

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, March 12, 2007.**

President Orlow convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:32 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on March 12, 2007.

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

Board Members Absent: Susan Moore 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; John Quinn, Director of CITV and David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on 02/28/2007 and 03/12/2007 to discuss informational, legal and personnel matters.

Minutes: Mr. Orlow asked Board members to review the minutes of the Curriculum Committee and the Work Session of 02/12/2007 and the General Meeting of 02/15/2007. See enclosures #1 through #3. He noted that the minutes of the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee, the Human Resources Committee, the Community Relations and Student Life Committee and the Finance Committee of 03/08/2007 were before the members as separate attachments. He noted that the minutes of the Safety and Wellness Committee of 03/08/2007 and the Curriculum Committee of 03/12/2007 were expected to be available for review on Thursday.

Financial Reports: Mr. Orlow asked if Board members had any questions regarding the financial reports on the list for approval on Thursday evening. The reports included 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 02/28/2007, as shown in enclosures #4 through #15.

Mr. Slutsky questioned an item on the Bond Fund report related to milk vending machines in both Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) cafeterias. Mr. Bickleman explained that the machines were part of the cafeteria upgrades and that the district had received a rebate from the Milk Marketing Board to help offset the cost of the machines.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Mr. Orlow noted that Whitemarsh Elementary School Principal Donna Drizin will provide a report on that building's initiatives at Thursday's meeting.

Old Business: Mr. Orlow directed the members' attention to the policy Testing for Controlled Substances and Alcohol, #451.1 that is before the Board on a second-read basis. See enclosure #16. He noted that Mr. Yemm is seeking to update the policy by revising the list of authorized personnel in

Appendix B as part of the Employee Testing Program. Mr. Orlow stated the policy was approved on a first-read basis at the February 15 general session.

Mr. Slutsky asked if the services provided by Employers of Medical Review Officers (MRO) and other vendors were put out to competitive bid. Mr. Yemm said the services were not bid and that the vendors had been in place for five years. He did note that they were reviewed annually. Mr. Yemm also stated that the name of the hospital listed on Exhibit B needed to be changed from Suburban General Hospital to Mercy Suburban Hospital.

Correspondence: Mr. Orlow stated that there were two donations to the district that required Board action on Thursday. The first is a donation of a number of TI-15 calculators with an estimated value of \$2,977.12. See enclosure #17. Mr. Orlow noted that this was a repeat donation made by a local resident who in the past had requested to remain anonymous. Dr. Cotter stated that previously the calculators were given to the high school but this year the recipient is Colonial Elementary School. He also noted that the donor would not mind being recognized as long as his business is not mentioned. Mr. Orlow identified the donor as Mr. Michael Schwab. Mr. Slutsky wished to express his gratitude to Mr. Schwab for the donation.

Mr. Orlow stated that Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer, is also seeking Board authorization to accept a gift of an HP Scan Jet 4c scanner valued at \$30. See enclosure #18.

Dr. Cotter stated that an additional item was before the members as a separate attachment and would require action on Thursday. He reported that the PWHS Scholarship Committee was making its annual request to include \$1 to the cost of student photos with the money going to the PWHS Scholarship Fund.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter outlined his report which included the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the proposed Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #19 through #20. He noted that the Personnel Report included 10 actions, including one retirement and five replacements, and that seven new individuals were added to the substitute list. He added that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List included eight positions, all related to athletics.

New Business: Mr. Orlow stated that there was a significant item of business that the Board needed to act on this evening. He reported that the Act 1 legislation required the Board to approve a resolution by March 13 which recommends the implementation of an Earned Income Tax (EIT) or Personal Income Tax (PIT) to provide property tax relief to qualified property owners. He noted that Mr. Bickleman has provided the Board with a resolution and a non-legal interpretive statement that is before the members as separate attachments. He added that the non-legal interpretive statement is to be displayed at polling places to explain the purpose of Act 1 and clarify the referendum question. Mr. Orlow explained that the district's Local Tax Study Commission (LTSC) recommended a 0.6 percent increase in the EIT. He noted that the resolution accepts that recommendation. He also noted that in making the recommendation, the LTSC voiced the opinion that the increased tax was not in the best interest of the district or its residents.

Mr. Johnson questioned the percentage values referenced in the ballot question on the resolution. Mr. Bickleman explained that number reflected the separate taxes waged by the school district and the various municipalities. Mrs. Luken asked Mr. Johnson if the question would be easier to understand if the percentages were added. He indicated that it would not.

Mrs. Luken moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the resolution and the non-legal interpretive statement. On a roll call vote, all voted in the favor. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Orlow informed the Board that Mr. Bickleman is seeking approval of a Section 356 Agreement allowing Berkheimer to secure taxable compensation data along with a Memorandum of Understanding and Confidentiality Statement. See enclosure #21. Mr. Orlow sought clarification on the request. Mr. Bickleman stated that the data was wage information for 2005 that can be derived from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. He confirmed for Mr. Orlow that the request had nothing to do with Act 1. Mr. Orlow questioned the naming of Berkheimer as an Authorized Official of the district as stated in the agreement. Mr. Bickleman stated that he would check the Act 511 legislation to see if the language was required. Mr. Orlow also wanted to be sure that Patti McNamara, identified as President, was identified as President of Berkheimer.

Mr. Orlow stated that Cassandra DeLong, Director of Pupil Services, is recommending Board approval of a settlement agreement involving a special education student. He noted that the student was not identified for privacy reasons. He stated that the agreement had been reviewed in committee and would be acted upon on Thursday.

Mr. Orlow noted that the Board is asked to approve a series of professional conference requests. The first request is for PWHS teacher Candace Maggioncalda to attend the National Art Education Association Conference in New York City from March 15-17, 2007. The second is for Pam Tice, PWHS math teacher/coach, to attend the National Science Foundation Conference in Boston, Mass., from April 22-24, 2007. The third is for Christina McDowell, family and consumer science teacher at Colonial Middle School (CMS), to attend the Family Economics and Financial Education National Conference in Tuscon, Ariz., from June 18-24, 2007. See enclosures #22 through #24. Expenses for all conferences will be paid for from building or district professional development funds. Mr. Orlow noted that all of the requests had been reviewed by the Curriculum Committee. Dr. Cotter noted that Mrs. Maggioncalda's request was time sensitive and he asked that the Board act on it this evening. Mr. Johnson moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve Mrs. Maggioncalda's conference request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Orlow asked the members to direct their attention to a series of student trip requests. The first trip is for members of the Technology Student Association (TSA) to attend the 29th Annual Pennsylvania TSA Conference in Champion, Pa., from April 18-21. Approximately 30 students from PWHS and CMS are eligible to attend. See enclosure #25. Discussion centered on the level of Board funding for the organization. Dr. Cotter recommended a level of funding up to \$5,000 and noted that it was consistent with organizations such as the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) and the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).

Mr. Orlow noted that the second request was for nine students to attend the DECA National Conference in Orlando from April 27 through May 2, 2007. See enclosure #26. Dr. Cotter noted that Board approval was required for the out-of-state trip but that no funding was involved since the district's policy is to fund student competitions only through the state level.

Mr. Orlow reported that the third trip involved 19 students who qualified to participate in the State Science Olympiad Competition at Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa., from April 26-27, 2007. A \$4,665 funding request is included. See enclosure #27. Dr. Cotter pointed out that this was the first time that students from PWHS had qualified for the state-level competition. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that the PWHS team finished an impressive fifth among 39 other schools in just their second year of competition.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: None.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 8:00 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