

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, JANUARY 20, 2005**

President Orlow convened the general meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:05 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on January 20, 2005.

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

Board Members Absent: Pascal Scoles.

Also Attending: Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Gerald Berger, Director of Human Resources; 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, Dave Santoro, District Security and Dante De Vecchio.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in Executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters on 01/20/05.

Minutes: Mr. Orlow requested Board action on the minutes of the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee Meeting of 12/06/04, the Board Reorganization Meeting of 12/06/04, the Special Meeting of 12/06/04, the Community Relations and Student Life Committee Meeting of 12/13/04, the Special Meeting of 12/15/04, the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee Meeting of 01/10/05, the Community Relations/Student Life Committee Meeting of 01/10/05, and the Personnel Committee Meeting of 01/11/05. See Enclosures #1 through #7 and #38 of the agenda. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the minutes, as amended. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Financial Reports: Mr. Orlow sought Board action on the financial reports. They included 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 months ending 11/30/04 and 12/31/04, as shown in Enclosures #8 through #19. Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Johnson 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: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Orlow requested Board action to accept a check in the amount of \$2,200 from Robert J. Wentz, Jr., Secretary of Trustees under the Deed of Joshua Morris. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to accept the annual gift, as outlined in Enclosure #20. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on the recommendation of Dr. Sullivan, PWHS Principal, to accept a gift of \$2,500 worth of high quality hardwood flooring and molding from Mr. Stanton Cherry, a district resident. See Enclosure #21. Dr. Cotter confirmed that the district had inspected the material. Mr. Slutsky noted that the gift was typical of Mr. Cherry's generosity. Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to accept the gift. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter reviewed with board members the updated personnel actions listed in Enclosures #22 through #24 of the agenda. He highlighted the personnel changes, adjustments to the extra-duty/extra-pay list and the appointment of instructors for the Spring 2005 Adult Evening School classes. Dr. Cotter noted that the personnel action included salary adjustments for some cabinet members. He also briefly summarized the plan to increase the substitute compensation for teaching a fourth block at the high school from \$10 to \$30. Mr. Orlow had some questions about the focus of the math resource teacher replacing Ms. Gebhardt, who was becoming an assistant principal. Dr. Gorodetzer reported that the resource teacher would focus on continuing needs at the middle school during the current school year and would later provide support to the high school. She also noted that Ms. Gebhardt would be a math resource at the high school as assistant principal. Mr. Berger reported that the effective date of the new teacher would be dependent on the date that the district from which the teacher was coming released her. Mr. Slutsky asked how the Adult Evening School ran. Dr. Cotter explained the district's role in facilitating the process of bringing students interested in courses together with individuals qualified to teach them. He reported that the fees charged to the students covered the cost of the teachers and the materials used in the courses. Dr. Cotter noted that the tuition fees varied from course to course but were generally less than \$60. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Board Student Representatives Report: Mr. Moore provided updates on Bingo Night, the cheerleader's season, and the post season schedules for boys and girls basketball and the varsity wrestling team. He noted that the boys basketball team had captured its division title. Ms. Klein shared information on the winter concert, the dance sponsored by the Black Culture Club, the course planning and financial aid nights sponsored by the Guidance Department and the National Arts Society Induction.

New Business: Mr. Orlow requested Board action on proposed Board Policy #203.2, Possession of Asthma Inhalers. He noted that the policy had been reviewed at the last Community Relations and Student Life Committee Meeting. Dr. Cotter confirmed that changes had been made to the policy based on the input of board members on Monday evening. See Enclosure #25. Mr. Sultanik told the Board that he had reviewed and critiqued the policy. He noted that additional changes would come at the time of the

second reading of the policy. Mr. Slutsky liked the changes that had been made to make policy requirements clearer. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Slutsky seconded a motion to approve the policy on first reading. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on a request from the administrative team at the high school for Board support of the annual Senior Class Trip to Disney World from 03/31/06 through 04/04/06. Mr. Orlow summarized the comments of board members on Tuesday evening. See Enclosure #26. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the trip request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow requested Board action on a request from the DECA Club advisor for permission to participate in the DECA Pennsylvania State Conference in Hershey from 03/03-04/05. He noted that the request had been reviewed on Tuesday evening. See Enclosure #27. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the request. On a roll call vote, the motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on a bid to replace the roofs at the middle school, as outlined in Enclosure # 28. He noted that the project would complete the district's multi-year effort to upgrade roofs across the district. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the award of the bid to the lowest responsible bidder, Jim Miller Roofing, in the amount of \$1,202,285. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow requested Board action to set the compensation for the Tax Collector in Conshohocken Borough for the four-year period following the next general election in the fall of 2005 at a salary of \$6,200. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Slutsky seconded a motion to so set the salary. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Sultanik requested Board approval of a tax assessment settlement agreement for parcel 49-00-02742-305. He noted that the taxpayer would be entitled to a refund of approximately \$21,000 after the 2005-06 taxes were paid through a credit. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Davis 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 advised that the I.U. Board would be meeting the following day. Mr. Orlow asked when the I.U. would be seeking action on its General Operating Budget for 2005-06. Dr. Cotter reported that the district had received the second of several drafts and that the Board would likely be asked to approve a final budget in March or April.

CMCAVTS: Mr. Johnson announced that Dr. Cotter had been recognized by the Joint Operating Committee for his service as Superintendent of Record and that Mr. Davis had been elected Vice Chairperson of the committee.

Personnel: No report.

Finance: Mr. Slutsky reviewed the annual budget process from the administration's preliminary recommendations through the adoption of a preliminary budget in spring, public comment thereafter and the adoption of a final budget in June. He noted that Dr. Cotter and Mr. Bickleman would be carefully reviewing the budget throughout the process to make sure that taxpayers' support is efficiently used for programs of educational value. He also explained the committee's ongoing involvement in the budget process.

Curriculum and Program: Mr. Davis advised that the committee had looked into the precocious math program and would be sending a letter to parents with the committee's decision on their requests. He noted that GPA's at the high school would be calculated at the end of the school year. Mr. Orlow welcomed the change. He inquired how the high school administrators would communicate the change to students and their parents. Dr. Cotter reported that handbooks would be revised and would include data to show that class rank would not change significantly. Mr. Orlow asked that examples of the process be placed on the district's website. Mr. Davis reported that the change would be effective for the 2005-06 school year.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mrs. Moore announced that students and staff had returned to Conshohocken Elementary School and the renovation project there was complete except for some punch list items. She indicated that renovation work had begun in the building housing Colonial Elementary School and the District Office and should be completed by June 2005. Mrs. Moore also noted that the roof work at the middle school would end the district's much needed upgrade of roofs across the district. Mr. Orlow noted that all of the recent moves involved in the renovation of Conshohocken Elementary School had gone very well and congratulated all involved.

Community Relations and Student Life: Mr. Orlow asked Ms. Luken to provide a brief update on behalf of the committee. Ms. Luken reported that the committee had reviewed the compensation for chaperones for school dances and made a motion to increase the compensation from \$25 for the event to \$75. She noted the difficulty in getting faculty members to chaperone. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Mr. Orlow and Dr. Cotter summarized the meeting schedule and activities of the Ad Hoc Citizens Advisory Committee on Act 72. Dr. Cotter noted that the committee had already met and would continue to meet twice a month until it provided its findings to the Board of School Directors in April. He reported that the committee would be receiving information on the pros and cons of the tax reform measures contained in the Act, the district's programs and budget, mandates and costs, and the importance of the district's *Above and Beyond* efforts. Dr. Cotter also noted that the committee would view a panel discussion of experts in the area of tax reform legislation and stated his belief that Colonial was the only school district that had an ad hoc committee looking at Act 72.

Legislative: Dr. Ryan reported that the legislature was not in session but noted that Representative Gerber had set up a local office.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**James M. Bell
Board Secretary**