

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, AUGUST 17, 2000**

Vice President Orlow convened the general meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:17 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on August 17, 2000.

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

Board Members Absent: Stuart Kessler.

Also Attending: Dr. Stanley Durtan, Superintendent; R. Scott Klinger, Assistant to the Superintendent for Administrative Services and Personnel; Patricia Iannelli, Director of Educational Services; James M. Bell, Director of Support Services/Board Secretary; Joseph P. Bickleman, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer; Brian Gallagher, President, CEA; Janet S. Rosa; and Scott Helfand.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Mr. Orlow directed Board attention to the minutes of the Special Meeting of 07/11/00, the Work Session of 07/17/00, the Community Relations Committee Meeting of 07/18/00, the General Meeting of 07/20/00, and the Finance Committee Meeting of 07/25/00, as shown in Enclosures #1 through #4 and #30. Mr. Pinheiro moved and Mr. O'Neill seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Financial Reports: Mr. Orlow directed Board attention to the financial reports which were listed as Enclosures #5 through #15. They included the Bond Fund Report, Capital Projects Report, and Capital Reserve Fund Report for the month ending 07/31/00; General Fund and Program Bills; the Food Service Bills/Cafeteria Report for 05/00; the Outstanding Investment Report, Cash Flow Summary, Comparison of Taxes, Real Estate Escrow Report and Reconciliation of Cash Accounts for the month ending 07/31/00; the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report of 08/08/00; and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending 07/31/00. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. O'Neill seconded a motion to approve the reports as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Orlow referred to the four items of correspondence on the agenda. See Enclosures #16 through #19. He noted a request from Robert E. Sague, President of Sague Auto Service, Inc. for consideration of a change in the company's existing contract with the district to deal with rising fuel costs. Dr. Durtan reiterated the comments that he had made at the work session the preceding Monday evening. He suggested that Mr. Orlow refer the request to the Building and Grounds Committee for its review and a subsequent formal recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Orlow referred to the correspondence from Thomas J. Gentzel of PSBA inviting the district to appoint up to three delegates to participate in the PSBA Legislative Policy Council Meeting on 10/19/00 and to submit resolutions and/or legislative items for consideration for the PSBA 2001 Legislative Platform. He reminded Board members that Mr. Kessler wished to be a delegate and asked if any other board members had an interest in becoming delegates. Mr. Carroll expressed an interest in serving. Mr. Orlow moved and Dr. Lipshutz seconded a motion to name Mr. Kessler and Mr. Carroll delegates to the PSBA Legislative Policy Council Meeting. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow noted that Charles W. Watters, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Economy League, had submitted a proposal to undertake a comprehensive update of its 1996 analysis of demographics and community growth patterns in the district and provide aggregate projections of school enrollments. He asked Dr. Durtan how much the update would cost, and Dr. Durtan reported that the cost of the update would be \$6,000.00. He also indicated that the information in the update would be reported in such a way that district administration would be able to break it out by school attendance areas. Mr. Pinheiro noted that the cost of the update would be half of the \$12,000.00 cost of original study. Mr. Pinheiro moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to accept the proposal as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Durtan reviewed his Superintendent's Report, as shown in Enclosure #20 through #22. He reported that there were some additional entries in the report since Monday and again noted that all but one professional position had been filled. Dr. Durtan noted that there had been some filling out of the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List and the summary of conference requests for events located more than 250 miles from the district. Mr. Marchozzi requested that the titles of the organizations on the summary of conference requests be spelled out so that board members could fully understand them. Dr. Durtan agreed. Mr. Marchozzi also noted that many of the national conferences were held in cities west of the Mississippi. Dr. Durtan advised that the conferences were so large that only a few cities could handle them and most were located further west. He also briefly recapped the procedures involved in allocating existing staff development funds to cover the annual requests. Mr. Pinheiro noted the resignation of Ms. Prinzo, the Adult School Director. Mr. Klinger reported that Ms. Prinzo had accepted another

position that was conveniently located closer to home and required fewer evening hours. He also reported that the district was exploring several options for filling her position, had spoken to several potential candidates and was awaiting responses.

Board members had some questions about vacancies on the extra duty-extra pay lists and inquired about the availability of internal candidates. Dr. Durtan advised that administration was working on filling the positions. He also recapped comments that he had made at the work session the previous Monday evening on student enrollment.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Yunker seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report, including the personnel actions, extra duty-extra pay assignments and conference requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Dr. Durtan raised one additional personnel item. He proposed eliminating one full-time reading aide, effective at the start of the 2000-01 school year, and taking any and all action, including laying off staff, that might be involved in eliminating the position. He answered questions from board members about the impact of such a move by noting that the district was adding an additional half-time reading teacher. He indicated that this represented an expansion of services and was the best way to address student needs. Dr. Durtan noted that, with the addition of a half-time teacher, the reading aide would no longer be required. He also confirmed that the actions recommended required no budgetary adjustments. Mr. Pinheiro moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to eliminate the full-time reading aide. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Board Student Representatives Report: None.

New Business: Mr. Orlow asked Mr. Bell to report on his interaction with the solicitor on the bids for the grand piano at the middle school. Mr. Bell confirmed that Mr. Sultanik had agreed with Mr. Orlow's comments at the work session that, in the absence of language in the bid on the subjects of playability, sound quality and trade-in value for the old piano, the lowest responsible bidder should be determined based on the lowest price for an instrument meeting the basic specifications. Mr. Sultanik briefly elaborated on his position. Mr. Bell advised that the Yamaha C3 piano bid by Jacobs Music at a cost of \$18,442.00 represented the lowest responsible bid. He also reported that Cunningham Piano Company was interested in purchasing the old piano at \$8,500.00, \$500.00 more than the trade-in offer made by Jacobs Music. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Carroll seconded a motion to approve the purchase of the Yamaha C3 grand piano from Jacobs Music for \$18,442.00 and to authorize administration to dispose of the old piano at a price no less than \$8,500.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow reviewed responses to the bid for new equipment for the fitness center at the high school, lockers at the high school pool, and bleacher material for the stadium, as outlined in Enclosure #24. He noted that the district was recommending the lowest responsible bids on the fitness center equipment and the bleacher material and the rejection of the bids for the pool lockers because the bid price exceeded the amount budgeted. Mr. Orlow reminded the Board that the cost of fitness equipment would be covered by the bond fund as part of the fitness center project. Mr. Marchozzi sought and Mr. Bell provided assurance that the lone bid for the stadium bleacher material was reasonable. Mr. O'Neill moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to accept the lowest responsible bidders for the equipment for the weight room as follows: Omni Fitness Equipment at \$21,630.00 for machines and \$14,225.00 for cardiovascular equipment and Body Zone at \$9,842.00 for weight equipment. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Mr. Pinheiro moved and Mr. O'Neill seconded a motion to reject the bids for lockers in the pool area. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Mr. O'Neill moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the bid B.E.A.R. of Pennsylvania, Inc. in the amount of \$30,724.00 for stadium bleacher material. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow noted that the bid for the new language lab at the high school was on the agenda for Board action. Dr. Durtan reported that the bid had come in within budget and was less than \$150,000.00 for all components except the computer workstations. In response to questions from board members, Dr. Durtan reported that there would initially be 30 workstations and the potential to expand to 35. He also reported that the lab would be located on the third floor of the east wing and should be ready at the end of October. Mr. O'Neill moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the bid as presented in Enclosure #32. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow referred the Board to Enclosure #25, a request to accept a tuition student. Mr. O'Neill moved and Mr. Yunker seconded a motion to approve the request as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow directed the attention of board members to the routine transportation contracts shown in Enclosure #26 and #33. Dr. Durtan confirmed that the contracts for Devon Preparatory School, Lakeside Youth Services, St. Joseph's Preparatory School and Chester County I. U. were standard and that Mrs. Johns had reviewed each of them to be sure that they represented the most economical option for providing the service. Mr. Pinheiro noted that one of the contracts contained the name of a special needs student and asked that handouts showing this reference be returned to Administration. Mr. O'Neill moved and Mr. Yunker seconded a motion to approve the contracts as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit Board: Mr. Pinheiro reported that Mr. Crespin would remain Board President for the coming school year and that he himself had been elected Board Treasurer.

Personnel: Mr. Pinheiro complimented Mr. Klinger on the fine job that he had done in securing staff for the coming school year. He noted that there was just one vacancy on the professional staff remaining to be filled.

Finance: Mr. O'Neill announced that the committee had met the previous Tuesday with the Ad Hoc Committee dealing with Act 50 and had gotten some useful information. He reported that they were putting the information together and would meet again in September.

Curriculum and Instruction: Mr. Yunker reported that the committee had met earlier that day and received a presentation from Terra Nova on test results. He indicated that the committee members had raised some important issues and that the representative from Terra Nova would be getting back to the Board in response to the issues raised.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Orlow reported that work had begun on the development of the WFIL Tract and that the district was working on three items of paperwork required before a grading permit could be issued. He announced that work on the all weather tract was underway and that the contractors would work around the events scheduled for the stadium this fall. He also indicated that the district and the contractor were taking steps to insure the safety of players and spectators during the construction process. Board members had some questions of the timing of paving work at Whitemarsh Elementary School. Mr. Bell reported on the contractor's schedule for the work and the minimal effect that it would have on the school as the new school year drew near. Mr. Bell asked that the Board take action on easement agreements required by Whitemarsh Township for the WFIL development project. After some confusion as to whether the Board had already acted on the agreements or not, Mr. Sultanik suggested that it probably had not, confirmed that he had reviewed the documents and asked that the Board take action on the documents that evening. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. O'Neill seconded a motion to approve the easement agreements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Community Relations: Mr. Johnson advised that the committee would be meeting the following Tuesday morning and board members should submit their input on the district's proposed web page prior to the meeting.

Legislative: Mr. Carroll reported that there had been no meeting in July. He provided an update on the complaint filed by Landmark Legal Foundations on NEA's use of tax-exempt funds for its lobbying effort. In response to questions by

board members, Mr. Carroll reported that the information he was sharing had been garnered from the foundation's web page.

Additional Comments: Mr. Pinheiro asked for an update on the disposition of more than \$3,700.00 in the high school activity fund from the class of 1999. Dr. Durtan reported that the original plan had been to buy benches for the school, then to purchase computers, and finally to proceed with the original plan to buy benches. He expected the purchase to be completed shortly.

Mr. Marchozzi noted that it was sometimes difficult for board members and the audience at home to hear Mr. Bell when he spoke because there was no microphone in front of him. He also suggested that board members be more aware of the need to speak into the microphone so that their voices could be heard clearly on the cable broadcasts of the meeting. The Board received confirmation that the public address system could be expanded. Mr. Quinn was tasked to look into the matter.

Mr. Orlow reported that the Board had met in Executive session the previous day and would be meeting again following the meeting to handle personnel and legal matters.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Bell
Board Secretary