

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 13, 1999**

President Kessler convened the September Work Session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:50 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on September 13, 1999.

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

Board Members Absent: Rich Connolly.

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; Brian P. Gallagher, CEA; Leslie Finegold; Hugh Lipshutz, and Tom Noonan.

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 Buildings & Grounds Committee Meetings of 08/04/99, the Work Session of 08/16/99, the General Meeting of 08/19/99, the Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting of 09/01/99, and the Personnel Committee Meeting of 09/01/99, as shown in Enclosures #1 through #5. Mr. Yunker pointed out a correction to page #3056.

Financial Reports: Mr. Kessler referred board members the Bond Fund Report for the month ending 08/31/99; the Capital Projects Report for the month ending 08/31/99; the General Fund/Federal Program Bills; the Capital Reserve Fund Report for the month ending 08/31/99; 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 08/31/99; the Budget Analysis Report of 09/08/99; the Accounts Payable List, Contracted Payroll Payable, and Hourly Payroll Payable for June 30, 1999, Final Pre-Audit Budget Transfers for 1998-99, and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending 08/31/99, as shown in Enclosures #6 through #19. There were no questions on the reports.

Old Business: None:

Other Business: Mr. Kessler introduced Mr. Noonan of Helix Systems, a data analysis firm interested in work under the district's performance-based

compensation program for professional staff. Mr. Noonan provided background information on his company and its proposal for the district. He outlined his firm's three-part vision for appropriate data analysis in support of the district's plan. These included validation of the current regression model, structure of the database, and user interface. He also responded to questions from board members on his company's proposals.

Correspondence: Donald R. Newmeyer, district resident, expressed his opinion about abstinence-based sex education, as shown in Enclosure #20. No Board action was required.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Durtan briefly reviewed the Superintendent's Report on items for action at the general meeting on 09/16/99, as shown in Enclosures #21 through #23. He noted that his report first dealt with personnel actions and additions to substitute lists. Dr. Durtan also advised that he would be recommending appointments to Adult School positions, subject to sufficient class enrollment, and presenting for Board information an enrollment update based of data from the 10th day of school. He reported that class sizes would be within district guidelines.

New Business: Mr. Kessler indicated that the approval of special education agreements would be on the agenda for the meeting on 09/16/99. See Enclosure #24. Mr. Shipman confirmed that the agreements were linked to two students receiving services not currently provided by the district. He also noted, however, that the district would be providing more special education services internally in the future.

Mr. Kessler reported that the Board would be considering on Thursday the appointment of a data analysis firm and an independent educational consultant as required by the arbitration award pertaining to the district's performance-based compensation program.

Mr. Kessler noted that the Board would also be considering at its Thursday meeting an administration recommendation to accept a tuition student at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. Dr. Durtan advised that all of the classes to which the student would be assigned were within the desired range. See Enclosure #25.

Mr. Orlow suggested that the Board make an early decision on the date for the start of classes for the 2000-01 school year. Dr. Durtan reported that he was already seeking input from the CEA and Parent Council on the issue and would be prepared to recommend a start date at the Board's regularly scheduled October meeting.

Solicitor's Report: None

Committee Reports: Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Kessler expressed interest in reopening district playing fields to organizations with which the district already had

facility use contracts. Mr. Orlow first asked Mr. Bell for input on the improved condition of district fields. He then moved and Mr. O'Neill seconded a motion to approve the re-opening of the fields to organizations with facility use contracts with the district. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Kessler adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

James M. Bell
Board Secretary