

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, AUGUST 16, 1999**

Vice President Orlow convened the August Work Session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:48 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on August 16, 1999.

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

Board Members Absent: Rich Connolly and Stuart Kessler.

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; Allan Dovberg, President of Colonial United Taxpayers; and Diane M. Fiske.

Mr. Orlow 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 discuss legal and personnel matters.

Mr. Orlow directed Board attention to the minutes of the Community Relations Committee of 06/30/99, the Buildings & Grounds Committee Meetings of 07/20/99 and 07/22/99, the General Meeting of 07/22/99, the Special Board Meeting of 08/10/99, and the Community Relations Committee Meeting of 08/10/99, as shown in Enclosures #1 through #6. Board members had no questions or comments.

Financial Reports: Mr. Orlow referred board members the Bond Fund Report for the month ending 07/31/99; the Capital Projects Report for the month ending 07/31/99; the General Fund/Federal Program Bills; the Capital Reserve Fund Report for the month ending 07/31/99; the Food Service Bills/Cafeteria Report of 06/30/99; 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 07/31/99; the Budget Analysis of 08/09/99; and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending 07/31/99, as shown in Enclosures #7 through #17. Mr. Pinheiro noted that the Food Service program was one of the few in local districts to operate in the black without district subsidy and complimented Food Service Director Evan Haines and his staff on their fine work. Board members sought and received clarification of several entries in the food service report.

Old Business: None:

Correspondence: Three items of correspondence were on the agenda. Ms. Sueann Hedgepeth, district resident, expressed her opinion about class size at Ridge Park Elementary School in Enclosure #18. Mr. Herbert Maguire, CPA of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Audits and Ms. Betty Wilson of the Bureau of Budget and Fiscal Management of the Pennsylvania Department of Education provided confirmation of opinions expressed in earlier correspondence about audits of federal programs funded through state agencies. See Enclosures #19 and #20. Dr. Durtan confirmed that no Board action was required on the audit correspondence. Ms. Brown noted that the information was not new.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Durtan briefly reviewed the Superintendent's Report as shown in Enclosures #21 through #24. The report dealt with personnel actions, substitutes, extra-duty extra-pay assignments and conference requests. He noted that there would be additions to the Personnel Report listing resignations, leaves of absence, promotions, and transfers for the meeting the following Thursday because Mr. Klinger was still interviewing to fill vacant positions. He advised that updated information would be provided before that meeting. Dr. Durtan reported that the large number of personnel actions reflected the large number of new teachers hired, including the 36 who had gone through the induction program that day. Board members had questions on the pay schedule for extra-duty extra-pay assignments, the process of filling these positions and the total amount of money to be spent these assignments. Dr. Durtan and Mr. Klinger provided details on the first two issues. Mr. Klinger advised that he would have the dollar figure for the final item by the meeting on Thursday.

New Business: Mr. Orlow directed Board attention to three policies that would be considered for adoption on second reading at the meeting the following Thursday. These policies were Leave of Absence for Professional Development and Classroom Occupational Exchange; Leave of Absence, Sabbatical Leave for Restoration of Health; and Promotion and Graduation, as shown in Enclosures #25 through #27. He reported that there had been no changes in the language of the first two policies and that one sentence had been added to the second paragraph of the third. Board members had no questions or other comments on these policies. Mr. Orlow reported that a change suggested to a fourth policy on Activities Code of Ethics was being returned to the Community Relations Committee for further review. See Enclosure # 28.

Dr. Durtan advised the Board that administration was concerned about the condition of the district's sports fields during the drought and was reviewing the impact of the continued use of the fields by outside groups, both on current field safety and on the future cost of restoring the fields if they were damaged or destroyed during the fall sports season. Mr. Orlow asked if district teams would have priority for field use, and Dr. Durtan replied that they would.

Mr. Shipman reviewed with the Board the students that were being recommended for early admission to school under the provisions of Board Policy 6-001. He noted that there seemed to be greater interest in early admission. He reported that seven of fifteen applicants had passed the rigorous screening process and were recommended for early admission. See Enclosure # 28. Dr. Durtan indicated that 15 applications was an unusual number and suggested that the enrichment program might be serving as an incentive for parents to seek early admission for students. Mr. Pinheiro inquired whether or not parents had been advised of the social and emotional issues of early admissions to school, and Mr. Shipman confirmed that they were. He also noted, however, that, even though older children fared better when entering school, some students were emotionally and socially ready to enter at an earlier age. In response to a Board query, Dr. Durtan acknowledged that the district had to follow its policy on early admission even if additional students would increase class size to the point that additional classes would have to be offered. He noted, however, that the district was currently in good shape as far as class size was concerned and that there were no hot spots in enrollment at that time.

Mr. Orlow directed Board attention to four routine contracts for transporting students to Devon Preparatory School, Lakeside Youth Service, New Life and Family Services, and St. Joseph's Preparatory School, as shown in Enclosures #29 through #32. Dr. Durtan noted that, while the costs of renewing these contracts for transportation services had gone up, they still offered the least expensive option for providing required transportation services.

Solicitor's Report: None

Committee Reports: None

Public Comments: Mr. Dovberg read a letter addressed to the Board President objecting to the adoption of the Activities Code of Ethics. He asked that the Board review the policy and either rescind it or adopt 11 changes recommended in the letter to produce a uniform action that can be applied to any student who violates the policy. Mr. Dovberg requested that the letter be added to the agenda of the meeting the following Thursday and that step was taken. Mr. Orlow noted that the Community Relations Committee could review the letter and the policy.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

James M. Bell
Board Secretary

