

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 18, 2000**

President Kessler convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:37 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on September 18, 2000.

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

Board Members Absent: Robert Carroll.

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; Fred Shipman, Director of Pupil Services; Kurt Bresswein and Scott Helfand.

Mr. Kessler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Mr. Kessler directed Board attention to the minutes of the Work Session of 08/14/00, the General Meeting of 08/17/00, and the Curriculum Committee Meeting of 09/07/00, as shown in Enclosures #1 through #3 on the agenda for the general meeting the following Thursday. Board members had no questions or comments on the minutes.

Financial Reports: Mr. Kessler directed Board attention to the financial reports which were listed as Enclosures #4 through #16 on the agenda for the general meeting on Thursday. They included the Bond Fund Report, Capital Projects Report, and Capital Reserve Fund Report for the month ending 08/31/00; the Outstanding Investment Report, Cash Flow Summary, Comparison of Taxes, Real Estate Escrow Report and Reconciliation of Cash Accounts for the month ending 08/31/00; the Budget Analyses of 09/11/00; Accounts Payable Items for Accrual, Contracted Payroll Accrual, and Hourly Accrual on June 30, 2000, Final Budget Transfers, and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending 08/31/00. Mr. Orlow asked if bills included in the Bond Fund Report were approved by the architects prior to being submitted for payment. Mr. Bickleman indicated that they were when architects were involved in major projects.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Kessler noted correspondence from Carol L. Clopp, Finance Director of Plymouth Township, requesting that the Board waive school taxes on a

property recently purchased by the township. See Enclosure #17 on the agenda for the general meeting of 09/21/00. Board members asked where the property was and what the exemption would involve. Mr. Bickleman indicated that the property involved was located at Germantown Pike and Jolly Roads adjacent to the township parks and recreation complex. He also reported that a house on the property had been demolished and that the school taxes affected would be those from July 1 through December 31, 2000. Mr. Kessler inquired if the request was a simple legal matter since the property was scheduled to become exempt on January 1, 2001. Mr. Bickleman replied in the affirmative.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Durtan reviewed his Superintendent's Report, as shown in Enclosures #18 through #21 on the agenda for Thursday evening. He noted that the written reports contained information of personnel changes, additions to the substitute lists, adult evening school appointments, additions to the extra duty/extral pay list. He also shared information on a request from a board member to attend the annual conference on gifted students and asked Mr. Klinger to review current information on student enrollment. Mr. Marchozzi asked for additional information on the adult evening school appointments. Dr. Durtan indicated that the appointments were contingent on sufficient enrollment in the classes and noted that the adult evening school was self-supporting. He and Mr. Klinger responded to other questions from the Board by reporting that self-support included the cost of paying the school director and covering incidental expenses that arose from the operation of the program. They confirmed the new director's salary was the same as it had been for his predecessor the previous year. Mr. Marchozzi asked for salary information on the instructors and Dr. Durtan indicated that it would be available at the general meeting on Thursday evening.

Mr. Klinger updated information on student enrollment that was included in Enclosure #24 on the agenda for the general meeting on Thursday evening. He noted that the information in the enclosure was enrollment data on the third day of school and that data for the tenth day of school would be available on Thursday. He reported that the more recent data would show an enrollment of 4643 students, 47 students more than were enrolled at the close of the previous school year. He also advised that the updated report would include the number of sections at each grade level in each elementary school. Mr. Klinger noted that class sizes were within district guidelines and there were no classes with over 24 students. In response to Board queries, he reported that the district had not filled one budgeted elementary teaching position because an additional class had not been necessary. He also reminded board members that staff had been added at Conshohocken and Whitemarsh Elementary Schools to reduce class size. Mr. Orlow asked for an update on the status of the upcoming Pel report. Mr. Klinger reported that correspondence was going back and forth between the parties and that progress was being made. Mr. Orlow suggested that Mr. Klinger get a confirmed timeline for receipt of the updated report.

New Business: Mr. Kessler noted that a revision of Board Policy #230, Public Performances by Students, would be on the agenda for Board consideration on Thursday evening as Enclosure #22. Dr. Durtan noted that the revision was a general update of existing policy. He noted that Ms. Iannelli had worked with community members on the update. Board members suggested a number of changes. Among them were suggestions that: Requests be made in writing, that the response to a request “*would*”, rather than “*should*”, be made within two weeks “*of receipt of the request*”, that timelines be set for submissions during the school year as well as during the summer months, and that some cumbersome uses of language be remedied. Board members also discussed mechanisms for publicizing the revised policy once it was adopted. It was agreed that the district would send copies of the revised policy to all those who had requested performances by students in the past.

Dr. Durtan and Ms. Iannelli explained the Continuing Professional Education Plan that Ms. Iannelli distributed to board members at the meeting. She noted that the document was created to comply with the provisions of Act 48, which replaced Act 178 as the governing document for continuing professional education. She asked board members to review the document prior to the general meeting the following Thursday and to call her if they had any questions or concerns. Ms. Iannelli advised that a plan approved by the Board had to be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education by September 30th. Mr. Orlow asked what would happen if the document was not submitted by the deadline. Dr. Durtan responded that the department would notify the district that it had failed to meet the deadline and ask for it. He told board members that the plan was an updated version of the one that the district had prepared to meet Act 178 requirements and had been following in the past. In response to Board queries, he and Ms. Iannelli advised board members that individuals serving on the original committee dealing with continuing professional education were allowed to continue serving on the new committee. They also explained the mix of parents and professional staff on the committee.

Solicitor’s Report: None.

Committee Reports: Mr. Orlow reported briefly on a request from Sague Auto Service, Inc. for a change in its transportation contract with the district. He indicated that the company’s contract, unlike its contract with its major transportation provider did not call for the district to purchase fuel. He noted that the company was seeking some relief for the increase in the cost of fuel and that the committee would be recommending some short-term relief while the district looked into a more permanent solution to the issues raised.

Public Comment: None.

Additional Comments: Mr. Kessler reported that the Board had met in Executive session immediately prior to the work session from 5:30 p.m. to handle personnel, collective bargaining and legal matters.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Kessler adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**James M. Bell
Board Secretary**