

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462  
MINUTES, MARCH 16, 2006**

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 March 16, 2006.

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

**Board Members Absent:** None.

**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; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; Jessica Klein and Angela D'Alessandro, Student Board Representatives; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; David Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator; John Quinn, Director of CITV; Donna Drizin, Principal, Whitemarsh Elementary and Adlai Lamason, WE student; Scott Shearer, Public Financial Management; Rob Walper, Fox Rothschild; Chad Murray, President, CEA; Douglas Bernard; Patrice Bobyock; Nicole Carbo, Kerry Douglas; Marshall Gorodetzer; Abbey Gutowski; Jason Katz; Tom Kuestner; John Lamason; Julie Pustilnick; Eliza Redican; Rebecca Rigberg; Craig Saft; Joan C. Smith; Joseph M. Smith; Marcia Wright-Soika; MicheleYavorski and members and coaches of the PWSHS Cheerleaders and Mock Trial Team.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Orlow announced that the Board would be taking action on a resolution in opposition to proposed legislation to institute a back-end referendum on school district budgets. See Enclosure #31. Mr. Orlow provided a brief history on the issue of tax reform. He noted the Board's extensive outreach to the community and its efforts to keep residents informed. Mr. Slutsky reported on the district's efforts to work with other districts in opposing proposed legislation that would require back-end referendums on district budgets and adversely impact the district's value-added legislative initiatives. Both speakers noted the Board's exemplary stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to pass the resolution opposing back-end referendums. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to send a letter from the Suburban School Education Association to Governor Rendell asking him to listen to the voters and refrain from mandating back-end referendums. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor of sending a draft letter with minor revisions to the governor. Board members noted that information on how residents could contact their legislators was on the district website and CITV and urged residents to contact them as soon as possible.

Mr. Orlow recognized Dr. Cotter who introduced Ms. Tornetta and Ms. Labricciosa who introduced the Suburban I Champion PWSHS Cheerleaders and the award-winning PWSHS

**Mock Trial Team.** A complete list of students and coaches recognized is attached to these minutes as Attachment #1.

**Minutes:** Mr. Orlow directed the attention of board members to the minutes of the Community Relations – Student Life Committee of 02/09/06, the Curriculum Committee of 02/16/06, General Meeting of 02/16/06, the Finance Committee of 03/06/06, the Personnel Committee Meeting of 03/09/06, the Community Relations – Student Life Committee Meeting of 03/09/06, and the Facilities Management - Transportation Committee Meeting of 03/09/06. See Enclosures #1 through #4 and #32 through #35. The minutes had been reviewed on Monday evening. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

**Financial Reports:** Mr. Orlow reviewed the financial reports on the list for approval on Thursday evening. The reports included the Budget Transfers, Bond Fund Report, the Capital Project Report, General Fund/Federal Program Bills, the Capital Reserve Fund Report, the Food Services Bills/Cafeteria Report, the Outstanding Investment Report, the Cash Flow Summary, the Comparison of Taxes Collected, the Real Estate Escrow Report, the Reconciliation of Cash Accounts, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending 02/28/06, as shown in Enclosures #5 through #15 and #36. The reports had been reviewed on Monday evening. Mr. Orlow inquired about bounced checks in the high school activity fund. Mr. Bickleman reported that they came from students or parents and confirmed that bank fees involved in handling the checks were minimal. Mr. Orlow also asked about a check issued to a student in connection with the spring musical. Dr. Cotter indicated that the check was probably for equipment or services rendered but pledged to follow up on the payment and update the Board. Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Zimmer 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:** Ms. Redican, a member of the Autism Task Force, thanked board members and administrators for their involvement in and support of the task force. She requested support for a new class at Colonial Elementary School. Mr. Orlow reported that recommendations coming out of the task force had been reviewed in the Curriculum Committee. He noted that the committee supported the program at Colonial Elementary School and expressed his belief that working with the committee was just the start of the district's commitment to students with autism spectrum needs. He thanked parents for their involvement.

**Staff Report:** Ms. DeLong presented a report on the findings and recommendations from the Autism Task Force on Thursday evening. Her comments are contained in the report to the Board attached to these minutes as Attachment #2.

Mrs. Drizin, Principal of Whitmarsh Elementary School, and student, Adlai Lamason gave a presentation on the travel journals that students kept when traveling with their families on educational trips.

**One Item of New Business:** Mr. Orlow recognized Mr. Shearer and Mr. Walper who outlined the bid process for a new \$10,000,000 bond and the resolution. These documents are on file in the District Office. Mr. Shearer noted that the district's low debt burden, fine bond rating and aggressive management effort had allowed the district to secure a bond at a low interest rate. Mr. Walper confirmed that the broad language in the bond resolution allowed the district to use the bond proceeds for the capital projects and equipment purchases that it felt were needed to carry out the district's educational programs. In response to a Board query on procedures, Mr. Sultanik reported that the secretary should formally call the roll of the board members. Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the bond resolution. Mr. Bell formally called the roll of board members. All board members, except Dr. Ryan, voted in favor of the bond resolution. Dr. Ryan voted in opposition. The resolution was carried.

**Budget Reports:** Mr. Johnson provided a report on projected student enrollment, preliminary staffing, the cost of benefits and labor issues that would impact on the 2006-07 budget. A complete outline of his comments is attached to these minutes as Attachment #3.

**Old Business:** Mr. Orlow called on Ms. DeLong to briefly address the physical examination services agreement with East Norriton Physician Services, Inc. that was before the Board for action that evening. He noted that the district's prior physician had sold his practice and entered the military. Ms. DeLong briefly recapped the agreement in Attachment # 4 to these minutes and requested Board approval subject to the solicitor's review. Mr. Zimmer so moved and Mr. Davis seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

**Correspondence:** Mr. Orlow noted that Jerry Shively, Director, Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, had requested Board action on the annual I.U. administrative budgets. He reported that action was required by board members voting as a board and as individuals and that the Board action had to come prior to 04/24/06. See Enclosure #16. Mr. Orlow reported that he and Dr. Cotter had met with the I.U. Executive Director and Board President to discuss issues of concern to the district and indicated that the Board would vote on the budgets at it April meeting.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Cotter updated his report on Monday outlining personnel actions, changes to substitute lists, proposed extra-duty/extra-pay assignments, and plans for the 2006 Summer School Program and the 2006 Summer Reading/Writing Programs, including the district-endorsed PA Writing and Literature Project coordinated by West Chester University. See Enclosures #17 through #20. Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

**Board Student Representatives Report:** Ms. Klein reported on preparations for the annual senior trip, the senior dinner and the final outcomes of post season for girls' swimming and boys' basketball. Ms. D'Alessandro provided updates on the spring musical, the pops concert, the start of spring sports and the Distinguished Graduates Assembly. Mr. Orlow, Dr. Scoles, Ms. Luken and Mr. Johnson all spoke enthusiastically about the very successful

spring musical matinee and luncheon for senior residents of the district. Participation was up almost 300 percent and everyone reported having a wonderful time.

**Additional New Business:** Mr. Orlow reported that Mr. Bickleman recommended that the Board consider adding Hudson United Bank to its list of financial institutions for investing district funds. See Enclosure #21. Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the recommendation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow requested board action on two professional conference requests, one for Jeff Blizzard, PWHS, to attend the American Association of School Counselor's Conference in Chicago from 06/24/06 through 06/27/06 and the other for Kristen Young and Chad Murray, WE, to attend a one-day conference on cultural proficiency in Fulton, MD on Saturday, 03/25/06, as outlined in Enclosures #22 and #23. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the trips. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on two student trip requests, a trip by the PWHS bowling team to the State Bowling Tournament in Lancaster, PA from 03/17/06 through 03/19/06 and a trip for one student to the PMEA All-State Wind Ensemble in Upper Merion from 03/29/06 to 04/01/06. See Enclosure #24 and #38. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the trips. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

**Solicitor's Report:** No report.

**Committee Reports:** Intermediate Unit Board: Dr. Ryan reported that the I.U. had received sufficient additional funds from the state to fund its early intervention funds for the balance of the fiscal year. Dr. Ryan praised the district's administrative team and reported his impatience with the I.U. administrative team. He expressed his belief that he was not the board member best suited to serve on the I.U. Board and declined to serve beyond his current term. Mr. Orlow reported that Mr. Zimmer was willing to be the district's candidate for a seat on the I.U. Board. Mrs. More moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to nominate Mr. Zimmer for the I.U. Board. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

**CMCAVTS:** Mr. Johnson reported that he and Dr. Scoles were serving on a committee reviewing the current curriculum at the Center for Technical Studies and were looking at the current half-day schedule and the possibility of offering more remedial programs.

**Personnel:** Mr. Johnson noted that he had given his report on the budget earlier in the meeting.

**Finance:** No report.

**Curriculum and Program:** Mr. Davis reported on the budget cycles for math, social studies and language arts at various levels and noted that some upgrades had been

deferred to another budget year. He also reported on a presentation by Dr. Sullivan, PWHS Principal, on summer school and dual enrollment, and on counselors, professional development, a vo-tech update, and student progress as a result of all-day kindergarten.

**Facilities Management and Transportation:** Mrs. Moore reported the committee's endorsement of the Connect-Ed communications system for emergency and outreach communications, the start of demolition work for the new Facilities Management Center on Victory Fields and a proposed collaborative effort involving the district and Chestnut Hill College that focused on educational and facilities goals for both organizations. She also reported on the prioritized list of capital projects covering all district schools to be funded by the new bond and the list of capital projects planned for the summer of 2006. The latter included re-keying at the high school for security reasons, air conditioning the libraries at Plymouth and Whitemarsh Elementary Schools to provide all-season group instructional space, modernizing two district kitchens for safety and efficiency, engineering the courtyard roof at Colonial Elementary School to recoup educational space, and replacing the boilers at Plymouth Elementary School to reap the energy savings now in place at the other K-3 elementary schools. Mrs. Moore reported a three to six-year payback on the investment in new boilers.

**Community Relations and Student Life:** Dr. Scoles reported on the committee's approval of the Connect-Ed communications system, the highly successful matinee for seniors, the upcoming special seniors tour of the district art show on 04/20/06, the town meeting on the revitalization of Conshohocken Elementary School on 04/04/06 and interactions with the district's local municipalities on improving student health and safety.

**Legislative:** Dr. Ryan reported on the district's efforts to communicate openly with local legislators on state mandates for school and tax reform.

**Additional Public Comment:** None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Bell  
Board Secretary