

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, OCTOBER 18, 2007**

President Orlow convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:03 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on October 18, 2007.

Board Members Present: Tom Davis, Gary Johnson, Hope Luken, Sue Moore, Marc Orlow, Dr. Pascal Scoles and Mitch Zimmer.

Board Members Absent: Dr. William Ryan and Steven Slutsky.

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. 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; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Simon Wong, Board Student Representative; Susan Gondek; Barbara Grugan; Colleen DiFabio; Jennifer Wein; Danielle Fugek; Mary Conboy; Terry Gillespie; Colleen Rafter; Neil Cooper; Jean McLenigan; Crystal Taylor; Audrey Schwenger; Sharon Fox; George Fox. Solicitor Jeffrey T. Sultanik joined the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Mr. Orlow led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on 09/26/2007, 10/10/2007 and 10/15/2007 to discuss informational, legal and personnel matters.

Mr. Orlow moved forward in the agenda to allow Whitemarsh Township Supervisor Jean McLenigan to speak to the Board and return to a Township meeting currently taking place. Ms. McLenigan is Vice Chair of the Whitemarsh Township Board of Supervisors and the Supervisors' liaison to the Township's Environmental Advisory Board. She applauded the School Board's environmental leadership in directing that the District go "green" and work to improve energy efficiency. Ms. McLenigan asked for the District's support of the "Change a Light, Change the World" sponsored by the government's Energy Star program. The conservation effort encourages every household to switch at least one light bulb from an incandescent bulb to a fluorescent bulb. The Township's goal is for 500 households to participate.

Mr. Orlow asked Mr. Yemm to summarize the District's energy savings. Mr. Yemm explained that the District has realized a 20-percent reduction in electricity usage since 2002. He noted that more than 400 lights were switched from incandescent to fluorescent in Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) alone.

Minutes: Mr. Orlow requested Board action on the minutes of the Work Session of 09/17/2007, the General Meeting of 09/20/2007, the Finance Committee of 09/27/2007, the Human Resources Committee of 10/03/2007, the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee and Community Relations and Student Life (CRSL) Committee of 10/04/2007, the Safety and Wellness Committee of 10/11/2007 and the Curriculum Committee of 10/15/2007. See enclosures #1 through #6 and #41 and #42.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Financial Reports: Mr. Orlow asked Board members to act on 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 09/30/2007. See enclosures #7 through #17.

Dr. Cotter stated that there were changes from Monday evening in the yellow pages on enclosures #8, #10 and #43. He also noted that there was a blue page before Board members. Dr. Cotter confirmed for Mr. Orlow that those were the only changes.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: None

Old Business: Mr. Orlow stated he would take another item out of order from the agenda. He explained that Springboard of Plymouth Whitemarsh is requesting District support for “Operation Pillow.” See enclosure #19. The initiative is part of the Adam C. Conboy Memorial Fund’s effort to supply bedding and other essential supplies to United States troops serving in Iraq.

Mr. Cooper stated that he was the Community Chair of Springboard, which he described as a group of men in the District dedicated to community service. He stated that the group is collecting pillows for the troops and had received \$2,500 in donations. He stated that students could bring in a pillow, or the money to buy one, and that they could also write a note for the soldiers.

Mary Conboy, the mother of Lance Corporal Adman Conboy, explained that “Operation Pillow” is an outgrowth of “Operation Bedding” which began with a Sunday morning phone call from Adam, who was serving in Iraq with the Marine Corps. The young soldier asked his mother for forty sets of bed sheets because he wanted each member of his platoon to have the same comforts that he enjoyed. He jokingly asked his mother to get “Operation Bedding” going. Corporal Conboy died five days later. Ms. Conboy spoke of the gratitude of the soldiers who have received support from the fund and stated that she appreciated the District’s support of the cause.

Mr. Orlow told Ms. Conboy she was an inspiration and that each of the District schools will support the effort in their own way.

Dr. Cotter stated that the student council was coordinating the high school effort and the PTOs would organize the drives at the other schools.

Mr. Cooper said he had met with students at Colonial Elementary School, as well. He stated the organization hoped that the District could collect 500 pillows.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on Board Policy #606, Construction Project Change Orders. See enclosure #18. He stated that the policy provides the format for a more efficient operation regarding the approval process for construction and renovation change orders. Mr. Orlow reminded Board members that they had approved the policy on a first-read basis in September.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Zimmer 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, 7-0.

Correspondence: See “Old Business” above.

Superintendent’s Report: Dr. Cotter reviewed his report which includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List and the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List. See enclosures #20 through #22. He stated that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contained nine new actions since Monday evening including a resignation, two new hires, two promotions and four additional secretarial and food service substitutes. The Extra Duty/Extra Pay List includes 13 new advisor positions for activities listed in enclosure 21.

Mr. Orlow noted that one of the new hires was the replacement for Food Services Director Evan Haines, who is retiring. He asked Dr. Cotter to highlight her experience.

Dr. Cotter stated that Lori McCoy was a graduate of Penn State University with a degree in nutrition who received certification as a registered dietician from Utah State University. She has an extensive background in food services management.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: Mr. Wong reported on the Colonial Players fall production of the Chronicles of Narnia, the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, senior portraits, a mass hearing test, a diversity assembly featuring Dr. Mykee Fowlin, a successful band cavalcade hosted by PWHS, Homecoming week activities, and a Code Red drill. He noted that the Code Red drill ironically occurred the day before the police incident at PWHS. He stated that the administration and teachers addressed the situation appropriately. He added that students were well-informed and did not over react.

Mr. Orlow stated that the administration expected a high rate of absenteeism the day after the incident but credited the student body for a pretty normal day with 90 percent attendance.

New Business: Mr. Orlow directed Board members' attention to three drafts of the 2008-2009 school year calendar for review. See enclosure #23. He noted that the Board normally sets the start day for the following school year in October. He stated that the Board held considerable discussions on the calendar at Monday's meeting and would continue to do so in the coming months. He added that the District calendar normally includes 192 teacher days and 185 student days. The Board and administration may choose to reduce the number of student days to 183 so that the school year does not end during the middle of the third week in June.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to establish Tuesday, September 2, 2007 as the first student day of the 2008-2009 school year. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on a first-read basis on revised Board Policy #437, Teacher Exchange Programs. See enclosure #24. Mr. Orlow noted that policy sets parameters and clearly defines District expectations regarding teacher commitment upon returning from an exchange program.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the revised policy on a first-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Orlow asked the Board to consider a list of proposed members of the District's Strategic Plan Committee. See enclosure #45. He noted that the District has its own planning process called "Above and Beyond" but is required to go through the state-mandated Strategic Planning Process every five years. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the naming of the committee officially begins the planning process, which will be completed in one year.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the list of the Strategic Plan Committee members. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Orlow directed the Board to act on Mr. Berger's request to renew the contract for PA.Educator.net for the 2007-2008 school year. See enclosure #25. He stated that the online data warehouse was one of two such systems used by the District to streamline the application process.

Mr. Davis moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the contract renewal. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Orlow asked the Board to consider two special education placement agreements with the Ambler Day School at a cost not to exceed \$18,110 per school year per student. He noted that the agreements were both renewals and were reviewed in executive session.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the placement agreements. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on four professional conference requests. See enclosures #26 through #28 and #r46. The requests include: the attendance of PWHS Science Teacher Jim Muscarella at the National Science Teachers Association Area Conference in Boston, Massachusetts from March 27-30, 2008; the attendance of two PWHS teachers at the College Board/AVID Conference in Atlanta, Georgia from Nov. 13-14, 2007; the attendance of the PWHS AVID Coordinator at Part III of a training session in Fairfax, Virginia from October 22-26, 2007 and the attendance of the Director of Pupil Services Cassandra DeLong and two staff members at the Annual Best Practices in Bullying and Prevention Conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida from November 5-7, 2007. Mr. Orlow noted that the Bullying Prevention Conference request was new since Monday evening.

Mrs. Luken moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the conference requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Mr. Orlow asked the Board to act on four student trip requests. See enclosures #29 through #32. The trip requests include: a Colonial Middle School student field trip to the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, New Jersey on December 20, 2007; a Colonial Elementary School student field trip to the Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, Delaware on October 23-26, 2007; PWHS student field trips to the Harvard Mock Trial High School Seminar in Cambridge, Mass., from December 15-17, 2007 and to the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Fall Conference at Columbia University on November 5, 2007. Mr. Orlow noted that the requests were reviewed in committee and on Monday evening.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the trip requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: Mr. Zimmer reported that the IU held its first Board meeting of the school year in September. He stated that the Board received the resignation of the Director of Communications.

CMTHS: Mr. Johnson stated that the Central Montco Technical High School held its dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting ceremony on October 12. He added that the renovations are completed and the school is 100 percent operational.

Human Resources: Mrs. Luken stated that Colonial Elementary School art teacher Heather LaPera submitted a proposal to hold a before-school art program beginning in January 2008. Ms. LaPera will apply for a Colonial Foundation grant to fund the program. Mrs. Luken stated that enrollment projections for the next school year show an increase in enrollment at PWHS and a decrease in enrollment at Colonial Middle School. She also stated that the Board was presented with a listing of all District employee salaries and wage rate for the 2007-2008 school year. Community members may review the listing by making an appointment with the Human Relations Office. Mrs. Luken noted that the District is continuing its search for a new Human Resources Director.

Finance: No Report

Curriculum and Instruction: Mr. Davis reported that the committee heard updates on the high school's Pathways to Success program from Career Counselor Stacy Anderson and opportunities for use of the Angus Tract of the Dixon estate. Dr. Gorodetzer reported that Ed Swetkowski, Dan Balek and Joe Carracappa provided an update of the AVID program, Advancement Via Individual Determination. The program provides support and mentoring for students who may not otherwise go to college. This is the first year that students are enrolled.

Facilities Management and Transportation: No report.

Community Relations: Dr. Scoles reported that the Board will hold a Student Town Meeting at PWHS on Oct. 23. He added that the District's Annual report will be mailed in the coming weeks.

Safety and Wellness: Mr. Zimmer reported that the committee met as scheduled on October 11, the day of the incident at PWHS. He said that the committee immediately went into executive session to discuss the event. He thanked the District's partners in law enforcement in Plymouth and Whitmarsh Townships; the administration, including Dr. Cotter and Dr. Sullivan; and the staff for a terrific job in handling the crisis. He also thanked the students for the way they responded.

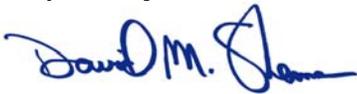
Mr. Orlow added that the District administration will break down the event in order to ascertain areas that can be improved upon so that the District can learn from the experience.

Legislation: No Report

Public Comment: Audrey Schwenger stated that promised changes to the Norwood bus route had not been made. Mr. Yemm reported that the runs were revised and that he had been in contact with Mrs. Schwenger. She stated that time changes were not substantial and did not meet the target of under 60 minutes. Considerable discussion ensued on how to improve the bus routes including the possibility of adding another bus to the run. The Board agreed that the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee will hold a special meeting on October 23 to address the issue.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David M. Sherman". The signature is stylized and cursive.

David M. Sherman
Board Secretary