

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, DECEMBER 3, 2001**

President Orlow convened the reorganization meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:14 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on December 3, 2001.

Returning Board Members Present: Marc Orlow, Robert J. Carroll, Gary Johnson, Hugh Lipshutz, and Thomas Marchozzi.

Incoming Board Members: Thomas P. Davis and Valerie M. Flounders.

Board Members Absent: Thomas Yunker.

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; R. Scott Klinger, Assistant to the Superintendent for Administrative Services and Personnel; MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Director of Educational Services – Primary; Patricia A. Iannelli, Director of Educational Services - Secondary; James M. Bell, Director of Support Services/Board Secretary; Joseph P. Bickleman, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer; Fred Shipman, Director of Pupil Services; Wendy Rothstein, Esq., for the Solicitor; Judge Bernard Moore; Ron DeRosa; Allan Dovberg, President, Colonial United Taxpayers; Penny Levin; Cynthia Lipshutz; and Ken Parsons.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and explained the procedure that would be followed during the reorganization of the Board. He also reported that the Board had met in Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. just prior to the reorganization meeting to discuss tax assessment appeals and legal and personnel matters.

Mr. Bell called the roll of carry-over board members.

Election of Temporary Chairperson: Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Carroll seconded a motion to elect Mr. Orlow temporary Chairperson. On a roll call vote, all carry-over board members present voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow recognized Mr. Dovberg who addressed the Board on several issues. He noted that the Board, in his opinion, had changed in recent years from one that closely monitored expenditures and taxes to one that spent freely. He cited the cost of purchasing and developing the WFIL Tract as a case in point. He noted the pending retirement of Ms. Johns and expressed serious concern with the manner in which the Board had handled the selection of her replacement. He felt that the pending appointment of a former board member had been tainted by a process that seemed at odds with the district's own code of ethics. He suggested that the district delay appointment, re-advertise for candidates in a local paper, involve an ad hoc committee of local citizens in the interview process, and then have the Board select the new Director of Transportation from a list of recommended

candidates. Mr. Orlow responded by summarizing the interview and selection process that the administration and Board had followed. He expressed his firmly held belief that former board member Jack Pinheiro was well qualified for the position. Mr. Dovberg noted that Mr. Pinheiro was a very talented individual but felt that he lacked the qualifications for the job at hand. He reiterated his concern that the process had been tainted and urged the Board to take the time to go through the steps that he had proposed so that the successful candidate for the position could begin his or her tenure without any cloud of suspicion hanging over him or her. He asked how other board members felt about the pending appointment. Mr. Orlow stated that they would have an opportunity to express their points of view when the subject came up at a special meeting to follow the reorganization meeting.

Certification of Election and Oath of Office: Mr. Orlow noted that there would be three individuals sworn in as board members that evening. He reported that a fourth individual, Mr. Stuart Kessler, had submitted his resignation to the Board and indicated that he would not be accepting the position to which he had recently been re-elected. Mr. Orlow noted that Mr. Kessler had served on the Board for many years and had been Board president for 11 of those years. He praised Mr. Kessler as a strong advocate for the taxpayers and a creative force in dealing with district issues.

Judge Bernard Moore administered the oath of office to Mr. Carroll, Ms. Flounders, and Mr. Davis.

Election of Officers: Mr. Orlow explained the basic duties of Board President, noted that he had served in the position the previous year and asked for nominations for the office. Dr. Lipshutz nominated and Mr. Marchozzi seconded Mr. Orlow for the position of Board President. On roll call vote, all voted but Mr. Carroll in favor. Mr. Carroll voted in opposition. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow explained the basic duties of Board Vice-President, noted that Mr. O'Neill had served in the position the previous year and asked for nominations for Board Vice President. Mr. Orlow nominated and Mr. Carroll seconded Dr. Lipshutz for the position of Vice President. Mr. Orlow noted that Dr. Lipshutz had been a member of the Board for a relatively short period of time but had had a huge impact on the district during this period and throughout his long service as a community member on many district committees. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow noted that there was a resolution on the agenda to authorize continuation of existing signature plates. He asked and Ms. Rothstein confirmed that, since there would be no changes in authorized signature, the Board did not need to formal action to continue use of the plates.

There being no further reorganization business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the reorganization meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Bell
Board Secretary