

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462  
MINUTES, AUGUST 18, 2005**

President Orlow convened the general meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:37 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on August 18, 2005.

**Board Members Present:** Marc Orlow, Gary Johnson, Tom Davis, Hope Luken, Susan Moore, Pascal Scoles and Mitch Zimmer.

**Board Members Absent:** William Ryan 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; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; David Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator; Kim Newell, Assistant Director of CITV and Dave Repert.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in Executive session before the meeting on 08/18/05 to discuss legal and personnel matters.

**Minutes:** Mr. Orlow sought Board action on the minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting of 07/18/05, the General Meeting of 07/21/05, the Finance Committee Meeting of 07/27/05, the Facilities Management – Transportation Committee Meeting of 07/28/005, the Community Relations – Student Life Committee Meeting of 07/28/05, the Special Meeting of 07/28/05 and the Curriculum Committee Meeting of 08/15/05. See Enclosures #1 through #6. 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 shown in Enclosures #7 through #16. The reports included 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 07/31/05. Mr. Bickleman noted that the Bond Fund Report contained invoices recently submitted for payment. Mr. Orlow suggested that the Facilities Management- Transportation committee determine the projected balance in the bond fund following the completion of the bond fund projects currently underway. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the financial 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 Dr. Gorodetzer who reported on the district's summer literacy and reading programs at the elementary level, its secondary summer

school for remedial work, the annual Summer Arts Consortium, and summer music lessons at all levels. She reported that the vast majority of the elementary students who attended literacy and reading programs maintained or improved their reading level. She also noted that 92 of 94 students in secondary remedial programs successfully completed the course requirements and received credit for them. Dr. Gorodetzer also highlighted increased student participation in the arts consortium serving Colonial, Norristown Area and Upper Merion Area School district students and the maintenance and enrichment programs for students in instrumental music. Board members noted the growth of the district's summer programs in recent years, and Dr. Cotter and Dr. Gorodetzer commented on the high quality and great variety in these programs. They attributed the success of the programs to the quality of the professional staff and the strength of the curriculum. Mr. Orlow suggested the summer programs be highlighted in the district's Annual Report to the community.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on two items that had been thoroughly reviewed and discussed at the work session on Monday evening. Mr. Davis moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the summary of the district's Strategic Plan Mid-point Review in Enclosure #17. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the district's Act 48 Continuing Professional Education Plan for 2005-08. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Dr. Cotter reported that the list of individuals working on the committee had been updated to reflect current participation. Mr. Orlow confirmed that the district would seek additional community representation on the committee.

**Old Business:** None.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Cotter provided an update on his report Monday evening and walked board members through the additional information included in the personnel report, extra-duty/extra-pay list and enrollment update. The full report was contained in Enclosures #21 through #24. Mrs. Moore 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. Dr. Gorodetzer and Mr. Berger provided updates on recent resignations and efforts to fill the few remaining vacancies for teachers and aides before the start of school. In response to a question from Mr. Orlow, Mr. Berger reported that the district had used only one of the three unassigned teaching positions included in the 2005-06 budget to fill a vacancy caused by increased enrollment in kindergarten at Plymouth Elementary School.

**Board Student Representatives Report:** None.

**New Business:** Mr. Orlow requested Board action on a first reading on a revision of Board Policy #203, Student Health, Safety and Welfare and a new policy #811 on School Bus Idling. He noted that the policies in Enclosures #25 and #26 had been reviewed on Monday evening. Dr. Scoles moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the policies on a first reading. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

**Mr. Orlow sought Board action on three routine transportation contracts in a single motion. He noted that the contracts in Enclosures #27 and #28 and a handout before the Board had been reviewed on Monday evening. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the contracts. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**Mr. Orlow requested Board action on two renewals of special education agreements as outlined in the agenda in a single motion. He noted that the Board had reviewed the agreements on Monday evening. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the agreements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**Mr. Orlow sought Board action on a recommendation to accept an exchange student who wishes to attend PWHS and forwarded an application through the American Scandinavian Student Exchange. The Board reviewed the application on Monday evening. See Enclosure #29. Ms. Luken moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**Mr. Orlow requested Board approval for two high school students to attend the Annual PSBA Student Delegate Program in Hershey, PA from 10/26/05 through 10/28/05. See Enclosure #30 which the Board reviewed on Monday evening. Mr. Davis moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the trip. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**Mr. Orlow requested Board action on four bids on the agenda for Board action that evening.**

- Board members had additional questions on the installation of boilers and the expansion of energy management systems at Ridge Park and Whitemarsh Elementary Schools. Mr. Bell explained that the boilers would replace original equipment and the energy management systems would extend the upgrades that had been installed in the new kindergarten wings to the entire buildings. He noted that the payback on those systems would be short as a result of significant energy savings coming from both the new boilers and the energy controls. Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the award of the bids to Extreme Mechanical as the lowest responsible bidder at the prices set in Enclosure #31. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**
- Mr. Orlow noted that the ice cream, milk and juice bid fixed prices but did not obligate the district to purchasing set quantities of the products. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the bids of Nelson's Dairy Products and Rosenberger's Dairies as the lowest responsible bidders at the prices listed in Enclosure #32. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**
- Board members had questions on the installation and maintenance of the eight (8) additional cameras in the bid in Enclosure #36. Mr. Bell reported that Romano's Transportation Services would install the cameras in their buses and that the district would be responsible for any repairs once the warranty period was up. Dr. Scoles moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the bid of Seon Design Inc. as the lowest responsible bidder at a cost of \$11,544.00. On a roll call vote, all**

voted in favor. The motion was carried. Mr. Bell confirmed that the district intended to continue purchasing cameras on an annual basis until the full fleet had been upgraded.

- Mr. Orlow posed some questions about the planned science room furniture acquisition six years after furniture was purchased before the science wing opened. See Enclosure #33. Dr. Cotter reported that there had been a shift in philosophy on how to set up and make the best educational use of available space in the physics classrooms. The current teachers recommended science tables that allowed for both regular classroom instruction and provided a sturdy base for a wide variety of projects. He noted that tablet-chairs and light-duty tables presently in those rooms would be used to meet needs elsewhere in the building, thereby avoiding some future furniture purchases. Board members noted the change in staff, perspective and need and many voiced agreement with the planned purchase. Mr. Orlow concurred but suggested that the Board review in the future the need for significant furniture purchases before bids were sought. Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the bid from ATD American, the lowest responsible bidder, at the cost indicated in Enclosure #33. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow sought board action on a tentative list of professional conference attendance by Cabinet and CASEA administrators. Dr. Cotter reported that administrators not listed for conferences either did not plan to attend a conference during the current school year or had not yet firmed up final conference plans. He reported that additional requests, if any, would be brought forward individually. Dr. Cotter noted that conference funds are allocated to each administrator but reported that administrators often paid the difference between those allocations and the actual cost of the conference attendance. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the list. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Dr. Cotter requested Board approval of an updated agreement with Silver Springs/Martin Luther School that extended the time for IEP development to seven days and the per-day charge to \$162/day. In response to queries from board members, he reported that students, mostly from Philadelphia, came to reside in the district, often without an IEP. He noted that Silver Springs held the children while it looked for appropriate placement for them. Dr. Cotter also gave a brief history of district involvement with Silver Springs, noting an initiative several years ago to streamline the process by by-passing the I.U. Mr. Orlow noted that the item had not been on the agenda and, at the advice of the solicitor, allowed for public comment. Mr. Repert asked about the nature of the services. Dr. Cotter reported that Silver Springs' services were diagnostic and educational and that the district paid for the educational services. He indicated that most of the students were of middle school age. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the revised agreement, a copy of which is attached to these minutes as Attachment #1. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

**Solicitor's Report:** Mr. Sultanik sought Board approval for district appeal of the assessments on nine properties outlined in correspondence from the solicitor dated 08/10/05 and the approval of two settlements of tax assessment appeals, the first listed in docket #01-

24921 and the second listed as parcel #65-00-10614-00-4. Both were proposed settlements of long-standing appeals. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve all three actions proposed by the solicitor. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

**Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit Board: No report.**

**CMCAVTS: No report.**

**Personnel:** Mr. Johnson noted recent increases in projected enrollment at Conshohocken and Plymouth Elementary Schools. He reported that Plymouth would have five kindergarten classes in the 2005-06 school year. Mr. Johnson also reported that Human Resources was actively working to fill the few positions still vacant.

**Finance: No report.**

**Curriculum and Program:** Mr. Davis noted that the committee had met on Monday evening and had received a report from Dr. DeRosa on language arts, received preliminary data on the impact of all-day kindergarten that showed significantly increased readiness for 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and heard a report on the positive impact of summer school programs.

**Facilities Management – Transportation:** Mrs. Moore reported that all major capital projects underway were on schedule. She advised that the renovation of the PWHS library would be completed in November and that all remaining projects would be substantially complete before the start of classes in September.

**Community Relations – Student Life:** Dr. Scoles reported that transportation schedules for the new school year were on the district website and reported on district discussions with Plymouth Township on a partnership on the future of Wetherill Park. Township officials and district board members and staff were scheduled to tour the park the following Monday.

**Legislative: No report.**

**Additional Public Comment: None.**

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Bell  
Board Secretary