

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462  
MINUTES, JULY 15, 2004**

President Orlow convened the General Meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:48 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on July 15, 2004.

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

**Board Members Absent:** Pascal Scoles.

**Also Attending:** Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Fred Shipman, Director of Pupil Services; Gerald Berger, Director of Human Resources; James M. Bell, Director of Support Services/Board Secretary; Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer; John Quinn, Director of CITV; Jim Muscarella, President, CEA; Gary Grenier, Executive Director, Lincoln Center; Paul Bily; Dante DeVecchio, Benjamin Johnson; Patricia Johnson; Laura Larson; Kelie McMaster; Claire C. Meashey; David Meashey and Beth Miller.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in Executive session before the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

**Minutes:** Mr. Orlow directed Board attention to the minutes of the Work Session of 06/14/04, the Special Meeting of 06/14/04, the General Meeting of 06/17/04, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting of 07/06/04. See Enclosures #1 through #4. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

**Financial Reports:** Mr. Orlow directed Board attention to the financial reports. They included the Budget Transfer Reports for 06/04; the Bond Fund Report, Capital Project Report; General Fund and 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 and the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report for the month ending 06/30/04; and Treasurer's Report for the month ending 06/30/04, as shown in Enclosures #5 through #16. Mr. Orlow inquired about changes to Enclosure #6. Mr. Bickleman reported that two bills had been added. Dr. Cotter noted that they were related to the move of the District Office to the Meetinghouse Office Center. Dr. Ryan asked about bills from a company supplying doors. Mr. Bell and Mr. Bickleman explained that the bills covered the security system installed at the Meetinghouse location. Mr. Johnson moved and Dr. Ryan 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:** Mr. Orlow recognized Mr. Grenier, Executive Director of the Lincoln Center who provided his annual status report on the Genesis II Alternative School at the high school. He provided data on enrollment, attendance and achievement. He noted that student enrollment averaged between 23 and 30 students throughout the school year and that approximately 60% of the students were in the program because of behavioral problems, 32% for grade problems and 8% for other reasons. Mr. Grenier reported that attendance averaged between 82% and 90%, remarkable percentages for an alternative program. He also reported that student programs adhered to the district curriculum and included graduation projects. He noted that eight students were PWHS graduates in June 2004. Mr. Grenier shared some positive comments that the students had about the program and thanked the Board and the Administration for partnering with the Lincoln Center to meet the needs of the students in the alternative school. He passed along a special note of thanks to Mr. Shipman. Mr. Johnson asked if there was any way to identify the special needs of the students at an earlier age. Mr. Grenier replied that it was difficult to do so and that special needs generally became evident during the middle school years.

**Old Business:** None.

**Correspondence:** Mr. Orlow reported that the Board had received a letter of resignation from Dr. Lipshutz and would be addressing his resignation at the close of the meeting.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Cotter updated the listed personnel actions in his report originally provided on Monday evening. See Enclosure #18. He highlighted additional resignations, hires, replacements and realignments of responsibility in reading. Mr. Orlow asked for a current list of vacant positions. Mr. Berger noted that board members had at their seats a list of the vacancies and quickly walked through openings in math and Spanish at the high school, in English, language arts and music at the middle school, and in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, special education and music at the elementary level. He also reported that the Administration was waiting to fill an authorized slot for a kindergarten teacher until enrollment confirmed the need. Mr. Orlow inquired about projected class size in all-day kindergarten classes. Mr. Berger reported that class sizes would range from 16 to 19 students. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Moore 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:** None

**New Business:** Mr. Orlow sought Board action on the request for early admission to kindergarten in Enclosure #19. He noted that the request had been reviewed on Monday evening. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

**Mr. Orlow sought Board action on a proposal to increase lunch prices for the coming school year. See Enclosure #20. The proposal called for an increase of \$0.15 in standard lunch prices at the elementary and middle schools, the tiered pricing at the high school, selected ala carte items and staff lunches. Mr. Slutsky noted that the Finance Committee would receive a presentation on the issues facing the Food Services Department at its next meeting. Mr. Slutsky moved and Dr. Lipshutz seconded a motion to approve the increase. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**Mr. Orlow asked for Board action on a request from the Best Buddies Chapter at the high school send an officer to the leadership conference at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana from 07/23/04 through 07/26/04. See Enclosure #21. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**Mr. Orlow sought Board action on Mr. Antal's request for a revision of Board Policy #715, Use of district Parking Lots. See Enclosure #22. Mr. Orlow noted that the Board had reviewed the policy on Monday evening. Mrs. Moore reminded Dr. Cotter that some language changes were needed to permit students that volunteered in classrooms at Colonial Elementary School to use the parking lot there during the school day. Dr. Cotter indicated that the changes would be made before a second reading of the policy in August. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson 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 referred to an educational services agreement with Martin Luther School, Silver Springs that was listed on the agenda. Dr. Cotter indicated that the agreement had been withdrawn from consideration that evening due to on-going discussions with the school and the I.U.**

**Mr. Orlow requested Board action on proposed bid awards for student accident insurance. See Enclosure #23. He noted that the bid had been reviewed on Monday evening. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the bid. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**Mr. Orlow sought Board action on a bid for a media retrieval and campus automation upgrade at the high school. See Enclosure #29. He noted that Video Corporation of America was the lowest responsible bidder at \$22,948.00 for the hardware, software and installation involved in the upgrade of the Synergy system. In response to queries from board members, Mr. Quinn reported that the package included a 90-day period of technical support and that additional support would be provided at a cost as needed. Dr. Cotter advised that the district technology team would support the system and provide help desk services. Mr. Quinn confirmed that training on the upgrades was included in the package. Mr. Slutsky moved and**

**Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the award of the bid as recommended. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**Solicitor's Report: Mr. Sultanik requested Board approval of two settlements of tax assessment appeals, as outlined in correspondence from the office of the solicitor. The appeals involved parcel #49-00-10060-007 and #05-00-02888-005. Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the settlements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit Board: Dr. Ryan reported that Dr. Harken had retired and that the Board had passed the budget at it last meeting. He also noted that the Board had commended an I.U. teacher who had served in IRAQ.**

**CMCAVTS: Mr. Johnson reported that the Joint Operating Committee would not meet in July.**

**Personnel: Dr. Lipshutz reported that the collective bargaining agreement between the Board and the CEA would expire on 08/15/04. He advised that, in the absence of a new agreement, the provisions of the current agreement would continue in effect. He asked Mr. Sultanik to provide details on the formal Status Quo Resolution contained in Enclosure #31. Mr. Sultanik explained that the resolution covered what the district had to do if the agreement expired and a new one was not in place. He advised that the parties were still meeting and bargaining in good faith but noted that their next meeting was not scheduled until after the current agreement would expire. Mr. Sultanik stated that the terms of the current agreement would continue until a new agreement was reached or a strike occurred. He reported that that all salaries would be frozen at the levels of the current contract and that no step or horizontal movement on the salary scales would occur. Dr. Lipshutz moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the resolution. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**Finance: Mr. Slutsky announced that the committee would meet on 07/28/04 to discuss food service operations, the new education bill, tax reform, and audit results.**

**Curriculum and Program: No report.**

**Buildings & Grounds/Transportation: Mr. Johnson reported that work on the additional classrooms at Whitmarsh Elementary School was going well but there were concerns with the progress at Ridge Park Elementary School. He noted that all administrators slated to move to temporary quarters at the Meetinghouse Office Center had made the move and that work at Conshohocken Elementary School was moving forward. Mr. Orlow requested that details of the Conshohocken project and its status be shared with parents, the Chief of Police and Borough Council. Mr. Bell was to communicate with all parties. He advised that the district had an outstanding working relationship with the architect and contractors on the project**

and fully expected to have the project done on or ahead of schedule and to move staff and students back to the building in January 2005.

**Community Relations and Student Life:** Dr. Cotter and Mr. Orlow recommended that the school calendar for 2004-05 be altered to move the September Board meetings back one week to avoid having a meeting on a district holiday. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the recommendation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Dr. Cotter noted that a meeting scheduled for the Martin Luther King holiday in January 2005 would be moved from that Monday, 01/17/05 to Tuesday, 01/18/05 when the Board adopts the meeting schedule for calendar year 2005.

**Legislative:** Dr. Ryan reported that the increase in the state education budget would not result in much of an increase to the district. Mr. Orlow and Mr. Bickleman noted that the increase to the district would be approximately \$44,000.00. Dr. Ryan advised that he would defer to a later date a report on legislation dealing with tax reform, back end referendums and gaming.

**Additional Board Comment:** Mr. Orlow noted with regret that it was time for the Board to take action on Dr. Lipshutz' letter of resignation. He thanked Dr. Lipshutz for his years of active and dedicated service to the Board and the community and presented him with a desk clock as a token of appreciation. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to accept Dr. Lipshutz' resignation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Dr. Lipshutz was retired from the Board.

Mr. Orlow noted that the departure of Dr. Lipshutz created a vacancy in the office of Vice President and asked for nominations to fill the vacancy. Mrs. Moore nominated Mr. Johnson, noting that he was a life-long resident of the district and a nine-year Board veteran who had served effectively on a number of Board committees and had provided leadership on the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Mrs. Moore and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to close the nominations. On a roll call vote, all active members of the Board present at the meeting voted in favor. The motion was carried. Dr. Ryan moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to elect Mr. Johnson to the post of Vice President of the Board. On a roll call vote all active board members in attendance, except Mr. Johnson, voted in favor. Mr. Johnson abstained. The motion was carried. Mr. Orlow announced that, in his role as Board President, he was appointing Mr. Johnson as the new Chair of the Personnel Committee to replace Dr. Lipshutz and Mrs. Moore as the new Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee to replace Mr. Johnson.

**Additional Public Comment:** Members of the audience inquired about delays in construction at Ridge Park Elementary School. Dr. Cotter reported that late delivery of steel products had pushed the project behind schedule. He noted, however, that all materials for the project were on site and that efforts were underway to complete the project before the start of school. Dr. Cotter indicated,

**however, that contingency plans had already been developed to conduct the full-day program on site even if the opening of the new rooms was delayed a week or two. He noted that the relocation of the Head Start Program to Whitemarsh Elementary School from Ridge Park was one of the steps taken to insure that sufficient space was available to house the students for a full day.**

**There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**James M. Bell  
Board Secretary**