

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462  
MINUTES, JULY 6, 1998**

President Kessler convened the July Work Session of the Colonial School Board of Directors at 8:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on July 6, 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 Support Services/Board Secretary; Joseph Bickleman, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer; R. Scott Klinger, Director of Personnel; Fred Shipman, Director of Pupil Services; Frank O'Hara, Solicitor; Michael Macaninch; and Allan Dovberg.

Mr. Kessler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Kessler directed Board attention to the minutes of the Work Session of 6/15/98 and the General Meeting of 6/18/98, as shown in Enclosures #1 and #2 and asked board members if they had any questions or comments. Mr. Bell advised that Mr. O'Hara had suggested a change on page 2488 to reflect the fact that Norristown Area School Board members, and not Dr. Woodall, were suggesting that the term for the Articles of Agreement of the Center for Technical Studies be 20 rather than 30 years. Mr. O'Neill noted that his vote for the repair of the roof over Gym 20 at the high school had not been recorded on page 2488. Mr. Bell advised that he would make the necessary changes to the minutes prior to the board meeting on 7/9/98.

**Financial Reports:** Mr. Kessler noted that the financial and treasurer's reports for June would be submitted for Board approval at the regular meeting in August since the July Board Meeting was scheduled prior to completion of those reports. He advised that the Board would be asked to pay June bills at the meeting on 7/9/98 and inquired if board members had any questions about the schedule for the reports or the bills to be paid. There were none.

**Staff Report:** None.

**Old Business:** Mr. Kessler advised that he would be proposing at the meeting of 7/9/98 the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on the Funding of Student Trips to help the Board bring to a close the ongoing discussions about appropriate mechanisms for handling the approval of attendance at and funding of student trips. Several board members voiced support for such a committee.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Durtan briefly reviewed his personnel report containing routine recommendations on additions, terminations, suspensions, demotions, leaves of absence, promotions, suspensions, transfers and resignations of staff; additions and deletions to the substitute list; and formalization of summer school faculty appointments, as shown in Enclosures #3 through #5. He noted that there would be some additions to his report on Thursday because of recently received requests for child-rearing leave. He also notified the Board that counsel was recommending a proposed settlement of a special education placement suit. He indicated that he would be bringing that recommendation to the Board for action on 7/9/98.

**New Business:** Mr. Kessler advised the Board that a request for early admission to school, student accident insurance, a transportation contract with Sague Auto Service, Inc., and the award of a bid for the high school year book, as shown in Enclosures #6 through #9 would be on the agenda for the meeting of 7/9/98. He asked if board members had any questions on these items. Mr. Pinheiro asked about the term of the Sague contract. Mr. Kessler noted that Mr. Dovberg had raised a similar question prior to the meeting. Dr. Durtan responded that Mr. O'Hara had raised a question about the term of the contract and would be reviewing the contract language prior to the meeting on 7/9/98. He also advised that district past practice had been to make the term of the Sague transportation contract coincide with the Romano transportation contract.

**Solicitor's Report:** Mr. O'Hara advised that he would be recommending at the meeting on 7/9/98 the settlement of an outstanding tax appeal.

**Additional Comment:** Mr. Pinheiro asked if Mr. Kessler would be making appointments to the Merit Pay Committee at the 7/9/98 meeting. He reminded the Board that, under the terms of the recent contract agreement between the Board and the CEA, the Board was to appoint four individuals to the committee to be established to develop procedures governing the awarding of performance-based pay. Mr. Kessler felt that board members should have input into the process and asked that they provide input to him on prospective candidates prior to the meeting on 7/9/98.

**Committee Reports:**

**Buildings & Grounds/Transportation:** Mr. Connolly reminded his fellow board members and local residents that the Buildings & Grounds Committee would be holding a public meeting on Thursday, 7/23/98 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room. He announced that the purpose of the meeting was to review construction drawings for the science annex at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School, interact with the architect

on those drawings, and review the structural steel bids received for the project. He also announced that the Board would meet in special session on Tuesday, 7/28/98 at the same time and location to approve structural steel bids.

Mr. Connolly reminded the Board of the pending construction management (CM) contract between the district and Gilbane and complimented Gilbane staff both on their work to date for the district and their cooperation in working on contract language. He then recognized Mr. Bell who reviewed with the Board the progress to date on the final language of the contract. He highlighted the inclusion of language developed by the Buildings & Grounds Committee on the procedures for handling change orders and the arrangement through which the district could provide clerical support for the CM more economically than having Gilbane provide it directly. Mr. Bell then reviewed with the Board issues surrounding Gilbane's request that the district provide legal representation if the company were sued by a party other than the Board while fully meeting its CM responsibilities to the Board or reimburse the firm for legal expenses which it incurred in responding to such a suit. He reviewed changes made to the contract language in attempt to meet the needs of both parties and summarized advice provided by the district's solicitor and insurance broker at different stages of the discussion between the parties. Board members, administrators and the solicitor raised issues and provided perspectives on these two subjects during the meeting. Speakers also commented on possible insurance options to minimize the risks to the parties. Common themes among the speakers were a desire to avoid indemnifying the CM against legal action for which it should rightly be defending itself and a need to identify cost effective means of handling potential risks to the parties. At the end of the discussion, there was a consensus on the Board to have Mr. O'Hara and Mr. Bell meet with the district's insurance broker in an attempt to define the risks more clearly. The two men were tasked to seek information on how best to minimize those risks and to consult with the Board before approaching Gilbane with proposed contract language to complete contract negotiations between the parties.

**Community Relations:** Mr. Orlow advised the Board that the committee was planning to include a community survey in the Annual Report distributed throughout the district and asked that Board members identify issues to be included in that survey.

**Public Comments:** None

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

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Bell  
Board Secretary