

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, APRIL 5, 1999**

President Kessler convened a special meeting of the Colonial School Board of Directors at 8:05 a. m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on April 5, 1999.

Board Members Present: Stuart Kessler, Marc Orlow, Robert Carroll, Rich Connolly, Gary Johnson, and Jack Pinheiro.

Board Members Absent: Beverly Brown, Robert O'Neill, and Thomas Yunker.

Also Attending: Dr. Stanley Durtan, Superintendent and James M. Bell, Director of Support Services/Board Secretary.

Dr. Durtan reviewed information that Rich Worth of Worth and Company had presented to the Buildings & Grounds Committee on March 29th. (See Enclosure #1.) He also shared with the Board a contract amendment prepared by the solicitor, Mr. O'Hara, that reduced to writing the committee's recommendation to the Board to approve a change order for Worth and Company to do the electrical work necessary to make the new chiller at Colonial Middle School fully operational. (See Attachment #1.) Dr. Durtan noted that the amendment included a guarantee to do all the work necessary to make the chiller operational and not to return for additional change orders. Board members discussed the amendment and reached a consensus to add language to the amendment to define the operation of the chiller as "in accordance with industry standards". Mr. Pinheiro moved and Mr. Connolly seconded a motion to approve the amendment with the phrase added. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Orlow reviewed information that the Buildings & Grounds Committee had discussed at its meeting on March 29th on the subject of proposed design work for rewiring much of Whitemarsh Elementary School. He noted that the wiring in the tunnels beneath the school was deteriorating and needed to be replaced. Mr. Orlow also reported that the committee recommended that Joseph A. Mercadante, P. E. be awarded the design work since he was the lowest responsible vendor quoting on the project. (See Enclosure #2.) In response to a Board query, Dr. Durtan reported that district maintenance staff could do the work on the lines supporting lighting in the parking lot. Mr. Orlow moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the committee recommendation. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Orlow and Mr. Kessler reviewed for the Board the original proposal and a subsequent amendment from Schiller and Hersh to conduct an air conditioning study and economic analysis at Colonial and Conshohocken Elementary Schools and the east wing of Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. The amendment had the

effect of adding to the cost of the original project as approved by the Board pending acceptance by the vendor of the requirement to produce more than one option for Board consideration. (See Enclosure #3.) Mr. Kessler read a resolution prepared by the solicitor to reject the amendment and, thereby, also reject the original proposal. (See Attachment #2.) Mr. Connolly moved and Mr. Orlow seconded a motion to approve the resolution as presented. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Kessler raised two additional items for Board consideration. First, he reminded the Board that it had the right to appoint a member of the arbitration panel required under the district's agreement with the CEA on the issue of performance-based pay. He noted that, while the Board was free to appoint anyone it wished, he recommended that the Board appoint Dennis Powell to the panel at a fee of \$100.00 per hour. Mr. Kessler summarized Mr. Powell's qualifications and moved a motion to appoint him to the panel. Mr. Orlow seconded the motion. After Board discussion, on roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Kessler then expressed interest in receiving an update on all legal work underway by the solicitor on tax assessment appeals pending in the courts. The Board members briefly discussed the appeals process, the district's attempts to track appeals, and the solicitor's request for authority to secure an appraisal for Plymouth Park Apartments, an assessment under appeal. Following the discussion, Mr. Pinheiro moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to grant the solicitor the authority to seek the requested appraisal and to direct the superintendent to secure a report from the solicitor on all pending tax appeal work, including the status of discovery, expert reports and trial dates. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Orlow raised the issue of the district's right to call staff in on snow days for students, should it judge it safe and appropriate to do so. Dr. Durtan noted that he had received input from the district's solicitor on the subject and would share that information with the Board in Board Notes.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Kessler adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Bell
Board Secretary