

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462  
MINUTES, DECEMBER 6, 1999**

President Kessler convened the reorganization meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:00 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on December 6, 1999.

**Board Members Present:** Stuart Kessler, Marc Orlow, Robert Carroll, Gary Johnson, Hugh Lipshutz, Thomas Marchozzi, Robert O'Neill, Jack Pinheiro and Thomas Yunker.

**Board Members Absent:** None.

**Also Attending:** Dr. Stanley Durtan, Superintendent; R. Scott Klinger, Assistant to the Superintendent for Administrative Services and Personnel; Dr. Ann Stormes, Director of Educational Services; James M. Bell, Director of Support Services/Board Secretary; Joseph P. Bickleman, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer; Fred Shipman, Director of Pupil Services; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Esq., Solicitor; Judge Bernard Moore; Allan Dovberg, President, Colonial United Taxpayers; A. J. Daulerio; Cindy Lipshutz; Shelly Marchozzi, and Raymond Murray.

Mr. Kessler led the Pledge of Allegiance and explained the procedure that would be followed during the reorganization of the Board. Mr. Sultanik explained the process for choosing a temporary president and for electing officers and appointing representatives to various organizations.

Mr. Kessler noted that the carry-over board members would vote to elect a temporary president. Mr. Pinheiro nominated Mr. Kessler. Mr. O'Neill moved that the nominations be closed and a vote taken to elect Mr. Kessler temporary president. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all carry-over board members ( Mr. Kessler, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Pinheiro and Mr. Carroll) voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Kessler announced that Mr. Joseph Passarella, Director of Voter Services of the Montgomery County Election Board, had certified that five individuals had been elected at the municipal election of 11/02/99 to the position of School Director of the Colonial School District. Mr. Kessler asked Mr. Bell to read the names. Mr. Bell announced that Marc. M. Orlow, Gary J. Johnson, Thomas Yunker, Hugh Lipshutz and Thomas Marchozzi had been elected to four-year terms. Judge Moore administered the oath of office.

Mr. Kessler explained the duties of President of the Board and asked for nominations. Mr. Orlow nominated Mr. Kessler. Mr. O'Neill moved and Mr. Carroll seconded a motion that the nominations be closed and a vote taken to elect Mr. Kessler President of the Board for the year 2000. On roll call vote, all except Mr. Kessler voted in favor. Mr. Kessler abstained. Motion carried.

**Mr. Kessler thanked his fellow board members for their vote of confidence and expressed his pleasure at leading a Board that was so well regarded across the commonwealth. He cited the positive reaction that he had observed at a recent PSBA meeting on which he serves as a regional representative as one example of the high regard accorded members of the district's Board of School Directors. He reported that other representatives had cited the Board for its work on a pay-for-performance contract for the district's teachers and noted that a recent PSBA seminar on the subject had been sold out and that another was to be scheduled. Mr. Kessler also reported that the PSBA Board had unanimously passed a resolution of support for the Colonial Board as it moved forward with this initiative. He expressed how fortunate he felt to be serving with a group that worked so diligently to serve the community.**

**Mr. Kessler explained the duties of the Vice President of the Board and asked for nominations. Mr. Pinheiro nominated Mr. Orlow. Mr. O'Neill moved and Mr. Marchozzi seconded a motion that the nominations be closed and a vote taken to elect Mr. Orlow to the position of Board Vice President for the year 2000. On roll call vote, all except Mr. Orlow voted in favor. Mr. Orlow abstained. Motion carried. Mr. Pinheiro praised Mr. Orlow for the hard work that he had done on the pay-for-performance contract.**

**Mr. Kessler explained the composition of the CMCAVTS Joint Operating Committee and announced that the district would be filling two seats on the committee, the expired three-year term of the seat occupied by current board member, Mr. Johnson and the unexpired term of outgoing board member Mr. Richard Connolly. Mr. O'Neill nominated Mr. Johnson to the three-year term. Mr. Pinheiro moved and Mr. Marchozzi seconded a motion that the nominations be closed and a vote taken to elect Mr. Johnson to the seat. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor except Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson abstained. Motion carried. Mr. Johnson nominated Mr. Yunker to serve the remaining year of the unexpired term formerly held by Mr. Connolly. Mr. Pinheiro moved and Mr. O'Neill seconded a motion that the nominations be closed and a vote taken to elect Mr. Yunker to the seat. On roll call vote, all except Mr. Yunker voted in favor. Mr. Yunker abstained. Motion carried.**

**Mr. Kessler outlined the duties of the legislative chairperson representing the district at county level meetings and noted that Mr. Carroll had held the position the preceding year. Mr. Marchozzi nominated Mr. Carroll to the position for the year 2000. Mr. Pinheiro moved and Mr. Orlow seconded a motion that the nominations be closed and a vote taken to elect Mr. Carroll to the position for the year 2000. On roll call vote, all except Mr. Carroll voted in favor. Mr. Carroll abstained. Motion carried.**

**Mr. Kessler outlined the duties of the PSBA Representative who attends a minimum of two regional cabinet meetings annually to promote communication between the district and PSBA. Mr. O'Neill had held that position the preceding year. Mr. Johnson nominated Mr. O'Neill to the position for the year 2000. Mr. Pinheiro moved and Dr. Lipshutz seconded a motion that the nominations be closed and a vote taken to elect Mr. O'Neill to the position.**

On roll call vote, all voted in favor except Mr. O'Neill. Mr. O'Neill abstained. Motion carried.

Mr. Kessler outlined the duties of a new position, Employee Relations Contact with the PSBA. He noted that the individual serving in that capacity would participate in a dialogue among local school directors and the PSBA on issues facing local boards in their roles as employers. Mr. Carroll expressed a willingness to serve in that capacity. Mr. Orlow nominated Mr. Carroll. Mr. Pinheiro moved and Mr. O'Neill seconded a motion to close the nominations and elect Mr. Carroll to the position. On roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Kessler took the opportunity to advise board members and the community about committee liaison appointments for the coming year. He noted that he had worked diligently to assign board members to the committees in which they had expressed interest. He cited each of the committee chairmen for their experience and read the list of members on each committee and the individual assignments to local municipal boards and the Hay Point Committee of the Board. The complete list of committee assignments is attached to these minutes as Attachment #1.

Upon completion of the committee and liaison assignments, Mr. Kessler moved on to the regular business for the month of December.

Minutes: Mr. Kessler directed Board attention to the minutes of the Curriculum Committee of 10/28/99 and 11/08/99, the Personnel Committee Meeting of 11/11/99, the Work Session of 11/15/99, the General Meeting of 11/18/99, the Buildings & Grounds Committee of 11/22/99 and the Special Meeting of 11/30/99, as shown in Enclosures #1 through #6 and #11. Mr. Bell and Mr. Carroll noted typographical errors in Enclosure #5. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. O'Neill seconded a motion to approve the minutes with the necessary amendments to correct the typographical errors noted. On roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried.

Financial Reports: Mr. Kessler noted that financial reports and the treasurer's report for November would be on the agenda for the January meeting. He requested Board authorization to pay November bills in December. Mr. O'Neill moved and Mr. Yunker seconded a motion to pay November bills in December. On roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Kessler noted the correspondence from Joseph V. Oravitz, Executive Director of PSBA announcing his appointment to PSBA's Board of Directors. Mr. Kessler expressed his hope that he would be able to have PSBA take a more progressive approach to many of the issues that school boards across the commonwealth face.

Mr. Kessler indicated that he had received a request from Mr. Dovberg for an opportunity to address the board and recognized him for that purpose. Mr. Dovberg first congratulated new board members on joining the Board. Then, after advising that the information that he would be sharing had been written prior to his reading some recent articles in the local press, he read a guest editorial questioning the approach that the Colonial Education Association had taken on the issue of performance-based pay. The complete text of his presentation is attached to these minutes as Attachment #2.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Durtan briefly reviewed his Superintendent's Report, as shown in Enclosure #8. He noted that his report had been updated to reflect a recommendation that Paul Lowe be appointed to fill a vacant position for a computer technician in the Technology Department. Mr. Klinger shared details of the search and answered questions about levels of experience, compensation at \$39,000.00 and employee membership in the CASEA group. Dr. Durtan then briefly highlighted the additions to the substitute list shown in Enclosure #9 and the adult education appointments recommended, subject to class enrollment, shown in Enclosure #13. Board members ask several clarifying questions. Mr. O'Neill moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve Enclosures #8 as updated and #9 and #13 as presented. On roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried.

**Board Student Representatives Report:** None.

**New Business:** Mr. Kessler asked the Board to review the recommended meeting schedule for the coming year.

<b><u>Board Work Session</u></b> 8:30 p.m.	<b><u>Regular Board Meeting</u></b> 8:00 p.m.
*Tues., 01/18/00	Thurs., 01/20/00
Mon., 02/14/00	Thurs., 02/17/99
Mon., 03/13/00	Thurs., 03/16/00
Mon., 04/10/00	Thurs., 04/13/00
Mon., 05/15/00	Thurs., 05/18/00
*Mon., 06/19/00	*Thurs., 06/22/00
Mon., 07/17/00	Thurs., 07/20/00
Mon., 08/14/00	Thurs., 08/17/00
Mon., 09/18/00	Thurs., 09/21/00
Mon., 10/16/00	Thurs., 10/19/00
Mon., 11/13/00	Thurs., 11/16/00
	*Mon., 12/04/00

\* Denotes a change from the standard schedule

Board Members confirmed the reasons why several meetings fell on days other than the traditional third Monday and Thursday. Dr. Durtan noted the changes in January were caused by the Martin Luther King holiday. He reported that the changes in June reflected a scheduling conflict that a board member had and a desire to hold the meeting to adopt the budget a little later so that all data could be considered and all board members could participate. He advised that the schedule of the reorganization meeting in December was in conformance with the school code and standard district practice. Mr. Orlow moved and Mr. O'Neill seconded a motion to adopt the calendar as presented. On roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried.

Dr. Durtan noted that Dr. Lipshutz had requested the opportunity to attend the NSBA conference on Orlando in April 2000. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Orlow seconded a motion to approve the request. On roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: None

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit Board: Mr. Pinheiro provided information on the creation of the I. U. Foundation for Special Need Children and the availability of mini-grants similar to those awarded by the Colonial Foundation for Educational Innovation.

CMCAVTS: Mr. Johnson welcomed Mr. Yunker to the Joint Operating Committee. Mr. O'Neill noted that Mr. Johnson would probably be elected Vice President of the committee at its next meeting.

Personnel: Mr. Pinheiro announced that the district had a tentative agreement with its food service employees. He advised that the agreement called for wage increases ranging from 3.5% to 3.8% annually over the four-year term of the contract. It also contained a change in health care plans to Personal Choice 215 and small changes in life insurance, uniform allowances and the classifications of some employees. Mr. Pinheiro noted that employees had already approved the new contract. He asked that the Board do the same. Mr. Pinheiro moved and Mr. O'Neill seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On roll call vote, all except Mr. Marchozzi voted in favor. Mr. Marchozzi abstained because of a potential conflict of interest. Motion carried. Mr. Pinheiro indicated that the contract would be available for public review in the Personnel Office.

Finance: Mr. Kessler noted that the committee, under Mr. O'Neill's oversight, would be reviewing the latest audit report.

Curriculum and Program: Mr. Yunker reported that the committee was awaiting input from administration on the math program at Colonial Elementary School. In response to a query, Dr. Durtan advised that Curriculum Council was evenly divided for and against moving forward with the pilot program in place the previous year. He indicated that he would review the discussions held in council and make a recommendation to the committee by the end of the following week.

**Buildings and Grounds/Transportation:** Mr. Orlow reported that the committee and most of the other board members had met earlier in the evening and had two recommendations for Board consideration. The first was to approve the commissioning of a feasibility study by Polatnick Zacharjasz Architect to provide the committee with several options for a new main entrance at Colonial Middle School. He advised that the options should address the concerns of school administration on security and storage in the school. Mr. Orlow moved and Mr. Pinheiro seconded a motion to make the appointment at a cost of \$6,000.00 plus reimbursable expenses not to exceed \$500.00, subject to a review of a contract by the solicitor. On roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried.

The second recommendation was to accept a proposal from ENSR to do the design work necessary to maximize new seating in the auditorium at the high school. He noted that the committee had reviewed three proposals and that ENSR had the lowest cost proposal and was already working on auditorium renovations under a contract to do design for removing asbestos in the ceiling and recoating the ceiling with an acoustical finish. Mr. Marchozzi asked about funding for the project and Mr. Orlow briefly outlined the funding available through the bond issues. Several board members commented on the high sound quality during the concerts by Up With People and noted that troupe had brought in its own hi-tech equipment. They noted that the planned upgrade in the auditorium would not address all of the issues in the facility. Mr. Orlow moved and Mr. Pinheiro seconded a motion to approve the design work by ENSR at a cost of \$3,200.00, subject to approval of a contract by the solicitor. On roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried.

**Community Relations:** Mr. Johnson thanked Mrs. Johns in Community Relations for all of her efforts in support of ribbon cutting ceremonies recently held at the middle school and high school.

**Legislative:** Mr. Carroll advised that the committee would not be meeting in December.

**Public Comments:** None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Kessler adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Bell  
Board Secretary