

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, OCTOBER 13, 2003**

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 October 13, 2003.

Board Members Present: Marc Orlow, Thomas Davis, Gary Johnson, Hugh Lipshutz, Susan Moore, William Ryan, Steven Slutsky and Thomas Yunker.

Board Members Absent: Lynn Glodek.

Also Attending: Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Patricia Iannelli, Director of Accountability and Compliance; Gerald Berger, Director of Human Resources; Fred Shipman, Director of Pupil Services; James M. Bell, Director of Support Services/Board Secretary; and Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in Executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters on 09/18/03 and 10/13/03 and on 09/24/03 and 10/08/03 for informational purposes.

Minutes: Mr. Orlow directed Board attention to the minutes of the Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting of 09/11/03, the Curriculum Committee Meeting of 09/18/03, the Work Session of 09/15/03, the General Meeting of 09/18/03, the Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting of 10/09/03 and the Curriculum Committee Meeting of 10/13/03, as shown in Enclosures #1 through #4 of the agenda for Thursday evening and handouts provided. Mr. Yunker noted a typographical error in Enclosure #1. Mr. Bell advised that he would correct it for Thursday evening.

Financial Reports: Mr. Orlow directed Board attention to the financial reports. They included the Budget Transfer Report for 06/03, the Bond Fund Report, Capital Projects Report; General Fund and Program Bills, Capital Reserve Fund Report; Food Services Bills/Cafeteria Report, Outstanding Investment Report, Cash Flow Summary, Comparison of Taxes Collected, Real Estate Escrow Report and Reconciliation of Cash Accounts for the month ending 09/30/03; the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report of 09/03; and Treasurer's Report for the month ending 09/30/03, as shown in Enclosures #5 through #16 on Thursday's general meeting agenda. Mr. Orlow sought and received confirmation that the budget transfers included entries that brought the district into compliance with audit recommendations.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: The agenda for Thursday evening indicated that staff from Colonial Instructional Television (CITV) would give a staff report.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: None.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter walked board members through his report as shown in Enclosures #17 through #19 of the agenda for action on Thursday evening. He noted the retirement of an Assistant Principal at the middle school and recommendations to fill vacancies for a Tax Collector and the Principal of Conshohocken Elementary School. Mr. Orlow asked about the starting date for the new principal. Mr. Berger reported that it had originally been set for 10/24/03 but that staff and students had just returned to classes after a teachers' strike in Hatboro-Horsham School District and that Hatboro-Horsham had requested that the candidate stay on at her position there during the first few weeks of school. He advised that the new start date at Conshohocken would be 11/10/03. Dr. Cotter reported some additional appointments to extra-duty/extra-pay positions and confirmed for Mr. Slutsky that all of the proposed appointments, except those for liaisons, were for existing positions. Dr. Cotter announced that employee salary listings would be available for review in the Human Resources Office. He also advised that there would be a Resolution for Termination on Thursday's agenda for Board action.

New Business: Mr. Orlow noted that the Board would be considering on Thursday evening a request for approval of an annual ski trip for members of the high school ski club. See Enclosure #20.

Mr. Orlow advised the Board that Enclosure #21 for Thursday evening contained a number of drafts for a school calendar for 2004-05. He indicated that the drafts were for Board review and discussion as the Board moved toward setting a start date for the new school year at its November meeting. Mr. Orlow noted the issues involved in setting a start date in a year where Labor Day came late. He specifically noted the possibility that the combination of an after-Labor Day start and a hard winter could keep students in school until the end of June. Dr. Cotter advised that he wanted to seek additional feedback from school and parent groups as well as meet the district's contractual obligation to seek input from the Colonial Education Association. The potential impact of the construction of classrooms to house all-day kindergarten was also raised during the brief discussion that followed. Mr. Orlow advised that the Administration and Board would be looking at calendar and start-date options in the weeks ahead and would not be taking action on the calendar on Thursday evening.

Mr. Orlow reported that the fundraising reports in Enclosure #22 were being provided for informational purposes only.

Mr. Orlow advised that two conference requests would be on the agenda for Thursday evening as Enclosures #23 and #24. He noted that the first was a request for Irene Guerriero, a music teacher at the high school, to attend the PMEA Conference in Erie, Pennsylvania from 04/21/04 through 04/24/04. The second was a request from Jeff Yeagle, a technology teacher at the high school, to attend the International Metal Meet in Robinson, Illinois from 10/30/03 through 11/04/03. In response to questions from Board members, Dr. Cotter shared information on the

type of experience offered at the International Metal Meet and Mr. Berger confirmed that the district would have to plan early to provide appropriate coverage for Mr. Yeagle's classes while he was at the meet.

Mr. Orlow noted that the Board would be taking action on Thursday evening on the bid contained in Enclosure #25 on the agenda of the general meeting. The bid was for new light fixtures in the west wing of the high school. Mr. Bell reported that three bidders had picked up bid packages but only one had responded. Of the two that had not responded, one was not interested in a bid that did not include installation and the other had hoped to bid but had been unable to respond because of a family emergency. Mr. Bell advised that Mr. Yemm was pleased with the price of the lone bidder. Mr. Yemm noted that the number was lower than had been anticipated and represented a good price for the fixtures. Mr. Orlow asked how many fixtures had been bid. Mr. Bell did not have the number handy and indicated that he would get the number before Thursday's meeting.

Solicitor's Report: No report.

Committee Reports: Dr. Ryan announced that the I.U. would be holding a Monte Carlo Night at the West Conshohocken Marriott on 10/17/03 to benefit summer programs for special needs students.

Other Announcements: Mr. Orlow announced that the Board would be considering action on a resolution on Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for the Hill at Whitemarsh, a planned retirement community in Whitemarsh Township. He advised that the proposed TIF would include all of the taxing bodies (the district, Whitemarsh Township and Montgomery County) and was for the purpose of providing funding for the purchase of up to 194 acres of Erdenheim Farm as open space. Mr. Orlow indicated that the district had been participating actively in a joint committee considering the TIF project and that Thursday evening parties interested in the project would have an opportunity to express their views to the Board. He advised that the project had some complicated details that had to be worked out but focused on simple goals and results. He noted that the Board would share additional information on Thursday evening and would have visual aids on hand to facilitate community understanding of the project.

Additional Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Bell
Board Secretary