

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, March 15, 2007.**

President Orlow convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:05 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School (CES) on March 15, 2007.

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

Board Members Absent: Pascal Scoles.

Also Attending: Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Gerald E. Berger, Director of Human Resources; Cassandra DeLong, Director of Pupil Services; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; Bonnie Sheehan, Solicitor; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Angela D'Alessandro, Board Student Representative; Donna Drizin; Michelle Elkes; Shana Genkin; Kirsten Young; Joan Hunter; Sam Swetkowski; Liz Malarski; Chad Murray; Tom Kuestner; Karen Ward; students receiving awards, their friends and families.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and referred to Dr. Cotter for the student awards presentation. Dr. Cotter introduced Mr. Sherman who recognized Jennifer Shin, Allison Marcus and Kristi Kaspar, whose work was featured on the District holiday card.

Mr. Orlow announced that the Board had met in executive session on 02/28/2007, 03/12/2007, 03/14/2007 and 03/15/2007 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, the General Meeting of 02/15/2007, the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee, the Human Resources Committee, the Community Relations and Student Life Committee (CRSL), the Finance Committee and the Safety and Wellness Committee of 03/08/2007 and the Curriculum of 03/12/2007. See enclosures #1 through #3, #33 through #37 and #46.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Financial Reports: Mr. Orlow asked for Board action on the financial reports on the list for approval. 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. Orlow inquired as to changes on the Bond Fund Report. Dr. Cotter noted that there were three highlighted changes including a reimbursement to the general fund. Mr. Yemm confirmed for Mr. Orlow that the two other transactions were normal applications related to the athletic training room renovations at Plymouth Whitmarsh High School (PWHS) and that one more was expected for retainer fees.

Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Mrs. Drizin reported on ongoing multicultural initiatives taking place at Whitmarsh Elementary School. She highlighted efforts to start the school year off on the right foot, positive attitudes and reinforcements, Gold Tickets for good behavior and the Wrinkling Wanda paper doll.

Old Business: Mr. Orlow sought Board action on the policy Testing for Controlled Substances and Alcohol, #451.1 that is before the members on a second-read basis. See enclosure #16. Mr. Orlow stated 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.

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, 8-0.

Correspondence: Mr. Orlow stated that there were two donations to the district that required Board acceptance. 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 very nice repeat donation made by local resident Mr. Michael Schwab.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Slutsky seconded a motion to accept the gift. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Orlow stated that Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer, is seeking Board acceptance of a gift by Mary Ivy Bayard of an HP Scan Jet 4c scanner valued at \$30. See enclosure #18.

Mr. Davis moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to accept the gift. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Orlow asked Dr. Cotter to have thank you letters sent to the donors.

Mr. Orlow noted that Board approval was requested by the PWHS Scholarship Committee to continue its practice of including \$1 to the cost of student photos with the money going to the PWHS Scholarship Fund. Dr. Cotter confirmed for Mr. Orlow that the committee has provided more than \$350,000 in student scholarships since its inception.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

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 one additional resignation, four replacements and an additional substitute from Monday's report. He noted that three of the four replacements were administrative in nature. He stated that Jason Bacani was recommended to replace Tom Sigafos as Principal of Ridge Park Elementary School, Joe Carracappa was recommended to replace Mr. Bacani as Assistant Principal at Colonial Middle School and Julie Pustilnick was recommended to replace Mr. Sigafos as Director of Federal Programs.

Dr. Ryan moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: Ms. D'Alessandro reported that practice for spring sports had begun; a non-traditional college career day was held on March 8; an assembly was held to announce the partnership between PWHS, the Anti-Defamation League and Independence Blue Cross to promote multiculturalism; the boys' basketball team is participating in the state playoffs; the

Colonial Players spring musical opens tonight and runs through the weekend and seniors are anxiously awaiting their trip to Florida.

New Business: Mr. Orlow reminded the audience that on Monday the Board had approve an Act 1 ballot question and a non-legal interpretive statement. The ballot question was for a 0.6% increase in the earned income tax.

Mr. Orlow requested Board action on a request to approve a Section 356 Agreement allowing Berkheimer to secure taxable compensation data along with a Memorandum of Understanding and Confidentiality Statement. See enclosure #21.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Slutsky seconded a motion to approve the Section 356 Agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Orlow asked the members to consider a letter of agreement with Delta-T Group for the purchase of professional staff brokerage services on a per diem hourly basis. See enclosure #41. He noted that the agreement was new since Monday's meeting but was reviewed in executive session.

Dr. Ryan moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

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 being moved from an approved location to an unapproved location at the request of the parents. He stated that the agreement had been reviewed in committee and executive session.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the settlement agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Orlow stated that two policy revisions were new since Monday's agenda and were before the Board on a first-read basis. The first is Board Committee Functions, #004. See enclosure #42. Dr. Cotter noted that the Safety and Wellness Committee had met and requested changes in its area. Additional revisions are requested to reflect the name change of the Human Relations Committee.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the revisions on a first-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Orlow directed the Board members' attention to the revision for the policy Student Health Examinations, #208. See enclosure #43. Dr. Cotter noted that changes were highlighted. He added that the major revision was in paragraph four which changes the time frame in which an examination is required. Dr. Cotter stated that the change reflects the current practice in the District. Mrs. DeLong added that the change adds flexibility for parents.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the revisions on a first-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on a series of professional conference requests. He noted that the first request for PWHs teacher Candace Maggioncalda to attend the National Art Education Association Conference in New York City from March 15-17, 2007 was approved on Monday evening. See enclosure #22. 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. See enclosure #23. District professional development funds will be utilized to cover expenses for this conference.

Mr. Davis 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, 8-0.

Mr. Orlow stated that the third request 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 enclosure #24. The CMS administration supports the request and building professional development funds will be used to cover expenses.

Mr. Zimmer left the meeting at 7:45 p.m. and returned at 7:47 p.m.

Mr. Orlow raised a concern regarding three academic credits to be earned at the conference. Considerable discussion ensued on whether or not the rigor of the credit requirements was the same as a regular graduate course and whether or not the district would accept credits of this kind for the purpose of salary schedule advancement. Mr. Orlow saw no reason to hold up this request but directed that this philosophical question be addressed at the next Personnel Committee meeting.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the conference request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Orlow asked that the members act on three student trip requests as one item. 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. He 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. 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.

Mrs. Luken moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: Mr. Zimmer reported that the IU Board approved the 2007-2008 Special Education Budget which consists of two parts, the School Age Program and the Early Intervention Program. The Special Education Budget totaled \$68 Million, a decrease of 3.57% from the previous year. He added that the IU Board approved a revised 2006-2007 Non Public School Services Budget of \$9.7 Million, an increase of \$97,000.

CMCAVTS: Mr. Johnson reminded the members that the annual CMCAVTS Board dinner will be held on April 11. He stated that the dinner was a good opportunity to see the new building.

Personnel: Mrs. Luken stated that the committee met on March 8 and reviewed enrollment projections which have remained unchanged. She noted the appointments of Jason Bacani, Joe Carracappa and Julie Pustilnick which were approved in the Superintendent's Report. She noted that all of the approved candidates were internal candidates which speaks to the strength of the administrative staff.

Finance: No report.

Curriculum: Mr. Davis noted that the committee met on March 12 and was provided an update on the PWHS AVID program by Mr. Ed Swetkowski. Dr. Gorodetzer added that PWHS Principal Dr. Monica Sullivan reported on increased enrollment in math programs and explained that more 11th and 12th graders were taking honors-level math courses. She noted that Dr. Sullivan also presented a recommendation to increase teacher collaboration time through increasing the length of the school day

by a few minutes, decreasing the transition time between classes and dismissing students early twice each month.

Facilities Management and Transportation: Mrs. Moore reported that the renovations to CES have been delayed due to zoning issues with Whitemarsh Township. She added that the school usage and cost analysis reimbursement study had been reviewed by the solicitor and that the local municipalities will be notified of the district's intent to charge for facilities usage.

Community Relations: Mr. Orlow noted that the Board planned to mail a Special Report on the Act 1 ballot question. Mr. Sherman confirmed that the report would be mailed prior to the April 16 voter registration deadline. Mr. Sherman added that more than 200 seniors had signed up for the senior citizen matinee and luncheon. He added that Mr. Quinn had reported on the CITV construction at the March 8 CRSL Committee meeting and that Kim Newell had won two more awards for video production from the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association.

Safety and Wellness: Mr. Zimmer reported that the committee held its first meeting on March 8 and other Board members who had volunteered to serve included Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Luken and Mr. Johnson and that Mr. Yemm and Mrs. DeLong were serving as the district liaisons to the committee. He detailed the areas that the committee will monitor and noted the desire to add a registered dietician to the committee on an ad hoc basis. He noted that the committee had reviewed the District's crisis response flip charts that are available in all classrooms.

Legislation: Dr. Ryan reported that he had attended a meeting with two members of the House Education Committee and explained the value of the Classrooms For the Future grant and encouraged the Governor to allocate extra money for student laptops. He also discussed cyber schools and the philosophy that the State Department of Education and not school districts should pay students to attend cyber schools. Dr. Ryan noted that he would provide Board members with a detailed report on the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Conference.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 8:08 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