

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 17, 1998**

President Kessler convened the September meeting of the Colonial School Board of Directors at 8:18 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on September 17, 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; John Lukens and Michael Gordon, Board Student Representatives; Patricia Campbell, High School Principal; Carol Cohen, CEA; Allan Dovberg; Valerie Flounders; Tom Gibson; Betsy Gilliland; Dr. Hugh Lipshutz; Michael Macaninch; Dr. Darilyn Moyer; Donald Newmeyer; and Amy Stohner.

Mr. Kessler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Kessler directed Board attention to the minutes of the Work Session of 8/17/98, the General Meeting of 8/20/98, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee of 8/24/98, as shown in Enclosures #1 through #3. Mr. Carroll moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the minutes, as amended. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Financial Reports: Mr. Kessler referred board members to the Bond Fund Report, 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 8/31/98; the Budget Analysis of 9/3/98; the Accounts Payable and Contracted Salaries Payable Lists of 6/30/98; the Hourly and Retroactive Payroll Accrual for 1997-98; the Final Pre-Audit Budget Transfers of 1997-98; and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending 8/31/98, as shown in Enclosures # 4 through #16. In response to a query from Mr. Kessler, Mr. Bickleman reported that the Reconciliation of Cash Accounts had been reconciled with the bank statements. Ms. Brown moved and Mr. O'Neill seconded a motion to accept the financial reports, as updated. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Budget Report: None.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Kessler noted that there was no correspondence requiring Board action. The Board had received correspondence from Donald R. Newmeyer, district resident, on the subject of abstinence-only sex education and from Pat and Joanne Scoles, district residents, expressing interest in a soccer program for girls. See enclosures # 17 and #18.

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; changes to the substitute list; and recommendations for the appointment of adult evening school instructors, as shown in Enclosures #18 through #20. Mr. Orlow inquired whether all teachers listed in the report as starting on 8/31/98 would be treated as new employees as of 9/1/98 for benefit purposes, and Mr. Klinger indicated that they would. Ms. Brown asked for clarification of updated information contained in the report, and Dr. Durtan reviewed the additional information which is highlighted with asterisks in the report. Mr. O'Neill moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the personnel report, as presented. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Dr. Durtan presented a brief enrollment update. He noted that the district had enrollment data as of the tenth day of school on students in kindergarten through grade 8 but did not yet have information on students at the high school. The information on hand showed an increase of five students over those reported on the third day of classes. He indicated that final information for all grades would be available at the October meeting of the Board.

Board Student Representatives Report: Mr. Gordon advised that the PW Players were already rehearsing for their fall production and the freshman class was selecting class officers. He also reported a successful Back-To-School Night and the participation of the Marching Colonials in the Miss America Pageant Parade and the first Cavalcade of Bands for the season. John Lukens commented on the new technology available in the classrooms of the high school, the first meeting of seniors on the annual class trip to Florida, and the best attended school dance in school history. He also advised that the varsity football team was undefeated, the field hockey team was currently first in its division, and the soccer team was off to its best start in several years. In response to a question from Mr. Kessler, both students indicated that students had made the adjustment to the early start of school this year and that that there did not seem to be any significant increase in the number of absentees.

New Business: Mr. Kessler referred board members to the student trip request shown in Enclosure # 21. The correspondence indicated that the trip would take some middle school students to Wallops Island and the Cape Cod Sea Camp and was in compliance with district guidelines. Ms. Brown moved and Mr. Orlow seconded a motion to approve the trip request. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Kessler referred to a contract for transporting students to Devon Preparatory School, as shown in Enclosure #22. Mr. O'Neill moved and Mr. Orlow seconded a motion to approve the contract as presented. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Kessler noted that the district was entering the third year of a three-year contact with the Norristown Area YMCA for extended day and enrichment programs. Dr. Durtan reviewed his earlier report and indicated that it was appropriate to evaluate the program and plan for the future. He advised that, with Board approval, he would be reconvening the ad hoc committee that had originally worked on the program. The committee would be tasked to collect and review data and make recommendations to administration and the Board on the future direction of the program. He would invite original members to return and would nominate new members where original members were no longer willing or able to serve. Dr. Durtan indicated that he would bring nominees to the Board for consideration at the regular October Board meeting.

Mr. Kessler directed the attention of the Board to three special education contracts, one each with Lower Merion School District, Davidson School and Developmental Vision Associates, as shown in Enclosures #23. In response to a question from Mr. Yunker, Mr. Shipman explained that the vision services were a continuation of services from the previous year for one child who required vision support in dealing with the impairments noted in his IEP. The services would assist the student with visual tracking and mobility. Mr. O'Neill moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the three contracts as presented to the Board. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried..

Dr. Durtan briefly reviewed an addendum to the district's lease agreement with the Norristown Area YMCA for the extended day enrichment program at Conshohocken Elementary School to allow for the use of an all-purpose area for the program at Conshohocken Elementary School. Mr. Connolly moved and Mr. O'Neill seconded a motion to approve the addendum, as shown in Enclosure #29. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. O'Hara recommended that the Board appointment an appraiser for a pending tax assessment appeal on the property formerly owned by Corson Lime and now operated by Highway Materials, Inc. He explained the

considerable difference between the county assessed values for 1996-97-98 and the appraisal made by a firm representing the owners. Mr. O'Hara noted that the appraiser that the district often used had indicated that he was not qualified to make the appraisal on such a specialized property as the quarry. Mr. O'Hara indicated that he had received proposals from two appraisers, one local with limited experience in appraising quarries and another from outside the region. He recommended the latter, Materials Advisory Group, Inc. for its broad experience in quarry appraisal. Although the fees associated with employing the firm were higher, \$23,000 plus reimbursable expenses for the project, he felt that they represented a good value considering the taxes at stake and the specialized experience of the firm. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Orlow seconded a motion to approve the recommended appointment of Materials Advisory Group, Inc. to the project at the fees indicated in the firm's proposal. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Mr. Kessler asked for reports from Board committees.

Intermediate Unit: No report.

CMCAVTS: Mr. Johnson reported that the Center for Technical Studies had opened as scheduled on 8/31/98 following a teacher in-service program. He reminded his fellow Board members that the annual open house at the center was scheduled for 10/29/98.

Personnel: Mr. Pinheiro announced that the committee would be meeting at 6:00 on 9/24/98 to provide guidance to administration on the upcoming contract negotiations with support service bargaining units. He also thanked Mr. Klinger for his hard work at securing staff for the new school year.

Finance: No report.

Curriculum and Program: No Report.

Buildings & Grounds/Transportation: Mr. Connolly reported that the chiller at the middle school was out of service and that early indications were that the equipment had exceeded its normal life expectancy and might not warrant the cost of repairs. He noted that the building was designed as an air conditioned facility, that a chiller had been rented to finish out the current warm season, and that the committee was gathering facts on options for replacing the equipment. Mr. Connolly also reported that a new chiller would cost approximately \$400,000.00 and that the Board may need the assistance of a consultant as it moved through the process of replacing the one. He indicated that the rental equipment was functioning, albeit unevenly, and he thanked Mr. Berneski for his prompt and efficient handling of the loss of the old equipment.

At 8:46 p.m., Mr. Kessler announced a recess in the meeting so that the Board could go into executive session to discuss legal issues involving the bids for construction services on the proposed science wing at the high school. Mr. Kessler reconvened the meeting at 9:07 p.m. He noted that the Board was deferring action on bid awards that night but was scheduling a special meeting for Thursday, 9/24/98 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room to consider the bids.

Public Comments: Dr. Lipshutz, district resident, stated that he was glad that the district planned to examine the extended day and enrichment programs. He noted that one of the original goals for these programs was interaction with the regular kindergarten program and indicated that this was not happening in at least one school. He also reported problems with program continuity. Mr. Kessler noted that the latter seemed to be an on-going problem and wondered if it would not be possible to take some affirmative action now to address the issue. Dr. Durtan reported that the district had formal bi-weekly interaction with the YMCA and daily telephone conversations. He noted that the district rents space to the program but does not run it and indicated that the shortage of certified teachers was being felt not only in the YMCA program but the availability of substitute teachers as well.

Mr. Dovberg, President, C.U.T. and district resident, requested that the student representatives to the Board present brief autobiographies of themselves at an upcoming board meeting. Mr. Kessler asked that one of the representatives make a presentation at the October meeting and the other at the November meeting. Mr. Dovberg took the opportunity to welcome Ms. Campbell back as principal of the high school and to compliment her on her work as a district administrator.

Dr. Moyer, district resident, echoed Dr. Lipshutz' concerns with the extended day and enrichment programs. She also commented on the letter from Mr. Newmeyer in Enclosure #17 and expressed a belief that a broad-based sex education program which reinforced safe sexual practices, including abstinence, was important to stem the tide of sexually transmitted diseases among young people. She noted that advice in these areas should come from people that the students trust, including their parents and teachers.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Kessler adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Bell
Board Secretary