

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, FEBRUARY 17, 2005**

President Orlow convened the general meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on February 17, 2005.

Board Members Present: Marc Orlow, Gary Johnson, Thomas Davis, Hope Luken, Susan Moore, William Ryan, Pascal Scoles, Steven Slutsky and Mitch Zimmer.

Board Members Absent: None.

Also Attending: Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Gerald Berger, Director of Human Resources; Cassandra DeLong, Director of Pupil Services; James M. Bell, Director of Support Services/Board Secretary; Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; Ryan Moore and Jessica Klein, Board Student Representatives; David Sherman, Administrative Assistant, Community Relations; John Quinn, Director of CITV; Jim Muscarella, CEA; Dante Del Vecchio; Bob Grieshober; Rebecca Long; students and sponsors receiving recognition and their families.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in Executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters on 01/25/05 and 02/14/05 to discuss legal and personnel matters and on 02/09/05 for informational purposes.

Mr. Orlow announced that the district would be recognizing a number of students that evening including the students whose work was used in the annual district holiday greeting card, the members of the PWHS League Champions in boys' golf and the PWHS District Champion in girls' tennis. Mr. Sherman introduced the students and their sponsors. A full list of those honored is attached to these minutes as Attachment #1.

Minutes: Mr. Orlow requested Board action on the minutes of the Curriculum Committee Meeting of 01/18/05, the work session of 01/18/05, the general meeting of 01/20/05, the Curriculum Committee Meeting of 01/31/05, the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee Meeting of 02/07/05, the Finance Committee Meeting of 02/09/05, the Community Relations/Student Life Committee Meeting of 02/07/05, the Personnel Committee Meeting of 02/10/05 and the Curriculum Committee Meeting of 02/14/05. See Enclosures #1 through #5 and #45 through #48. Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Financial Reports: Mr. Orlow sought Board action on the financial reports including Budget Transfers, the Bond Fund Report, Capital Project Report, General Fund/Federal Program Bills, Capital Reserve Fund Report, Food Services Bills/Cafeteria Report, Outstanding Investment Report, Cash Flow Summary, Comparisons of Taxes Collected, Real Estate Escrow Report, Reconciliation of Cash Accounts, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report and Treasurer's Report for the month ending 01/31/05, as shown in Enclosures #6

through #17. Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: None.

Old Business: Mr. Orlow requested Board action on proposed Board Policy #203.2, Possession of Asthma Inhalers. He noted that the policy included the necessary consent forms and verifications of the students' ability to use the inhalers. See Enclosure #18. Mr. Johnson moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the policy on a second reading. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Correspondence: Mr. Orlow sought Board approval of three donations offered to the school district and outlined in Enclosures #19 through #21. He noted that the gifts had been reviewed in committee and at the work session on Monday evening.

- Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to accept the donation of \$5,000 from the Morgan Stanley Foundation as a part of an approved 2004 grant for a smart board and various student assemblies at Conshohocken Elementary School. Dr. Cotter reported that Dr. Madeira, the building principal, had confirmed that the school had no plans to install a climbing wall at the school. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.
- Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to accept a Keystone Healthy Zone mini-grant in the amount of \$2,000 from the Executive Director of PANA for Colonial Middle School. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.
- Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to accept a \$2,000 dollar donation from a parent for use by the boys' varsity baseball team at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow asked Dr. Cotter to send letters of thanks to those who had offered the donations/grants to the district.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter updated for board members the personnel actions listed in Enclosures #22 through #24 of the agenda. He highlighted the pending retirement of Sandra Newman, Principal, Colonial Middle School. Mr. Davis moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Board Student Representatives Report: Mr. Moore reported on the closing of the regular winter sports season and highlighted the post season activities of many teams. He noted that 15 swimmers had moved on to competitions in the post-season and announced that the PWHHS boys' basketball team was the division co-champion, the girl's basketball team and the bowling team had qualified for the state tournament rounds, and the wrestling team had won its league. Mr. Moore reported that the regular spring season would commence on 05/07/05. Ms. Klein highlighted the start of the second semester at the high school, the February Open House, the cheerleading team's second-place finish at a national event, the

Valentine's Dance, the spring musical based on *The Wizard of Oz* and the first matinee performance for senior citizens.

New Business: Mr. Orlow sought Board action on the first reading of three Board policies dealing with technology, Policy #227.2, Technology Use Policy: Pupils, Policy #452, Technology Use Policy, Professional Employees and Policy #552, Technology Use Policy, Classified Employees. See Enclosures #25 and #26. Mr. Boegly noted that the policy for pupils had been drafted to provide the child protections required by State House Bill 2262 and that all of the policies were designed to comply with federal standards and make the district's efforts eligible for e-rate reimbursement. He indicated that the policies clearly noted that the system and programs were district property and governed the use of its internet and email systems. Mr. Boegly advised that the policies called for monitoring and reporting on the use of these systems. Mr. Slutsky suggested that the language of the policy be reviewed because the current language did not seem to cover all users of the district's systems. He questioned the use of the word *obscene* and noted the absence of other applicable words such as *unlawful*. Mr. Orlow asked if the language of the policy was aligned with the law. Mr. Sultanik reported that the district had some flexibility in the language that it chose for the policy. Mr. Orlow followed up on Mr. Slutsky's earlier comment on covering all users of the district's programs in the policy. He suggested including board members, volunteers, adult school students, etc. within the scope of the policy. The Board reached a consensus on moving forward with the policies on first reading and addressing the issues raised that evening before the second reading in March. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve on first reading the policy for students contained in Enclosure #25. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the policies for staff contained in Enclosure #26. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow requested Board action on the first reading of Board Policy #225, Awards – Student Activities. The policy provided for appropriate recognition of individual state champions and gave the Administration some flexibility in how to handle that recognition. See Enclosure #27. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the policy on a first reading. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow focused Board attention to the first reading of proposed Board Policies #231.1, Commercial Exploitation of Students and #231.2, Soliciting Funds from Students. See Enclosures #28 and #29. Mr. Sultanik requested that the Board temporarily adjourn to executive session to discuss some legal issues with the proposed policies. The Board went into executive session at 8:36 p.m. and returned from executive session at 8:51 p.m. The Board deferred action on the policies and referred them back to the Community Relations and Student Life Committee to explore the legal issues.

Mr. Orlow requested Board action on the district's 2005 contribution to the Summer Consortium of the Arts that Colonial, Upper Merion and Norristown Area School Districts support annually. See Enclosure #30. He advised that continued participation in the consortium had been reviewed in the Community Relations and Student Life Committee and that the contribution for the summer of 2005 would be the same as it was the previous

year at \$6,300. Dr. Cotter reported that the program had been expanded, at no additional cost to the district, to include an evening stage program. Mr. Slutsky moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the district's participation in the summer of 2005 and the proposed funding. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on trip requests for three professional and administrative staff to attend the National School Conference in Las Vegas from 04/07/05 through 04/10/05. Dr. Cotter noted that the board members had received additional details on the requests in their materials for that night's meeting. See Enclosure #31. Mr. Davis moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on a series of student trip requests in a single motion. He noted that the requests had been reviewed in the Community Relations and Student Life Committee. They were for:

- Ten students to the Future Business Leader Association (FBLA) Competition at Silver Springs, PA from 04/13/05 through 04/15/05.
- The Ski Club for its annual trip to Killington, VT from 02/25/05 through 02/27/05.
- Colonial Middle School students for a field trip out of state to the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ on 05/03/05.
- Members of the high school track team to the State Indoor Track Championships at Penn State University at University Park on 02/25/05 and 02/26/05.
- Colonial Middle School students to the Marine Science Consortium on Wallops Island, VA from 05/04/05 through 05/07/05.

Dr. Ryan moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the trips. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow requested Board action on bids to repair the retaining wall at the middle school and correct the spalling concrete on the exterior of Plymouth Elementary School. The low bid for the middle school project was from JPS Construction Company, Inc. at \$29,000. The low bid for the Plymouth Elementary School project was from Mangan Masonry at \$66,355. See Enclosure # 37. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the bids. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Sultanik requested Board approval of a grievance agreement, designated HPDL 187123, which had been executed by the employee involved and approved by the CEA. He noted that the agreement had been reviewed by the Board in executive session. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Sultanik requested Board approval of an assessment settlement on parcel 49-00-04924-00-4 that left assessments unchanged for 2003 and 2004 and involved no refunds or credits due to the taxpayer. Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the settlement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: Dr. Ryan provided information on the first I.U. Board review of the budget for the coming year. He noted that a second review would come the following week and that the budget would be sent to district boards for their review and approval thereafter. He also reported that County Commissioner Ruth Damsker had visited the I.U. to recognize the work of some staff members.

CMCAVTS: Mr. Johnson reported that bids for the renovation of the facility would be acted on in March and that work on the building would begin in the summer of 2005 and continue for three summers.

Personnel: No report.

Finance: Mr. Slutsky reported that the district's auditing firm had given the district a clean and unqualified opinion and thanked Mr. Bickleman for his efforts. He also noted that the auditors had encouraged the district to develop formal professional management and code of conduct policies and separate some payroll duties to provide appropriate checks and balances. Mr. Slutsky also summarized the budget schedule for the 2005-06 budget and the activities of the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Act 72.

Curriculum and Instruction: Mr. Davis reported on the committee's review of the materials needed for the curriculum programs on cycle for the coming year – health and physical education at the secondary level, language arts at the middle school and 9th grade math. He noted the committee and administration's desire to minimize the need for students to take heavy textbooks home daily. Mr. Davis also reported on a revision of the social studies curriculum to minimize repetitions in coverage and focus on state standards. He noted the planned addition of a half-time reading support teacher at Whitemarsh Elementary School, a change in the number of marking periods at the high school from three to two, and an effort to define which courses would require final exams. Mr. Davis indicated that any changes from past practice would appear in the student and parent handbooks. Mr. Orlow inquired about the impact of rolling out the new math program at the high school on new students coming into the district. Dr. Gorodetzer reported that the administrative team was still looking at the process. She suggested that administrators might visit sending schools, might provide orientations for students and parents and were likely to do assessments to insure appropriate student placement.

Facilities Management – Transportation: Mrs. Moore provided information on several projects to be funded by the bond or capital reserve, including playground equipment at Whitemarsh Elementary School, a new music lab at the high school, new vent fans in the gym at Colonial Elementary School and a replacement dishwasher in the same building. She also reminded the Board and the community that the Board had acted that evening on bids for masonry projects at the middle school and Plymouth Elementary School and would be acting next month on bids for the renovation of the library and the expansion of the trainer's room and stadium building at the high school. All of the capital projects were scheduled for the summer of 2005.

Community Relations and Student Life: Dr. Scoles reminded community members that the rededication of Conshohocken Elementary School was scheduled for Saturday, March

5th from 10:00 a.m. to noon and that the first senior lunch and matinee of the spring musical were scheduled for Saturday, March 12th. He also announced that the district's three large schools, Colonial Elementary School, Colonial Middle School and the high school had received Keystone Awards for meeting average yearly progress goals for two years in succession. Local state representatives were presenting the awards to each school.

Legislative: Dr. Ryan noted that the legislature was in recess. He reported that the Senate had six bills in its Education Committee and briefly summarized the governor's proposed education budget.

Additional Public Comment: Mr. Grieshofer criticized the Board for not doing enough to recruit African-American teachers. Mr. Orlow, Dr. Cotter and Mr. Berger provided information of the district's many efforts to reach out to the pool of African-American university students in education programs. Mr. Orlow noted that the Pennsylvania State Education Association itself reported having the same difficulty that all suburban districts were facing in recruiting African-American teachers.

Mr. Orlow asked Mr. Sultanik about the possibility that the state would amend Act 72. Mr. Sultanik reported that there had been unofficial comments circulating through the education community that the state may extend the 05/30/05 deadline for opting into or out of slots funding because of delays in receiving the money.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**James M. Bell
Board Secretary**