

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, DECEMBER 3, 2007.**

President Orlow convened the special meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:15 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on December 3, 2007.

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

Board Members Absent: Steven Slutsky.

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; Mark Fitzgerald, Solicitor; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary and Kim Newell, Assistant Director of CITV.

Mr. Orlow noted that the Pledge of Allegiance was recited prior to the just completed reorganization meeting and announced that the Board had met in executive session on 11/20/2007 and 12/3/2007 to discuss informational, legal and personnel matters.

Minutes: Mr. Orlow asked the Board to review and Act on the minutes of the Work Session of 11/12/2007, the Safety and Wellness Committee of 11/14/2007 and the General Meeting of 11/15/2007. See enclosures #1 through #3.

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

Financial Reports: Mr. Orlow noted that the financial reports and the Treasurer's Report had been previously approved through October 31, 2007 and that the administration is requesting authorization to pay the November bills during December. He stated that the November financial reports will be provided for formal action at the January meeting.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to authorize the payment of the November bills during December. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Staff Report: None.

Old Business: None.

Correspondence: None.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter led the members through his report which included the Personnel Report and Substitute List, the proposed Extra Duty/Extra Pay List and a Flexible Benefits Plan resolution. See enclosures #4 through #6. He noted that the Personnel Report included two resignations, one leave of absence an additional need, three replacements and seven

substitutes. He added that the Extra Duty/Extra Pay List included nine appointments, a change in position and two resignations. Dr. Cotter stated that the Flexible Benefits Plan Resolution provides the option for employees to “opt out” of coverage under the District’s group health plans and receive additional taxable compensation if they submit verification of other coverage. He requested Board action on the resolution at this time since it coincided with the open enrollment period for health plans. Dr. Cotter confirmed for Mr. Orlow that the resolution was not changing any of the benefits in the existing agreement but rather adding an option.

Mrs. Luken 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: None.

New Business: Mr. Orlow directed Board members to the list of dates printed in the agenda for the Board’s regular monthly meetings in 2008. He noted that the list entitled Executive Session meetings be Work Sessions instead. Mr. Johnson asked if members wanted to advertise a work session in July since that meeting has not been held in recent years. After some discussion from the Board, Dr. Cotter suggested to leave the date on the list to ensure flexibility in the schedule. It was noted that the date for the July Work Session corresponded with Monday and not Tuesday as listed. There was considerable discussion about scheduling committee meetings in advance to save on advertising costs. Regarding the committees, Mr. Orlow stated that he would prefer to maintain the same organization. He asked for Board action on the proposed meeting dates.

Mrs. Luken moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the list of meetings with the title of Executive Session changed to Work Session and the date of the July Work Session changed to Monday. On roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Orlow asked the Board to consider an Act 1 Resolution that stipulates the Board will not raise property taxes above the state designated index of 4.4 percent for the 2008-2009 school year. He stated that passing the resolution will allow the District to revert to the pre-Act 1 budget cycle.

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

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on a professional conference request for Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) teacher participation in an ASCD workshop in Washington, D.C. from January 17-18, 2008. Responding to Mr. Orlow’s question, Dr. Cotter stated that the acronym stood for Association and Supervision of Curriculum Development.

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

Mr. Orlow asked the Board to consider two student field trip requests as one item. The first is for the PWHS boys’ lacrosse team’s spring training trip to Florida from March 15-22, 2008. The second is for a Ridge Park Elementary School second-grade field trip to the Camden Adventure Aquarium on January 23, 2008. Board approval is needed since both trips require out of state travel. Mr. Orlow noted the students, parents and Parent Teacher Organizations are covering all costs associated with the trips.

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

Mr. Orlow stated that the Board needed to appoint a representative to the Central Montco High School Joint Operating Committee (JOC). He noted that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Davis were presently on the Board and that Mrs. Moore's term had expired.

Mr. Davis moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to reappoint Mrs. Moore to the JOC for a three-year term. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Orlow stated that the Board also needed to appoint a legislative chairperson, to take part in the Pennsylvania School Boards Association's (PSBA) legislative action program, and a PSBA Representative. He noted that Dr. Ryan has served in both capacities.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to re-appoint Dr. Ryan as the Board's Legislative Chairperson and PSBA representative. On 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 had its second review of its four general operating budgets. The budgets were approved. The Colonial Board will act on the IU budgets at January's meeting. He also stated that the IU lost six board members who either chose not to run in the recent election or were defeated. He thanked those six members for their service.

CMTHS: No Report.

Human Resources: No Report.

Finance: No Report.

Curriculum and Instruction: No Report.

Facilities Management and Transportation: No Report.

Community Relations: No Report.

Safety and Wellness: No Report.

Legislation: No Report.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary