

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462  
MINUTES, AUGUST 18, 1997**

The August Work Session of the Colonial School Board of Directors was convened by Vice President Pinheiro at 8:47 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room of the Colonial Elementary School on August 18, 1997.

**Board Members Present:** Jack Pinheiro, Rich Connolly, Gary Johnson, Allen Mandelbaum, Robert O'Neill, Marc Orlow, Thomas Yunker.

**Board members Absent:** Stuart Kessler, Beverly Brown.

**Also Attending:** Dr. Stanley Durtan, Superintendent,; Dr. Ann Evans Buhman, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; James M. Bell, Director of Operation/Board Secretary; R. Scott Klinger, Director of Personnel; Fred Shipman, Director of Pupil Services; Joseph Bickleman, Controller/Treasurer; Frank O'Hara, Solicitor; Carol Cohen, CEA; Sally Abbott; Hugh Lipshutz; Mary Thiess; Robert Carroll; Allan Dovberg; Naila Francis; Don Flathman.

Mr. Pinheiro lead the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters from 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

**Minutes:** Mr. Pinheiro asked for comments on the minutes of the Work Session of 7/7/97, the General Meeting of 7/10/97, the Finance Committee Meeting of 8/5/97, listed as Enclosures #1 through #3, and the Curriculum Committee Meeting of 8/11/97. A recommendation was made to correct the reference to the month in the first line of the General Meeting of 7/10/97 from "June" to "July".

**Financial Reports:** The Financial Reports of June and July 1997, Enclosures #4 through #11, were reviewed.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report, Enclosure #12, was reviewed. Explanations were sought on the reason for the increase in amusement taxes in Plymouth Township and the amount shown as reimbursement for insurance premiums. Mr. Bickleman indicated that he believed that greens fees collected at area golf courses during the summer had an impact on amusement taxes. He explained that the reimbursement for insurance premiums included payments made by some individuals covered under district insured benefits programs, such as those making COBRA payments for medical and/or dental insurance as well as reimbursements for the district's self-insured dental program. Mr. Bickleman was asked if the district was collecting amusement tax on the game room which is part of the new Regal theater complex on Ridge Pike. He responded that he would check on that issue and report back to the Board at a later date.

**Staff Report:** None

**Old Business:** None

**Correspondence:** Mr. Pinheiro noted the correspondence from Donald R. Newmeyer, district resident, providing information on the subject of Abstinence Sex Education as shown in Enclosure #13. Mr. Connolly asked Dr. Durtan for an update on funding from the state on sex education and whether such funding would support district programs as they currently exist or require changes in how such programs are conducted. Dr. Durtan advised that a letter had been sent to Governor Ridge requesting information on both the means to access funding and the requirements placed on the districts which applied for funding. Board members also requested an update on the district's sex education programs, and Dr. Durtan will provide current information on the programs at a future meeting of the Board.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Durtan reviewed his personnel report on the current additions, terminations, suspensions, demotions, leaves of absence, promotions, suspensions and transfers of staff shown in Enclosure #14. He noted that Mr. Klinger had conducted in excess of 300 interviews and that 38 staff would be attending the induction for new teachers the following day. Mr. Klinger advised that 17 other district staff had changed assignments. He noted that the district had budgeted 14.5 new positions to fill, that all but 1.7 of these had been filled, and that the district would be ready for the start of classes on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. In response to Board queries, Dr. Durtan provided information on class size at several schools. There will be 75 students in grade 2 at Whitmarsh Elementary School in four sections. Projected class size at Colonial Elementary School is 23 in grade 4 and 22 in grade 5 as a result of Board action to provide four new teachers. Class size at Plymouth Elementary School is at or near the maximum in kindergarten and grade 1. Mr. Pinheiro noted that with these positions being filled, the average age of our professional staff had come down, and that leaves for child rearing and the need for temporary replacements for teachers on leave were up.

Dr. Durtan presented routine additions to the district's substitute lists as shown in Enclosure #15, a sizable number of extra-duty/extra-pay assignments as shown in Enclosure #16, and conference requests as shown in Enclosure #17.

**New Business:** Dr. Durtan provided information on contracts coming up for approval by the Board at its regular August business meeting. He noted that transportation contracts as shown in Enclosure #18 were routine. Mr. O'Hara noted that he had recommended changes to the wording of the transportation contract with Sague Transportation Services which would contain higher insurance requirements. Board members asked about the possibility of having pre-formatted contracts available, and Mr. O'Hara indicated that it would be possible to model some contracts on others but that they would be longer rather than shorter documents. Dr. Durtan briefly reviewed contracts for special education services as

shown in Enclosure #19, and Mr. Shipman noted that these were on-going contracts for the 1997-98 school year. Dr. Durtan noted the proposed contract for a vision therapist to for a student identified in need in Enclosure #20 and Corporate Resolutions to Maintain Deposit Accounts as shown in Enclosure #21. Mr. Bickleman explained that the latter were required to add the signature of Mr. Bell, as Board Secretary, to those approved to sign checks.

Dr. Durtan advised that a revised Board Policy on Copyright Protection would be presented for a first reading at the Thursday night meeting of the Board.

**Solicitor's Report:** Mr. O'Hara advised that he would be asking for Board action at the regular business meeting on a recommendation for expulsion of a student.

**Committee Reports:** Mr. Pinheiro reported on the Personnel Committee's recommendations on the establishment of Hay Points for four administrative positions: Director of Financial Services, Director of Support Services and two Curriculum Supervisors. He also reported an increase in the Hay Points assigned to the Director of Technology.

**Public Comments on the Agenda:** Sally Abbott, district resident, commended the Board for reducing the class size at Colonial Elementary School and for restoring the elementary school atmosphere to the building. She took positive note of the improved financial posture of the district's food service program but queried why revenues were lower in period 12. Mr. Pinheiro noted that the end of the year closed the kitchens and cut the weeks available to generate revenue while certain food service costs continued. Ms. Abbott inquired about the status of the projected addition to Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. Mr. Connolly confirmed that the district had identified a project and a location for the addition and that the architects were doing land development studies. He advised that the district should have some idea of costs for a feasibility study for work at the high school and at Conshohocken Elementary School and a timetable in about 30 days.

Allan Dovberg, district resident, confirmed the parameters within which Mr. Bell, as Board Secretary, would be timing public comment to insure that speakers stayed within the five minute limit for initial comments. Mr. Pinheiro confirmed that the five minutes would not include the time taken by Board members to address the issues raised, Mr. Dovberg confirmed the status of district support for the DECA program at the high school and suggested that, since the program had a reserve of over \$3,000.00 for the last school year, the district recoup \$2,500.00 in funds allotted to DECA and use the money to meet other educational needs. Mr. O'Neill advised that the Curriculum Committee had discussed guidelines for support of co-curricular activities and a policy would be developed. Mr. Dovberg requested information on the services being provided to a student at the Vanguard School. He welcomed Mr. Bell and Mr. Bickleman to their expanded positions and queried the status of additional personnel actions for Thursday night. Dr. Durtan indicated that

**there would be additional teacher appointments and that Mr. Shipman's resignation would be on the agenda for the meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**Mary Thiess, district resident, inquired on the status of funding for computer monitors in each classroom of the high school. Dr. Durtan indicated that the district was reviewing lease documents and may be ready to review them at the regular business meeting of the Board on Thursday. He noted that the equipment would not be in place at the start of the semester but may be available during the year.**

**There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Pinheiro adjourned the meeting at 9:26 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**James M. Bell  
Board Secretary**