

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, JANUARY 17, 2006**

President Orlow convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on January 17, 2006.

Board Members Present: Marc Orlow, Gary Johnson, Tom Davis, Hope Luken, Susan Moore, William Ryan and Pascal Scales.

Board Members Absent: Steven Slutsky and Mitch Zimmer.

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; David Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator; Kim Newell, Assistant Director of CITV; coaches and members of the 2005 PWHS Varsity Football Team and their families and friends.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in Executive session on 12/14/05, 01/04/06 and 01/17/06 to discuss informational, legal and personnel matters.

Recognition/Awards: Dr. Cotter introduced John Staudenmayer, incoming varsity football coach, who recapped the season of the Division I Varsity Football Champions of Plymouth Whitemarsh High School and recognized, on behalf of outgoing coach Joe Iacovitti, the Administration and the Board, the individual accomplishments of each player. The Board awarded each member of the team a certificate of achievement. See the complete list of team members in Attachment 1 to these minutes.

Minutes: Mr. Orlow directed the attention of board members to the minutes of the Board Reorganization Meeting of 12/05/05, the Special Meeting of 12/05/05, the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of 12/12/05, the Personnel Committee Meeting of 12/15/05, Facilities Management - Transportation Committee Meeting of 01/05/06, the Special Meeting of 01/05/06, the Community Relations – Student Life Committee Meeting of 11/09/06, the Finance Committee Meeting of 01/11/06 and the Curriculum Committee Meeting of 01/17/06. See Enclosures #1 through #6 of the agenda for Thursday evening and material to be available to board members. There were no questions or other comments on the minutes.

Financial Reports: Mr. Orlow reviewed the financial reports on the list for approval on Thursday evening. The reports included the Budget Transfers, 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 11/30/05 and 12/31/05, as shown in Enclosures #7 through #18 of the agenda for Thursday evening. In response to queries from Mr. Orlow, Mr. Bickleman explained the transfers of funds in Food Services accounts that involved funds to cover program deficits in prior years and the nutrition subsidy for the current year. He also confirmed that the purchase of lacrosse equipment had been accelerated to properly equip the team for play in the spring of 2006. Mr. Bickleman also explained that the district normally paid zoning fees to its local municipalities and was reimbursed for them when the municipalities eventually waived them.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Mr. Orlow announced that Ms. DeLong would present a report on and recommendations from the District's Multicultural Awareness Committee on Thursday evening. He also indicated that Mrs. Boegly, Principal of Colonial Elementary School, would make a presentation on building-level initiatives and programs and that Mickey Engle, PWHS Computer Science teacher, would report on a new computerized program for scheduling parent conferences.

Old Business: Mr. Orlow noted that a revision of Policy #125.1, Adult Evening School Salary Schedule, would be on the agenda for action on a second reading on Thursday evening. He reported that the revision in Enclosure #19 for Thursday evening updated the salary ranges for teachers and noted that classes were run only when there was sufficient enrollment to cover the cost of the program. In response to a query from Mr. Orlow, Mr. Bell and Mr. Sherman confirmed that the Board had approved the policy change on a first reading at its general meeting in November 2005.

Correspondence: Mr. Orlow noted that three pieces of correspondence requiring Board action would be on the agenda for Thursday evening. Those items were an annual donation from the Secretary of Trustees under the Deed of Joshua Morris in the amount of \$2,600 this year for the education of district students (Enclosure #20 for Thursday's meeting), a donation from a party that wished to remain anonymous of \$2,000 to the PWHS baseball program (handout provided to board members) and the independent auditor's report for the year ending 06/30/05 (handout provided to board members). In response to a question from Mr. Orlow, Dr. Cotter indicated that the district had no contact with the Trustees of Mr. Morris other than the annual notice of the donation and the district's acknowledgement and thanks. Dr. Cotter advised that the Board and Administration knew the donor of the gift to the baseball team but reported that the donor did not want public recognition for the donation. Mr. Bickleman confirmed that the Board had received a draft of the annual audit report and needed to take formal action to approve the final report.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter walked board members through his report outlining personnel actions, changes to substitute lists, proposed extra-duty/extra-pay assignments and appointments of Adult Evening School instructors for the spring of 2006. He noted that evening school appointments were contingent on sufficient enrollment to cover costs. See Enclosures #21 through #24 of Thursday evening's agenda.

New Business: Mr. Orlow reported that the Board would act on Thursday evening on two new Board policies; Policy #118, Participation in Extra-curricular Activities by Home Education Students and Policy #220, Student Wellness. See Enclosures #25 and #26 of Thursday evening's agenda. Mr. Orlow reported that Policy #118 was required by recent legislation and raised a number of questions about it. Dr. Cotter confirmed that home-schooled students covered by the policy would have the same obligations and meet the same timelines as regular students but noted the difficulty to determining eligibility, i.e. acceptable progress in an approved home-school program. Mr. Orlow suggested that the timing for home-schooled students to apply for and meet the criteria for participating in the district's extra-curricular programs be spelled out in the policy. Dr. Cotter agreed. Dr. Ryan felt that the provision allowing dismissal of a student from activities without reason or notice should be deleted from the policy. Dr. Cotter indicated that such steps were not totally realistic and that the district would hold a hearing prior to taking such steps.

Mr. Orlow noted that an updated contract with the law firm of Sweet, Stevens, Tucker and Katz LLP to represent the district in special education cases would be on the agenda for Board action on Thursday evening. He reported that the contract was early notice for the term beginning on 07/01/06. Mr. Orlow indicated that the firm's billing would be in line with terms of the district's insurance carriers. Dr. Ryan noted that the new fees represented a 14% increase. Ms. DeLong reported that there had been no increase in the firm's fees for four years. Dr. Ryan asked if there was a state cap in the fees that could be charged. Ms. DeLong responded that there was no cap. See Enclosure #27 for Thursday evening.

Mr. Orlow indicated that the board would take action on Thursday evening on a settlement agreement that called for a special needs student to move from one local non-public school to another. He noted that the case had been reviewed in executive session.

Mr. Orlow reported that the Board would act at Thursday's meeting on a series of profession conferences contained in Enclosures #28 through #30. The first was a request from Ms. Lipson, Principal, Plymouth Elementary School for the principal and two teachers to attend the annual ASCD Convention in Chicago from 03/31/06 through 04/03/06 to give a presentation on using data to support instruction. The second was a request from Dr. Gorodetzer and Dr. Sullivan, Principal, PWHS for a team of faculty and District Office administrators to visit a model high school in Fall Church, VA from 02/26/06 through 02/28/06 as part of the reform movement at PWHS. The final trip was for Mr. Anaya, the district's Curriculum Technology Specialist and two Social Studies teachers, one each from PWHS and CMS, to give a professional development presentation at a Social Studies Workshop in Austin Texas from 03/30/06 through 04/02/06. Board members asked about opportunities for the attendees to share their experiences and information once they returned to the district. Dr. Gorodetzer explained opportunities to audio and or video tape presentations and meet with staff in the Curriculum Office and district schools to share what was presented and learned at the conferences.

Mr. Orlow noted that he would seek Board action on Thursday evening on a series of student trips. These included the annual Senior Class trip to Disney World from 04/13/07

through 04/17/07, PWHS Social Studies trip to Washington, DC on 05/21-22/06 for 46 students, a one-day, out-of-state field trip for CMS students in the 8th Grade Art Show Activity Club to the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ on 05/04/06, PWHS DECA Club trips to the state competition from 02/22/06 through 02/24/06 and the national competition in Dallas, TX from 04/29/06 through 05/03/06, and the PWHS Boys Tennis Team to Hilton Head for spring training from 04/28/06 through 05/03/06. Students, their families and/or their organizations are funding the trips. The projected number of students for the DECA trip was an estimate based on anticipated qualifiers. See Enclosures #31 through #36 of Thursday's agenda.

Mr. Orlow reported that the Board would be acting on Thursday evening on a bid for the renovation of the building on Victory Fields to house Facilities Management, the district Safety Officer, Residency Investigator and Copy Center; the renovation of the current Facilities Management Office and store room at PWHS to house a new Trainer's Room and Custodial Office; the renovation of two spaces adjacent to the pool and Gym #47 at PWHS to be team rooms for girls and boys and the addition of one new bay to the building at the PWHS stadium. Mr. Orlow and Mrs. Moore confirmed the scope of the project. Mr. Bell reported that the Facilities Management – Transportation Committee was recommending approval of the bid of Center Point Contracting, contingent on governmental approvals, at \$896,400, the lowest responsible bid. He also indicated that it was critical to get approval in January so that the necessary paperwork could be completed in time to have the projects done at the close of the current school year and the vacant rooms created by the move of Facilities Management and the Copy Center renovated for instructional use by the start of the 2006-07 school year. Mr. Orlow asked Dr. Cotter to seek confirmation from the solicitor that the Board could approve the bid contingent on governmental approvals.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: None.

Additional Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Bell
Board Secretary