

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, OCTOBER 12, 1998**

President Kessler convened the October Work Session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on October 12, 1998.

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

Board Members Absent: None

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; Carol Cohen, CEA; Linda Chmielewski; Dr. Hugh Lipshutz; and Mary Theiss.

Mr. Kessler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Kessler directed Board attention to the minutes of the Work Session of 9/14/98, the Buildings & Grounds Committee of 9/16/98, the General Meeting of 9/17/98, the Personnel Committee of 9/24/98 and the Special Board Meeting of 9/24/98, as shown in Enclosures #1 through #5. Mr. Kessler noted two discrepancies in vote tabulations in the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of 9/24/98. Mr. Bell was to make the necessary changes to the minutes.

Financial Reports: Mr. Kessler referred board members to the Bond Fund Report and Bills List, General Fund/Federal Programs Bills, Capital Reserve Fund Report, Outstanding Investment Report, Cash Flow Summary, Comparison of Taxes Collected, Real Estate Tax Escrow Report, and Reconciliation of Cash Accounts for the month ending 9/30/98; the Budget Analysis of 10/5/98; the Food Service Reports and List of Bills of 7/31/98; and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending 9/30/98, as shown in Enclosures # 6 through #15. Mr. Bickleman noted that the list of bills payable through the bond fund had been included in the Bond Fund Report.

Staff Report: Mr. Kessler noted that the Board would receive a report on plans for assessing student achievement in conjunction with the Conshohocken Elementary School-wide Project at its regular meeting on 10/15/98.

Old Business: Dr. Durtan reported that he had provided the Board, for its consideration and approval at the meeting of 10/15/98, a list of nominees who are

willing to serve on the Enrichment Program Task Force. In response to Board queries, Dr. Durtan confirmed that the list included parents who currently had children in the enrichment program and that others who no longer had children in the program had declined to serve. He also suggested that the Board advise him of any additions which it would like to make to the list of task force participants prior to Board action at its Thursday meeting.

Correspondence: Mr. Kessler noted that there was one piece of correspondence from William F. Ross, a member of the Board of Directors of L.A.M requesting that the Board consider closing all schools in the district in honor of Columbus Day or the birth of Christopher Columbus. (See Enclosure #16.) Board members briefly inquired if other local districts observed this holiday and expressed their opinions about Colonial School District observing the holiday by closing schools for the day. Mr. Kessler noted that Columbus Day was a legal holiday in Pennsylvania and that federal, state and some local government offices were closed on that day. In response to a Board query, Dr. Durtan reported that Upper Merion and Norristown Area School District did not hold classes on Columbus Day. Mr. Pinheiro and Mr. Connolly did not support making Columbus Day a holiday in Colonial School District. They noted the district's tight calendar and the fact that students could probably learn more about Christopher Columbus by being in school on Columbus Day than they could by staying at home.

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 list, as shown in Enclosures #17 through #18. Board members inquired about the number of retirees on the substitute list, and Mr. Klinger noted that there were a significant number of retirees on the list. Dr. Durtan reported that the Board had received an employee salary listing and that copies were available in the Personnel Office for any member of the public interested in receiving one.

New Business: Mr. Kessler reported five items of new business: A transportation contract with Sague Auto Service, Inc. , the addition of First Trust to the district's list of investment banks, fundraising budgets for 1998-99, the three-year renewal of the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement for the PA INVEST Program, as shown in Enclosure #19 – 22, and the start of planning for the 1999-2000 school calendar. Mr. Kessler briefly highlighted the enclosures. In response to Board queries, Mr. Bickleman confirmed that charges for participating in the PA Invest Program were assessed at the time of investment. Dr. Durtan addressed the development of the calendar. He advised that he was planning, in the absence of Board direction to the contrary, to draft a calendar with the first day of classes the week before Labor Day and then seek CEA input on that document, as required by the collective bargaining agreement. He asked for Board input at the meeting of 10/15/98.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: Mr. Orlow reminded the Board that the Hands on the Future Task Force would be undertaking a drug survey program in grades 7, 9 10 and 11, in accordance with approvals previously given by the Board. He advised that the task force would be using a contractor that had done similar work for Council Rock School District and that the survey would be taken in school. He reported that information would be sent home to parents that week and that students could opt out of participating in the survey.

Additional Information: Mr. Kessler asked for an update on pending building issues. Dr. Durtan advised that Mr. Berneski had been working on tasks assigned by the Board. He reported that the district had received, and passed to Mr. O'Hara for review, signed contracts from all prime vendors on the construction project at the high school. He also noted that the district had received insurance certificates from two of the four vendors and expected the other two shortly. Dr. Durtan also advised that groundbreaking had been tentatively scheduled for the week of 10/26/98 and that the details would be worked out at a Community Relations Committee meeting scheduled for 10/14/98 at 8:30 a.m. He noted that Mr. Berneski had followed up on tentative bond projects, as follows:

- An architect would be looking at what would be involved in replacing the press box in the stadium.
- Current information indicated that the tennis courts would have to be replaced rather than re-surfaced because the foundation will not support the re-surfacing.
- Trane was developing a proposal for the chiller at the middle school.
- The district had received a performance contracting proposal that would have a contractor monitor energy savings through re-lamping and include replacement of the middle school chiller as an option.
- A consultant had been contacted about work on the ceiling in the high school auditorium, and Mr. Berneski was working directly with vendors on new seating in that facility.
- A local engineering firm was taking a look at air conditioning at Conshohocken and Colonial Elementary Schools and the east wing of the high school.

Mr. Kessler thanked Dr. Durtan for the project summary.

Public Comments: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Kessler adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**James M. Bell
Board Secretary**