30/05. See Enclosure #34. Mr. Bell pointed out that the event was in June rather than in July. Mr. Zimmer moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the request for 06/27/05 through 06/30/05. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow requested Board action on a request from the DECA sponsor to take two students to the National DECA Conference in Anaheim, CA from 04/27/05 through 05/01/05. See Enclosure #35. Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow noted that the bids listed in Enclosures #36 through #39 had been reviewed on Monday evening and that recommended awards were all given to the lowest responsible bidder or RFP respondent based on the products and services offered and the cost involved. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the bid for PWHS Athletic and Physical Education Supplies to the vendors as outlined in Enclosure #36. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the RFP response from LifeTouch for student pictures and associated digital and non-digital services as outline in Enclosure #37. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the bids for the PWHS Library Renovation to Walter Brucker Co., Inc. for general contracting, Five Star Mechanical for HVAC contracting, and Cantanzaro Electrical for electrical contracting as outlined in Enclosure #38. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Mr. Orlow noted that the library renovation would make the facility a more central, usable space for all and gave a brief history of the project. Mr. Bell confirmed that the bid results represented a savings of \$46,000 over those received before the HVAC and electrical work was re-bid.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Sultanik requested Board approval of disciplinary stipulations in case #93338. Copies of the stipulations had been distributed to the Board. Dr. Ryan moved and Dr. Scoles seconded a motion to approve the stipulation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Sultanik requested Board approval of a proposed tax assessment settlement for PHHCC for the years 2002 through 2004. He noted that the case had been remedied by bankruptcy court and that the one-time situation decided on 04/19/05 would give the district 76% of what was owed. Mr. Zimmer moved and Dr. Scoles seconded a motion to approve the settlement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Committee Reports: **Intermediate Unit Board:** Dr. Ryan indicated that he would send board members some flyers from the Intermediate Unit Board. He noted that the President and Vice President of the I.U. Board and the Finance Director of the I.U. would be leaving and that the Board would be seeking replacements. He also reported on the release of a report on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the interest in Anderson Alternative School as a model school, the I.U.'s intent to improve internal communications and the decision to seek outside help in drafting an updated strategic plan.

CMCAVTS: Mr. Johnson requested Board approval of the 2005-06 budget for the Center for Technical Studies that he had highlighted on Monday evening. He made and Dr. Scoles seconded a motion to approve the budget outlined in Enclosure #39. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Mr. Johnson also requested Board action on a revised memorandum pledging the district's taxing authority in lieu of funds for escrow for the renovation of the CTS facility. Mr. Orlow briefly explained the purpose of the

agreement and commented on the bid for the renovation. Mr. Johnson moved and Dr. Scoles seconded a motion to approve the Memorandum of Improvement Agreement as amended by the solicitor. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Personnel: Mr. Johnson commented on the district's initiatives, begun at the Board's annual retreat, to recruit minority applicants for professional positions. He noted that the district would be targeting college students in the junior year. Dr. Ryan noted that the Philadelphia School District spends \$8,500,000 for teacher recruitment each year.

Curriculum and Program: Dr. Gorodetzer summarized committee activity during the month. She noted the committee's review of student handbooks at the secondary level and revisions that were designed to support student achievement. These included changes to the resource period to target students in need for remedial work, a requirement that students below proficiency in the 11th grade PSSA retake the test the following fall, proficiency in reading and math as a graduation requirement and proven proficiency in core content areas for 10th graders before they started programs at the Center for Technical Studies. The committee also reviewed the technology policies and the proposed technology budget for the 2005-06 school year.

Facilities Management – Transportation: Mrs. Moore provided information on the bids that had come up for approval earlier in the meeting, and noted that projects underway and planned for the coming summer and school year were moving forward. She noted that the renovation of the district office was on schedule, the renovation of the PWHS library would begin at the close of school and be completed in late November and the playgrounds at Ridge Park and Whitemarsh Elementary Schools were going in during the month. Mrs. Moore also reported that the new sign at Whitemarsh Elementary School was going through the approval process at the township, the annual indoor air quality inspections in all schools were scheduled for May and that a wide variety of smaller projects were being handled by the district's maintenance and turf management teams.

Community Relations & Student Life: Dr. Scoles reported that the committee supported funding the annual post-prom party at the high school at the same level as the preceding year, i.e. \$5,000 plus postage and the provision of event security. See Enclosure #49. He also noted that the preliminary budget would be up for approval on 04/25/05 and the spring newsletter would be going out in May.

Legislative: Dr. Ryan spoke of the unfunded mandates and their role in the Act 72 debate. He reported the state budget target of mid-June, activity by senior policy analysts to require leadership and career guidance in schools in the fall, and a potential increase in school lunch reimbursements.

Additional Public Comment: Mr. Greishober expressed pleasure with the district's minority recruitment effort but suggested more contact with traditional African-American Universities. Mr. Berger outlined at some length the effort that the district had put into local and state multi-cultural job fairs, a presence at Lincoln University, a dialogue with Cheyney University, and letters to city universities seeking student teachers and candidates.

Mr. Wooten introduced himself, thanked the Board for its support of athletic programs and encouraged listeners to attend a middle school track meet that would be held at the high school on 05/02/05 and a league meet that would also be held there on 05/13/05 and 05/14/05. Mr. Wooten also reported on the Whitmarsh Track Club's summer program. Dr. Cotter praised Mr. Wooten as a PWHS graduate who gave a lot back to the school.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**James M. Bell
Board Secretary**