

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462  
MINUTES, NOVEMBER 14, 2005**

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 November 14, 2005.

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

**Board Members Absent:** Pascal Scoles 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; and John Quinn, Director of CITV.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in Executive session on 10/26/05, 11/09/05 and 11/14/05 to discuss informational, legal and personnel matters.

**Minutes:** Mr. Orlow directed the attention of board members to the minutes of the Work Session of 10/17/05, the General Meeting of 10/20/05, the Facilities Management - Transportation Committee Meeting of 11/03/05, The Personnel Committee Meeting of 11/09/05, the Community Relations – Student Life Committee Meeting of 11/10/05 and the Curriculum Committee Meeting of 11/14/05. See Enclosures #1 through #3 of the agenda for Thursday evening and material to be available to board members on Monday and Thursday evenings. Mr. Bell reported that two typographical errors on the first page of Enclosures #1 and #2 had been corrected and were in the packets at each board member's seat. He also reported that he would restate one comment each in Enclosures #2 and #3 before Board action on Thursday evening. Dr. Cotter noted that the minutes of the Community Relations – Student Life Committee were in handouts before board members and announced that those minutes and the minutes of the Personnel and Curriculum Committee Meetings would appear as yellow pages on the agenda for Board action on Thursday. 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 10/31/05, as shown in Enclosures #4 through #15 of the agenda for Thursday evening. There were no questions or comments on the reports.

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

**Staff Report:** None.

**Old Business:** Mr. Orlow noted that the Board had set the start date for the 2006-07 school year and would be acting on the full school calendar on Thursday evening. See Enclosure #16. Mr. Orlow asked if the Colonial Education Association (CEA) had reviewed the calendar options. Dr. Cotter reported that the document was still under review, but he sensed that the CEA was leaning toward draft #1. He also noted the Community Relations – Student Life Committee supported option #1. Dr. Cotter reported that Option #1A had one less in-service day and Option #2 had a modified spring break.

Mr. Orlow reported that board members would be acting on the second reading of Board Policy #202, Non-Resident Students and Tuition Payment on Thursday evening. See Enclosure #17. He noted that the policy had been reviewed by the Community Relations – Student Life Committee and then by the Board at its October Board meeting.

**Correspondence:** None. Dr. Cotter advised that he would have correspondence in yellow pages on Thursday evening offering a donation of an organ from the family of a retired teacher for use in the district music program. Mr. Orlow asked where the instrument would be located. Dr. Cotter believed that it would be housed at the high school.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Cotter summarized his report outlining personnel actions, changes to the substitute lists, and proposed extra-duty/extra-pay assignments. He also provided current information on student enrollment in all district schools. See Enclosures #18 through #20 of Thursday evening's agenda.

**New Business:** Mr. Orlow reported that the Board would act on Thursday evening to authorize payment to the Student Councils at the middle school and high school in an amount equal to one half of the funds remaining from the 2004-05 anti-vandalism program after paying for repairs. In 2004-05, the district undertook repairs costing \$755 out of an allocation of \$3,000 at the middle school and repairs costing \$803 out of an allocation of \$5,000 at the high school. Dr. Cotter advised that he would have the final figures for the amounts due the two student councils on Thursday evening. Mr. Orlow noted that the Board would also act on a proposal to fund the program for the 2005-06 school year at the same level as recent years. See Enclosure #21. Mr. Orlow asked for a breakdown of the vandalism in 2004-05 on Thursday evening.

Mr. Orlow noted that two student trip requests would be on the agenda for Board action on Thursday evening. Enclosure #22 was a request for the boys' lacrosse team to travel to Charlottesville, VA during spring break from 04/11/06 to 04/15/06. Enclosure #23 was a request for the girls' lacrosse team to travel to Florida during spring break from 04/08/05 to 04/15/05. Both requests were supported by the PWHS Administration. Students were to pay the costs of the trips.

Mr. Orlow indicated that the board would take action on Thursday evening on a request from the high school administration for English Teacher, Marcy Lipner to attend the 2005 Annual Convention of the National Council of Teachers of English in Pittsburgh from 11/17/05 through 11/20/05. Costs were to be covered as part of the high school's professional development program. See Enclosure #24.

Mr. Orlow reported that the Board would act at Thursday's meeting on a recommendation from Ms. DeLong to approve a Special Education Placement Contract for residential and educational services for an IEP student attending the district. He noted that the placement was for an IEP student and was the result of a due process hearing. Mr. Orlow indicated that the placement would come at an annual cost of \$156,000 to the district.

Mr. Orlow noted that he would seek Board action on Thursday evening on a recommendation from Ms. DeLong to add the Ambler Day Alternative School as an alternative school placement option for district students. He noted that the cost of placement in the facility was regionally competitive. See Enclosure #25. Dr. Cotter indicated that the school had opened within the past several years. Ms. DeLong reported that she had visited the school and seen evidence of best practices and high levels of support for the students in attendance. In response to Board queries, she indicated that the school was being proposed as one of several options for some students who needed an alternative setting in which to receive an education, such as Lincoln and Lakeside, alternative schools that the district had used in the past. Ms. DeLong stressed that the school was not an approved private school for special needs students receiving services under an IEP but rather a placement option for alternative education students.

Mr. Orlow reported that the Board would be acting on Thursday evening on bids for equipment and supplies for the boys' lacrosse team that would start PIAA play in the spring of 2006. Mr. Bell reported that the vendors listed in Enclosure #26 were the lowest responsible bidders for various items listed on the master list of equipment and supplies bid by the PWHS Athletic Director. Mr. Orlow asked for a breakdown of the items bid. Mr. Bell stated that he would have the breakdown available for review on Thursday evening before the Board took action on the bid.

**Solicitor's Report:** None.

**Committee Reports:** None.

**Additional Board Comment:** Dr. Cotter advised that there would be an additional item on the agenda for Thursday evening, the first reading of revision of the Board Policy for the Adult Evening School. He noted that the policy included an update on tuition fees and would be presented to the Board in yellow pages.

**Additional Public Comment:** None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**James M. Bell  
Board Secretary**