

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, AUGUST 17, 2006.**

Vice President Johnson convened the general meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:03 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on August 17, 2006.

Board Members Present: Gary Johnson, Tom Davis, William Ryan, Hope Luken and Mitch Zimmer.

Board Members Absent: Marc Orlow, Susan Moore, Steven Slutsky and Pascal Scoles.

Also Attending: Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Gerald E. Berger, Director of Human Resources; Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer; Cassandra DeLong, Director of Pupil Services; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; John Quinn, Director of CITV; Thomas J. Doll; Jill Forster and Chad Murray.

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on 08/09/2006, 08/14/2006 and 08/17/2006 to discuss informational, legal and personnel matters.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson asked Board Members to review and approve the minutes of the General Meeting of 07/20/2006, the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of 08/03/2006, the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of 08/09/2006, the Finance Committee of 08/09/2006 and the Curriculum Committee of 08/14/2006. See Enclosures #1 and #2 and #32 to #34. Dr. Ryan moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Financial Reports: Mr. Johnson requested Board action on the financial reports for July 2006. The reports included 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 07/31/2006. See enclosures #3 through #13. Mr. Zimmer moved and Dr. Ryan 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. Johnson recognized Dr. Gorodetzer who presented a report on the district's summer programs. She stated that a four-week, one-half day reading program for students in grades K-5 was held again at Conshohocken Elementary School. She noted that 74 students attended the program and that 67 percent improved their proficiency levels based on pre and post-program assessments. She also noted that a K-2 reading program was held at Whitemarsh Elementary School (WE) for students whose parents felt they needed support. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that 92 percent of those students maintained or improved their skills. She also pointed out that 72 percent of the students who participated in the Conshohocken program for two straight years scored at the proficient or advanced levels on the PSSA. Dr. Gorodetzer reported that the

secondary summer school program, run by Dr. Miki Garlin, was held again at Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS). She stated that all 95 students who participated in the program completed it successfully. Dr. Gorodetzer added that enrichment programs may be added to the summer school schedule next year. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that 39 CSD students participated in the Summer Arts Consortium whereas 29 CSD students had taken part last year. She noted that the program included a 3-day art and sculpture show, the musical production of *The Wizard of Oz* and a band and orchestra concert. She added that summer instrumental music lessons were held again with seven middle school and 27 elementary school students taking part. Dr. Gorodetzer asked Mrs. DeLong to report on the Extended School Year (ESY) program. Mrs. DeLong informed the Board that two classes were held for four days a week over a period of eight weeks. One class offered autistic support while the other offered learning support. She reported that all students maintained or improved their skills. Mrs. DeLong also noted that a reading program was piloted for students in grades five and six who have reading disabilities. She concluded by stating that an autism program review was conducted at Ridge Park Elementary School (RP) beginning in June. Dr. Ryan stated that he had attended a Summer Arts Consortium production of *The Wizard of Oz* and remarked that the crowd was the most enthusiastic he had witnessed in years.

Old Business: See last action under New Business.

Correspondence: None

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Johnson stated that the Board had approved the bulk of the Superintendent's Report during the August 14 Work Session but asked Dr. Cotter to update his report. Dr. Cotter reiterated that the personnel report and substitute list, the proposed extra duty/extra pay assignments, the PWHS Adult Evening School fall class and teacher list, and the enrollment report were approved on Monday. See enclosures #15 through #18. He added that there were seven additional personnel actions and an update to the extra duty/extra pay list for Board approval. See enclosures #15A and #16A. Dr. Ryan inquired as to whether the individual who was recommended for the math teaching position was a new teacher. Mr. Berger clarified that the teacher was new to both the district and the teaching profession. 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.

Board Student Representatives Report: None

New Business: Mr. Johnson requested that the Board consider two transportation contracts as one item. The first contract was with the Devon Preparatory School at a rate of \$15.50 per student per day and the second was with St. Joseph's Preparatory School at a rate of \$5.82 per student per day. See enclosures #19a and #19b. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the contracts. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Johnson stated that Board authorization was requested on two parent transportation contracts, and he asked that they be considered as one item. One agreement involved the Pittsburgh School for the Deaf at a rate of \$0.445 per mile and the other was for transportation to the George Crothers School at the same rate. See enclosures # 20a and #20b. Mr. Davis moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the contracts. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Johnson stated that Board action was requested on a number of special education service agreements. He asked the Board to consider a tuition agreement with the Magnolia School to provide services based on a student's IEP which also includes ESY services for the summer of 2007. See enclosure #21. Mr. Zimmer moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the tuition agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider a tuition agreement for special education services provided at the Lakeview Neurorehabilitation Center at \$227.45 per day. See enclosure #22. Mr. Davis moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the tuition agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a contract agreement regarding the purchase of special education services, related services and support services from the Upper Merion Area School District for a non-residential Colonial School District student for full-time autistic support, occupational therapy and itinerant speech and language services. See enclosure #23. Mr. Davis moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the contract agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Johnson requested Board action on a tuition agreement between Colonial School District and Methacton School District that allows a Methacton student to attend an autistic support class at Ridge Park Elementary School. See enclosure #24. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the trip request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board would defer action on the final special education agreement. Dr. Cotter confirmed that the agreement was being withdrawn because of legal issues in getting the contract ready for the meeting. He stated that the agreement would be ready for Board action in September.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider a copy service agreement, submitted by Chief Information Officer Andrew Boegly, for the district's copy center equipment. See enclosure #26. Mr. Zimmer moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the copy service agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Johnson invited the Board to review and approve the list of professional conference requests from district administrators. See enclosure #27. Dr. Cotter noted that an updated list from Monday's meeting was provided as a yellow page. Mr. Zimmer moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the conference requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Johnson requested Board action on an overnight field trip request for two students and a chaperone to attend the PSBA Student Delegate Program in Hershey, Pa., in October. See enclosure #28. Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the trip request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Johnson sought Board approval of the MCIU Cooperative Purchasing Bid for various types of fuel for the 2006-2007 school year as submitted by Joe Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer. See Enclosure #29. Dr. Ryan moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the fuel bid. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider action on bids for the purchase of milk and juices and ice cream. Dr. Cotter reminded the Board that the ice cream bid was not available at Monday's meeting but was included as a yellow page. See enclosures #30 and #35. Mr. Zimmer asked if the district had any experience with the recommended vendor, Nelsons Dairy Products. Mr. Bickleman confirmed that the district had used the vendor previously.

Mr. Berger asked Mr. Johnson if the Board wished to act on the item of Old Business listed on the agenda. Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Berger and asked the Board to consider the revision to policy #249 Video Recording of Students which was before the Members on a second read basis. Mr. Davis moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the policy. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Sultanik asked the Board for a motion to appoint Fox Rothschild, LLP, to file assessment appeals for the district on nine properties outlined in an August 8, 2006 letter to the Board. Mr. Sultanik named the properties, a list of which can be found in enclosure #36. He also asked the Board to authorize Fox Rothschild to, if necessary, file or withdraw an appeal at the time of an assessment hearing. Mr. Davis asked Mr. Sultanik if the Common Level Ratio was down to 53 percent from 63 percent where it had been recently. Mr. Sultanik confirmed that that was the case as stated in paragraph two of the letter. He attributed the decline to the relationship of commercial property value to residential property value. Dr. Ryan moved and Mrs. Luken second a motion based on the Solicitor's request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: Mr. Zimmer reported that he attended his first IU meeting on July 26 and that officers were elected. He stated that the Special Education Department was reorganized to include an Assistant Director for Special Education. Mr. Zimmer added that the IU took part in hosting an Act 1 workshop which was attended by 112 superintendents, school business officials and board members. The workshop provided an overview of Act 1 and its affect on school districts in regards to budget timelines and referendum.

CMCAVTS: No Report

Personnel: No Report

Finance: Mr. Johnson noted that the finance report was presented on Monday.

Curriculum: Mr. Davis stated that the Curriculum Committee had an extensive meeting on August 14. He stated that the AVID program was introduced and noted that the program would affect approximately 20 students in grades seven, eight, nine and 10. He noted that PWHS Principal Dr. Monica Sullivan provided an update on the PW Prep initiative and detailed the different sub committees that are working to improve the high school. Mr. Davis also touched on the district's partnership with Chestnut Hill College and noted that preliminary PSSA test results showed that things were improving. He noted more test data was scheduled to be released next month. Mr. Davis invited the members to review the meeting minutes found in enclosure #34.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mr. Johnson gave an update on summer projects and noted that the roof replacement at RP was on schedule and would be completed before the start of the school year. He state that boiler replacements at Colonial Elementary School (CES) and Plymouth Elementary School (PE) were under way and should be completed by mid-September.

Mr. Johnson noted that the district would realize substantial fuel savings once the boilers were operational. He also stated that the library air conditioning projects at PE and WE would be completed before the start of the school year. He concluded by stating that the lighting retrofit had begun at PWHS.

Community Relations: Mr. Zimmer stated that feedback from the announcement of the district's collaborative agreement with Chestnut Hill College had been positive. He also assured everyone that the partnership will not affect community groups and organizations that currently use Colonial facilities. Mr. Zimmer also stated that families of students and Senior Gold Card members should look for the district activities calendar in the mail.

Legislation: No report.

Public Comment: Mr. Doll asked the Board to consider making improvements to the storm water retention basin on the east end of Victory Fields in light of the proposed addition of artificial surface on one of the fields. He expressed concern that any additional runoff caused by the construction would be detrimental to residents adjacent to the field who have experienced a significant amount of water in their basements after heavy storms. He noted that he had spoken to Mr. Yemm and publicly thanked Mr. Yemm who had walked the neighborhood to check on residents during a recent storm. Mr. Yemm stated that the district planned to make minor modifications to the retention basin in the next 30 days. He reported that computations revealed that the artificial surface project would not direct more water to the retention basin.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
School Board Secretary