

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462  
MINUTES, DECEMBER 5, 2005**

Board President Marc Orlow convened the special meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:14 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on December 5, 2005.

**Board Members Present:** Marc Orlow, Gary Johnson, Tom Davis, Hope Luken, Susan Moore, Pascal Scoles, William Ryan, 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; Jeffrey Sultanik, Solicitor; Monica Sullivan, PWHS Principal; David Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator, John Quinn, Director, CITV and Jane Olley, Project Coordinator.

**Executive Meeting Announcement:** Mr. Orlow announced that the Board had met in Executive Session on 11/23/05 and 12/05/05 for informational purposes and to discuss legal and personnel matters.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Orlow sought Board comment and action on the minutes of the work session of 11/04/05, the general meeting of 11/17/05 and the Facilities Management – Transportation Committee Meeting of 11/28/05. See Enclosures #1 through #3. 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 noted the Board would act on the financial reports for November and December at its regular meeting in January. Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to authorize the normal payment of November bills in December. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

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

**Staff Report:** Dr. Sullivan gave a presentation outlining the efforts of the high school administrative team to address the national concern about the effectiveness of the traditional high school in today's world. She reported that many U.S high schools do well in providing equity of access to secondary education programs but noted that most of the programs lacked vigor and failed to focus on outcomes. As a result they were not competitive internationally. Dr. Sullivan acknowledged the proficiency problems that existed at Plymouth Whitmarsh High School, noted a significant number of programs that had been implemented to address those problems and reported that the administrative team, department chairs, teachers, parents, community members and students would be

working together to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for high school reform. She outlined a plan and process that would have a core planning committee, that included the administrative team, several department heads, coordinators and teachers, do a situation appraisal to develop goals on which they and the other stake holders would focus as they developed action plans for reform. She noted that the action plans would focus on an upgraded curriculum and quality instruction; assessment of learning, grading and data; schedules (organization and time); basic literacy; motivation; and parent and community involvement. Dr. Sullivan summarized the goal of comprehensive high school reform was for all students to graduate ready for career and/or college. She reported that initial planning would be completed by the end of the calendar year and that the 12/09/05 in-service day would be used to help staff recognize and accept the urgency of the task before them. Mr. Orlow remembered the committee and sub-committee structure that an earlier high school administrative team had used when it explored and eventually adopted block scheduling. He asked if Dr. Sullivan was considering a similar structure for the reform effort. Dr. Sullivan reported that members of the core planning committee would chair the various action committees and filter ideas and proposals through the Academic Council and parent and community groups. Mr. Orlow expressed the desire of the Board to reach out for input beyond known groups.

**Old Business:** None.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Cotter walked board members through his report on personnel and substitutes, enrollment and extra-duty/extra-pay assignments. He reported that the bulk of the personnel actions were routine and highlighted the one temporary assignment on the list. That assignment was for limited curriculum development work at the high school. Dr. Cotter reported that enrollment had remained steady since the November report. He briefly explained the extra-duty assignments for winter track were a bit different than in years past because the pattern of a head coach each for the boys' and girls' teams had been reconfigured for one year as a coach and assistant coach for the combined teams. While Mr. Orlow acknowledged that the change made sense based on the administrators' review of the situation, he requested the legal opinion of the solicitor on the administration's ability to unilaterally make the change when extra-duty/extra-pay was a contractual obligation. Mr. Sultanik, Dr. Cotter, Mr. Berger and board members discussed the situation within the context of the district's rights under the collective bargaining agreement and reached a consensus that the administration could make the decision to revamp the positions and that no special action by the Board was necessary. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the extra-duty/extra-pay assignments in Enclosure #6. 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 remainder of the Superintendent's Report in Enclosures #4 and #5. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

**New Business:** Mr. Orlow requested Board comment and action on the meeting schedule for calendar year 2006. Mr. Orlow advised that the Board generally held its general meeting on the third Thursday of the month and its work session the Monday prior to the general meeting. He noted that there was an exception in the meeting schedule below because the January work session fell on a Tuesday, the day after a district holiday. Board members discussed the possibility that the June general meeting would have to change if graduation fell on the same date.

**Note:** Work sessions start at 8:30 p.m. and are preceded by executive sessions that start at 7:30 p.m. General Meetings start at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Orlow requested that the Board meet only once in July for the general meeting. The published meeting dates were listed on the agenda as follows:

<b><u>Board Work Session</u></b>	<b><u>Regular Board Meeting</u></b>
<b>**Tues., 01/17/06</b>	<b>Thurs., 01/19/06</b>
<b>Mon., 02/13/06</b>	<b>Thurs., 02/16/06</b>
<b>Mon., 03/13/06</b>	<b>Thurs., 03/16/06</b>
<b>Mon., 04/17/06</b>	<b>Thurs., 04/20/06</b>
<b>Mon., 05/15/06</b>	<b>Thurs., 05/18/06</b>
<b>Mon., 06/12/06</b>	<b>Thurs., 06/15/06</b>
	<b>Thurs., 07/20/06</b>
<b>Mon., 08/14/06</b>	<b>Thurs., 08/17/06</b>
<b>Tues., 09/18/06</b>	<b>Thurs., 09/21/06</b>
<b>Mon., 10/16/06</b>	<b>Thurs., 10/19/06</b>
<b>Mon., 11/13/06</b>	<b>Thurs., 11/16/06</b>
	<b>*Mon., 12/04/06</b>

**\*Board Reorganization Meeting followed by Special Business Meeting.**

**\*\*Denotes deviation from third Thursday or prior Monday.**

**Dr. Scoles moved and Ms. Luken seconded a motion to approve the meeting dates listed above. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**Mr. Orlow sought Board action on a transportation contract for a special education student. Ms. DeLong reported that the contract was for occasional substitute transportation at times when the I.U. was unable to provide transportation when a nurse is unavailable to make the trip with the student. In response to a question from Mr. Orlow, Dr. Cotter confirmed that the contract was with the parent of the student being transported. Mr. Slutsky suggested that the language of the contract be modified to indicate clearly that the parent would be compensated at the current IRS rate. Mr. Zimmer made and Mr. Slutsky seconded a motion to approve the contract. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**Mr. Orlow asked for Board action on two student exchange trips outlined in Enclosures #7. The trips for 14 students to Spain and 19 students to France were from 01/20/06 through 02/07/06. The Board sought and received confirmation that the number of chaperones was appropriate for a trip that involved home stays for all of the students. Mr. Davis 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 approval for the appointment of a new district dentist because the dentist who had served the district faithfully for many years had passed away suddenly. Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to appoint district resident, Esther Smith, to the post. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**Mr. Orlow requested Board action on appointments to the positions of Vocational Technical School Representative, Legislative Chairperson and PSBA representative. Mr. Davis nominated Mr. Johnson, who had served with distinction in the position for many years, to the post of Vocational Technical School Representative. Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Slutsky seconded a motion to close the nominations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Mr. Johnson was appointed to the post. Mrs. Moore nominated Dr. Ryan, who had served faithfully in the positions in recent years, to the posts of Legislative Chairperson and PSBA Representative. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Slutsky seconded a motion to close the nominations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried. Dr. Ryan was appointed to the posts.**

**Solicitor's Report: Mr. Sultanik requested Board approval to appeal to the court for tax assessments where the appraisals of the properties were considerably below market value. The properties were 711 Forrest Street, Conshohocken; 411 Ridge Pike, Plymouth; and 4130 Butler Pike, Whitmarsh. Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the appeals. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.**

**Committee Reports: Only the Facilities Management – Transportation Committee reported. Mrs. Moore announced the renovated high school library had opened to rave reviews that day and that only a few punch list items and a new look at the hallway entrance remained to be completed. She reminded the community that the official dedication of the library would be on Wednesday, 01/11/06. Mr. Orlow noted that the renovated facility was beautiful and congratulated all who had played a part in the improvements made.**

**Additional Public Comment: None.**

**There being no other business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**James M. Bell  
Board Secretary**