

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, OCTOBER 18, 1999**

President Kessler convened the October Work Session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 9:00 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on October 18, 1999.

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

Board Members Absent: Robert O'Neill.

Also Attending: Dr. Stanley Durtan, Superintendent; Dr. Ann Stormes, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; James M. Bell, Director of Support Services/Board Secretary; Fred Shipman, Director of Pupil Services; Allan Dovberg, President, Colonial United Tax Payers; Domenick J. Cosentino; A.J. Daulerio; and Dr. Hugh Lipshutz.

Mr. Kessler 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. Kessler directed Board attention to the minutes of the Community Relations Committee Meetings of 09/08/99, the Work Session of 09/13/99, the Buildings and grounds Committee meeting of 09/15/99, the General Meeting of 09/16/99, the Special Meeting of 09/21/99, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting of 10/04/99, as shown in Enclosures #1 through #6. Mr. Bell pointed out a correction to page 3070 to reflect more accurately a prior Board position on Wings Field. Mr. Yunker suggested an addition to page 3075 to explain the original committee decision to remove the renovation of the front entrance of Conshohocken Elementary School from the prioritized list of bond projects because estimated costs were below the \$50,000 threshold set by the committee.

Financial Reports: Mr. Kessler referred board members to the Bond Fund Report for the month ending 09/30/99; the Capital Projects Report for the month ending 09/30/99; the General Fund/Federal Program Bills; the Capital Reserve Fund Report for the month ending 09/30/99; 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 09/30/99; the Budget Analysis Report of 10/11/99, and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending 08/31/99, as shown in Enclosures #7 through #16. There were several questions on the reports about bills and disbursements for asbestos removal work in connection with the construction of additional classrooms at Colonial Middle School and the prior approval of a bill payment by the project architect.

Dr. Durtan advised that he would look into the matters and report back to the Board at its meeting the following Thursday. He and Mr. Bell answered an additional question on insurance reimbursements shown on an income report by explaining that the reimbursements primarily represented received for COBRA benefits. Dr. Durtan also advised that he would provide at the upcoming general Board meeting an answer to a question concerning a revision to the Capital Projects Report to reflect reallocation of portions of the Bond Contingency/Capital Reserve Fund to bond issue projects.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Thomas J. Gentzel, Assistant Director for Government and Member Relations of PSBA advised the Board of the outcome of the legislative proposal submitted by the district. No Board action was required.

Dr. Durtan reported that he had also received correspondence from a student at the high school requesting an opportunity to address the Board at its meeting on Thursday.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Durtan briefly reviewed the Superintendent's Report on items for action at the general meeting on 10/21/99, as shown in Enclosures #18 and #19. He noted that his report first with personnel actions and additions to substitute lists. He reported that he would be updating the report to reflect the resignation of Curriculum Coordinator, Darlene Schoenly. He also noted that he had provided board members for their information the annual employee salary listing. Board members had questions about the starting dates of two employees listed in the personnel report. Dr. Durtan advised that he would check the dates and report back to the Board at the following meeting.

New Business: Mr. Kessler noted that Dr. Durtan had provided board members with two possible calendars for the 2000-01 school year and asked him to provide a quick summary of the two options shown in Enclosure #20. Dr. Durtan indicated that they were essentially the same except that one had the first day of school the Monday before Labor Day and the other had the first day on the Tuesday after Labor Day. In response to Board queries, Dr. Durtan noted that school had opened before Labor Day for the past two years because Labor Day had been much later than usual and that the openings had gone well. He also reported that Parent Council had expressed considerable support for an opening after Labor Day but that some segments of the community that were not represented on the council had not yet expressed an opinion. Dr. Durtan also indicated that he had not yet received a response from the CEA on the two options but that he believed that a week in August was more educationally productive than a week in June. Mr. Kessler advised that the Board would be considering the start date for next year at its Thursday meeting and that Dr. Durtan would be tasked with proposing a complete calendar once that decision was made.

Mr. Kessler noted that the ACCESS Medical Assistance Reimbursement Assurance shown in Enclosure #21 would be on the agenda for its Thursday meeting. Board members had no questions on the item other than to query the necessity of providing the Social Security numbers of all board members. Mr. Shipman reported that he had raised that issue with the state and felt that only the superintendent and Board President needed to report that data.

Mr. Kessler advised that a special education settlement proposal would also be on the agenda for Thursday night. Board members had no questions concerning the proposed settlement. See Enclosure #22.

Mr. Kessler noted that the Board had received information on fundraising budgets for 1999-2000. Mr. Pinheiro summarized the impact of the efforts of fundraisers by noting that PTO organizations would be raising about \$148,000.00 and high school clubs and booster organizations would be raising about \$427,000.00. Board members spoke approvingly of the high level of support shown in Enclosure #23.

Mr. Kessler announced that a bid for electric generation shown in Enclosure #24 would be on the agenda for Board consideration at the meeting on 10/21/99. The bid was done under the auspices of the I. U. Energy Consortium and First Energy Services was the recommended lowest responsible bidder. Mr. Carroll inquired how much more it would cost in the coming year than it did in the current year. Dr. Durtan responded that he did not have the information with him that evening but would have it for the meeting the following Thursday.

Mr. Kessler directed the attention of the board members to a student cheerleading trip to Nationals in Dallas, TX on December 27, 28, and 29, 1999. He noted that the students would bear all expenses and that no school days would be lost. He advised that the request would be considered at the regular Board on Thursday. See Enclosure #25.

Dr. Durtan noted that there was an additional trip request in the yellow pages of the agenda. Enclosure #29 was a request for the wrestling team to attend the Mid-Atlantic Wrestling Tournament at the University of Delaware on December 18 and 19, 1999. He noted that the request would be on Thursday night's agenda and would involve transportation costs only.

Solicitor's Report: None

Committee Reports: None.

Public Comments: Dr. Lipshutz questioned some small class sizes at Conshohocken Elementary School and Dr. Durtan reported that the size of the first grade classes at that school had been reduced under a one-year, potentially renewable grant funded

by federal funds. Dr. Durtan also advised that Conshohocken Elementary School was the only district school eligible for such a grant.

Mr. Dovberg noted that DECA had reduced its budget for a second year in a row. He inquired whether the organization was planning to attend national competition during the current school year and, if so, how it planned to fund the trip. Mr. Pinheiro took the opportunity to report that DECA had repaid the loan that the Board had granted to the organization to fund the previous year's trip to nationals. Dr. Durtan responded to Mr. Dovberg's query by indicating that he would look into the funding plan and provide an update on DECA's plans at the meeting on Thursday evening.

Mr. Dovberg suggested that the several school organizations selling T-shirts as fundraisers might benefit by working together on a bid to secure lower prices for the shirts that they would be selling. He noted that such a step might enable them to reap greater returns for their efforts.

Mr. Dovberg asked if the proposed soft drink contract with Pepsi was a fait accompli and was advised that it was not. Dr. Durtan and several board members noted that the district had not yet received a final contract to review. Dr. Durtan also indicated that the Board would have lead-time to discuss any such contract with the community before Board action. Mr. Dovberg suggested that the Board should study closely all aspects of the issue, especially the implications for student health and welfare. He asked where the money received under the program would be allocated and suggested that it be dedicated to student activities. Mr. Connolly indicated that he was not supportive of the contract and asked Mr. Dovberg what the position of his organization would be. Mr. Dovberg reported that he had discussed the concept with the executive committee of C.U.T. and believed that the issue of brand was not as important as the issue of the size of the soft drink dispensed. He expressed concern about the students carrying a drink around the building with them. He stressed that, if the Board were inclined to approve a soft drink deal, it should get the best deal it could and be careful not to force students to drink the products offered. Both Mr. Dovberg and Mr. Connolly expressed opposition to any sales quota connected to such a contract.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Kessler adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

James M. Bell
Board Secretary