

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Warminster, Pennsylvania

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING**  
**HELD APRIL 23, 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on April 23, 2012, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Pollock at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The following Board members were in attendance:

Steven Adams	Charles Kleinschmidt
Kati Driban	Jane Schrader Lynch
Michael Hartline	Dr. Andrew Pollock
Betty Huf	David Shafter

Mark B. Miller participated electronically from a remote location.

The following Administration members were in attendance at the meeting:

Dr. Jennifer Cressman	Robert Reed
Christopher Berdnik	Dr. Susan Klyman
William Gretton	Wayne Robinson

Additional meeting attendees are listed on the attached sheet.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Dr. Pollock led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Pollock announced that the Board had met in executive session prior to this Board meeting to discuss legal, personnel, and real estate matters.

Mr. Adams acknowledged Messrs. DiNardo and Burnley, two former employees of Centennial School District, who had recently passed away.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Representative Bernie O'Neill recognized Carolyn Fisher, Pennsylvania Business Education Association 2011 Secondary Educator of the Year.

**GOOD NEWS**

Mr. William Gretton read the Good News! for April 23, 2012.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

## MINUTES

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf, seconded by Ms. Driban, to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the minutes from the following meetings:*

Education Committee – February 27, 2012  
Finance Committee – March 19, 2012  
Operations Committee – March 7, 2012

*Motion passed 9-0.*

## NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Pollock announced Items 1, 8, and 13 will be read separately before the consent agenda.

Mrs. Huf read the following:

### **BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CENTENNIAL SCHOOL BOARD:**

- 1. Authorizes execution of sales agreements consistent with the Public School Code of 1949, as amended, for the sale of the Leary, Longstreth, and Stackpole properties for a grand total of \$1,330,000 to County Builders with the understanding that \$480,000 shall be allocated to Stackpole and the balance of the offer to be allocated equally to the other two buildings. In addition, said agreement shall reflect that all transferred taxes related to those transactions shall be borne by County Builders. The sales agreements provide for a 60-day due diligence period with closing to follow 30 days thereafter, or as soon as the District's construction schedule permits and court approval is received.*

Seconded by Ms. Driban.

Ms. Driban stated she would like the public to know that these decisions are discussed extensively in committee before going to the full Board for approval. The information is put on the agenda and alternatives are looked at in those committees. These decisions are not made lightly; some of the Board members are parents and are equally affected by these decisions. Ms. Driban stated she received thirty e-mails regarding this issue and asked Administration to address some of those questions at this time.

Dr. Cressman responded by reading a statement that can also be found on her blog; a copy is attached.

Mr. Hartline stated on the website for Centennial School District there is a Frequently Asked Questions section regarding the building sale. Mr. Berdnik has gone through the process of breaking down the sale procedure, the bids that were received, and the funds that are generated from this sale are required by code to go to the Capital Projects Fund. These funds can be used for roofing projects at other schools and also against debt reduction. The funds will be going back into the District.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch stated anyone who lives in this community is saddened by the sale of the buildings. She asked the community to take the time, go online, and read the Agreement of Sale. In the agreement, it states no charter or any other school may be put on these properties, which is a concern of some members in the community.

Mr. Adams stated sometimes these properties are detrimental to the value of surrounding properties if they are sitting vacant.

## COMMUNITY COMMENT

Mr. Gresh, Citation Lane, Warminster, commented that although he understands it is a bad real estate market, he does not understand why the Board would look at bids that are so low. He asked what the original appraised values of the schools were.

Dr. Cressman responded she would have to go back and look that information up; however, it is important to note those appraisals were done five or six years ago.

Mr. Gresh stated he does not understand why the properties would sell for approximately 90% less than they were appraised for. The builder stands to make a lot of money, and the community stands to lose a lot of money.

Mr. Adams responded by saying ten builders said what the market will bear versus the appraisal. We may get zero if pending legislation goes through.

Mr. Al Costa, Amalie Lane, Southampton, commented that he is also a builder. He just learned about these properties in the last few days. He has tried to get in touch with someone regarding how to place a bid for the properties. This morning, he learned the highest bid was \$425,000 for either of these schools. At this meeting, he learned it was \$480,000. He is not sure how the number changed from this morning. He stated he would like to have the opportunity to bid on these properties to see if we can get more money for them.

Dr. Pollock stated it was posted on how to bid on these properties.

Mr. Kernagaan, Marian Road, Warminster, asked if it was a public bid or private.

Mr. Berdnik responded it was public and advertised on the District website, the local cable channel, in newspapers, and the state-wide bid website on multiple occasions.

*Motion passed 9-0.*

Mrs. Huf read the following:

### **BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CENTENNIAL SCHOOL BOARD:**

8. *Approves the proposed adjustments, as attached, for the elementary schools' start and end times beginning September 2012.*

Seconded by Ms. Driban.

Mr. Hartline made a motion to table this.

A motion was made to table Item 8 and seconded by Mrs. Schrader Lynch.

Ms. Driban asked Administration what the impact would be for them if the Board waited on this item.

Dr. Cressman responded Administration does not like this decision either. This is the best they can truly come up with. Aside from purchasing ten more buses, she is not sure Administration would come back with a different outcome.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch stated she does not want to pass this for another month. She has received unbelievable amounts of e-mails. The Willow Dale parents do not want this. It changes their whole life. Mrs. Schrader Lynch does not support this.

Mr. Miller stated he supports Mr. Hartline’s motion to table this, providing Administration can say it will not delay anything. Mr. Miller suggested Administration look into changing the start times of the middle schools and high school.

Mrs. Huf stated she hears in order to get a decent schedule the District would have to purchase more buses, and she does not understand how we got the students to six schools previously but now we cannot get them to three schools without purchasing more buses. Mrs. Huf does not support this “as is”.

Mr. Hartline stated he asked for this to be tabled so Administration can take another look at this. Mr. Hartline made a suggestion that, perhaps, the District could reutilize the buses that are going to be sold.

Dr. Pollock explained that when we had six elementary schools, a larger number of students were able to walk to school because they were neighborhood schools, but now we will have a greater number of students that require busing to the consolidated elementary school locations.

Mr. Hartline stated he would like to see some justification behind these numbers.

Mr. Adams stated this issue is a strong one; he does not want to vote down the extension and then get voted down. Just be aware, we are going to have to pay for it.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch stated she would like to defeat this, but she is not sure there are enough votes in the room. The extension is a good idea; she just heard from our Superintendent this is the best we can do.

Mrs. Huf asked how many buses it would take to keep all of the elementary schools on the same schedule, which is 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Dr. Cressman responded it is estimated they would need an additional ten to twelve buses at a cost of between \$1.0 million and \$1.2 million.

A roll call vote was taken to table Item 8 to no later than the second meeting in May.

*A roll call vote was taken as follows:*

<i>Mr. Hartline</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Kleinschmidt</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Schrader Lynch</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Miller</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Shafter</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Dr. Pollock</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Adams</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Driban</i>	<i>Yes</i>

*Motion to table motion passed 9-0.*

This item has been moved to the Operations Committee meeting now scheduled to be held on Monday, May 7, 2012, instead of Wednesday, May 9, 2012.

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

The following commented on the above item:

David Cohen, Norristown Road, Warminster.  
Tracy Costello, Weber Road, Warminster.  
Michelle McAlister, Surrey Road, Warminster.

Ms. Driban read the following:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CENTENNIAL SCHOOL BOARD:**

*13. Approves the purchase and installation, per the attached COSTARS contract, of playground equipment for Willow Dale Elementary School at a total cost of \$30,868.00, and grants permission for the District to accept a monetary donation in the amount of \$18,883.00 from the Willow Dale Elementary School Home and School Association for the cost of the playground equipment and freight. The cost to the District is \$11,985.00 for borders and the installation of the borders and the play system.*

Seconded by Mr. Hartline.

Michelle McAlister, Surrey Road, Warminster, showed a poster of the playground equipment. The children will select the colors of the playground.

Ms. Driban thanked the Willow Dale Home and School Association for their patience working with Administration on this. Ms. Driban also thanked them for their donation.

Dr. Cressman thanked the Willow Dale Home and School Association for their generous donation.

*Motion passed 9-0.*

Dr. Pollock asked if anyone would like to have any items pulled from consent agenda 2 through 13. The following items were pulled: 3 and 10.

Mrs. Huf read the consent agenda:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CENTENNIAL SCHOOL BOARD:**

- 2. Approves the attached Facility Use Waiver as recommended by Administration for Lions Club All-Star Football.*
- 4. Approves the use of District buses and transportation personnel by the Bucks County YWCA Youth Services for the purpose of conducting their 2012 Summer Camp program at Stackpole Elementary School from June 25 through August 3, 2012. All personnel and fuel costs will be reimbursed by the YWCA.*
- 5. Approves the renewal of the attached agreement between Centennial School District and VITA Education Services, Inc., for the 2012-13 school year.*
- 6. Approves Centennial's participation in the ELECT/EFI Grant Consortium (Education Leading to Employment and Career Training/Early Fatherhood Initiative) for the 2011-12 school year totaling \$2,612.00.*
- 7. Approves the attached secondary-level Social Studies Curriculum Renewal textbook list. The fiscal note for the District is approximately \$146,185.00 and is included in the proposed 2012-13 budget.*
- 9. Approves the renewal of disability insurance with Assurant.*

11. *Approves the purchase of a 30-hour block of time with IT-Solutions at a cost to the District of \$4,500.00 for on-call technical assistance.*
12. *Appoints Christopher M. Berdnik as voting delegate, Linda R. Fanelli as first alternate voting delegate, and Judith K. Markoski as second alternate voting delegate to the Bucks County Tax Collection Committee, per the attached.*

Seconded by Ms. Driban.

*Motion passed 9-0.*

Mrs. Huf read the following:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CENTENNIAL SCHOOL BOARD:**

3. *Rejects the attached Facility Use Waiver as recommended by Administration for The Indian Heritage Association.*

Seconded by Ms. Driban.

Mr. Shafter stated in their application they wrote 60% of the attendees reside in the District. The reason the application was denied was because there was no proof of this. Mr. Shafter asked if there was any discussion with the association asking them to show proof to be approved similar to what we did on Item 2.

Mr. Gretton responded Administration has not heard back from them; they were asked for further documentation.

*Motion passed 8-1-0.*

Mr. Hartline read the following:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CENTENNIAL SCHOOL BOARD:**

10. *Approves the Classroom Audio Visual System Bid No. 2012-25 and awards same to Applied Video Technology (AVT) at the bid price of \$653,632.00.*

Seconded by Ms. Driban.

Mr. Miller stated the Technology Department again has bypassed the Board; this is wrong.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch asked Mr. Miller if it is wrong because of the way the IT Department placed the bid, or in his eyes, is the purchase of the equipment wrong.

Mr. Miller responded the Board was not consulted on what technology to purchase.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch asked what would happen if this was not purchased.

Mr. Miller responded we would have selected other equipment. The Board did not have a say on what types of equipment to purchase.

Mr. Shafter asked what process was used to determine what equipment would be purchased.

Mr. Reed responded this was discussed last year at the Operations Committee meeting on May 18, 2011; it was discussed what was going to be put in at the high school and at Willow Dale. It was decided then that it would come back to the Board, at this time, for the two remaining elementary schools so there would be consistency, which is what we are doing now.

Dr. Pollock said this has gone to two committees, both of which had the opportunity to reject it.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch asked Mr. Hartline if he felt comfortable postponing this until we have heard what is coming out of the Operations Committee with the bell schedule.

Mr. Hartline said he does not see any reason why this cannot be postponed and asked if this is contingent on the wiring, which would delay construction.

Mr. Gretton said it is not contingent on the wiring, it is getting the equipment in and installed before the fall.

Mr. Adams asked if the low bid would be safe if we waited.

Mr. Gretton responded the bid would be good for another couple of weeks; typically they are good for 60 to 90 days.

Mr. Shafter stated we are delaying the purchase of educational equipment but not additional buses.

Dr. Pollock agreed that is not a good precedent to set.

Mr. Kleinschmidt stated some of the technology chosen is very new, which puts us at an advantage for the future.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch asked how necessary it is for our children to have this technology.

Dr. Cressman responded that to keep things equitable across the schools by adopting this we would be making the new schools on par with Willow Dale Elementary School.

*A roll call vote was taken as follows:*

<i>Mr. Kleinschmidt</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Schrader Lynch</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Miller</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Mr. Shafter</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Dr. Pollock</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Adams</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Driban</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Hartline</i>	<i>Yes</i>

Mr. Miller abstained because the Board of School Directors was not sufficiently involved in the selection process for the type of technology being purchased.

*Motion passed 7-1-1.*

**PERSONNEL**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Hartline to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations, Retirements, Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; and Substitute Bus Drivers/Trainees.*

*Motion passed 9-0.*

**FINANCIAL**

*A motion was made by Mr. Hartline and seconded by Ms. Driban to resolve that Centennial School Board accepts the following:*

*Financial Statement Highlights as of March 31, 2012.*

*Motion passed 9-0.*

**OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS**

None.

**ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

**REPORTS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Ms. Driban and seconded by Mrs. Schrader Lynch to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathleen L. Miller  
Board Secretary

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS MEETING**

Date April 23, 2012

Please print clearly. Thank you.

Name	Address	Organization
Conna Lipp	MBIT	MMT
Joel Zorowitz	MBIT	MMT
Cera Garner	MBIT	MMT
Amanda Peterson	MBIT	MMT
Brandon Griffiths	MBIT	MMT
Nicole Williams	1144 Darsch Rd.	Willow Dale
Michelle McAllister	232 Surrey Rd	Willow Dale
Travis Conant	124 Norwinton Rd	Willow Dale parent
CAROLYN FISHER	333 Centennial Rd.	WTHS
ROBERT KERNACIAN	981 MARION RD	
Lynne Dean		Longstreth
Lisa Petetta	1086 Anthony Wagoner	Will. Dale
TRACY COSTELLO	1224 Weber Rd	Willow Dale
Diane Spellman	1148 Lynde Lane	Willow Dale
Michelle Maloy	239 Clearfield Cir	Willow Dale
Jennifer Herman	861 Primrose Dr.	Willow Dale
Karen Shaskan	797 Claire Rd	Willow Dale
Thomas Everly	991 Carousel Dr	Willow Dale
Cheryl Wolf	911 W. Maple Pt.	WTHS/Longstreth
Anita Findley		Longstreth
Dangel Masey		Longstreth/CEA
Mary Ellen Gilbert		Longstreth
Jessica White		Longstreth
Alvora Lonta	665 Amabile Lane	



Many community members have expressed concern over the buildings being sold for “only” \$425,000 per building. Some important facts to help them to understand:

We all wish the properties had sold for more money; however, the bids essentially reflect what the current market will bear. For a variety of reasons, we cannot hold the properties in the event that the real estate market will recover, as we all certainly hope it does.

Just to assure each empty building is secure, dry, insured, snow plowed, mown/landscaped would amount to more than \$50,000 per building per year. In addition, it is never a good course of action to leave a building standing empty in a neighborhood.

In view of the fact that the buildings are being sold “as is, where is”, the purchasing company is absorbing the \$200,000 minimum cost per building of asbestos abatement and building demolition. This results in a cost savings of over \$600,000 to the District.

While some other bid offers were higher, the number of contingencies attached to them made those deals ultimately uncertain. Had the District accepted one of them, we would have run the risk of being a year out from now and having the company renege on the deal. County Builders’ offer of \$1.275 million for the properties “as-is, where-is” is the highest responsible bid within the specification.

There is pending state legislation that, should it pass, would permit charter schools to essentially requisition empty public school buildings for their use with NO financial compensation to the District or community. Razing the buildings and building new residential homes, as County Builders proposes to do, return these properties to the tax rolls for increased revenue to our local municipalities and the District.

Please also feel free to refer questions or concerns to Mr. Christopher Berdnik, our Chief Financial Officer, or me, for we would be happy to discuss them. If you think of anything that would be helpful to add to the Building Sale Frequently Asked Questions, please let us know.

As you can probably imagine, if anyone had told this twenty-year old first grade teacher two decades ago that she would spend so much time in a hardhat (albeit a pink one), on rooftops, learning about mechanical systems, and working with architects and contractors, she would have not believed it! While the work related to constructing our new facilities is an essential part of my current duties, my teacher-heart is eager for the time when I can, once again, spend more time with our children and teachers in our schools and classrooms. I am truly excited about and deeply grateful for the wonderful new learning environments our community has so generously provided for our children.

Yours truly,

Jenny Cressman