

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, OCTOBER 6, 1997**

The special meeting of the Colonial School Board of Directors was convened by President Kessler at 7:03 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room of the Colonial Elementary School on October 6, 1997.

Board Members Present: Stuart Kessler, Jack Pinheiro, Beverly Brown, Rich Connolly, Gary Johnson, Allen Mandelbaum, Marc Orlow, Thomas Yunker.

Board Members Absent: Robert O'Neill

Also Attending: Dr. Stanley Durtan, Superintendent; James M. Bell, Director of Operations/Board Secretary; R. Scott Klinger, Director of Personnel; Robert Carroll; and Allan Dovberg.

New Business: Mr. Kessler presented for Board review and comment the appointment of Earth Engineering Incorporated (EEI) to complete a geotechnical study on the plot at Plymouth Whitmarsh High School which is to be the site of the proposed science addition. Mr. Connolly reported that the study was needed to establish that the area could appropriately support the foundations for the new addition. He noted that the district had contacted three firms suggested by the architect for the project, that all three had submitted proposals, and that Mr. Berneski, the district's Director Maintenance, had reviewed each of the proposals and confirmed that any of them would meet the requirements set forth by the project architect. Mr. Connolly advised that EEI had submitted the lowest cost proposal. It was moved by Mr. Connolly and seconded by Mr. Johnson that EEI be authorized to perform the required geotechnical study. Mr. Yunker suggested that borings be made in the area fronting the school library to determine if the area would support an expansion of the library if the Board were to undertake such a project in the future. Board members discussed the issue. It was moved by Mr. Connolly and seconded by Mr. Johnson that the original motion be amended to include the additional borings in front of the library at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.00. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Kessler raised for Board consideration the approval of design development documents submitted by Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects for the proposed addition to the high school. The documents included cost estimates, preliminary specifications, and related drawings. Mr. Connolly reminded the Board that several alternatives existed for providing access to the addition from the existing west wing of the high school: A 14 foot corridor with or without supporting pillars in the passageway and a 20 foot corridor with or without an eight foot wide stairwell to the second floor and with or without supporting pillars in the passageway. Board members thoroughly discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the various access possibilities. It was moved by Mr. Mandelbaum and seconded by Mr. Yunker to approve the design development documents which called for a 20 foot corridor

with an eight foot wide straight stairwell and no supporting columns in the passageway. Mr. Kessler advised that he would vote in favor of the motion but noted reservations that he had with portions of the design. He preferred a roof more steeply pitched than that contained in the design documents and an exterior design that offered a softer facade. Ms. Brown also noted that she would vote to approve the design development documents but would have preferred a facade in which the windows were not so long and would be easier to replace if they were damaged. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Kessler raised the subject of proposals for feasibility studies to evaluate the exterior curtain wall and ventilation systems in both the east wing of Plymouth Whitemarsh High School and Conshohocken Elementary School, the ventilation system at Colonial Elementary School, and the electrical system at the high school. Board members reviewed the purpose of the studies and the directions the Board had given the Superintendent in approaching the architect about the proposals. Board members had serious reservations about the proposal for evaluating the electrical system at the high school. They directed the Superintendent to have Mr. Berneski explore other options for collecting information on the electrical system at the high school, including contacting PECO Energy for any assistance that the company might be able to provide. It was moved by Mr. Pinheiro and seconded by Mr. Connolly to have Breslin Rudyard Fadero Architects perform the curtain wall and ventilation studies at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School and Conshohocken and Colonial Elementary Schools and not to have the firm undertake the study of the electrical system at the high school. On a roll call vote, Mr. Pinheiro, Ms. Brown, Mr. Connolly, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Mandelbaum, Mr. Orlow and Mr. Yunker in favor. Mr. Kessler opposed. Motion carried.

Dr. Durtan advised the Board that correspondence from Donald R. Newmeyer, district resident, on the subject of abstinence based sex education was attached to the agenda for the meeting and that Mr. Newmeyer had requested that the information be provided to the Board before its October meetings. Mr. Newmeyer had advised that he would refer to the handout during his comments at those meetings. Mr. Pinheiro noted that the district was unlikely to have outside organizations provide sex education in its schools and that such training would be part of the district's curriculum. Dr. Durtan commented that organizations interested in the subject tended to be at opposite poles when discussing it and that the district's programs were likely to be somewhere in the middle. He advised that Dr. Stormes was continuing to gather information on the issues.

Public Comments: Mr. Carroll suggested that Board members have drawings at their disposal which showed the various options proposed for the annex to the high school. Board members advised him that these drawings were available.

Mr. Dovberg requested an additional 3.5 minutes at the October Board meeting to make some positive recommendations on student fund raisers. Mr. Kessler agreed to grant him the additional time. Mr. Dovberg asked for an update on the Curriculum Committee's work on a policy governing co-curricular and extra-curricular activities and was told that information on the subject would be coming forward to the Board in due course. Mr.

Dovberg shared some of his perspectives on the appropriateness of some of DECA's activities and continued district financial support of the organization. He expressed concern that a failure to resolve these issues shortly could lead to additional funding requests for this school year under existing conditions. Board members noted the need to resolve the issues soon and to advise DECA in advance of any possible changes that the district might be making in its support of the organization.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Mr. Kessler advised at 8:28 p.m. that the Board would move into Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Respectfully submitted,

**James M. Bell
Secretary**