

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462  
MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007.**

President Orlow convened the general meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:05 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on September 20, 2007.

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

**Board Members Absent:** Hope Luken.

**Also Attending:** Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Gerald E. Berger, Director of Human Resources; Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer; Cassandra DeLong, Director of Pupil Services; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Lawrence Ogunkua and Simon Wong, Board Student Representatives; Lisa Kiwak; Christina Paolucci; Ann Chrzanowski; Doug Bernard and students receiving awards, their friends and families.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on 08/29/2007, 09/12/2007 and 09/17/2007 to discuss informational, legal and personnel matters.

**Recognition/Awards:** Mr. Orlow called on Dr. Cotter to present the student award recipients. Dr. Cotter introduced Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) Principal Dr. Monica Sullivan who presented the school's three National Merit Scholars. She stated that Megan E. Hufnagel, Kevin J. Minehan and Alexandra R. Tabachnick were among the top one percent of students nationally who took the 2006 PSAT exam.

Dr. Cotter reported that State Representative Michael Gerber presented the District with two citations. One citation was for students who performed well at the Pennsylvania Health Occupation Student Association Conference last spring and the other was for Colonial being named a Gold Medal District by Expansion Management Magazine.

**Minutes:** Mr. Orlow asked Board members to review and approve the minutes of the Work Session of 08/13/2007, the General Meeting of 08/16/2007, the Special Meeting of 08/29/2007, the Human Resources Committee of 09/05/2007, the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee of 09/06/2007, and the Curriculum Committee of 09/17/2007. See enclosures #2 through #6, #30 and #31.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Financial Reports:** Mr. Orlow asked Board members to take action on the financial reports, including the Bond Fund Report, the Capital Projects Report, the General Fund/Federal Program Bills, the Capital Reserve Fund, the Food Service Bills/Cafeteria Report, the Outstanding Investment Report, the Cash Flow Summary, the Comparison of Taxes Collected, the Real Estate Tax Escrow Report, the Reconciliation of Cash Accounts, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending 08/31/2007. See enclosures #7 through #17.

Mr. Bickleman confirmed for Mr. Orlow that the yellow pages represented the only changes from Monday's meeting.

Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the Financial Reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Public Comments on the Agenda:** None.

**Staff Report:** None.

**Old Business:** None

**Correspondence:** Mr. Orlow noted that there was a new item since Monday evening that involved a resident's intent to donate 18 software licenses to the District. See enclosure #32. The licenses are for a software program designed for teachers to use in conjunction with interactive white boards. The licenses are valued at \$2,430. Dr. Cotter reported that Chief Information Officer Drew Boegley and Curriculum Supervisor Nancy Acconciamesa reviewed the licenses and both recommended implementation of the product. Mr. Sultanik confirmed for Mr. Orlow that software licenses are property and may be donated. Mr. Orlow asked for Board action on the request.

Mr. Davis moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to accept the donation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Cotter updated his report from Monday evening, which includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List, and the Enrollment Report. See enclosures #18 through #20. He noted that there was one new resignation and four new hires on the Personnel Report and five secretarial substitutes added to Substitute List. He added that there was one addition to the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List and noted that the Enrollment Report had been updated. Mr. Orlow noted that the Personnel Report included the retirement of Mr. Berger. Mr. Orlow likened Mr. Berger's job performance to that of an umpire. He stated that people only notice when things do not go well. He stated that everything has gone exceptionally well during the past six years under Mr. Berger's direction. Mr. Orlow expressed the Board's gratitude for Mr. Berger bringing the District's Human Resources operation into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Board Student Representatives Report:** Mr. Orlow welcomed Mr. Ogunkua and Mr. Wong. Mr. Ogunkua reported that freshman orientation went well on the opening day of school. He added that the freshman parent orientation on September 6 was a success. He stated that the Colonial Players held auditions and are presenting *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* in the Fall and *Les Miserables* in the spring. Mr. Ogunkua added that fall athletes received heart screenings from the charity Simon's Fund. Mr. Wong reported that the new turf was dedicated at the first football game and the students love the turf fields. He added that the high school open house was successful and the football team was playing a home game at that moment.

Mr. Slutsky thanked the teachers, staff and administrators for well organized and informative open houses and a successful opening to the school year. Responding to a question from Mr. Orlow, Dr. Gorodetzer stated that Colonial Middle School had its final open house tonight and the K-3 open houses are scheduled for next week.

**New Business:** Mr. Orlow asked for Board action on Board Policy #606, Construction Project Change Orders. He stated that the policy provides the format for a more efficient operation regarding the approval process for construction and renovation change orders. See enclosure #21. Mr. Yemm confirmed for Mr. Orlow that the changes in language requested during Monday's meeting were made. Mr. Orlow reminded Board members that the policy will be before them again next month and that they are acting on a first-read basis.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the policy on a first-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Orlow asked Board members to consider two special education placements and a settlement agreement as one item. He noted that the placements are renewals with the Quaker School in Horsham at a cost of \$29,500 and the Vanguard School at a cost of \$38,400 and that the settlement agreement was a dispute on an Individual Education Plan.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the agreements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Orlow requested Board action on a proposed professional service contract with Therapy Source, which provides speech, occupational, physical, psychological and audiological services. See enclosure #22. Responding to a question from Mr. Orlow, Mrs. DeLong stated that this is a contract renewal for services to be performed as needed for out-of-District students. Dr. Cotter added that the actual contract was before Board members as a blue page. Mrs. DeLong noted that the solicitor reviewed and approved the contract.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the professional service contract. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Orlow asked Board members to take action on a professional conference request for two PWHS teachers to attend a conference on Career Pathways in Louisville, Kentucky from October 10-13, 2007. See enclosure #23. Mr. Orlow added that professional development funds are allocated for this conference.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the conference request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on two student trip requests from the PWHS Ski Club to travel to Killington, Vermont on January 4-6, 2008 and February 22-24, 2008. See enclosure #24. He stated that this was an annual trip and students are responsible for all costs of participation. Responding to a question from Dr. Scoles, Mr. Orlow stated that the club has not always taken two trips but has requested two in recent years. Dr. Cotter added the additional trip was because of the popularity of the event. He added that the high school attempts to schedule the trips around holidays.

Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Solicitor's Report:** Mr. Sultanik requested that the Board ratify his firm's filing of a transfer tax assessment appeal on the property located at 125 East Elm Street in Conshohocken. Mr. Sultanik could not confirm for Mr. Orlow if this was a new construction assessment.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Slutsky seconded a motion to approve the solicitor's request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

**Committee Reports:** Intermediate Unit: No Report.

CMCAVTS: Mr. Johnson stated that the tech school had officially changed its name to the Central Montco Technical High School.

Human Resources: Mr. Berger stated that all recent business was covered in the Superintendent's Report.

Finance: No Report

Curriculum and Instruction: Mr. Davis reported that the committee reviewed PSSA, SAT and ACT test data and that the results were positive and moving in the right direction. He stated that the Extended School Year program for select special education students was successful. Mr. Davis added that the committee discussed the possibility of creating curricular activities at the Angus Tract. He noted that a Curriculum Committee was being formed at the Montco Technical High School to ensure that there is no duplication of efforts in the education of various students, including home schooled students.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mrs. Moore reported that the committee reviewed and approved a proposal from a new phone service provider. She stated that the committee explored a new system for identifying visitors to schools. The system requires the scan of a photo driver's license to create an ID badge. Information from the driver's license will be stored in the District's data bases. The committee approved the purchase of one unit and the system will be piloted for 30 days in Colonial Elementary School. Visitors will be surveyed to ascertain their comfort level with the system.

Mr. Orlow asked Mr. Yemm to provide a timetable for the renovations to Colonial Elementary School. Mr. Yemm stated that bids for the next phases of the project will go out next week and recommendations will be made at the October Board meeting.

Mr. Orlow commended the Transportation Department staff on an outstanding opening of the school year. He stated that there were fewer complaints and requested changes in service than in years past. Mr. Yemm reported that the district transports more than 6,500 students to 121 locations. Mrs. Moore also credited the Transportation Department for its operation.

Community Relations: Dr. Scoles reported that the Plymouth Whitmarsh vs. LaSalle football game on Aug. 31 was aired live on the WPVI-TV Web site and later on the 6 ABC cable access channel. Channel 6 was very impressed with the quality of production and overall operation of CITV and quite appreciative of the staff. He stated that KYW-TV Channel 3 will air a segment on the 11 O'clock news tonight on athletes and nutrition. The PWHS Cross Country team is featured in the report. Dr. Scoles reminded community members that the charity Simon's Fund is

offering free heart screenings for all students enrolled in the Colonial School District on Saturday, October 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Colonial Elementary School cafeteria.

Safety and Wellness: No Report

Legislation: Dr. Ryan reported that the State Senate will return to session on Monday

**Public Comment:** None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David M. Sherman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "S".

David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary