

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462  
MINUTES, JUNE 13, 2005**

President Orlow convened the general meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:40 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on June 13, 2005.

**Board Members Present:** Marc Orlow, Gary Johnson, Tom 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, Student Board Representatives; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; David Sherman, Administrative Assistant, Community Relations; John Quinn, Director of CITV; Ron Lopresti and Bob Slagle, PWHS coaches; Scott Shearer and assistant, Public Financial Management; Rob Walper, Fox Rothschild; Dante DelVecchio; and state champions in track and field, league champions in boys' baseball, their coaches, family and friends.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in Executive session on 05/26/05 and 06/13/05 to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Dr. Cotter introduced the coaches of the track and field state champions and the league champion boys' baseball team. The coaches introduced their players who received certificates of achievement from the Board. A complete list of all of those recognized is attached to these minutes at Attachment #1. The Board also awarded plaques of appreciation to Student Board Representatives Ryan Moore and Julie Benn. Ms. Benn was unable to attend the meeting.

**Minutes:** Mr. Orlow noted that the Board was combining its work session and general meeting into one meeting in June. He requested Board action on the minutes of the work session of 05/16/05, the Personnel Committee Meeting of 05/19/05, the General Meeting of 05/19/05, the Special Meeting of 05/26/05, the Facilities Management – Transportation Committee Meeting of 06/02/05, and the Community Relations/Student Life Committee Meeting of 06/09/05. See Enclosures #1 through #5 and a handout distributed to board members that evening. Mr. Zimmer 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 sought Board action on the financial reports. The reports included Budget Transfers, the Bond Fund Report, the Capital Project Report, General Fund/Federal Program Bills, the Capital Reserve Fund Report, the Food Services Bills/Cafeteria Report, the Outstanding Investment Report, the Cash Flow Summary, the Comparison of Taxes Collected, the Real Estate Escrow Report, the Reconciliation of Cash

Accounts, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending 05/31/05, as shown in Enclosures #6 through #17. He asked Mr. Bell about payments to an architectural firm. Mr. Bell advised that current bills had been reviewed the previous month. Mr. Bickleman reported that the listing represented all bills and that the bill in question was not new for the month of June. Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

**Public Comments on the Agenda:** None.

**Staff Report:** None.

Mr. Orlow reported that the district's financial advisors from Public Financial Management and its bond counsel from Fox Rothschild were in the audience. He took the matter of refinancing the 2002 series of bonds from the Finance Committee report at the end of the agenda and asked the team to make their presentation at that point. Mr. Shearer walked board members through the refinancing that would net the district more than \$255,000 in savings. He noted that a quick response by the district allowed his firm to take action on the refinancing in an ever-changing and interest-sensitive market. Mr. Walper provided an overview of the bond resolution before the Board. Mr. Slutsky congratulated Mr. Bickleman on his work on the refinancing. Mr. Orlow noted that the district's quick action resulted a significant saving for taxpayers. Mr. Slutsky moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the refinancing. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

**Old Business:** Mr. Orlow asked for Board action on a second reading of Board Policy #203.1, HIV Aids Infection. He noted it had been reviewed in May. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the policy in Enclosure #18. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action, on a second reading, on Board Policies #605, Investment of Funds and #318/418/518, Conflict of Interest. These documents were also reviewed at the May meeting. Dr. Ryan asked if the policy dealing with investments had been tabled the previous month. Mr. Bickleman assured him that it had not been tabled. Mr. Slutsky moved and Dr. Scoles seconded a motion to approve the policies in Enclosure #19 and #20. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Cotter summarized his report and listed the personnel actions listed in Enclosures #21 through #28 and an update submitted to the Board prior to the meeting. These included personnel changes, additions to the professional substitute list, returning long-term substitutes to per diem status at the end of the school year, designating four teachers as Master Teachers, appointing elementary summer school staffing, appointing Terry Yemm as the CASEA representative to the Retirement Plan Committee for the CASEA Section 403(b) for the 2005-06 school year, renewing the web-based professional development management system beginning in June 2005, approving the

agreement to use the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for summer technology assistance and appointing Jason Bacani as Assistant Principal at Colonial Middle School to replace Robert Fahler who would be moving into the position of Building Principal. Dr. Ryan asked why the district tracked information on the teacher's obligation to complete professional development in order to remain in the profession. Dr. Cotter reported that districts were forced to pick up mandates that the state did not handle. Mr. Orlow noted that the district could be fined if it had teachers on staff that had lost their licenses for failure to meet professional development requirements. Mr. Orlow asked the Board to vote on all of the enclosures except #22 and to take action on #22 separately. Mrs. Moore moved and Dr. Scoles seconded a motion to approve all enclosures of the Superintendent's Report except #22. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor except Dr. Ryan. Dr. Ryan voted in opposition. The motion was carried. Mr. Zimmer moved and Dr. Scoles seconded a motion to approve Enclosure #22, the Substitute List. On a roll call vote, all but Mr. Orlow voted in favor. Mr. Orlow abstained. The motion was carried.

**Board Student Representative Report:** Ms. Klein reported on the recent concert at the high school, student elections and the state track champions. Mr. Moore talked about the senior prom, the post prom party, senior awards night, the senior class gift of a stained glass window overlooking the lobby to the science wing and the upcoming graduation ceremony. He thanked all of those who worked hard to make the post-prom party so enjoyable and thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as a student representative. He said that he had had a good time and learned a great deal.

**New Business:** Mr. Orlow requested Board action on the reappointment of the district dentist and physicians at the service rates for 2005-06 as listed in Enclosure #29. He noted that all of the individuals had provided satisfactory service to the district over a number of years. Dr. Scoles moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the elections. On a roll call vote, all except Dr. Ryan, voted in favor. Dr. Ryan had stepped out of the meeting for a moment and missed the vote. He returned for the next agenda item. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action to accept the list of school physicians and dentists at the rates specified in Enclosure #29. moved and seconded a motion to approve the list and fees. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow requested Board action on an agreement with Central Montgomery MH/MR for an array of services provided by psychiatric social workers at a cost of \$43,737.60 for a total of 816 hours of service in 2005-06. The cost for similar service was \$42,432 in the current year. See Enclosure #30. He also sought Board action on Enclosure #31, an agreement with Carol Sheurman, PT, and Enclosure #32, an agreement with Kim Hartranft, OT to continue to serve district students at an hourly rate of \$63.10. Dr. Ryan moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the annual list. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on a 2005-06 contract with Lakeside Educational Network for both regular education and special education slots at a total contract cost of \$221,412, an increase of approximately 3.5% over costs for the current year. Ten slots were involved.

**Mrs. DeLong confirmed that the contract covered alternative education placements. She noted that the placements not only involved students who were expelled from the district but also students who were just in need of an alternative educational program. Mrs. Moore moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the contract. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**Mr. Orlow sought Board action on a parent transportation contract for service to and from an approved private school. Mrs. DeLong reported that the district had been unable to find someone to provide the required one-on-one nursing service and that the parent was familiar with the routine and able to fill the need. Mr. Slutsky asked if the contract was for just two months. Mrs. DeLong responded that it was. Mr. Slutsky asked if the contract had been reviewed by the solicitor. Mr. Bell reported that the template for the contract had been reviewed and approved by the solicitor. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the contract. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**Solicitor's Report: Mr. Sultanik asked for Board approval of stipulation 9755, a document already in the hands of board members. Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the stipulations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Mr. Sultanik recommended approval of a settlement of a tax assessment appeal on parcel #65-00-00742-003 that would result in an annual increase in tax revenues of \$9,000. The Board had reviewed the settlement in executive session. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the settlement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit Board: Dr. Ryan reported that elections to the I.U. Board were underway and asked board members to complete the ballots that were distributed in Board Notes. Mr. Sultanik advised the Board to vote to authorize the submission of the ballots. The Board noted that the vote was a formality because all districts now held seats on the I.U. Board. Dr. Ryan moved and Dr. Scoles seconded a motion to approve the submission of the ballots. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**CMCAVTS: Mr. Johnson reported that the Joint Operating Committee would meet the following day.**

**Personnel: Mr. Johnson reported that administrative salary adjustments for the 2005-06 year were based on performance and that increases averaged 3.6%. He noted that these salaries and the 2005-06 salaries of non-bargaining unit employees and substitutes were available for review by the public in the Human Resources Office. He moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve these salaries for 2005-06. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Mr. Johnson reported that Dr. Cotter and Dr. Gorodetzer were eligible for performance bonuses of up to 10% and 5% of their base salaries respectively. He moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve a bonus of \$13,953.34 (9.57%) for Dr. Cotter and a bonus of \$5,787.16 (4.65%) for Dr. Gorodetzer. Board members noted that they were extremely pleased with Dr. Cotter and Dr.**

Gorodetzer's performance during the year. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

**Finance:** Mr. Slutsky reported that the bond refinancing reviewed by the committee had been approved earlier in the evening.

**Curriculum and Program:** Mr. Davis reported that the committee had met earlier in the evening. He advised that Mr. Sigafos had provided information on the mid-point review of the district's strategic plan and that all was going well. Mr. Davis stated that the district was in full compliance with *No Child Left Behind*. He also reported on a presentation by Adam Bailey, Modern Language Coordinator, on his vision for the future of the modern language curriculum in the district. Mr. Davis noted that a full written report was coming.

**Facilities Management – Transportation:** Mrs. Moore reported on the districts efforts to monitor the use of district tracks and fields by outside groups and cooperate with residents to address traffic and parking problems in their neighborhoods. She also reported on the committee's consideration of security lighting and cameras at Colonial Elementary School and on Victory Fields. Mrs. Moore outlined the possibility of using the district building on Victory Fields to house Facilities Management and, with the relocation of some small storage spaces at the high school, the possibility of freeing up enough space for an expanded trainer's room and some team rooms at the high school. She announced that Whitemarsh Township's Zoning Board had approved the new sign at the front of Whitemarsh Elementary School. She also reported that renovation of the District Office was nearing completion and staff would begin to move back the following day. Mrs. Moore also advised that work had begun on preparing the high school library for renovation through November 2005 and that roof replacement and retaining wall restorations were planned for the middle school and exterior wall restorations were planned for Plymouth Elementary School during the summer of 2005.

**Community Relations – Student Life:** Dr. Scoles reported that the district would be participating in Plymouth Day celebrations on 07/23/05. He announced that the district calendar would be out in August, the Autism Task Force would meet on the following day and the Multi-Cultural Committee would meet the day after. He noted that the last committee was a very diverse group of administrators, staff, parents, students, and religious leaders with an outside facilitator.

**Legislative:** Dr. Ryan reported that the legislature was not in session. He indicated that PSBA had given testimony on background checks for school district employees and announced the tally of districts opting into and out of Act 72 as 111 to 390.

**Additional Comment:** Dr. Scoles reminded the audience at home that high school graduation would be that Thursday evening. Mr. Sherman reminded the group that the ceremony would be broadcast live on Thursday evening.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**James M. Bell  
Board Secretary**