

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, June 19, 2008.**

Vice President Johnson convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School (CES) on June 19, 2008.

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

Board Members Absent: Marc Orlow.

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Assistant Superintendent; Joseph P. Bickleman, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer; Cassandra DeLong, Director of Pupil Services; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; Terry Yemm, Director of Operations; Richard Hartz, Director of Human Resources; Kyle Berman, Solicitor; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary; Matt Bretzius; Joel Hoffman and Robert Franz

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then congratulated the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS) Class of 2008 and commended the administration for running an outstanding commencement ceremony. Mr. Johnson announced that the Board had met in executive session on May 21, June 4 and June 19 to discuss informational, legal and personnel matters.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson asked Board members to act on the minutes of the Work Session of May 12, the General Meeting of May 15, the Special Meeting of May 27, the Human Resources Committee of June 4; the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee and the Community Relations and Student Life Committee of June 5 and the Finance Committee of June 9. See enclosures #1 through #7.

Mr. Slutsky 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. Johnson asked Board members to consider 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 May 31, as shown in enclosures #8 through #19.

Mr. Slutsky moved and Mr. Zimmer 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: Mr. Robert Franz asked if the bid price for the Colonial Field Lighting included the installation of the lights. Mr. Yemm confirmed that the installation was included.

Staff Report: None

Old Business: Mr. Johnson sought Board action on the Colonial School District (CSD) 2007-2013 Strategic Plan. See enclosure #20. At Mr. Johnson's request, Dr. Gorodetzer explained that under the leadership of Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Dr. Liz McKeaney, a committee of more than 70 teachers, administrators, parents, community members and Board members met over a period of a year to compile the plan. She noted that the plan was composed of four main parts including an Executive Summary, the Academic Standards and Assessment Report, the Teacher Induction Plan and the Professional Education Report. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the plan contains many of the

initiatives set forth in the District's highly acclaimed "Above and Beyond" program and establishes goals for the coming years.

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

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Slutsky to comment on the 2008-2009 Budget prior to the Board's action on the spending plan. Mr. Slutsky stated that the \$89,877,000 spending plan is 5.97 percent or \$5,060,000 more than the previous year's budget. The real estate tax millage rate of 16.57 equates to a 3.63 percent real estate tax increase to CSD residents. Mr. Slutsky noted that the increase is \$58 for every \$100,000 of property assessment or \$82.50 on the District's median assessed property value of \$146,990 and that the tax rate is well below the state index of 4.4 percent. Mr. Slutsky added that the budget includes \$5.5 million of Act 511 Earned Income Taxes (EIT) and also utilizes \$4,400,000 of the projected June 30, 2008 fund balance of \$11.3 million. He recommended the following 2008-2009 taxation rates: a millage rate of 16.57, an EIT rate of 1.0 percent, a Real Estate Transfer Tax Rate of 1.0 percent, an Amusement Tax Rate of 10 percent and a Real Estate Tax Certification fee of \$20. Mr. Slutsky stated that the billing date for real estate taxes is July 1.

Mr. Slutsky moved and Dr. Scoles seconded a motion to approve the budget and taxation rates as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Correspondence: Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider a series of donations to the PWHS Robotics Clubs. See enclosure #21.

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

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a donation of calculators valued at \$3,600 from Michael Schwab. See enclosure #22.

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

Mr. Slutsky wished to thank the generosity of Mr. Schwab for his annual gift.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter summarized his report which includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List, a list of long term substitutes and the Master Teacher designations. See enclosures #23 through #25. He noted that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contains 29 transactions including two retirements, five resignations, one leave of absence and two unpaid leaves, nine replacements, a grant extension, three returns to position, five new positions and the end of a probationary period. Dr. Cotter stated that the Long Term Substitute List returns 16 long-term subs to per diem status and that eight teachers were recommended for the Master Teacher program. Dr. Cotter stated that Board members also had a yellow page before them containing one Extra Duty/Extra Pay assignment of a Special Education Department Chair.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Davis 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. Johnson stated that Board action on a negotiations agreement between the Board and the Colonial Educational Support Professionals from 2008 through 2011 will be held for the Human Relations Committee Report.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider a Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Exemption Resolution that provides a maximum property tax reduction of \$263.00 to approved homesteads/farmsteads for the 2008-2009 school year. See enclosure #26.

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

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on revisions to Board Policies 217.1 Graduation and 225 Student Awards. See enclosure #27. He noted that action was on a first-read basis. Dr. Cotter stated that the policy changes reflect current practice and encompass course changes, the elimination of class rank and the recognition of honor students. Dr. Ryan inquired if the Top 10 students in a graduation class will be recognized in the future. Dr. Cotter stated that they will not be singled out.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approved the policy revisions on a first-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider several medical contract renewals in one motion. Mrs. DeLong confirmed that the agreements are renewals. The first renewal is the Physician/Dental Agreement. See enclosure #28. The second agreement is with the Lakeside Education Network for regular education and special education slots. See enclosure #29. The remaining renewals are medical/partial hospitalization contracts with Brook Glen Behavioral Hospital at a rate of \$27.55 per day, see enclosure #30; C & K Therapy Associates, LLC at a rate of \$69 per hour for occupational and physical therapy services, see enclosure #31 and the Colonial Medical Group at rates of \$123.30 per hour for sports physicals and \$47.20 for employee physicals. Mr. Johnson noted that the renewal rates, except for the Lakeside Education Network, reflect a 3.0 percent increase over the 2007-2008 school year. The increase for Lakeside is approximately 4.0 percent.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the medical contract renewals. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider a series of renewals with schools and institutions providing special education services in one motion. The first is with the Silver Springs/Martin Luther School at a rate of \$177.00 per day. See enclosure #32. The second is with Lifeworks Alternative School at a rate of \$146.00 per day. See enclosure #33. The third is with RTM, LLC – The Academy at a rate of \$112.50 per day. See enclosure #34.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the renewal contracts. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked Board members to vote on five special education placement/settlement agreements as one item. The first is for a Methacton School District student to attend CSD at a rate of \$56,488 for the 2008-2009 school year and \$8,370 for Extended School Year (ESY) deemed necessary by the Individual Education Program (IEP) team. The second is for CSD to compensate the Delaware Valley Friends School for tuition for two years at a rate of \$31,400 per year per student. The third is for \$19,197.00 per year with the Ambler Day School, an increase of 5.0 percent. The fourth is with the Millcreek School for \$34,020.00 per year reflecting a 5.0 percent increase. The final agreement is with the Upper Merion School District for \$44,168.68 per year, a 4.0 percent increase.

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

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a request to renew a contract for MyLearningPlan.com. See enclosure #35. At Mr. Johnson's request, Mr. Hartz explained that the software was a Web-based

application that charts professional development activities that teachers are required to complete in order to maintain certification.

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

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to examine a food services proposal to increase breakfast prices for the 2008-2009 school year. See enclosure #36.

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

Mr. Johnson directed the Board to act on an agreement for copier services and equipment for the 2008-2009 school year as submitted by Chief Information Officer Andrew Boegly. See enclosure #37.

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

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on an employee assistance program contract with Penn Behavioral Health at a cost of \$12,180 for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. See enclosure #38.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the employee assistance plan agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked Board members to consider a contract renewal with Bus Radio. See enclosure #39. Mrs. Moore asked Dr. Cotter to comment on a survey conducted by the Transportation Office. Dr. Cotter stated that although the response to the internet survey was low, the majority of respondents found the service to be favorable. He added that the contract is for a five-year renewal and there is no cost to the District. He also noted that student disciplinary incidents on buses noticeably decreased during the school year which Mr. Yemm attributes in part to Bus Radio.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approval the contract renewal. On a roll call vote, all but Dr. Ryan voted in favor. The motion was carried, 7-1.

Mr. Johnson directed the Board to act on a request to renew the District's summer employment contract with the Central Montco Technical High School for assistance in the installation of technology. See enclosure #40.

Mr. Davis moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the contract for summer technology installations. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider a request to allow an exchange student from Spain to attend PWHS during the 2008-2009 school year.

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

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a contract for student photos. See enclosure #41. Dr. Cotter noted that contract calls for \$2 to be added to the cost of each photo package with the money providing a scholarship funds for PWHS students. He noted that there is no cost to the District. Dr. Cotter confirmed for Board members that the previous increase per package was \$1.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the student photo contract. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson asked Board members to consider five professional conference requests as one item. The first request is for eight teachers and administrators to attend the Kagan Professional Development Conference in Orlando, Fla. from July 12-13. See enclosure #42. The second request is for a PWHs teacher to attend an Advanced Placement Summer Workshop at Drew University in Madison, N.J. from August 11-15. See enclosure #43. The third request is for a PWHs teacher to attend a Core-Plus Mathematics Workshop at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Mich. from July 29 to August 1. See enclosure #44. The fourth request is for three teachers to attend the National Council of Teachers of English Institute for the 21st Century Conference in Indianapolis, Ind. from July 20-23. See enclosure #45. The final request is for a PWHs teacher to attend Carnegie Learning Regional Training in Pennsauken, N.J. from August 12-14. See enclosure #46.

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, 8-0.

Mr. Johnson requested that Board members act on two student trip requests in one motion. The first trip is for the PWHs girls' basketball team to attend summer camp at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, N.C. from July 9-13. See enclosure #47. The other trip is for the PWHs football team to attend summer training camp in Pottstown, Pa. from August 17-21. See enclosure #48.

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

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a bid for the installation of lighting on Colonial field. See enclosure #49. Mr. Yemm explained that the lighting was for Colonial Field only and that the District had not obtained approvals as yet to install lighting on Victory Fields #1, #3 or the tennis courts. Responding to a question from Mr. Slutsky, Mr. Yemm noted that \$150,000 was allocated for the project and the bid is under budget. Responding to a question from Mrs. Moore, Mr. Yemm stated that the project is to be completed on or before August 12.

Mrs. Moore moved and Dr. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the lighting bid. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mr. Yemm also noted that bids had been received for the installation of kitchen ovens at PWHs and Colonial Middle School. See enclosure #51. He confirmed that the \$67,266.30 cost includes installation.

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

The solicitor informed Dr. Cotter that the Board may wish to invite public comment on the oven bid since the item was listed among the committee reports and not on the regular agenda. There was no public comment.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: Mr. Zimmer reported that the MCIU Board slate of officers was presented at the May 28 meeting and a vote will occur at the June 25 meeting. He also noted that the Board heard a report highlighting the Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development Division of the IU.

CMCAVTS: No report.

Human Resources: Mrs. Luken reported on agenda items at the June 4 committee meeting including the MyLearningPlan.com software approved earlier. The committee also supported a reduction in the number of stipend positions for computer resource persons.

Mrs. Luken moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve a tentative agreement with the District's Support Professionals subject to final language review. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Luken moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve salaries for administrators, central office personnel, and non-bargaining unit employees for the 2008-2009 school year. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Luken moved and Dr. Scoles seconded a motion to approve an agreement with the Administrative Assistants and Confidential Secretaries through 2011. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Luken moved and Dr. Scoles seconded a motion to approve the 2008-2009 base salary for Dr. Cotter and 100 percent of his bonus for the 2007-2008 school year. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Luken moved and Dr. Scoles seconded a motion to approve the 2008-2009 base salary for Dr. Gorodetzer and 100 percent of her bonus for the 2007-2008 school year. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Mrs. Luken noted that all salaries and agreements are available for review in the District Office upon request.

Finance: Mr. Slutsky noted that the committee met on June 9 to finalize the budget. He commended the administration on an intensive effort to equally meet the needs of the students and the financial needs of the community. He also noted that lunch prices will remain the same but breakfast prices will increase slightly.

Curriculum and Program: Mr. Davis noted that enrollment in summer school at PWHS was way down, signifying that fewer students needed remediation. He noted that PSSA results were positive and asked Dr. Gorodetzer to elaborate. Dr. Gorodetzer said that the administration is very encouraged and that PSSA math and reading scores were up in all schools and grade levels. She stated that more details and AYP results will be available next month.

Facility Management and Transportation: Mrs. Moore provided a project update. She stated that fire suppression installations are complete and that the District is awaiting approvals for fire alarm installation at Plymouth Elementary School, Ridge Park Elementary School and Colonial Middle School. She noted that the renovation of Colonial Elementary School is well underway.

Mrs. Moore asked Mr. Boegly to explain the list of obsolete equipment recommended for disposal. See enclosure #50. Mr. Boegly stated that the equipment is no longer used and is taking up space in storage. Responding to a question from Mrs. Moore, Mr. Boegly stated that the administration is looking to possibly sell the obsolete equipment on E-Bay through the IU or have an external vendor dispose of the items at no cost to the District.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mrs. Luken seconded a motion to approve the removal of the obsolete equipment as listed. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 8-0.

Community Relations and Student Life: Dr. Scoles stated that the committee recommended approval of the formation of a Debate Club at PWHS and the renaming of the PWHS Art Club to the National Art Honor Society. He noted that the CITV students won the Attorney General's "Safe Surf" video contest and that the Committee reviewed a draft of the 2008-2009 Communications Plan.

Safety and Wellness: Mr. Zimmer thanked the administration and committee members for a successful first year of the Safety and Wellness Committee.

Legislative: Dr. Ryan stated that the graduation competency assessments were not gaining approval in the general assembly. He added that the senate has considerably cut the Governor's recommended education spending in the state budget and that the Pennsylvania School Funding Campaign is looking at changing the formula that funds public education in the Commonwealth.

Public Comment: None

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:45 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