

**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 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 12/10/98 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 the winter storms, board members had just received the minutes and would have a better 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 asked for 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 bills any included any bills

from the architect, and Mr. Bickleman pointed on the one bill 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 the progress to date on the addition being built to Plymouth Whitemarsh High School, as outlined in his written report included with 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 firm 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 the elementary level and digital imagery equipment at the observatory at Colonial Middle School. Support for these latter projects would total \$2,790.00. 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. DeFalminis 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 01/19/99. He also reviewed briefly the district's past support for the association and the projected cost of continued participation in the associations 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 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 not be affected. 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

Public Comment: to the purchase of the auditorium sound system. He received confirmation from Mr. Yunker that the subject had been discussed in the Special Board Meeting of 9/24/98. Mr. Dovberg noted that the minutes reflected a consensus but no formal vote and asked if Mr. Bell had confirmed that the proposed system met the needs of the building for the foreseeable future. Mr. Bell confirmed that he had. Mr. Dovberg asked if board members had been made aware of his findings. Mr. Bell indicated that they had but would have to check meeting minutes to see if the sharing of the information had been recorded. Mr. Dovberg stressed that he was in favor of the outcome of the Board's decision but not the method used in reaching it. He felt that a formal Board vote should have been taken.

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**