

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, FEBRUARY 25, 2002**

President Orlow convened the special meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 6:34 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on February 25, 2002.

Board Members Present: Marc Orlow, Robert Carroll, Thomas Davis, Gary Johnson, Thomas Marchozzi, and Susan Moore.

Board Members Absent: Hugh Lipshutz and Thomas Yunker.

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; R. Scott Klinger, Assistant to the Superintendent for Administrative Services and Personnel; James M. Bell, Director of Support Services/Board Secretary; Robert O'Neill and Stuart Kessler.

Mr. Orlow led those in attendance in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

New Business: Mr. Orlow announced the resignation of board member Valerie Flounders. He noted that board members had received copies of Ms. Flounder's letter of resignation, shown in Enclosure #1 to the agenda, and an email as well. He asked that both be incorporated in the minutes of the meeting. The latter is identified as Attachment #1 to these minutes.

Mr. Orlow and Mr. Marchozzi explained the fact that the Board had the exclusive right to fill the position for 30 days. Mr. Orlow explained that, after 30 days, the Board could still fill the vacancy, if it acted first, or a judge would do so later. Mr. Orlow noted that filling a vacancy on the Board was a public process and that the Board would conduct interviews and take action to fill the position at public meetings. He felt that the Board should act promptly to fill the vacancy. Through discussion, the Board reached a consensus to complete the process by Friday, 03/15/02. Mr. Marchozzi asked that interviews and action on an appointment be held after 03/08/02 so that he would be available to participate in the process. The Board agreed to advertise the vacancy as soon as possible for three days in the Times Herald, on the district's web page and on CITV. The Board agreed to use a standard district form. Mr. Orlow asked Dr. Cotter to forward a copy of the form used in December to fill another Board vacancy and asked his fellow board members to forward any suggested revisions to the form to Dr. Cotter by the end of the following day. The Board set the deadline for applications as Friday, 03/08/02 and set the week of 03/11/02 as the time for interviews. It was the intent of the Board to complete the entire pre-appointment process by Friday, 3/15/02 and to act on an appointment at its scheduled work session or general meeting for the month of March.

Public Comments: Mr. Kessler shared his perspective on how the Board was fulfilling its responsibilities. He took the opportunity to comment of the loyalty, hard work and fine performance of Mr. Pinheiro in his role as Acting Transportation Supervisor. He expressed his belief that the Board had shown that it did not value those traits by declining to appoint Mr. Pinheiro to the transportation position on a permanent basis. He felt that the Board's decision was the betrayal of a colleague and a signal to district employees and the community that the Board could not be counted on to treat its employees with honesty or loyalty. He chastised the Board for what he saw as its loss of integrity and criticized what he viewed as the Board's and the superintendent's disservice to the district's children. He felt that the Board had lost the trust and faith of the community and its taxpayers. He told board members that they were not being honest, open and forthright in their dealings and expressed his surprise at their recent handling of their responsibilities.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Bell
Board Secretary