

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

President Kessler convened the September meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:33 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on September 16, 1999.

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

Board Members Absent: Beverly Brown.

Also Attending: Dr. Stanley Durtan, Superintendent; James M. Bell, Director of Support Services/Board Secretary; R. Scott Klingler, Director of Personnel; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Esq., Solicitor; and Domenick J. Cosentino.

Mr. Kessler led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in Executive Session from 7:30 p.m. that evening for approximately one hour to discuss personnel and legal 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, as amended. Mr. Orlow moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Financial Reports: Mr. Kessler referred board members to 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. Dr. Durtan confirmed that the one corrected report reflected accounts reconciled to bank statements. Mr. Orlow moved and Mr. O'Neill seconded a motion to approve the reports as presented. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Old Business: None:

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 reported no changes in personnel actions or additions to substitute lists since the work session the previous Monday. Dr. Durtan advised that he was recommending appointments to Adult School positions, subject to sufficient class enrollment and at no change in the hourly rate, and he presented for Board information an enrollment update based on data for the 10th day of school. Mr. Klinger provided updated information on enrollments, noting that the total student population on the 10th day of school, minus I. U. classes, was 4605 or 29 more students than on the last day of school in June. He noted that elementary enrollment was down 41 students from last year, middle school enrollment was up by 17 students, and high school enrollment was up by 53 students. The Board took action on the various reports as follows: Mr. Orlow moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the personnel actions as presented. On roll call vote, all but Mr. O'Neill in favor. Mr. O'Neill abstained. Motion carried. Mr. O'Neill moved and Mr. Orlow seconded a motion to approve additions to the substitute lists and positions in the adult evening school as presented. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried. Board members asked clarifying questions about the enrollment data. Mr. Klinger confirmed that the data was somewhat behind, but close to, projections. Dr. Durtan reported that the coming and going of students generally balanced out over the course of the school year.

New Business: Mr. Kessler directed Board attention to the special education agreements on the agenda for the meeting, as listed in Enclosure #24. Mr. Pinheiro moved and Mr. O'Neill seconded a motion to approve the agreements. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Kessler reviewed the reasons that the Board was considering the appointment of a data analysis firm and an independent educational consultant as required by the arbitration award on the district's performance-based compensation program. Dr. Durtan noted that the award required the concurrence of CEA in the appointment of the independent education consultant and advised that CEA concurred with the appointment of Dr. Coover. Mr. Orlow moved and Mr. Carroll seconded a motion to approve Econsult Corporation as the Data Analysis Firm required under the award. On roll call vote, all but Mr. Kessler in favor. Mr. Kessler opposed. Motion carried. Mr. O'Neill moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve Jayne E. Coover as the independent educational consultant required under the award. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Kessler reported the administration recommendation to accept Mark Allen as a tuition student at Plymouth Whitmarsh High School. Dr. Durtan advised that the student and his family had been interviewed by administrative staff and that all of the classes to which the student would be assigned were within the desired range. See Enclosure #25. He recommended admission. Mr. O'Neill moved and Mr. Orlow seconded a motion to accept Mr. Allen as a tuition student. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Sultanik recommended a settlement of a tax appeal by McNeil Labs at an assessed value of \$44,500,00 for 1997 and 1998 and an assessed value of \$44,750,000 for 1999. He noted that the settlement would require that credits to the taxpayer for overpayments be applied, without interest, to the 2000-01 tax bill. Mr. Pinheiro moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the settlement. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Sultanik recommended that the board consider a motion to support Whitpain Township and other defendants in responding to the challenge by the current owner of Wings Field over whether the requirement for local approval for the expenditure of public funds on the airport was unconstitutional. He noted that the Board, along with Plymouth Township, had voted in the past to oppose the expansion of the facility at Wings field. Mr. Connolly moved and Mr. Pinheiro seconded a motion to approve a resolution indicating that: "The Board of School Directors of Colonial School District fully supports the efforts of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Montgomery County, and Whitpain Township in response to the action by Wings Field Preservation Associates, L.P., in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania which alleges that the statute giving local approval for the expenditure of public funds on an airport runway is unconstitutional. To the contrary, the Board of School Directors of the Colonial School District believes that such an action is supported by the law." On roll call vote, all in favor except Mr. Carroll. Mr. Carroll opposed. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: No report.

CMCAVTS: No report.

Personnel: Mr. Pinheiro advised that the committee had met a week earlier to discuss contract matters. He noted that the Board and the bargaining unit for secretaries and aides were in fact finding, that discussions were continuing on a contract with food service workers, and that the committee was discussing possible initiatives for the CASEA group of administrators.

Finance: No report.

Curriculum and Program: No report.

Buildings and Grounds/Transportation: Mr. Orlow noted that the committee had met several times in recent weeks. He advised that, since the high school annex was nearing completion and it was unlikely that there would be any significant cost overruns, the committee was advocating transferring funds in the bond issue contingency fund and allocating \$500,000.00 each to the capital reserve and to the funds available for prioritized bond issue projects. After brief discussion, Mr. Orlow moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to make these transfers. On roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Orlow noted that there were three projects on the prioritized list that would require both in-house work by the district's maintenance crew and work by third-party contractors. He moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to direct administration to proceed with bidding the third party work on renovations in the high school east wing, auditorium, and vacated science classrooms. After brief discussion, on roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Orlow provided the Board an overview of two preliminary options from E. I Associates for upgrading the library at the high school. The committee felt that option #1, which basically involved restructuring the existing space and incorporating an adjacent classroom, offered little value for the \$800,000.00 price tag. The committee considered option #2, which involved a modest addition to existing space was a better value for the district, even if the cost was somewhat higher at \$1,400,000.00. Mr. Orlow went on to report that a recently received engineering report estimated the cost of providing electrical service to support air conditioning at Colonial and Conshohocken Elementary Schools and the east wing of the high school, without required substation upgrades and unit wiring, at \$1,135,000.00. He noted that those costs plus the cost of the equipment itself, the substation improvements and unit wiring would push the price tag for the projects to between \$2,300,000.00 and \$3,000,000.00. He suggested that the Board would eventually need to review these the library renovation and air conditioning projects and decide which way it wanted to go with them. He advised that the committee, in anticipation of a debate on the relative value of the projects, would be giving both projects further study before the October meeting of the Board.

Community Relations: Mr. Johnson announced that the final draft of the annual report was in hand and that the report would be mailed by the end of September.

Legislative: Mr. Carroll reported on bills in the legislature on safe school funding, planning and counseling for alternative education. He also noted the publication of a guide to help schools deal with charter school appeals and new legislation which restricts night driving by young motorists. Dr. Durtan noted that this final piece of legislation would require that parents become aware of the 11:00 p.m. restriction on driving by 16 and 17-year olds and make alternate travel arrangements for their children. He noted that violators would be subject to \$100.00 fines and suspension of their licenses.

Mr. Kessler reported on a successful bid by the district to have the Mifflinburg issue included in the PSBA legislative platform. He also noted that the varying perspectives and generally conservative stance of board members from districts across the state often meant that more progressive measures, such as eliminating tenure, failed to garner broad-based support.

Other Board Comments: Mr. Orlow reported that there had been discussions on a product agreement with Pepsi but no such agreement existed as yet. Dr. Durtan noted that the district had not yet received a draft contract that would give Pepsi the exclusive right to market its products in the district.

Public Comments: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Kessler adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

**James M. Bell
Board Secretary**