

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462  
MINUTES, NOVEMBER 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 November 12, 2001.

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

**Board Members Absent:** None.

**Also Attending:** Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; R. Scott Klinger, Assistant to the Superintendent for Administrative Services and Personnel; Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Director of Educational Services - Elementary; Patricia Iannelli, Director of Educational Services - Secondary; James M. Bell, Director of Support Services/Board Secretary; Joseph Bickleman, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer; Fred Shipman, Director of Pupil Services and Thomas Davis.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance. He also advised that the Board had met in executive session immediately preceding this work session to discuss legal matters and personnel issues.

**Minutes:** Mr. Orlow directed Board attention to the minutes of the Work Session of 10/15/01, the General Meeting of 10/18/01, the Personnel Committee Meeting of 10/25/01 and the Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting of 10/26/01, as shown in Enclosures #1 through #4 on the agenda for the meeting the following Thursday. Mr. Johnson pointed out that a comment that he had made at the General Meeting had been attributed to another board member. Mr. Bell indicated that he would correct the error on page 3675 of the minutes.

**Financial Reports:** Mr. Orlow directed Board attention to the financial reports that were listed as Enclosures #5 through #16 on the agenda for the general meeting on Thursday. They included Budget Transfers, the Bond Fund Report, Capital Projects Report, General Fund and Program Bills; and Capital Reserve Fund Report for the month ending 10/31/01; the Food Service Report for the month ending 08/31/01; Outstanding Investment Report, Cash Flow Summary, Comparison of Taxes, Real Estate Escrow Report and Reconciliation of Cash Accounts for the month ending 10/31/01; the Budget Analysis/Deficit Status Report through 10/31/01; and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending 10/31/01. Mr. Bickleman advised the Bond Fund Report had been distributed as a yellow page. Mr. Orlow inquired about budget transfers from the Safe Schools Grant. Mr. Bickleman reported that the funds had recently arrived and been placed in the

appropriate accounts. Mr. Pinheiro inquired about the amount of balance left to be paid for work on the WFIL Tract after the planned payment of the current bill from Scott Contractors. Mr. Orlow followed up on that question by asking Mr. Bickleman to look at the invoices and break them down by categories, especially work on the fields. Mr. Bickleman agreed to have the information available for the general meeting the following Thursday.

**Staff Report:** Mr. Orlow noted that Darlene Davis, Principal, Conshohocken Elementary School would be giving a presentation on instruction programs and initiatives at the school at the general meeting on 11/15/01.

**Correspondence:** The agenda for the meeting contained two items of correspondence from Gerhard P. Dietrich, Vice Chair, Colonial Foundation for Educational Innovation. These items concerned proposed awards of mini-grants and presentations by mini-grant recipients for the general meeting the following Thursday. No formal action was taken on the correspondence at the work session.

**Old Business:** None.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Cotter briefly reviewed his routine Superintendent's Report, as shown in Enclosures #18 and #19 on the agenda for Thursday evening. The report contained normal information on personnel actions and changes to the substitute lists.

**New Business:** Mr. Orlow noted a request from Jeff Blizzard and Kathy Dunn, high school Ski Club advisors, for an overnight trip to Killington, Vermont from 01/04/02 to 01/06/02. He noted that the participants would pay all costs and that the high school administration supported the trip. Dr. Cotter confirmed that the trip began after classes on a Friday and that participants would not miss any classes. See Enclosure #20 on the agenda for the Thursday meeting.

Mr. Orlow directed the attention of board members to correspondence from Whitmarsh Township requesting permission to place a sign dedicating the township's open space adjacent to the district's new playing fields to former Township Supervisor John P. McCarthy. See Enclosure #21 on the agenda for the meeting on 11/15/01. The correspondence noted that Montgomery County required that a sign identifying the open space be visible from a public street. Mr. Yunker asked if the township had considered other locations. Several board members noted that the sign on district property could cause confusion to those who were coming to use adjacent district facilities. The consensus of the Board was to have Mr. Bell call Mr. Gegan, Township Manager, to discuss the request and provide additional feedback to the Board of School Directors.

Mr. Orlow noted that a request for approval of a contract for a mother to transport her child to the Pathway School at the rate of \$0.345 per mile would be on the

agenda for Board action on Thursday evening as Enclosure #22. Mr. Klinger confirmed that the rate requested was the standard IRS rate for the current year.

Mr. Orlow reported that two requests related to the anti-vandalism programs at the middle school and the high school would be on the agenda for Board action on Thursday evening. The first was to give the student councils at the high school and middle school \$2,237.00 and \$1,125.00 respectively, the equivalent of one half of the unspent funds in the anti-vandalism programs at those schools, in accordance with the program rules. The other was to reauthorize the program at the current levels of \$5,000.00 and \$3,000.00 respectively for 2001-02 school year. See Enclosure #23 on the agenda for the meeting of 11/15/01.

Mr. Orlow noted that the Board had received several calendar scenarios for the coming school year and sought input from board members on the options. Dr. Cotter reported that the CEA had shared several ideas but that Bob Grieshofer wanted to withdraw his suggestions until the CEA Executive Committee had an opportunity to review them. Dr. Cotter advised that he would be working with the CEA on calendar options. He also noted that he was not seeking a Board decision on the calendar Thursday evening but was suggesting that the Board consider setting parameters for future discussion. Mr. Pinheiro noted that 09/16/02 was a Jewish holiday. Mr. Orlow suggested, and several board members voiced support for two parameters: preserving spring break and finishing classes by the end of the second week in June.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: None.

Public Comments: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Bell  
Board Secretary