

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, MARCH 13, 2006**

President Orlow convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:36 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on March 13, 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 and John Quinn, Director of CITV.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in Executive session on 02/16/06, 03/01/06 and 03/13/06 to discuss informational, legal and personnel matters.

Minutes: Mr. Orlow directed the attention of board members to the minutes of the Community Relations – Student Life Committee of 02/09/06, the Curriculum Committee of 02/16/06, General Meeting of 02/16/06, the Finance Committee of 03/06/06, the Personnel Committee Meeting of 03/09/06, the Community Relations – Student Life Committee Meeting of 03/09/06, and the Facilities Management - Transportation Committee Meeting of 03/09/06. See Enclosures #1 through #4 of the agenda for Thursday evening and material available to board members. Mr. Orlow noted that the minutes of the Curriculum Committee Meeting of 03/13/06 may be available for Board review and approval on Thursday evening as well. Dr. Ryan noted a typographical error in the minutes of the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee meeting. Mr. Bell indicated that he would correct the error before Board action on the minutes on Thursday evening.

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 02/28/06, as shown in Enclosures #5 through #15 of the agenda for Thursday evening. Mr. Orlow asked if bond payments for furniture in the district office represented an additional purchase. Mr. Bell reported that additional furniture had been purchased for the waiting area in the superintendent's suite. Mr. Orlow inquired about an apparent budget transfer of over \$23,000 in Title 1 funding to

Ridge Park Elementary School. Mr. Bickleman advised that the money represented additional funding for the reading program at Conshohocken Elementary, a Title 1 school.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Mr. Orlow announced that Ms. DeLong would present a report on the findings and recommendations from the Autism Task Force on Thursday evening. He also indicated that Mrs. Drizin, Principal of Whitemarsh Elementary School, would make a presentation on building-level initiatives and programs that evening.

Budget Reports: Mr. Orlow reported that the 2006-07 budget process had begun last fall and that interim reviews and updates had occurred over the course of several months. He noted that the Curriculum and Facilities Management Committees would be reporting on certain areas of the budget that evening and that the Personnel Committee would be reporting on Thursday evening. Mr. Davis and Mrs. Moore, respectively, gave those reports. See Attachments #1 and #2 to these minutes for the outlines of their presentations. Dr. Gorodetzer explained the five-year curriculum cycle and the process involved in reviewing resources and identifying needs. In response to a query from Mr. Davis, Dr. Gorodetzer reported that a planned purchase of resources for K-3 programs had been placed on hold in order to address budget concerns. Mr. Orlow commented on the levels of review involved in the budget process and the dramatic changes that back-end referenda would bring to the budget process if mandated by the state. He also noted that the mandated busing of students to more than 110 schools within a 10-mile radius of the boundaries of the district was a good example of how the state forced the district to provide services and would not fund them.

Old Business: Mr. Orlow noted that Ms. DeLong would be presenting a physical examination services agreement with East Norriton Physician Services, Inc. to the Board for action on Thursday evening. He reminded the community that the naming of a new district physician in February had been necessitated by the prior district physician's decision to close his practice and enter the air force. Mr. Orlow reported that the solicitor was reviewing a contract with the medical group of which the new physician was a member and that Board action was planned for Thursday evening. Dr. Cotter and Ms. DeLong confirmed that physician services to the district had not been interrupted in the interim.

Correspondence: Mr. Orlow noted that Jerry Shively, Director, Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, had requested Board action on the annual I.U. administrative budgets. He noted that action was required by board members voting as a board and as individuals and that the Board action had to come prior to 04/24/06. See Enclosure #16. Mr. Orlow reported that he and Dr. Cotter had met with the I.U. Executive Director and Board President to discuss issues concerning the lack of I.U. support for initiatives that the district considered extremely important. He also provided some information on a potential decline in state funding for the I.U. Dr. Ryan noted that the Executive Director had been lobbying the state for support of I.U. programs.

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 plans for the 2006 Summer School Program and the 2006 Summer Reading/Writing Programs, including the district-endorsed PA Writing and Literature Project coordinated by West Chester University. See Enclosures #17 through #20 of Thursday evening's agenda.

New Business: Mr. Orlow reported that the Board would act on Thursday evening on a bond resolution/authorization in the amount of \$10,000,000 for various facilities improvements and equipment purchases. He noted that representatives from Public Financial Management and the solicitor's office would be on hand on Thursday evening to discuss the results of a bond bid that day and present a resolution that would complete the financial transaction.

Mr. Orlow noted that Mr. Bickleman recommended that the Board consider adding Hudson United Bank to its list of financial institutions for investing district funds. See Enclosure #21 for Thursday evening. Mr. Orlow asked where the bank was located. Mr. Bickleman reported that it was based in New England but had offices in Hatboro and the Plymouth Meeting Mall. Mr. Orlow asked about proof that the bank had the necessary funds to secure district investments. Mr. Bickleman reported that he had reviewed a listing of the bank's collateral but had not yet gone to third parties for further verification.

Mr. Orlow indicated that the board would take action on Thursday evening on two professional conference requests for Jeff Blizzard, PWHS, to attend the American Association of School Counselor's Conference in Chicago from 06/24/06 through 06/27/06 and for Kristen Young and Chad Murray, WE, to attend a one-day conference on cultural proficiency in Fulton, MD on Saturday, 03/25/06, as outlined in Enclosures #22 and #23 for Thursday evening. He noted that building professional development funds would cover all costs. Mr. Orlow advised that he would ask the Board to act on both requests in a single motion on Thursday evening.

Mr. Orlow reported that the Board would act at Thursday's meeting on two student trip requests. Dr. Cotter noted some typographical problems with the dates in the information before the Board. The correct information showed: (1) the trip by the PWHS bowling team to the State Bowling Tournament in Lancaster, PA was from 03/17/06 through 03/19/04 and funded from the budget for state competitions and (2) the trip for one student to the PMEA All-State Wind Ensemble in Upper Merion was from 03/29/06 to 04/01/06 and funded from the budget of the music program. See Enclosure # 24 and a handout distributed to the Board that evening. Mr. Orlow advised that he would ask the Board to act on both requests in a single motion on Thursday evening.

Dr. Cotter and Mr. Bell confirmed that there would be no bids for Board action on the agenda for Thursday evening.

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 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**James M. Bell
Board Secretary**