

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, OCTOBER 20, 2005**

President Orlow convened the general meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:03 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on October 20, 2005.

Board Members Present: Marc Orlow, Gary Johnson, Tom Davis, Hope Luken, Susan Moore, Pascal Scoles, Steven Slutsky, William Ryan 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; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; Jessica Klein and Steven Das, Board Student Representatives; David Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator; John Quinn, Director of CITV; Chad Murray, CEA President; Robert Franz; Kim Hartranft; Thomas M. Kuester; Carol Sheuerman; tara Holdsworth; Mike McKenna; Nancy Mortimer O'Brien; M. Wright - Soika; students receiving certificates of achievement, their families and friends.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in Executive session on 09/21/05, 10/05/05 and 10/17/05 to discuss informational, legal and personnel matters. Dr. Sullivan introduced the following students who had been designated AP Scholars and were present to receive certificates of achievement from the Board. Geoffrey Corner, Rana Kassis, Gerard Russ, Haley Samsi, Valerie Werth, Spencer Harris, Talia Siegel, Eric Johnson and Steven Das. The Board also recognized Mr. Das as a Merit Scholarship Semi-finalist.

Minutes: Mr. Orlow directed the attention of board members to the minutes of the Work Session of 09/12/05, the General Meeting of 09/117/05, the Special Joint Meeting of CSD and Conshohocken Borough Council of 09/28/05, the Facilities Management Transportation Committee Meeting of 10/06/05, the Community Relations – Student Life Committee Meeting of 10/10/05 and the Curriculum Committee Meeting of 10/17/05. See Enclosures #1 through #5 and #35. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Financial Reports: Mr. Orlow quickly 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 09/30/05, as shown in Enclosures

#6 through #16. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Davis 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: Mr. Franz provided the Board information on his correspondence to local legislators on Act 72 and property tax reform. He did not receive responses from all of those to whom he sent correspondence but highlighted the position of Representative Gerber who, among others, responded to Mr. Franz' letter and indicated that he was not in favor of forcing local districts into the programs contained in Act 72. Mr. Franz stated his belief that the minimal money that taxpayers in the Colonial School District might receive if all slots revenues actually produced the revenue that the Governor anticipated was not worth the damage that the act would do to the district. He also felt that the governor's position that all those sending in tax rebate forms were in favor of Act 72 was absurd because there was no real connection between the two. Mr. Orlow reiterated Board comments on Monday evening and reminded the community that the district had recently sent them a mailer on the issues surrounding property tax reform. He reaffirmed the Board's position that property tax reform should come as a result of a dialogue among all concerned parties, including local school boards.

Staff Report: None.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Orlow requested Board action on a donation of 20 TI-84 Plus Silver Edition calculators valued at \$2,500. See Enclosure #17. Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to accept the donation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter gave an update of his report from Monday evening outlining the personnel actions, professional and non-professional substitute lists, the proposed extra-duty/extra-pay assignments and the termination resolution contained in Enclosures #18 through #21 and a request from the PWHS Foreign Language Chair to participate in a Fulbright Teacher Exchange. Dr. Ryan asked if staff in temporary positions had the right to go back to their old jobs if they wished. Mr. Sultanik reported that professional staff did not have a right to do so. Mr. Berger noted that the district typically allowed them to do so. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the personnel actions in Enclosure #18, the extra-duty/extra-pay assignments in Enclosure #20 and the Termination Resolution in Enclosure #21. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the Substitute List in Enclosure #19. On a roll call vote, all but Dr. Scoles voted in favor. Dr. Scoles abstained because a family member was on the list. The motion was carried. The Board referred the matter of the Fulbright Teacher Exchange to the Personnel committee for review and slated Board action on the request for the November meeting. Board members were interested in hearing from other districts where staff had participated in the program.

Board Student Representatives Report: Mr. Das provided updates on the Cavalcade of Bands, fall theater production, sophomore courtyard concert, the end of the fall sports

season, the upcoming spring schedule of the boys' lacrosse team and preparations for the senior class trip. Ms. Klein provided information on homecoming activities, including the wing bowl, color wars, powder-puff game, the homecoming game with its floats on the theme of cultural diversity, and the Halloween dance.

New Business: Mr. Orlow sought Board action on Board Policy #202, Non-Resident Students and Tuition Payment. See Enclosure #22. He noted that the policy had been reviewed by the Community Relations – Student Life Committee and streamlined the current practice as it relates to state law. Dr. Ryan reported that a number of local districts were impressed with the district's policy and might be contacting the Administration for copies. Dr. Scoles moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the policy. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow requested Board action on an agreement that would terminate the district's license and service agreement with Tetra Data. See Enclosure #23 of the agenda. He noted that the district had found another means to collect and analyze student data. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow noted that the Board would soon be acting to set the calendar for the 2006-07 school year. He indicated that the Board was reviewing several draft calendars, all of which called for the first student day of the new school year to be 09/05/06, the Tuesday after Labor Day. Mr. Orlow reported that the district had a contractual obligation to discuss the calendar with the CEA and suggested that the Board vote that evening on the start date for the new school year and vote on the calendar in November after the CEA had reviewed the options. Dr. Scoles reported that the Community Relations – Student Life Committee recommended draft #1. Dr. Scoles moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to set the start date for the 2006-07 school year at 09/05/06. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow asked the Board to act, ex post facto, to approve a request from Dr. Monica Sullivan, Principal, PWHS that Erika Miller, PWHS Librarian, attend the American Association of School Librarians' Conference in Pittsburgh, PA from 10/05/05 through 10/09/05. See Enclosure #25. He also requested action on the conference request from Ms. Delong for Susan Dryburgh, Speech and Language Specialist, to attend the American Speech and Hearing Association Conference in San Diego from 11/17/05 through 11/20/05. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the two requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow requested Board action on two special education agreements: One for placement for a special needs student in an approved private school and the provision of appropriate services and another for contracted occupational therapy services from Therapy Source, Inc. during the period in which the district's regular contractor is on child rearing leave. Mr. Davis moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the student placement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Dr. Ryan moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the contract with Therapy Source, Inc. Board members noted that the contract was for temporary services while the

district's contracted Occupational Therapist was on leave. See Enclosure #39. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on two student trip requests: Enclosure #26 - a request from the sponsors of the PWHS Ski Club for weekend ski trips to Killington, VT from after school on 01/06/06 through 01/08/06 and 02/24/06 through 02/26/06 and Enclosure #27 - a request from the PWHS Student Council sponsor for five to seven students to attend the PA Association of Student Council Leadership Conference in Reading, PA from 11/10/05 through 11/12/05. Mr. Davis moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the trips. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow reported that the PTO fundraising budgets were on the agenda for the information of board members and that no Board action was required. He noted that it was amazing how much money the PTO's raised in support of programs in district schools.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Sultanik sought Board approval of a proposed tax assessment appeal that was currently on the calendar for the Montgomery Court of Common Pleas as docket #0430712 and involved the INA Conference complex in Whitemarsh Township. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the settlement as outlined in correspondence from Fox Rothschild, dated 09/23/05. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit Board: Dr. Ryan provided information on a training program, the latest statistics on early intervention services provided to 1,671 children, approximately 250 of which were children with autism spectrum disorder and I.U. assessments of \$3,000,000 for transportation services in an era when state funding for transportation had decreased.

CMACTVS: Mr. Johnson reported that he and Mr. Davis had been advised that the renovation project at the Center for Technical Studies was 30 days behind schedule. All programs were underway and on schedule, some on-site and some off-site.

Personnel: Mr. Johnson reported that the Board had received copies of a list of staff salaries and wages for 2005-06. He advised that the list was available for public review in the Human Resources Department.

Finance: Mr. Slutsky reported that the budget process for 2006-07 was underway. He noted that any action by the legislature to implement provisions for Act 72 would have a profound impact on the district and its programs. He urged community members to contact their representatives and request that they take the time to get all of the facts and involve local school boards in the deliberations over property tax reform.

Curriculum and Program: Mr. Davis reported that science teachers at the high school, middle school and Colonial Elementary School had met to discuss the curricular opportunities available in the district's partnership with Plymouth Township on the future of Wetherill Park. He noted that Mr. Orlow and Mrs. Moore would be the district's representatives on the township's planning committee. Mr. Davis also outlined Dr.

Sullivan's ideas for full-year AP courses in Politics and Psychology, a change in the name of the 9th grade English course, and a reading course for students not proficient in reading. He also reported a discussion with Montgomery County Community College and Arcadia University on dual enrollment. He reported that curriculum cycle updates were distributed and noted that CTS proficiency scores on standardized tests were being reviewed. Mr. Davis indicated that meetings with the CTS Administration were being planned to determine how best to address CTS student needs.

Facilities Management – Transportation: Mrs. Moore reported that the PWHS library renovation was on schedule and that the facility would be turned over to the district on 11/18/06. She noted that the library would open for students and staff on 12/05/05. Mrs. Moore indicated that technology resources would be available first and print resources shortly thereafter. She announced that formal dedication of the facility would be on 01/11/05. Mrs. Moore also reported that renovation of the building on Victory Fields would go out to bid shortly and that the project would be completed by the end of the school year.

Community Relations – Student Life: Dr. Scoles reported on the Board's schedule for meeting the building staff in each of its schools, the scheduled delivery of the Board's annual report to district households in November and the district's initiatives in the area of cultural diversity, including naming an assistant to the program coordinator. Dr. Cotter reported on a cordial meeting with the NCAAP. Dr. Scoles complemented the administration on the scope and depth of its efforts at fostering cultural awareness at all levels within the district.

Legislative: Dr. Ryan gave a detailed report on legislative initiatives focusing on property tax reform. He highlighted three bills: House Bills #1 (Act 72 revisited), House Bill #1920 (sales taxes to replace property taxes) and Special Session House Bill #34 (funding related to student performance at NCLB targets for 2008). Dr. Ryan characterized the debate on the issues in terms of state funding for education and reported that Pennsylvania ranked 49th in the nation in the percentage of state funding for education.

Additional Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


James M. Bell
Board Secretary