

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, FEBRUARY 17, 1998**

The February Work Session of the Colonial School Board of Directors was convened by President Kessler at 6:48 p.m. in the Board Room of the Colonial Elementary School on February 17, 1998.

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

Board Members Absent: Beverly Brown.

Also Attending: Dr. Stanley Durtan, Superintendent; Dr. Ann Stormes, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; James M. Bell, Director of Operations/Board Secretary; Joseph Bickleman, Controller/Treasurer; R. Scott Klinger, Director of Personnel; Fred Shipman, Director of Pupil Services; Frank O'Hara, Solicitor; Gerhard Dietrich; Allan Dovberg; Rosemary Hamilton; Kevin Hanlon; Mark Helms; Hugh Lipshutz; Michael Macaninch; Mary Theiss; and Steve Wills.

Mr. Kessler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Mr. Kessler asked for comments or questions on the minutes of the Special Meeting of 1/7/98, the Buildings and Grounds Committee of 1/12/98, the Work Session of 1/12/98, the General Meeting of 1/18/98, the Community Relations Committee Meeting of 2/3/98, and the Curriculum Meeting of 1/28/98, as shown in Enclosures #1 through #6. No issues were raised.

Financial Reports: Mr. Kessler asked the Board if there were any comments or questions on the Budget Transfer Reports of 2/98; the Bond Fund Report for the Month Ending 1/31/98; the Capital Reserve Fund Reports for the Month Ending 1/31/98; Food Service Bills and Reports for the Month Ending 12/31/97; the Outstanding Investment, Cash Flow Summary, Comparison of Taxes Collected, and Real Estate Escrow Reports for the month ending 1/31/98; the Reconciliation of Cash Accounts for the months ending 12/31/97 and 1/31/98; and the Budgetary/Deficit Status and Treasurer's Reports for Month Ending 1/31/98, as shown in Enclosures #7 through #17. Dr. Durtan noted that a correctly dated copy of the Real Estate Tax Escrow Report and a confirmed Reconciliation of Cash Accounts for the month ending 1/31/98 would be provided as yellow pages to the agenda for the General Meeting of 2/19/98. No issues were raised with the reports.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Kessler noted that the district had received several pieces of correspondence, two of which are shown in Enclosures #18 and #19. These were

letters from the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit on the Intermediate Board election and budget approval process and a letter from Elmer T. Schorle, Jr., district resident, on the Board's newsletter concerning teacher contract negotiations. Mr. Kessler queried Board members on their interest in serving on the Intermediate Unit Board. In the absence of interest from other board members in serving on the I.U. Board, Mr. Pinheiro expressed his willingness to continue as a member of that Board. Mr. Kessler will seek Board action on Mr. Pinheiro's nomination to the I.U. Board at the General Meeting of 1/19/98.

Mr. Kessler recognized Mr. Dietrich, a member of the Board of the Colonial Foundation for Educational Innovation, who introduced mini-grant recipients, Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Wills, teachers of art and English, respectively, at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Wills spoke of their plans for a "poetry gallery" at the high school. The facility will be housed in a former faculty dining room, will be remodeled with the help of the maintenance department and students, and will provide a multi-functional space for conducting student poetry readings, displaying student art, and conducting other school and community events. Both teachers spoke of the opportunity for inter-disciplinary events and the learning opportunities for students who will not only share their art and literary talents but will also help to create and manage the gallery.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Durtan reviewed his personnel report on the current additions, terminations, suspensions, demotions, leaves of absence, promotions, suspensions, transfers and resignations of staff, as shown in Enclosure #20. He noted his recommendation that Mr. Bell, Mr. Bickleman and Mr. Rump be confirmed in their current administrative positions, effective 7/1/98. He also advised that he would be recommending routine additions and deletions to the substitute list, as shown in Enclosure #21 and the employment of Adult Evening School instructors, subject to sufficient class enrollment, as shown in Enclosure #22. Dr. Durtan reviewed a Class Size Clarification Form with the Board, indicating, as shown in Enclosure #23, that there were currently 25 children in one of the kindergarten classes at Plymouth Elementary School and that he was monitoring the situation and would recommend the placement of an aide in that class if enrollment increased. He also reminded board members that there was another kindergarten class at that school with 27 students served by a teacher and an aide. Board members and Dr. Durtan briefly reviewed that enrollment patterns of the kindergarten classes at Plymouth Elementary School over the course of the school year and a possible relationship between kindergarten class size and bus schedules.

New Business: Mr. Kessler noted that administration was recommending the acceptance of a tuition student at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School, as shown in Enclosure #24. He advised his fellow board members that they would be deciding at the General Meeting of 2/19/98 whether to continue basing the budget for teacher salaries in accordance with their past practice of meeting only known contractual obligations. He also referenced the 1998-99 budget schedule, as shown in Enclosure

#25, and indicated that the Personnel Committee would make its budget presentation at the 2/19/98 meeting. Mr. Kessler also noted that the Board would be considering at that meeting the provision of childcare services and related transportation in the event of a work stoppage.

Solicitor's Report: No report. Mr. O'Hara indicated that he would be bringing two issues before the Board at its General Meeting of 2/19/98: An appraisal and a proposed revision to the Articles of Agreement of the Vo-Tech School.

Additional Information: Mr. Kessler announced that the Board had met in Executive Session at 6:00 p.m., just prior to the Work Session, to discuss administrative compensation, appraisals, and the status of the WFIL property. He also noted that the Board would meet in Executive Session following the General Meeting on 2/19/98.

Committee Reports: Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Connolly advised that the committee would be meeting in the Board Room at 6:00 p.m. on 2/19/98 to receive a presentation on the topic of construction management and talk with officials of the Barren Hill Fire Company about responses to fire alarms at district schools. He also provided notice that the committee would be meeting in the Board Room on Monday, 2/23/98 at 4:30 p.m. to discuss the feasibility studies relating to structural and user comfort issues in the east wing of the high school and at Colonial and Conshohocken Elementary Schools.

No reports for other committees.

Public Comments: Mr. Dovberg noted that the DECA Club had spent its entire account for the year and encouraged the club sponsor and parents to promote fundraisers which would provide sufficient funds to support club members participation in the annual competition. He also suggested that Board members take the issue of Board financial support for the club under advisement.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Kessler adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Bell
Board Secretary