

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, DECEMBER 20, 2007.**

President Orlow convened the special meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:45 p.m. in the Superintendent's Conference room located in Colonial Elementary School on December 20, 2007.

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

Board Members Absent: Dr. Pascal Scoles.

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; Ellen Enters, Solicitor 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 12/13/2007 and 12/20/2007 to discuss informational, legal and personnel matters. Dr. Cotter confirmed for Mr. Orlow that the special meeting was advertised in accordance with the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

New Business: Mr. Orlow asked Mr. Yemm and Ms. Enters to review revisions to the transportation contract with Romano's School Bus Service, Inc. necessitated by the change in Romano's business plan. Mr. Yemm distributed copies of the revised agreement with changes in red and blue ink. Please see attachment #1. He reviewed the changes marked in red. Mr. Yemm entertained several questions from Board members including the use of the term "Director of Transportation," confirmation that the software purchased referenced in Section II, item #5 replaces a consultant, frequency of bus radios and the timing of notification given to the District in the event of lateness and accidents. He also indicated that the District will receive \$30,000 toward the purchase of new bus routing software. Ms. Enters reviewed the changes marked in blue and stated that the agreement will not take effect until the transfer of ownership from Romano's Inc. to First Student, Inc. is finalized. She noted that if the transaction does not go through the existing agreement remains in effect. She also stated that First Student Inc. agreed to consider language stating that it would guarantee the fulfillment of the Romano's contract.

Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the revised contract language subject to the final approval of the District Solicitor. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Orlow asked the administration about a proposed public opinion survey. Mr. Sherman requested Board approval to contract with Unicom-ARC to conduct benchmark public opinion research, including a 400-sample telephone survey at a cost of \$17,550 plus transportation expenses. See enclosure #1. Responding to Mr. Orlow's question regarding the need for a survey, Dr. Cotter explained that the Board had placed an emphasis on public relations strategic planning in the District goals for the past two years and that research is the necessary first step in formulating a comprehensive public relations plan. Considerable discussion ensued as to the

number of bids received, results of past research, vendors previously used and the amount of travel costs that the recommended vendor may incur.

The Board agreed to table the matter for further review.

Mr. Orlow sought Board action on a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) application from Philomeno and Salamone for the Parkview Development. See enclosure #2. The District has no obligation or expectation of participation or cooperation in the TIF.

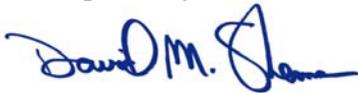
Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the TIF application. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Orlow asked the Board to act on three student field trip requests. The first is for spring musical students to attend a performance of *Les Miserables* in New York City on December 16. See enclosure #3. Dr. Cotter explained that the trip became possible at the last minute and a majority of Board members indicated approval. The Board is asked for formal approval at this time. The second trip is for students to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 11 Band Festival at Spring-Ford High School from January 10-12, 2008. See enclosure #4. The final trip request is for the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School boys' lacrosse team to travel to Florida over spring break from March 15-22, 2008. See enclosure #5.

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

There being no public comment or further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary