

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, FEBRUARY 12, 2001**

President Orlow convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:40 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on February 12, 2001.

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

Board Members Absent: Stuart Kessler and Thomas Marchozzi.

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; R. Scott Klinger, Assistant to the Superintendent for Administrative Services and Personnel; Patricia A. Iannelli, 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; and Scott Helfand.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Mr. Orlow directed Board attention to the minutes of the Work Session of 01/16/01, The Regular Meeting of 01/18/01, the Personnel Committee Meeting of 01/23/01, the Curriculum Committee Meeting of 01/25/01, and the Special Meeting of 01/29/01, shown as Enclosures #1 through #4 and #29 on the agenda for the General Meeting on Thursday, 02/15/01. Board members recommended changes to typographical errors on pages 3484 and 3488.

Financial Reports: Mr. Orlow noted that the financial reports for the month of January 2001 would be on the agenda for Board consideration the following Thursday. The reports included the Budget Transfers dated February 2001; the Bond Fund Report, Capital Projects Report, General Fund/Federal Program Bills and Capital Reserve Fund Report for the month ending 1/31/01; the Food Service Reports for the months ending 11/30/00 and 12/31/00; the Outstanding Investment Reports, Cash Flow Summaries, Comparisons of Taxes Collected, Real Estate Tax Escrow Reports, and Reconciliations of Cash Accounts for the months ending 01/31/01; the Budget Analysis dated 02/08/01; and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending 01/31/01, as shown in Enclosures #5 through #16 on the agenda for Thursday evening. Mr. Orlow noted that the reports had been given to board members just prior to the meeting and suggested that board members review them and forward questions and/or comments to Mr. Bickleman prior to Thursday's meeting. Mr. Bickleman confirmed that a number of special projects and the snow emergency and power outage the previous Monday had delayed preparation of the reports until later in the week.

Budget Report: None

Staff Report: Mr. Orlow noted that, on Thursday evening, the Board would receive a report from Patricia Campbell, Principal, Plymouth Whitemarsh High School on the new foreign language laboratory. Dr. Cotter confirmed that the new facility was operational and that staff were receiving training in its use.

Mr. Orlow reported that Mr. William Wells, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Colonial Foundation for Educational Innovation, would present mini and major grants for the Board's consideration at the General Meeting the following Thursday.

Old Business: Mr. Orlow noted that two Board policies would be on the agenda for Thursdays' meeting for second reading: Policy #001, Board Bylaws and Policy #004, Board Committee Functions. Dr. Cotter reported that both policies were the result of Board initiatives. Mr. Orlow indicated that a date in the body of the first page of Policy #001 needed to be changed and Dr. Cotter advised that he would see that the change was made. See Enclosures #17 and #18 on the agenda for the General Meeting of 02/15/01.

Mr. Orlow noted that the Board was reviewing several drafts of the calendar for the 2001-02 school year. Dr. Cotter advised that he was still in discussions with the Colonial Education Association on the calendar and noted the possibility that the Board would make its decision at its March meeting. Mr. Orlow advised that it was also possible that the Board would act on the calendar at its meeting on 02/15/01. See Enclosure #19 on the agenda for that meeting.

Correspondence: Mr. Orlow noted the two items of correspondence that would be on the agenda for the General Meeting on Thursday but he commented only on a letter from a district resident suggesting the posting of signs outlining the rules for the use of the new all-weather track. Mr. Bell responded to board members' questions concerning the timing for painting lines on the new track and concerns that signs and guidelines for use of the track be based not only on safety and security issues but also on the long history of community use of the facility. He reported that the lines would be painted in time for the track season, as soon as the weather permitted. Mr. Bell also acknowledged the need for a balance between protection of and accessibility to the new track. He advised that the Buildings and Grounds Committee would be looking at these issues. See Enclosures #20 and #21 on the agenda for the meeting of 02/15/01.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter reported that his Superintendent's Report for the General Meeting on Thursday evening was routine. See Enclosure #22 on the agenda for that meeting.

New Business: Mr. Orlow reported that the Board would be considering annual support and funding for the Summer Arts Consortium at its meeting Thursday evening. He noted that the funding requested for 2001-02 was \$6,300.00, the same as in prior years.

Mr. Orlow noted that there would be a trip request on the agenda for Board action at its regular February meeting. Amy LaRue, PWHS Choral Director, was requesting approval

to take students on an overnight trip to the Regional Chorus at Strath Haven High School on March 8-10, 2001. See Enclosure #23 of the agenda for the meeting of 02/15/01 for details.

Mr. Orlow advised that a bid for a 20-passenger school bus and several proposals for architectural services in support of the renovation project proposed for the high school auditorium were listed on the agenda for the General Meeting the following Thursday. Mr. Bell outlined administration's recommendation to award the bid for the bus to Wolfington Body Company at a cost of \$35,167.00, as shown in Enclosure #24 on the agenda for that meeting.

Mr. Pinheiro outlined the recommendation of the Buildings and Grounds Committee to contract with CICADA Architects and Planning for architectural services for the high school auditorium project. He noted that the cost of the contract would be \$37,485.00 plus reimbursable expenses projected not to exceed \$1,500.00. Mr. Pinheiro reported that Committee Chair, Stuart Kessler had asked that the Board address the committee's recommendation that night because of critical timelines for completing the project before the start of the new school year. Mr. Kessler was in Harrisburg in his capacity as a vice-president of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. Mr. Pinheiro moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the appointment of the CICADA firm as the architects for the renovation of the high school auditorium at a cost for \$35,167.00 plus reimbursable expenses not to exceed \$1,500.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Solicitor's Report: None

Committee Reports: Legislative: Mr. Carroll provided an update on a number of bills moving through the state legislature. They dealt with the governor's budget for intermediate units, special education and basic education funding (increases of a minimum of 5% for the former and over 3% for the latter), state reimbursements for lunch programs and proposed changes to retirement programs. Mr. Carroll noted that House Bill No. 8 provided retirement enhancements for those working longer than the standard school year. Mr. Klinger confirmed that it would also make the "30 and out" window permanent. He noted, however, that the House had tabled the bill after it had come out of committee.

Public Comments: None.

Additional Comments: Mr. Orlow advised that the Board had met in executive session at 7:30 p.m. just prior to that night's meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Bell
Board Secretary