

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462  
MINUTES, DECEMBER 1, 1997**

Mr. Kessler advised those in attendance that the December Reorganization Meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors would begin with the election by the continuing members of the Board of a temporary chairperson. The temporary chairperson would, in accordance with the school code, oversee the certification of the election of school board members on November 4<sup>th</sup>, the administration of the oath of office to the individuals elected to terms on the Board in that election, and the election of Board officers and the appointment of Board representatives. In attendance at the meeting were continuing members of the Board: Beverley Brown, Rich Connolly, Gary Johnson and Mark Orlow, and recently elected board members: Robert Carroll, Stuart Kessler, Robert O'Neill, Stuart Kessler (four-year term) and Thomas Yunker (two-year term). Mr. Orlow moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Connolly temporary chairperson. All continuing board members in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Connolly called the meeting to order at 8:12 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room of the Colonial Elementary School on December 1, 1997 and lead those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Board Members Present:** Beverly Brown, Rich Connolly, Robert Carroll, Gary Johnson, Stuart Kessler, Robert O'Neill, Marc Orlow, Jack Pinheiro, Thomas Yunker.

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Also Attending:** Dr. Stanley Durtan, Superintendent; Dr. Ann Stormes, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; James M. Bell, Director of Operations/Board Secretary; Joseph P. Bickleman, Controller/Board Treasurer; R. Scott Klinger, Director of Personnel; Fred Shipman, Director of Pupil Services; Frank O'Hara, Solicitor; Katy Swetkowski, Student Board Representative; Carol Cohen, CEA; John Bachelor, CEA; Eleanor Carroll; Kathy Dale; Mike Diehl; Allan Dovberg; Tom Gibson; Don Flathman; Robert Jones; Pam Kessler; Young Kim; Hugh Lipshutz; Michael Macaninch; Bernard Moore; Darilyn Moyer; Donald Newmeyer and Lou Verdelli.

**Certification of Election and Oath of Office:** Mr. Connolly advised that Joseph Passarella, Director of Voters Services of the Montgomery County Election Board had certified the elections on November 4, 1997 of Robert J. Carroll, Stuart Kessler, Robert M. O'Neill and Jack Pinheiro to four-year terms and Thomas J. Yunker to a two year term as School Directors of the Colonial School District. Judge Bernard Moore administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected board members.

Mr. Connolly outlined the duties of President of the Board of School Directors and noted that Mr. Kessler had held that position since 1990. Mr. Orlow moved and Ms. Brown

seconded a motion to elect Mr. Kessler President of the Board for the coming year. On roll call vote, Mr. Kessler abstained. All remaining members in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Connolly outlined the duties of Vice President of the Board of School Directors and noted that Mr. Pinheiro had held that position since 1993. Mr. Pinheiro moved and Ms. Brown seconded a motion to elect Mr. Orlow Vice President of the Board for the coming year. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Connolly outlined the composition of the CMCAVTS Joint Operating Committee and noted both the current membership from Colonial School District and the availability of the seat which he currently held. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. O'Neill seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Connolly to a three-year term on the committee. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Connolly outlined the responsibilities of the Legislative Chairperson and his/her involvement in the PSBA's legislative action program. He noted that Mr. Kessler had served in this capacity during 1997. Mr. Pinheiro moved and Mr. Orlow seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Kessler Legislative Chairperson for the coming year. On roll call vote, Mr. Kessler abstained. All remaining members in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Connolly outlined the responsibility of PSBA Representative and noted that Mr. Johnson had served in this capacity during 1997. Mr. Kessler moved and Mr. Orlow seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Johnson PSBA Representative for the coming year. On roll call vote, Mr. Johnson abstained. All remaining members in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Kessler assumed his position as President of the Board. He thanked his fellow board members for their vote of confidence in him and welcomed Mr. Carroll as the newest member of the Board.

**Minutes:** Mr. Connolly moved and Mr. Pinheiro seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Board work session of 11/17/97, as shown in Enclosure #1. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

**Financial Reports:** Mr. Kessler noted that financial reports and the treasurer's report had previously been approved through 10/31/97 and that Board authorization was being sought to pay November bills during December. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. O'Neill seconded a motion to pay November bills in December. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Kessler noted that financial reports for November will come up for formal action in January.

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

**Staff Report:** None

**Old Business:** In response to Mr. Kessler's reference to resolve the issue of scheduling at the high school for the 1998-99 school year, Dr. Durtan noted the need to move forward on the matter. He suggested that, if the Board wished to allow time for a possible contract settlement with the CEA, it could, without any major impact on scheduling time lines, delay a final decision until December 8<sup>th</sup>. Based on input from Dr. Durtan, Mr. Pinheiro moved and Ms. Brown seconded a motion to provide a window for a possible contract settlement by extending the deadline for moving forward with a traditional schedule until December 8<sup>th</sup>, at which point the high school administration would, in the absence of Board direction to the contrary, proceed with the development of a traditional schedule for the 1998-99 school year. On roll call vote, all in favor, motion carried.

**Correspondence:** None

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Durtan reviewed the personnel recommendations listed on Enclosures #2 through #4, covering terminations as a result of resignation or retirement; promotions, employment, transfers of professional and support staff; additions to substitute lists, and the appointment of Adult Evening School instructors for 1998. Mr. Connolly moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the personnel recommendations listed in these enclosures. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

**Board Student Representatives Report:** Ms. Swetkowski noted the transition between fall and winter sports at the high school; provided an update on the basketball, wrestling and swimming teams; and outlined recent activities including: The honor society, Physics Olympics and recent music concerts. In response to a Board request, she reported on the student council's plans for the money received from the 1997 anti-vandalism program. She noted that in the past the funds had supported initiatives such as the Presidential Scholars Program and the Santa Project for collecting toys for needy children. She reported that current plans called for involving the school and community in the anti-vandalism program via such mechanisms as public service announcements, a poster contest with a cash prize, and updated bulletin boards.

**New Business:** Mr. Kessler outlined the proposed Board meeting schedule for the 1998 calendar year and noted all regular meetings would be scheduled to begin at 8:00 p.m. and all public work sessions at 8:30 p.m. He also advised that time would be reserved at 7:30 p.m. on the same evenings as the public work sessions for any required executive sessions.

The following particulars apply:

**Work Session**

Mon., 01/12/98  
Tues., 02/17/98  
Mon., 03/16/98  
Mon., 04/13/98  
Mon., 05/18/98

**Regular Meeting**

Thurs., 01/15/98  
Thurs., 02/19/98  
Thurs., 03/19/98  
Thurs., 04/16/98  
Thurs., 05/21/98

Mon., 06/15/98  
\*Mon., 07/06/98  
Mon., 08/17/98  
Mon., 09/14/98  
Mon., 10/12/98  
Mon., 11/16/98

Thurs., 06/18/98  
\*Thurs., 07/09/98  
Thurs., 08/20/98  
Thurs., 09/17/98  
Thurs., 10/15/98  
Thurs., 11/19/98  
\*Mon., 12/07/98

Denotes deviation from Third Thursday or prior Monday.

Mr. Kessler recognized Mr. Jones, bond counsel and Mr. Verdelli, a representative from PFM to review with the Board and the community the bond resolution required to secured a General Obligation Note in the amount of \$10,000,000.00 from the 1989 Emmaus/PLGIT Bond Pool, as shown in Enclosure #5. These gentlemen noted that the Emmaus/PLGIT program was an effective way to borrow money short term. They advised that the Board would technically be authorizing two notes, one payable to Emmaus and another stand-by credit note payable to a bank as a contingent obligation. They also noted that the funds would be available for facility work at the high school and Colonial and Conshohocken Elementary Schools and must be refinanced prior to 9/1/99. They confirmed Mr. Kessler's understanding that the money could be pre-paid without penalty. Ms. Brown reminded the board members of their good faith commitment to use the funds for the projects intended. She also queried the planned refinancing date of 9/1/99 and learned that it was based on the projected draw-down schedule for the funds approved by the bank. Mr. Connolly received confirmation that funds above \$10,000,000.00 had to be secured in increments of \$5,000,000.00. Mr. Yunker received an explanation of estimated financing costs and how they are tied to the market for permanent financing at the time of the refinancing. Mr. Kessler received confirmation that expenses for bond issuance would not exceed \$25,000.00. Mr. Orlow received confirmation that the funds could be used by the district to reimburse itself for previous district expenditures which fall within the general limitations of facility projects at the high school and Colonial and Conshohocken Elementary Schools and that the interest received by the district on money not yet spent for the construction projects could be placed in the construction fund. Ms. Brown moved and Mr. O'Neill seconded a motion to approve the bond resolution. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried. On a separate motion, Ms. Brown moved and Mr. Yunker seconded a motion to cap expenses for bond issuance at \$25,000.00. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried. Ms. Brown requested that bond counsel provide the district in the future the projected closing statement before the closing date.

Mr. Kessler shared with the community the fact that the district was exploring the possibility of purchasing some property in the tract which has been the site of the WFIL radio towers. Dr. Durtan stated his belief that the property might offer the district some options in terms of creating much needed athletic fields, additional parking for the Colonial Elementary School/District Office complex, and/or a site for future expansion should that prove necessary. He noted that it would be appropriate for the Board to provide administration some direction if it wished staff to continue to explore options with

the township. Ms. Brown suggested that a committee involving community members be formed to establish need for the property. Mr. O'Hara noted that the Board could authorize administration to continue to collect information on the Board's behalf and indicated that this approach could run on a parallel track to the initiative proposed by Ms. Brown. He remarked on the need for timely discussions so that district interests could be raised early. He noted that the township had an appraisal for the property and that it would soon be necessary to talk to the seller in order for information collection to proceed. Mr. Pinheiro and Mr. Kessler suggested that there was value in administration continuing to collect information without making any offers. Mr. Pinheiro moved and Mr. Connolly seconded a motion to permit administration to continue such information collecting on behalf of the Board without making any final decisions which would obligate the district. Ms. Brown indicated her willingness to accept this approach as long as the public was given the opportunity for input before any decisions were reached. Mr. Kessler asked Mr. Orlow to provide, within the context of the Public Relations Committee, an opportunity for community input into the process of defining district need for additional real estate. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

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

**Committee Reports:**

**Intermediate Unit Board:** No report.

**CMCAVTS:** No report.

**Personnel:** Mr. Pinheiro provided an update on negotiations between the Board and the CEA. He noted the intensified negotiations as the deadline for block scheduling approached and indicated that meetings involving three members of the Board and three members of CEA had occurred on 11/21/97, 11/24/97 and 11/26/97. He stated his belief that progress had been made on all issues during the first two sessions. He indicated that a basic understanding had been reached on merit pay except for the actual dollars involved, and he outlined the topics discussed. The latter included pay increases in the range of the county average of 3.7 percent to avoid a disruption in the planned implementation of block scheduling, a plan for CEA members to share a portion of the risk involved with increasing medical care premiums, and a need for additional in-service time in support of the district's technology initiative. Mr. Pinheiro advised that the CEA backed away from the progress made during the first two sessions and came to the third session on 11/26/97 with new demands. Talks broke off at the conclusion of that meeting. He noted that the Board remained committed to the same issues which it had originally placed on the table, viz. educational improvements, accountability and wise spending of the taxpayers money. He noted that the Board had offered significant compromises over its original proposal and that its best offer would be on the table for only one week in an attempt to encourage an agreement in time to keep block scheduling on target. Mr. Pinheiro indicated that after December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Board offer would be withdrawn and urged the CEA not to let the opportunity pass.

**Finance Committee: No report.**

**Curriculum and Program: No report.**

**Buildings & Grounds and Transportation: Mr. Connolly provided a brief update on meetings between the district and officials of Whitemarsh Township on the planned addition at the high school.**

**Community Relations: No report.**

**Legislative: No report.**

**Public Comments: None.**

**There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Mr. Kessler adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**James M. Bell  
Secretary**