

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462  
MINUTES, April 19, 2007.**

President Orlow convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:02 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School (CES) on April 19, 2007.

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

**Board Members Absent:** None.

**Also Attending:** Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Gerald E. Berger, Director of Human Resources; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Angela D'Alessandro, Board Student Representative; Todd Hosterman, PSBA; Mickey Engel; Lisa Palladino; Tracy O'Shea; Frith deKerillis; Judi Lipson; Peggy Smith; Toby Salmon; Simie Krieger; Nina Pratkowski; Lisa Watkins; Karen Ward; Carol Bucci; Chris Brunner; students receiving awards, their friends and families.

Mr. Orlow asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of the Virginia Tech University tragedy. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on 03/28/2007, 04/11/2007 and 04/16/2007 to discuss informational, legal and personnel matters.

Mr. Orlow deferred to Dr. Cotter for the student awards presentation. Dr. Cotter introduced Colonial Middle School (CMS) teacher Helen Moyer, who presented Matt Pressman for his performance in the Pennsylvania Geographic Bee; Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) swimming coach Vince Duffy, who presented Chris Raslavich for qualifying for the state championships; PWHS wrestling coach Bob Lorence, who presented Eric Powell for qualifying for the state championships; PWHS basketball coach Jim Donofrio, who presented his team for qualifying for the state championship; PWHS teacher Candy Maggioncalda, who presented a number of students for achievement in art; and PWHS teacher Jim Muscarella, who presented members of the Science Olympiad Team for qualifying for the state championship. Attachment A includes a complete list of students receiving awards.

Mr. Orlow noted that the district was receiving a Technology Schools of Excellence Award from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA). He introduced Todd Hosterman who presented the award to the Board on behalf of the PSBA.

**Minutes:** Mr. Orlow sought Board action on the approval of the minutes of the Work Session of 03/12/2007; the General Meeting of 03/15/2007; the Special Meeting and the Finance Committee of 04/10/2007; the Curriculum Committee of 04/11/2007 and the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee, the Safety and Wellness Committee, the Human Resources Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee of 04/12/2007. See enclosures #1 through #3 and #43 through #48.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

**Financial Reports:** Mr. Orlow asked the Board to consider the financial reports on the list for approval. The reports include the Budget Transfers, the Bond Fund Report, the Capital Projects Report, the General Fund/Federal Program Bills, the Capital Reserve Fund, the Food Service Bills/Cafeteria Report, the Outstanding Investment Report, the Cash Flow Summary, the Comparison of Taxes

Collected, the Real Estate Tax Escrow Report, the Reconciliation of Cash Accounts, the Budgetary/Deficit Status Report and the Treasurer's Report for the month ending 03/31/2007, as shown in enclosures #4 through #15.

Dr. Cotter noted that there was a yellow page update to the Bond Fund Report. Mr. Orlow questioned the nature of an air quality analysis for the new trainers' room and team rooms in PWHS. Mr. Yemm reported that environmental concerns necessitated the analysis.

Mr. Slutsky moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

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

**Staff Report:** Plymouth Elementary School Principal Judi Lipson and members of her staff presented a PowerPoint on the expanded Plymouth Pride Partners program that rewards students for doing good things. The highlight of the program is a series of school town meetings, or assemblies, where good deeds are celebrated.

**Old Business:** Mr. Orlow sought action on two policy revisions that were before the Board on a second-read basis. The first was Board Committee Functions, #004. See enclosure #16. He explained that the Safety and Wellness Committee requested the revisions after it had met for the first time. The revisions reflect changes in the committee's area of responsibility. Additional revisions reflect the name change of the Human Resources Committee.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the policy on a second-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Orlow noted that the second policy was, #208, Student Health Examinations. See enclosure #17. Dr. Cotter confirmed for Mr. Orlow that the policy reflected changes to ensure that it reflected the current District practice. He added that the timeframe for completing private examinations was increased to one year.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the policy on a second-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

**Correspondence:** Mr. Orlow asked Board members to consider a request from Dr. Monica Sullivan, PWHS Principal, to accept a \$300 mini grant from the University of Pittsburgh on behalf of PWHS English teacher Kendra Atkinson. See enclosure #19. Atkinson received the grant as part of her participation in a graduate seminar about Asia organized by the National Consortium of Teaching. Dr. Cotter said that receiving grants for attending seminars was unusual and was an incentive to purchase resource materials.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to accept the grant. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on a request from Dr. Sullivan to accept a donation of an electronic transducer for amplification of a harp from Dr. David Littlejohn. See enclosure #20.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to accept the gift. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Orlow noted that Montgomery Early Learning Centers (MELC) is seeking Board approval to increase tuition by 3.0 percent. See enclosure #21. The increase will apply to all MELC programs operated in the District.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Cotter reviewed his report which includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the Extra Duty/Extra Pay list, details of a summer music lesson program, staffing for the summer reading programs and staffing for the secondary summer school. See enclosures #22 through #26. He noted that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contained four additional actions from the 15 reported on Monday. He stated that two more substitutes and one additional extra duty/extra pay assignment were added since Monday's report.

Mr. Berger confirmed for Mr. Orlow that the retirement of Ridge Park Elementary teacher Beverly White was the first teacher retirement that the District had received.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

**Board Student Representatives Report:** Ms. D'Alessandro reported that seniors returned from their Florida trip on April 17. The students had an amazing time and behaved well. She stated that the group suggests an earlier departure time for next year. Ms. D'Alessandro noted that the Colonial Players performance of Annie was successful, a pops concert took place on March 21, 2007, the Jazz Band performed on March 25, 2007, the senior dinner occurred on March 30 at Whitmarsh Country Club and the Guidance Department presented a college counseling session on April 12, 2007. She commented that earlier in the day, State Representative Mike Gerber had hosted a global warming seminar in the PWS auditorium. In response to a question from Mr. Orlow, Ms. D'Alessandro stated that more than 200 students took part in the Florida trip. Dr. Cotter confirmed that the participation has grown in recent years.

**New Business:** Mr. Orlow sought Board approval of a Cost Payment Agreement between the District and a local developer regarding the Tower Bridge project in Conshohocken. See enclosure #27. He stated that the contract protects the district from legal fees and expenses incurred while exploring a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) arrangement with the developer. He explained that a TIF allows the district to pledge a portion of expected tax revenue to the developer in order to ensure the completion of a project. He noted that approving the agreement does not mean endorsement of a TIF. Mr. Slutsky confirmed for Mr. Orlow that the District planned to meet with the developer during a Finance Committee meeting on April 23, 2007.

Mr. Slutsky moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the Cost Payment Agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Orlow asked the Board to consider the reappointment of Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Esquire, of Fox Rothschild LLP as the District's solicitor effective July 1, 2007. See enclosure #28. Mr. Orlow noted that the agreement specifies fees and covered services.

Dr. Ryan moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the agreement for solicitor's services. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on three leases regarding District facility and office space to MELC for its 2007 summer program and before and after school programs. See enclosures #29 through #31. Mr. Yemm confirmed for Mr. Orlow that the agreements were standard except for the addition of the language requested at Monday's meeting.

Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the facility and office space leases. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Orlow asked that the Board take action on the annual renewal contract with Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Data Processing specifying service prices for the 2007-2008 year. See enclosure #32. Orlow noted that the contract stipulates a 1.0 percent increase over the previous year. Dr. Ryan stated that when viewed over time, the contract has actually decreased 20 percent. Mr. Boegly confirmed for Mr. Orlow that the decrease is a result of the District now being able to perform some services in-house.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the annual contract. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Orlow asked the Board to consider approval of a Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Cost Plan totaling \$432,061.51 for the 2007-2008 school year. See enclosure #33. Mr. Orlow stated that the District was purchasing slots for students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) placed in IU classrooms somewhere in the county. He noted that the District may need to purchase additional slots depending on need.

Mr. Davis moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the cost plan. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Orlow directed the Board's attention to an agreement between PWHS and Tru mark Financial Credit Union. He stated that the agreement is a new item not reviewed on Monday evening. It is a new venture centered on the operation of a student bank in PWHS. Dr. Cotter noted that the District offered other institutions the opportunity to participate but none showed interest. Mr. Orlow reiterated that students, including those in the Future Business Leaders of America Club, will operate the bank.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Orlow asked the Board to consider handbook revisions submitted by the District principals. See enclosure #34. He noted that Board approval of handbook changes at this time of year allowed for the books to be published in time for the next school year.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the handbook revisions. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Orlow asked for Board action on the renewal of three settlement agreements involving the placement of special education students. He noted that the agreements are renewals and were reviewed in executive session.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the settlement agreements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Orlow asked the Board to act on a request from PWHS teacher Robert Culp to take approximately 30-32 students on an overnight field trip to Washington, D.C., on May 20 through May 21, 2007. See enclosure #50. Dr. Cotter noted that the trip presented a great opportunity for students and included a tour of the Capitol building and significant historical and government sites. He added that the students pay for the cost of the trip.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the trip request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

**Solicitor's Report:** Mr. Sultanik requested Board approval of Disciplinary Stipulations #94608 and #93312. Mr. Orlow noted that Board members reviewed both stipulations in executive session.

Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the stipulations as presented by the solicitor. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

Mr. Sultanik requested Board approval of Grievance Settlements #30339 and #30340. Mr. Orlow stated that the Board had reviewed the settlements on several occasions.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the settlement agreements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 9-0.

**Committee Reports:** Intermediate Unit: Mr. Zimmer reported that Lori Smith Wood had resigned as the IU Public Relations Director. He noted that the Board earlier approved the Special Education Cost Plan.

CMCAVTS: No report.

Human Resources: Mrs. Luken stated that the committee met on April 12 and that enrollment projections have not changed. She said the District predicted an increase in kindergarten enrollment based on a high number of births five years ago. She noted that the Human Resources Department had been busy with staff recruitment. Mr. Berger detailed that the District had attended fairs in Philadelphia, State College, the Lehigh Valley and Delaware. He said interest in the District is obvious from the number of quality candidates that staff members have interviewed personally.

Mr. Orlow noted that this is the last year of the teacher's contract and that negotiations on a new contract began in January. He reported that both parties have requested fact finding and that the appointment of a fact finder occurred on April 10. The fact finder's report is due on May 20. Both parties must vote on the formal, non-binding recommendation in whole. If both parties accept the document becomes a contract. The report becomes public if it is rejected by either party. In that event, a second vote occurs 10 days later. If no agreement is reached, the parties resume collective bargaining.

Finance: Mr. Slutsky reiterated that the Finance Committee will hear a preliminary presentation on a possible TIF agreement at a meeting on April 23.

Curriculum and Program: Mr. Davis reported that the committee met on April 11 and reviewed suggested handbook changes. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the committee also received a recommendation from a PWPrEP action team to eliminate class rank beginning with the class of 2009. She also said that handbook items related to truancy and school authority over students traveling to and from school were discussed. Mr. Davis added that Jim Muscarella provided an update on the proposed high school engineering program. He noted the Dr. Gorodetzer asked Mr. Muscarella to prepare a two-year action plan.

Facility Management and Transportation: Mrs. Moore reported that the district has invited members of the local parks and recreation board to a meeting to discuss the possibility of charging outside groups for costs incurred by the District when facilities are used on weekdays. She noted that the District already charges for weekend use. She added that construction had begun on the turf installation on Colonial Field and that the control room for CITV is almost completed. She stated that a new light for the Whitemarsh Elementary School parking lot had arrived and that the facilities staff was waiting for the pole to arrive before installation can be completed.

Community Relations and Student Life: Dr. Scoles noted that Whitemarsh Day is on April 28, 2007 and encouraged community members to attend to hear the PWHS Jazz Band from noon to 1:00 p.m. He added that the Colonial Middle School auditorium will play host to an Anti-Defamation League seminar on cyber-bullying and hate on the internet on May 1, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. He reported that the District Art Show opening is scheduled for May 10 with a senior reception from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and a general public reception from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

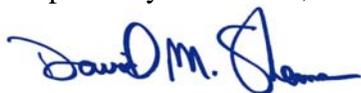
Safety and Wellness: Mr. Zimmer noted that the committee is reviewing the District Crisis Response flip chart and would take one topic each month. He reported that new food service software will provide nutritional information on all cafeteria meals. He noted that a nutritionist and a physical education liaison have been added to the committee. He also reported that the committee reviewed a program called Bus Radio which is designed to hold students attention while riding the bus.

Legislative: Dr. Ryan reminded community members that the primary election is on May 15 and encourage them to exercise their right to vote on the Act 1 ballot question. He stated that the School Board is neutral on the question but it does affect all tax payers.

**Public Comment:** Carol Bucci, a teacher at CMS, encouraged Board Members and the community to attend the CMS musical Aladdin, Jr. The show is on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David M. Sherman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".

David M. Sherman  
Board Secretary