

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, July 17, 2008.**

Vice President Johnson convened the general session of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:04 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School (CES) on July 17, 2008.

Board Members Present: Tom Davis, Gary Johnson, Susan Moore, Dr. Pascal Scoles and Mitch Zimmer.

Board Members Absent: Hope Luken, Marc Orlow, Dr. William Ryan and Steven Slutsky.

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; Jeffrey T. Sultanik, Solicitor; John Quinn, Director of CITV; David M. Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator/Board Secretary and Robert Franz

Mr. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Board had met in executive session on July 17 to discuss informational, legal and personnel matters.

Minutes: Mr. Johnson sought Board action on the minutes of the Curriculum Committee and the General Meeting of June 19, the Safety and Wellness Committee of July 1, the Human Resources Committee of July 9, the Facilities Management and Transportation Committee of July 10 and the Special Meeting of July 16. See enclosures #1 through #3 and #31 through #33.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the minutes. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Financial Reports: Mr. Johnson asked Board members to act on 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 June 30, as shown in enclosures #5 through #15.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the financial reports. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Public Comments on the Agenda: Mr. Robert Franz spoke to a newspaper article highlighting the reduction in the state's contribution to the employees' retirement system and inquired as to what affect that may have on the Colonial School District budget. Mr. Bickleman explained that he budgeted for a District contribution of 7.2 percent but that the actual payment will be 4.76 percent. He noted that the 2008-2009 contribution is actually lower than the previous year.

Mr. Franz asked what rate the District received for the bond fund approved in May. Mr. Bickleman stated that the current rate was 2.75 percent with increases to 4.0 percent over the 20-year life of the bond. Mr. Bickleman estimated the average rate for the life of the bond will be 3.75 percent. Mr. Franz agreed that the rate was favorable.

Staff Report: Mrs. DeLong reported on the Lincoln Academy at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School (PWHS). She stated that the alternative education services program accommodated 28 students,

including 10 special education students. She noted that six of the students were seniors and that five had graduated. Three of the graduates were continuing their education and two entered into the work force.

Old Business: Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider action on revisions to Board Policies #217.1, Graduation and #225, Student Awards. See enclosure #16. He reminded members that action was on a second-read basis and that the policy changes reflect current practice.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the policy changes on a second-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Correspondence: Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Bickleman to come to the front of the room. Mr. Johnson presented Mr. Bickleman with a framed certificate from Mr. Jay Himes, the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials. The certificate reflects that Mr. Bickleman was recently granted a renewal of the status of a Pennsylvania Registered School Business Official for a period of four years. See enclosure #34.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter led Board members through his report which includes the Personnel Report and Substitute List and an international educator exchange. See enclosures #17 and #35. He noted that the Personnel Report and Substitute List contains numerous actions including eight resignations, six unpaid leaves, 23 replacements and four new positions. Dr. Cotter informed board members that the eighth resignation can be found on a blue page in front of them. See enclosure #17A. He noted that the report includes one instructional aide substitute. Dr. Cotter stated that among the actions is the appointment of Denise Marks as principal at Conshohocken Elementary School, Karen Gebhardt as associate principal at PWHS, Joe Carracappa as assistant principal at PWHS and Michael McKenna as assistant principal at CES. He added that Board approval is sought for the placement of an exchange teacher from Australia at PWHS for the 2009 calendar year. See enclosure #35.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Board Student Representatives Report: None

New Business: Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider three special education settlement agreements or tuition contracts in one motion. The contacts are with the Nexus School for the years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 at \$57,000 per year; the Magnolia School-Talk, Inc. for 2008-2009 for two students at \$47,250 per year along with Extended School Year services for one student; and the Crefeld School for 2008-2009 for two students at \$26,600 per year.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the contracts. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Dr. Cotter noted that Board action was requested on a blue page regarding a contract with the Colonial Medical Group for student mandated physicals, sports physicals and employee physicals. See enclosure #39.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the contract. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider requests for two students to be granted early admission to kindergarten. He noted that the cases were reviewed in executive session.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the requests. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a legal services consultation agreement with Sweet, Stevens, Katz and Williams for the 2008-2009 school year at an annual cost of \$8,000. See enclosure #18.

Mr. Davis moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to act on a request to contract with ACE American Insurance Company for the full package of all sports coverage and family-funded voluntary coverage for both school-day and full-day insurance coverage. See enclosure #19.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the insurance coverage request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Mr. Johnson requested Board action on a transportation contract for a student attending the Pittsburgh School for the Deaf. See enclosure #20.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the contract. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Mr. Johnson directed the Board to take action on a revised agreement with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU) to increase the District's Internet band width for the 2008-2009 school year. See enclosure #21. Dr. Cotter noted that Board Members had a blue page before them that established the cost of the increase at \$16,390. He stated that the upgrade will allow the District's computers to operate at optimum efficiency.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the revised agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Mr. Johnson asked Board members to consider a MCIU consortium fuel bid. See enclosure #22.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the bid. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on a professional conference request for a teacher to attend an Education Development Center, Inc. workshop in Boston, Mass. from August 4-8. See enclosure #23. He noted that the workshop is entitled Developing Mathematical Habits of the Mind and that IDEA professional development funds will be used to cover conference expenses.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the conference request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Mr. Johnson directed Board members to take action on a student trip request for a PWHS teacher and three to seven students to attend the Pennsylvania Association of Student Council State Conference in Hanover, Pa. from November 12-15. See enclosure #24.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mr. Zimmer seconded a motion to approve the trip request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Mr. Johnson sought Board action on revisions to Board Policy #707, Use of School Facilities and Equipment on a first-read basis. Dr. Cotter noted that the revisions regard the prohibiting of facilities use by individuals for personal profit without prior Board approval.

Mrs. Moore moved and Dr. Scoles seconded a motion to approve the revisions on a first-read basis. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Mr. Johnson asked the Board to consider a request for a foreign exchange student from China to be admitted to PWHS for the 2008-2009 school year. He noted that the high school administration supports the request and it was reviewed in executive session.

Mrs. Moore moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the foreign exchange request. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Mr. Johnson directed the Board to act on a recommended bid for the printing of the 2008-2009 District Activities Calendar. See enclosure #37.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the recommended bid. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Mr. Johnson asked Dr. Cotter if he would like to have Mr. Gary Dernier report on the Lincoln Academy. Dr. Cotter responded affirmatively and noted that Mr. Dernier is making his annual visit to the Board. Dr. Cotter stated that the District is pleased with the services provided by the Lincoln Academy.

Mr. Dernier apologized for being late and thanked the Board for their continued partnership with the Lincoln Academy. He noted that the school is opening a new facility in Audubon. He distributed information on the facility, which he noted was infused with technology and included a high school, middle school and a cyber school.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Sultanik asked the Board to approve Stipulation #99398 regarding discipline of a student. The case was reviewed in executive session.

Mr. Zimmer moved and Mrs. Moore seconded a motion to approve the stipulation. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Mr. Sultanik asked the Board to approve an easement agreement regarding the property at 1800 Johnson Road. See enclosure #25.

Dr. Scoles moved and Mr. Davis seconded a motion to approve the easement agreement. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

Committee Reports: Intermediate Unit: Mr. Zimmer reported that the MCIU Board held its June meeting at the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) facility in King of Prussia. He stated that the Board elected its slate of officers for the coming year. He also noted that the focus of the meeting was on the services offered by PaTTAN. He noted that PaTTAN is the training and assistance arm of the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and that the King of Prussia facility is one of three in the state.

CMCAVTS: No report.

Finance: No report.

Curriculum and Program: Mr. Davis reported on the summer school and extended school year programs in the District. He also spoke to the Summer Online Book Club being piloted by eighth grade language arts and gifted teachers. Dr. Gorodetzer added that there will be a comprehensive review of the summer school programs at the August Curriculum Committee meeting.

Facility Management and Transportation: Mrs. Moore noted that the Building and Grounds staff was busy with a number of summer projects.

Community Relations and Student Life: Dr. Scoles stated that Plymouth Township Day is on July 26 and that the District Activities Calendar will be in the mail to parents and senior Gold Card members in August.

Safety and Wellness: Mr. Zimmer reported that the committee reviewed the final report of the Bullying and Prevention Committee. He also noted that the District may apply for a second year of funding of the PDE's Safe Schools Initiative Grant. CSD is eligible for up to \$34,180 in funding and is in the process of applying for those funds. Mr. Zimmer noted a decline in bus discipline for the past school year and reported that the committee is working on updating the emergency flip charts that are found in each building classroom and office.

Human Resources: Mr. Hartz reported that the committee reviewed a school nurse staffing proposal, discussed revising the rate for building substitutes for the coming school year and conducted a position review. He added that he will make a recommendation regarding the number of 403B providers that the District will support at the next committee meeting.

Legislative: No report.

Public Comment: None

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

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Sherman
Board Secretary