

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, JANUARY 18, 1999**

President Kessler convened the January Work Session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:58 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on January 18, 1999.

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

Board Members Absent: Beverly Brown, Jack Pinheiro.

Also Attending: Dr. Stanley Durtan, Superintendent; Dr. Ann Stormes, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; James M. Bell, Director of Support Services/Board Secretary; Joseph Bickleman, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer; R. Scott Klinger, Director of Personnel; Fred Shipman, Director of Pupil Services; Mike Macaninch for Frank O'Hara, Solicitor; Carol Cohen, CEA; Sam Tuzza, Gilbane; Tom Davis, Colonial Foundation for Educational Innovation; A. J. DauleRio; Dr. Hugh Lipshutz; and Michael Macaninch.

Mr. Kessler led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Kessler apologized for the late start of the meeting and advised that the Board had met in executive session from 7:30 p.m. until just prior to the work session to consider personnel and legal matters.

Mr. Kessler directed Board attention to the minutes of the Community Relations meetings of 11/10/98, the Work Session of 11/16/98, the General Meeting of 11/19/98, the Community Relations Committee Meeting of 11/25/98, the Reorganization Meeting of 12/07/98 and the Buildings & Grounds Committee Meetings of 12/14/98, 12/21/98, and 01/05/99 as shown in Enclosures #1 through #8. Mr. Kessler advised that, because of delivery delays caused by the winter storms, board members had just received the minutes and would have an opportunity to review them in the days before the meeting of 01/21/99. He noted that he would entertain additional Board comment at that meeting but then asked for any initial responses to the minutes. Mr. Carroll noted that he had been named as a member of the B&G committee and requested that the minutes of the December meetings reflect his attendance as a committee member.

Financial Reports: Mr. Kessler referred board members to the Budget Transfers Reports of 12/98 and 01/99; Bond Fund Reports for the months ending 11/30/98 and 12/31/98; the Capital Project Report for the month ending 12/31/98; General Fund/Federal Program Bills, Capital Reserve Fund Reports for the months ending 11/30/98 and 12/31/98; Food Service Bills/Cafeteria Report of 09/30/98; Outstanding Investment Reports, Cash Flow Summaries, Comparisons of Taxes Collected, Real Estate Tax Escrow Reports, and Reconciliations of Cash Accounts for the months

ending 11/30/98 and 12/31/98; the Budget Analyses of 12/14/98 and 01/11/99; and the Treasurer's Reports for the months ending 11/30/98 and 12/31/98, as shown in Enclosures #9 through #19. Mr. Kessler asked if the list of bills to be paid included any bills from the architect, and Mr. Bickleman pointed out the one bill from the architect included in the reports.

Old Business: Mr. Kessler recognized Mr. Tuzza of Gilbane, the district's Construction Manager for the construction of the high school science annex. Mr. Tuzza reported on the progress to date on the addition, as outlined in his written report added to these minutes as Attachment #1. Mr. Orlow and Mr. Kessler asked questions concerning the inspection activities of both the architect and the construction manager. Mr. Tuzza reviewed the somewhat parallel activities of the two firms as well as the inspection activities of independent inspection agencies and Whitemarsh Township. He also reported that the project was two weeks behind schedule in some areas and one week ahead in others and was expected to be back on schedule by the end of February.

Mr. Kessler recognized Mr. Davis of the Colonial Foundation for Educational Innovation who reported that the foundation was recommending Board approval of eight new mini-grants totaling \$3,705.00 and two new major projects involving intergenerational reading at Ridge Park Elementary School and digital imaging and recording equipment at the observatory at Colonial Middle School. Support for these latter projects would total \$7,265.00. Mr. Davis also acknowledged the support of teachers and administrators who contributed to the foundation through payroll deductions and several board members who provided financial support. Mr. Kessler thanked Mr. Davis and the foundation and advised that the Board would take action on the proposed projects at its meeting on 01/21/99.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Kessler noted that there were four pieces of correspondence, two requiring Board action. Mr. Steven Sloan submitted a proposal for establishing a girls soccer program at the high school for the 1998-99 season. Mr. John DeFlaminis, President of the Association of School District in Support of Excellence and Equity, requested additional support from the district. Senator Richard Tilghman provided positive feedback on the recent Town Meeting held by the Board. Mr. Yayati Patel, father of a PWHS senior, requested that the Board consider financial assistance for his son's enrollment in a college course. These letters are Enclosures # 20 through #23, respectively. Mr. Kessler noted that Mr. DeFlaminis and Mr. Patel's requests would require Board action. Dr. Durtan noted that the district had received an additional piece of correspondence relating to Mr. DeFlaminis' request, Enclosure #38 on the agenda for the meeting of 01/21/99. He also reviewed briefly the district's past support for the association and the projected cost of continued participation in the association's activities. In response to a question from Mr. Kessler, Dr. Durtan advised that the district had long supported

the placement of students in courses at the college level when appropriate courses were not available for students within the curriculum of the high school. He noted, however, that no fees had been involved with these placements in the past.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Durtan briefly reviewed his personnel report containing recommendations on additions, terminations, suspensions, demotions, leaves of absence, promotions, suspensions, transfers and resignations of staff and changes to the substitute lists, as shown in Enclosures #24 through #25. He characterized the actions recommended as routine but noted that the report covered a two-month period. Dr. Durtan also pointed out that the appointment of adult school instructors, as recommended in Enclosure #26, was dependent on sufficient class enrollment to cover the teachers' salaries.

New Business: Mr. Kessler reported five items of new business for the meeting of 01/21/99, all student trip requests, as shown in Enclosures #27 through #29, #35 and #36. The trips include a high school band trip, the participation of three high school students in the PMEA District 11 Orchestra Festival, a trip to Vermont by the high school ski club, the participation of several DECA students in the state competition, and the Class of 2000 senior class trip. Mr. Yunker asked how many class days would be missed while students were on the class trip. Dr. Durtan advised that two days would be missed. Mr. Yunker wondered if the time missed under block scheduling would have an adverse impact on the students. He recalled earlier discussions about holding such trips at times when class schedules would be unaffected. Dr. Durtan advised that high school administrators had considered these factors but still favored approval of the trip. Board members discussed the issue briefly but decided to defer further discussion until after students had traveled during a period when block scheduling was in place and the impact of the trip could be better assessed. Dr. Durtan noted that the senior class trip request was coming earlier than usual because Mr. Forster had been advised that timing could be an issue in securing appropriate accommodations for the Class of 2000.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: Mr. Bickleman reported on the last Finance Committee meeting. He advised that a representative of PFM had been in attendance to provide a financial update on permanent bond financing and a plan for the district's debt structure. Mr. Bickleman noted that Ms. Brown would be presenting a resolution on the issue at the Board meeting of 01/21/99. He also advised that the basic plan was to sell the bonds under competitive bids in February and for the district to receive the funds in March.

Mr. Orlow announced that the district and Whitemarsh Township had filed Declarations of Taking for the WFIL property and that the district technically now owned approximately 29.6 acres of additional land along Colonial Drive. Board

consensus was to have Mr. Bell contact the district's insurance broker and confirm that the district had general liability coverage on the parcel.

Mr. Orlow announced that the Buildings & Grounds Committee would be recommending to the Board at the meeting of 01/21/99 the acceptance of a proposal from DePallo Design and Planning for design and engineering services relating to site improvements for the high school campus, particularly those improvements being considered for the former WFIL tract.

Mr. Orlow also notified the Board that the committee would be recommending acceptance of a proposal from Schiller and Hersh Associates for the plans necessary to air condition Conshohocken and Colonial Elementary Schools and the east wing of the high school. The Board briefly reviewed again the options of a traditional design-bid approach and the alternate design-build approach which sets a performance standard. Mr. Orlow advised that, after careful review and deliberation, the committee preferred the traditional approach. Mr. Kessler suggested that the time might be right to evaluate the alternate approach and suggested that the design-build option be tested along side the traditional approach for one of the three buildings to be air-conditioned. Mr. Orlow concurred and asked administration to contact Mr. Hersh about undertaking the design-build assignment in addition to the design-bid work proposed.

Mr. Orlow further advised the Board that the committee would be recommending on 01/21/99 the acceptance of a bid for a production truck for CITV. He reported that the committee had received additional information on the mechanical soundness of the reconditioned vehicle and the design of its interior to meet CITV needs. He indicated that the vehicle was priced somewhat higher than what had been budgeted but that Mr. Quinn was prepared to under-spend in other areas of the CITV budget so as to stay within the total amount budgeted for CITV for the 1998-99 school year.

Public Comment: Dr. Lipshutz inquired about the changes in the priority status of alterations to the high school library, the purpose for alterations to the facility, and the decrease in the amount allocated to the project. Mr. Orlow indicated that the capital projects priority list was a work in progress and that priorities and funding levels would change as additional information was gathered and the committee and Board made decisions about the value of and need for the projects listed. He reported that alterations were being considered to support increased technology in the library.

Dr. Lipshutz inquired about the status of a proposal sent to the Board to establish a girls soccer program at the high school in the current school year. Dr. Durtan indicated that administration recommended against accepting the proposal in part because it was too late to enter the league this year and because the field designated in the proposal was not available from Plymouth Township because it was being re-

seeded. Dr. Lipshutz expressed doubt that the designated practice field in Miles Park would be available either. The Board acknowledged that plans were going forward for a girls soccer program at the high school for the spring of the year 2000.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Kessler adjourned the meeting at 10:02 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

James M. Bell
Board Secretary