

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, MAY 17, 1999**

President Kessler convened the May Work Session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 9:02 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on May 17, 1999.

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

Board Members Absent: Rich Connolly.

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; Carol Cohen, CEA; Sam Tuzza, Construction Manager; Jeramie Aboiu; Jeanneane Bozzelli; Allan Dovberg, President, Colonial United Taxpayers; Leslie Finegold; Joseph Iannelli; Lawrence Lai; Christine Lapera; Heather Lapera; Dr. Hugh Lipshutz; Frederick Robbins; Shelley Sanders; Craig Young; Mackenzie Young; and Warren Young.

Mr. Kessler led the Pledge of Allegiance. He also advised the community that the Board had met in executive session before the meeting from 7:30 p. m. to interview candidates for Student Board Representative and to discuss legal and personnel matters. He indicated that the Board would return to executive session after the meeting to continue its discussion of personnel issues.

Mr. Kessler directed Board attention to the minutes of the Curriculum Committee Meeting of 03/25/99, The Community Relations Committee of 04/05/99, the Work Session of 04/12/99, The Curriculum Committee Meeting of 04/12/99, the Personnel Committee Meeting of 04/14/99; the General Meeting of 04/15/99, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee Meetings of 04/20/99 and 05/03/99, as shown in Enclosures #1 through #8, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting of 05/01/99, as shown in Enclosure #35. There were no comments or questions from the Board on the minutes.

Financial Reports: Mr. Kessler referred board members to the Budget Transfers Report of 05/99; the Bond Fund Report for the month ending 04/30/99; the Capital Projects Report for the month ending 04/30/99; the General Fund/Federal Program Bills; the Capital Reserve Fund Report for the month ending 04/30/99; the Food Service Bills/Cafeteria Report of 03/31/99; the Outstanding Investment Report, the Cash Flow Summary, the Comparison of Taxes Collected, the Real Estate Tax Escrow Report, and the Reconciliation of Cash Accounts for the month ending 04/30/99; the Budget Analysis of 05/07/99; and the Treasurer's Report for the month

ending 04/30/99, as shown in Enclosures #9 through #20. There were no questions from the Board on the financial reports.

Staff Report: Mr. Kessler noted that Mr. Bickleman would make the public presentation of the preliminary 1999-2000 school budget at the general meeting the following Thursday.

Mr. Kessler recognized Ms. Bozzelli who introduced Lawrence Lai, Heather Lapera and Craig Young, students at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School who had developed the new web page for the district. Ms. Bozzelli and the students walked the board members and community through the site and highlighted both the information and links already included on the district's schools, Board, and administration. Mr. Johnson presented Ms. Bozzelli and the students certificates of recognition from the Board for sharing their talents with and providing dedicated service to the district.

Mr. Kessler recognized Mr. Tuzza who presented a status report on the construction of the high school science wing and the storm-water retention basin behind the school. Mr. Tuzza's full report is attached to these minutes as Attachment #1. In response to Board queries, Mr. Tuzza reported that the project remained about two or three weeks behind schedule but noted that the crews had been making up time and he expected to be back on schedule by mid-summer. He also noted that the general contractor had ten additional people working on site and that work on the retention basin would probably be completed within two weeks. He and Mr. Bell commented on the high level of patience and cooperation shown by the neighbors whose property was adjacent to the basin. Mr. Tuzza also suggested that board members contact him if they wanted to tour the new facility to see first-hand the work in progress.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Kessler directed Board attention to three pieces of correspondence. He indicated that a response to the letter from Larry E. Fritz, Assistant Comptroller for Audits of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of Budget (Enclosure #21) would be on the agenda for Board action at the general meeting the following Thursday. Mr. Bickleman's proposed response was available for Board review. A letter from Susanne McMahon, PWHS faculty member, on the activities of SADD (Enclosure #22) did not require Board action at that time.

Mr. Kessler recognized Ms. Cohen who introduced Frederick Robbins, a faculty member from Colonial Middle School who, with the help of Jeramie Aboiu, a student from the school, explained a presentation project funded by the Colonial Foundation for Educational Innovation. Under the project, the Mum Puppet Theater provided a presentation and workshops showing students how to use puppets to communicate the results of their *I Search* documentation projects. The

text of Mr. Robbins report is attached to these minutes as Attachment #2. Mr. Robbins thanked the foundation and the administration and Blue Team at the middle school for their support of the project.

Mr. Kessler reported that two additional pieces of correspondence would be on the agenda for the general meeting the following Thursday, a letter from Representative Lita Cohen requesting Board consideration of a waiver of real estate taxes for a resident family and a letter from Marsha Suskowski, Executive Director of Montgomery County Head Start, seeking assistance from the Board in locating educational space in the Borough of Conshohocken. They will be Enclosures #36 and #37 respectively.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Durtan briefly reviewed his personnel report as shown in Enclosures #23 through #24. He noted that the report would be updated to include two additional retirements. Mr. Pinheiro and Mr. Kessler commented on the large number of professional staff who would begin or extend child-rearing leave.

New Business: Mr. Kessler read through the fairly extensive list of routine Board appointments and action items that come in May each year. These included the election of the Board Treasurer and auditor, the appointment of the Board Solicitor, the designation of depositories of school funds, the listing of investment banks, the appointment of Student Board Representatives, the compensation for the Board Secretary, the 1999-2000 MCIU Special Education Services Agreement, the allocation of federal programs, and textbook adoption, as listed in the agenda and shown in Enclosures #25 through #27. He also indicated that administration was seeking approval of a number of bids for supplies for the coming school year, as indicated in Enclosure #28. Board members had questions about the books listed for adoption and the funding to cover their eventual purchase. Dr. Stormes noted that action on Thursday would be limited to approving the titles and that funding for the books was included in the funds requested for curriculum initiatives for the coming school year. Dr. Durtan confirmed that the school code specifically required that the Board approve all textbooks in use in the district. Mr. Carroll requested a consolidated funding amount for expected textbook purchases. Mr. Yunker requested clarification of the textbook required for the sixth grade consumer science program and the funding for it. He also noted that a 1997 Quicken text was on the list and queried whether an up-to-date version of the text would be more appropriate. Mr. Pinheiro noted that fuel prices were very reasonable. Ms. Brown expressed concern that the request for approval of the bids was coming prior to adoption of the budget for the coming year. Dr. Durtan and Mr. Bell indicated that the timing was important if the district was to have the supplies in time for the start of the coming school year. Ms. Brown suggested that any action on bids that could be postponed until after budget approval should be.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: CMCAVTS: Mr. Johnson reminded his fellow board members that they would be voting on the budget for the Center for Technical Studies at the meeting the following Thursday. He reported that Norristown Area and Upper Merion School District had already approved the budget.

Intermediate Unit Board: Mr. Pinheiro announced that the PFMA meeting on the subject of local tax reform was scheduled for the following Wednesday evening and that board members and members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Local Tax Reform were invited to attend. He also reported that there were only five candidates for the six open slots on the Intermediate Unit Board. He asked his fellow board members to vote for all of the candidates. He responded to Board queries by indicating that the results of local elections could create additional vacancies on the board if current members were not returned to office.

Public Comment: None.

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

Respectively submitted,

**James M. Bell
Board Secretary**