

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

President Orlow convened a special meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:30 a.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on July 25, 2002.

Board Members Present: Marc Orlow, Lynn Glodek, Gary Johnson, Hugh Lipshutz, Susan Moore, and Thomas Yunker.

Board Members Absent: Thomas Davis, Steven Slutsky and William Ryan.

Also Attending: Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Mary Ellen Gorodetzer, Director of Educational Services K-5; Patricia Iannelli, Director of Educational Services 6-12; Gerald Berger, Director of Human Resources; Fred Shipman, Director of Pupil Services; and James M. Bell, Director of Support Services/Board Secretary.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Orlow directed the attention of board members to the contract for the position of Assistant Superintendent. He noted that the district had such a position for the first time. Mr. Orlow advised that the superintendent was recommending Dr. Gorodetzer for the position. Mr. Yunker moved and Dr. Lipshutz seconded a motion to appoint Dr. Gorodetzer to the position and approve the three-year contract that board members had received as an attachment to the agenda for the meeting and had reviewed prior to the meeting. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Dr. Lipshutz asked about filling the other new position of Director of Research, Assessment and Technology. Dr. Cotter indicated that the position would be posted. Dr. Cotter advised the Board that Dr. Gorodetzer would be sworn in before a judge as soon as possible. He also reported that a press release would be issued shortly.

Mr. Orlow asked for Board consideration of the Separation and Release Agreement before the Board. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Yunker seconded a motion to approve the agreement that was attached to the agenda. All voted in favor. The motion was carried. Mr. Yunker asked what the last day of employment for Mr. Willgruber would be. Dr. Cotter reported that it would be 08/05/02 but also indicated that Mr. Willgruber was using leave benefits and was no longer at work. Ms. Glodek asked about the steps being taken to fill the position. Dr. Cotter reported that the administration was looking at a number of options for filling the position. He noted that Mr. Bell was looking into some alternatives including potential opportunities for filling the position in-house. He expected to have a recommendation for committee and Board consideration shortly. Board members

asked that the vacancy be posted while the administration was looking at options for filling it. The Board also asked that the district check the local market to see if the present salary was competitive.

Dr. Cotter asked for Board consideration of a series of personnel actions shown in the Personnel report given to the Board at the meeting and attached to these minutes as Attachment #1. He reported that district administrators had been working diligently to fill positions with the best-qualified candidates. He noted that several candidates were coming from other districts and would have to give notice at their current schools. It was, therefore, important for the Board to take action as soon as possible. Board members questioned the effective dates listed on the report. Mr. Berger advised that he had followed the past practice of the district and used the first day of class. Board members reached a consensus to use the date that the teachers were first required to report to work. Dr. Cotter responded to a Board query by reporting that one applicant would be the first undergraduate from Harvard hired by the district. Dr. Lipshutz asked about a vacant position in 3rd grade at Whitemarsh Elementary School. Mr. Berger advised that many interviews had been completed and positions offered in recent days and that positive responses were expected on all of them, including the position at Whitemarsh Elementary. Mr. Orlow asked if there was an extensive list of positions still to be filled. Mr. Berger responded that the list was not extensive and included five special education teachers and seven specialists. He also explained that salary adjustments shown on the report merely corrected misinformation in an earlier report approved by the Board. He also assured the Board that, as far as he knew, there were no relatives of current district employees among the candidates recommended in the Personnel Report. On a roll call vote of the motion made and seconded, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

The Board addressed a recommendation from Dr. Gorodetzer to have two college-level student workers and one part-time secretary work for 60 hours each to enter data into the recently approved data warehousing system. See Attachment #2 to these minutes. Mr. Johnson moved and Dr. Lipshutz seconded a motion to approve the proposal. On a roll call vote, all but Mr. Yunker voted in favor. Mr. Yunker abstained. The motion was carried.

The Board briefly discussed the likelihood that Patricia Campbell, Principal, Plymouth Whitemarsh High School would need to take sick leave for the first semester of the coming school year and the impact that such an occurrence might have on the district. The Board also discussed briefly options for holding the high school graduation off-site next spring.

There were no questions or comments from the floor.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**James M. Bell
Board Secretary**