

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 18, 2006.**

President Orlow convened the work session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 8:38 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on September 18, 2006.

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

Board Members Absent: Tom Davis.

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; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; John Quinn, Director of CITV.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on 08/17/2006, 08/30/2006, 09/13/2006 and 09/18/2006 to discuss informational, legal and personnel matters.

Minutes: Mr. Orlow asked the Board Members to direct their attention to the minutes of the Work Session of 08/14/2006, the General Meeting of 08/17/2006 and the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of 09/08/2006. See enclosures #1 through #3. He noted that the minutes of the Personnel Committee of 09/13/2006 and the Curriculum Committee of 09/18/2006 would be available for review on Thursday. Dr. Cotter informed Mr. Orlow that the referenced Personnel Committee minutes and the minutes of the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of 09/14/2006 were before members as separate attachments and that they would be included as yellow pages on Thursday.

Financial Reports: Mr. Orlow reviewed the financial reports on the list for approval on Thursday Evening. 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, as shown in enclosures #4 through #14.

Mr. Orlow referred to the Bills for Approval list and questioned the notation for "New Pig." Mr. Bickleman explained that was the name of the vendor performing some of the HVAC installation work at Plymouth Elementary School.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: Mr. Orlow noted that Dr. Cotter and Dr. Gorodetzer were scheduled to report on the district's 2006-2007 goals on Thursday evening.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: Mr. Orlow stated that the Board was asked by Francis Marabella, Conshohocken Borough Manager, to consider five properties as exempt for the 2006-2007 tax year. See enclosure #15. Mr. Orlow noted that similar requests had come before the Board in the past from Whitemarsh and Plymouth Townships seeking property tax exemptions on properties which were acquired by the townships during the tax year. Mr. Zimmer asked if this was the first time Conshohocken Borough was making the request. Mr. Orlow stated that he believed that to be the case. Mr. Bicklmeman noted that the amount to be waived was \$1,945 or the amount of six months worth of taxes on the properties in question. Mr. Slutsky inquired as to whether or not the district would be setting any kind of precedence if approving the exemption and inviting other property owners to make similar requests. Mr. Bickleman said no precedence was being set since the district was dealing with a municipality and not an individual owner. Mr. Orlow noted that the amount involved was less sizeable than exemptions previously granted to other townships.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter outlined his report which included the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the proposed Extra Duty/Extra Pay Assignments/Changes List, and the Enrollment Report. See enclosures #16 through #18. He stated that the Personnel Report contained 32 actions including five resignations, five leaves of absence and 14 replacements. He reported that there were 11 extra duty/extra pay assignments requested for approval and that the average class sizes for grades K-3 was 12-23 students, grades 4-5 was 20 students, the middle school was between 18 and 20 students and the high school was between the low to mid 20's depending on the type of class offered.

Mr. Orlow noted that there was one personnel appointment that the Board wished to take action on at this time so that the public could be introduced to Julie Pustilnick, who was recommended to be approved as the new principal at Conshohocken Elementary School. Dr. Cotter confirmed that that was the case and stated that he was pleased that Ms. Pustilnick was willing and able to take the position. He noted she would succeed Dr. Patricia Madeira on Oct. 9 but would be available to meet parents at Back to School Night on Sept. 20 and at Conshohocken Day on Oct. 7. Dr. Cotter noted that Dr. Madeira had accepted a position outside of the district and would be vacating her present position on Oct. 6.

Mr. Orlow noted that Ms. Pustilnick was not a part of the Personnel Report. Dr. Cotter confirmed that the intent was for the Board to review her credentials this evening and that she would be a part of the Personnel Report at Thursday's meeting. Mr. Orlow inquired as to the recommended salary for Ms. Pustilnick. Dr. Cotter said it would be available on Thursday. Mr. Orlow said the Board could approve the appointment with the salary to be determined. Mrs. Moore moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve Ms. Pustilnick as principal of Conshohocken Elementary School effective October 9 at a salary to be determined. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Orlow inquired if there were any staffing positions that still needed to be filled now that school had opened or if there were any hotspots the administration was keeping an eye on. Dr. Cotter stated that the district enjoyed an excellent opening to the school year. He also reported that three positions remained open, including a 0.5 special education position which the district was searching for an appropriately certified candidate to fill. Dr. Cotter stated the district would also need to back fill Ms. Pustilnick's reading specialist position. Mr. Berger added that the district had posted available positions for a couple of instructional aides.

Mr. Slutsky stated that his children reported that the school year opened extremely well. He thanked and congratulated the administration on a successful opening of the school year.

New Business: Mr. Orlow called the Board's attention to a series of special education placement agreements that were before the board for approval. He asked Mrs. DeLong to review the agreements. Dr. Cotter first noted that the agreements were not included in the agenda for confidentiality purposes and that they were reviewed in executive session. Mrs. DeLong reported that the agreement with Ambler Day School was an alternative education placement and that the contract for the Perkins School for the Blind was a renewal. She stated that contracts with the Woods School and Millcreek School were new placements for students with IEPs. Mrs. DeLong noted that the two other agreements were settlement agreements.

Mr. Orlow asked if the district was indemnified in the event a host institution dropped the ball in meeting an IEP. Dr. Cotter stated that he hoped that was the case but that experience showed that the district had been held accountable in the past. He stated that ultimately it was the district's responsibility to make sure the IEP is being carried out. He reiterated that the buck stops with the home district and that Colonial must rely on its safeguards and the vigilance of staff to make sure the IEP is being carried out and hold the host institution to task if it is not.

Mrs. Luken inquired if the host school provides the district with progress reports on IEPs. Mrs. DeLong stated that the district asks for quarterly reports. Mrs. Luken asked if the district could tell from those reports if the IEP was being met. Mrs. DeLong stated that the reports are reviewed by her and her staff and that they could discern if progress was being made.

Mr. Orlow stated that similar agreements in the future would be difficult to budget for under the new Act 1 requirements. He stated that the district now had to budget for such placements in January despite the fact that the actual need would not be known until August or September. Dr. Cotter stated that the projections are even harder to make than the district had anticipated because the state is requiring districts to budget based on actual dollars spent in the past. Mr. Orlow noted that that philosophy benefited districts that had not been prudent with expenses in the past.

Mr. Orlow stated that the Board will take action on a professional conference request from PWHS Principal Dr. Monica Sullivan who is requesting permission for a social studies teacher to attend the National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference in Washington, DC from December 1-3. See enclosure #19. He noted that building professional development funds will be used to pay for the conference.

Mr. Orlow directed the Board's attention to two trip requests for the PWHS cheerleaders to attend competitions in Johnstown, Pa., in November and Williamsburg, Va., in March. See enclosures #20 and #21. Mr. Zimmer noted that the cheerleaders had won both competitions the previous year. Dr. Cotter stated that both trips were routine and that he anticipated a future request for the cheerleaders to attend a competition in Florida.

Committee Reports: Mr. Orlow noted that committee chairmen usually give their reports during Thursday's general meeting. However, he asked Mr. Slutsky to give the Finance Committee report so that the Board could take action on a replacement appointment to the Local Tax Study Commission (LTSC). Mr. Slutsky noted that the Board had appointed nine community members to the LTSC at its August work session. He reported that one member of the commission, Mr. Thomas Speers, had to resign for personal reasons. Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Zimmer

seconded a motion that Mrs. Marci Blum be appointed to the LTSC to replace Mr. Speers. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. Slutsky also noted that the LTSC was scheduled to hold a public hearing on Monday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the board room. He encouraged all members of the community to attend the meeting, let their voices be heard, and be a part of the process.

Mr. Zimmer stated that he would give his Intermediate Unit report on Thursday. He also said that at the last meeting he learned that Colonial was the only district that had already appointed a LTSC and was ahead of the curve. Mr. Orlow stated the the LTSC had already met twice and was comprised of a number of veterans from the district's Act 72 Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Mr. Bickleman stated that the September 25 public hearing referenced by Mr. Slutsky would serve as the one public hearing the LTSC must hold as required by Act 1. Mr. Orlow asked if the district's solicitor or other counsel had been in attendance at the LTSC meetings. Dr. Cotter reported that counsel made the initial presentation to the LTSC and was available as needed. He stated that Mr. Bickleman had provided budget and financial resources to the committee and that members of the district administration had attended each meeting. Mr. Orlow directed the administration to ask the solicitor if LTSC minutes needed to be kept in the district office and placed on the district website.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman