

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

President Orlow convened the general meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:07 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on March 17, 2005.

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

Board Members Absent: Susan Moore and Steven Slutsky.

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; Steven Das and Julie Benn, alternate Board Student Representatives; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; David Sherman, Administrative Assistant, Community Relations; John Quinn, Director of CITV; Jim Muscarella, CEA; Robert Catanzaro; Dante DelVecchio; Colleen Gannon and Kimberlee Geiger.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in Executive session before the meeting (03/17/05) for informational purposes.

Mr. Orlow and Dr. Cotter recognized Mr. Sherman who introduced the coaches of the boys' and girls' basketball teams at the high school. The coaches introduced their assistant coaches and team members. All participants in the basketball programs were recognized by the Board for their winning seasons and post season play. A complete list of the participants is attached to these minutes as Attachment 1.

Minutes: Mr. Orlow requested Board action on the minutes of the work session of 02/14/05, the general meeting of 02/17/05, the Facilities Management - Transportation Committee Meeting of 03/07/05, the Community Relations/Student Life Committee Meeting of 03/07/05, the Curriculum Meeting of 03/14/05, and the Finance Committee Meeting of 03/14/05. See Enclosures #1 through #3 and #39 through #41. Dr. Scoles 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 requested Board action on the financial reports on Thursday evening. The reports 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 month ending 02/28/05, as shown in Enclosures #4 through #15. Mr. Bell provided an update on the work of Preferred Engineering Services in conjunction with a number of district capital projects. He confirmed that the firm was not a sub-contractor of the architect and the

district hired the firm directly in order to have greater control over the engineering work on the projects and avoid the architect's mark-up on sub-contracted services. Mr. Johnson 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.

Budget Reports: Mr. Davis provided a budget report from the Curriculum Committee. The outline of his comments is attached to these minutes as Attachment #2. Dr. Gorodetzer highlighted the five-year curriculum cycle and explained its role in providing adequate resources in support of the district's curriculum. She also noted that budgets tended to be higher in years when required courses were on cycle than when elective courses were on cycle because of the need to purchase larger quantities of books and materials.

Mr. Johnson presented a budget report to the Board from the Personnel Committee. The outline of his comments is attached to these minutes as Attachment #3.

Mr. Orlow announced that the budget report from the Finance Committee would be on the agenda for one of the meetings in April. Mr. Berger confirmed Mr. Orlow's assumption that the personnel budget included three unassigned professional slots as a hedge against unexpected increases in enrollment or late developing needs.

Old Business: Mr. Orlow requested Board action on a revision of Board policy #225, Award – Student Activities. See Enclosure #18. Mr. Johnson moved and Ms. Luken 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 requested Board action on the annual report of its independent auditor, Barbacane Thornton, and reiterated his remarks of Monday evening on the positive nature of the report. See Enclosure #21. Mr. Davis moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to accept the report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on the annual Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Budget. Dr. Ryan recapped his comments from Monday evening. See Enclosure #22. Dr. Ryan moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the budgets. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Mr. Bell distributed the individual ballots so that all board members present could record their individual votes.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on a request from Montgomery County Early Learning Centers (MELC) for approval of a 2.7% increase in the tuition rate for its before and after-school programs housed in district schools. See Enclosure #23. Dr. Cotter shared additional information on the costs that MELC was seeking to cover by the tuition increase, including a 4.4% increase in the cost of living in Philadelphia and the need to offer incentives for teachers that, with the provision of all-day kindergarten in district schools and the resulting elimination of MELC's midday program, now had to work split

schedules. Mr. Davis moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the tuition increase. 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 #24 and #25. He also sought Board authorization to begin planning for the 2005 remedial Summer School Program as outlined in Enclosure #26 and the summer reading and writing programs as outlined in Enclosure #42. In response to a query from Mr. Orlow, Mr. Berger provided information on the effect of retirements and leaves of absence on the need to hire personnel in the coming school year. Dr. Cotter responded to a question from Mr. Orlow on Monday evening by reporting that nine students had attended consecutive remedial summer school programs in the last two years. Mr. Zimmer moved and Dr. Ryan 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. Das reported on the PSSA tests in 11th grade, an advance look at AP classes for the 2005-06 school year, the AED (defibrillator) certification program for all coaches, the fine record of the basketball teams and the participation of PWHS athletes in state competitions in wrestling and indoor track. Ms. Benn highlighted the sold out production of the Wizard of OZ and the matinee for senior citizens, the pops concert, the efforts by PWHS swimmers in the state championship, and the parent meeting for the senior class trip. Several board members complimented the Colonial players for their fine job on the spring musical and thanked all those involved in the matinee and lunch for the district's seniors.

New Business: Mr. Orlow requested Board action on three trip requests: The high school saxophone quartet to the Annual Music Educator's Conference in Hershey, PA on 04/20/05 and 04/21/05, one student's trip to the All-State Band in Hershey, PA from 04/20/05 through 04/23/05, and the trip by 23 middle school students and 9 high school students to the 27th Annual State Technology Student Association Conference in Seven Springs, PA from 04/20/05 through 04/23/05, as outlined in Enclosures #27, #28, and #29. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the trips. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on bids to renovate the high school library and purchase a nine-passenger van. Mr. Bell reported that the Administration's recommendation was to reject the HVAC and electrical bids for the library and to accept the offer of the general contractor submitting the lowest responsible bid to extend his bid for an additional 30 days. Mr. Sultanik suggested that the Board's motion include the rejection of the two bids and the acceptance of the extension of the general contractor's bid. See Enclosure #30. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to reject the HVAC and electrical bids. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Mr. Zimmer moved and Dr. Scoles seconded a motion to accept the offer of the general contractor to extend his bid for an additional 30 days. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Bell recommended awarding the van bid to M. A. Brightbill Body Works for \$26,705. He reported that the new van would replace a current van with 110,000 miles on it. See

Enclosure #31. Mr. Davis moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the bid. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Sultanik recommended approval of a proposed assessment settlement on parcel #49-00-04177-00-4, 220 W. Germantown Pike, as outlined in correspondence dated 03/04/05. Dr. Scoles so moved and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Committee Reports: **Intermediate Unit Board:** Dr. Ryan reported that the I.U. Board would be meeting the following week.

CMCAVTS: No report.

Personnel: Mr. Johnson reported that the committee report had been given earlier in the meeting.

Finance: Dr. Ryan reported that the committee was recommending that the Board authorize the refinancing of the 2002 bonds if the district would be able to realize a minimum of \$250,000 interest savings through the refinancing. See Enclosure #23. Mr. Orlow received confirmation from Mr. Bickleman that the savings had not yet been included in the preliminary budget figures shared with the Board. Dr. Ryan and Mr. Orlow noted that the resolution gave the Administration the flexibility of refinancing if the minimum savings could be realized. Dr. Ryan moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the resolution. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Curriculum and Program: Mr. Davis reported that the committee had met the prior Monday evening and had taken a look at homework and PSSA re-testing guidelines proposed by the high school principal, the proposed technology use policy and a comparison of AP scores and AP class grades.

Facilities Management – Transportation: Mr. Bell advised that Mrs. Moore had given her report on Monday evening.

Community Relations: Dr. Scoles reported on the March 5th rededication of Conshohocken Elementary School. He thanked all those who had contributed to the event and encouraged the community to visit the school. Dr. Scoles announced that the district and the Board would be participating in the celebration of Whitemarsh Day in April and hoped to recreate its historical display planned for Whitemarsh 300.

Legislative: Dr. Ryan gave a comprehensive report on the PSBA legislative conference, legislators support for Act 72, upcoming Department of Health regulations that would affect public schools, and the state's upcoming budget. Mr. Orlow suggested that the district had nothing to gain by deferring action of opting in or out of Act 72 funding if an extension were granted. Dr. Ryan and Dr. Scoles looked forward to a report from the District's Citizens' Advisory Committee on Act 72. Mr. Orlow anticipated receiving a report in April.

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**