

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD FEBRUARY 23, 1999**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on February 23, 1999, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Grossi at 7:47 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members

Joseph Faust
Eugene Grossi
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
Rose Marie Kautz
John Priadka

Staff

Elliott Alexander
Barbara Fash
Frank Gallagher
Victor Lasher
Dr. Michael Masko
Dr. Nancy Reid
John Rhodes
Jean Rollo
Dr. Thomas Sexton
Timothy Vail

Public

Millie Noll
Sue Wunderle
Sue Bazzel
Rick Grillone
Katie Froggatt
Teri Szott
Kate Hendrickson
Shirley Kwait

CEA/Teachers

Gloria Wetzel
Pearline Greene
Joe Aponik
Kerry Bauerle
Karen Rader
Jon Kircher
Patricia Conn
Betty Rhodes
Woody Martin

Ann Compton
Donna Colby
Sue Kerins
Bill Kerins
Shari Glauser
Sina Baranski
Anna Ligambi

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Grossi led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Grossi announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting regarding a labor issue.

Mr. Grossi also reported that Mr. Reh and Mr. Rosenberger were still recuperating from their illnesses and that Ms. Wiercinski was ill, so all would be absent from this meeting.

Dr. Reid spoke about the artwork being displayed in various locations.

GOOD NEWS/PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Sexton presented the Goods News Report (see attached). Mr. Faust reported that the Tennent hockey team would be going to playoffs. Ms. Kautz reported that the girls' swim team had won their third consecutive championship.

Elementary School Improvement Planning Process

Dr. Sexton presented the Elementary School Improvement Planning Process Report (see attachment), which was followed by a brief question and answer period.

Mrs. Jankowsky raised the issue of the Star Report and other similar reports which state that if class size is lowered to 15 to 18 students per class for grades K through 2, there is sustained student achievement through Grade 8. She suggested possibly piloting a program to do this and noted that in addition to class size, we also would need to provide staff development. She felt that we would see quite a return for our money.

Mr. Faust left the meeting at 8:40 p.m. and returned at 8:42 p.m. Mr. Priadka left the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Mr. Grossi and Dr. Reid commended Dr. Sexton and his team for their work on this report.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Bill Kerins, the Upper Southampton real estate tax collector, asked the Board two rhetorical questions, as follows: (1) Why use surrounding districts to compare class size, rather than state or regional statistics? (2) Why not compare achievements to surrounding districts rather than nationally? He also raised a concern about the fact that Upper Southampton residents have indicated that they do not know where their income tax dollars are going.

Mr. Grossi responded that we include our special needs children in testing, unless prohibited by the IEP, so we cannot make a real comparison until there is standardization. He also stated that

since we are in litigation over a tax issue, this could not be discussed at length; however, if there was information that could be provided that could help to reconcile these complaints, it should be forwarded to the District.

Theresa Szott of 1598 Second Street Pike stated that she applauded removal of the August 15 deadline for registration and also supported the pilot program as suggested by Mrs. Jankowsky. She indicated that Council Rock was also discussing class size and that the author of the Star Report stated that even if you could not lower class sizes to the recommended numbers, that did not mean you should do nothing.

Kate Hendrickson of 331 Hogeland Road, Southampton, stated her opinion that the August 15 deadline should be eliminated and that it is unreasonably early. She also stated that she was very happy with Dr. Sexton's presentation and was glad that Administration was listening.

Shari Glauser of 64 Summer Place stated that she felt all of our children deserve the same staffing and programs since they all feed into the same high school.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that Curriculum Council had not discussed the ideas she raised regarding a pilot program. She said that she would value the input of our principals and would ask that Curriculum Council discuss this before any further action was taken.

Mr. Priadka returned to the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Mr. Grossi announced that there would be a change in the order of the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval for Trip by WTHS Future Business Leaders of America to Seven Springs in Champion, PA from April 14 through April 16, 1999

It was noted that the travel cost of the trip would be reduced from \$65 per person to \$45 per person, for a total travel cost of \$990 rather than \$1,430.

A motion was made by Ms. Kautz and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants approval for trip by William Tennent High School Future Business Leaders of America to Seven Springs in Champion, PA from April 14 through 16, 1999, at a cost of \$5,250.00.

The motion passed 6-0.

3. Preliminary Approval for Trip by WTHS Key Club to Hershey, PA on March 13 and 14, 1999

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants approval for a trip by the William Tennent High School Key Club to Hershey, PA on March 13 and 14, 1999, at no cost to the District.

The motion passed 6-0.

4. Marching Band Storage Facility

Mr. Lasher explained that the Marching Band Parents Booster Club had offered to raise money for a storage facility for equipment. The cost would be approximately \$6,000 to \$7,000. The structure would be a block building with steel doors and no windows. The District would provide installation of electricity at an approximate cost of \$500.

In response to a question by Mr. Faust, Mr. Lasher advised that this project would not need to be submitted to the Department of Labor since it would be a minor project.

Mr. Grossi indicated that he would like to see a sketch of the proposed structure. Mr. Lasher advised that an architect would be hired and would be providing a sketch.

Mr. Priadka inquired as to what would be done for ventilation and dampness. He felt that this matter should be subject to approval of the architect's plans. Mr. Lasher advised that the building would have ventilation.

Mr. Faust asked if the District would insure the building and its contents. Mr. Vail indicated that it would be added to the District's blanket policy.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked that the aesthetics of the structure be considered also.

A motion was made by Mr. Priadka and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants approval for the construction of a storage facility for the Marching Band on the William Tennent Marching Band practice field, based on the Board's final review and approval of the plans.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked that the motion include that construction of the storage facility would be at no cost to the District, but that the District would pay for insurance, electricity and electrical apparatus installation. Mr. Priadka and Ms. Kautz, as the mover and seconder of the motion, agreed to the amendment.

The motion passed 6-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absences; Appointments; and Co-Curricular Additions, Changes and Deletions (1998-99 School Year).

The motion passed 6-0.

Dr. Reid then introduced Mrs. Sheila Buckley, the new Assessment Specialist/Staff Developer, and spoke about her experience and achievements. Mrs. Buckley stated that she was very happy to be joining the Centennial team.

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

2. Preliminary Approval for Trip by WTHS Concert Choir to Boston, Mass., May 1999

Sharon Morrison advised that the dates for this trip had changed from May 14-16 to May 16-18 and that since an in-lieu-of day was scheduled at that time, the students would only be missing one day of classes.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for a trip by the William Tennent High School Concert Choir to Boston, Massachusetts, May 16-18, 1999, at a cost to the District of the substitute teacher rate for one day.

The motion passed 6-0.

POLICIES

Discussion:

3.14 – Sexual Harassment of Students

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that this policy was written with the assumption that the principal would not be the accused because the principal is defined as the person conducting the investigation. She suggested that this be written so that it would be more global to allow for that possibility. There was agreement on this point.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that while this policy contains a section on “Consequences”, the previously approved policy on discrimination did not. She felt that there should be consistency on this issue and requested Administration to place the previously approved policy on the March Agenda with a similar section added.

3.28 – Student Health Services

Mr. Faust pointed out a typographical error.

4.1 – Grants

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that Section I. D. should also include notifying Administration of grant applications of \$500 or less.

Mr. Faust felt that it would be easier to use a multi-part form because the Business Office must receive accounting information. After a short discussion, it was the consensus that a multi-part form should be used.

5.3 – Standardized Testing

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that this policy would change testing, particularly in Grades 6 through 8, but leaves intact testing in Grades 2 and 4. She wondered whether there was discussion at Curriculum Council about testing at Grades 2 and 4.

Dr. Masko stated that there had been no discussion at Curriculum Council about elementary testing. Administrators and parents are happy with that.

Mrs. Huf left the meeting at 9:43 p.m.

Mr. Grossi was concerned about losing a data point in the middle school and indicated his opposition to doing so.

Dr. Reid pointed out that a rationale had been provided supporting doing that and that there are advantages.

Mrs. Homel explained that Grade 7 data can be very helpful in planning what will happen in Grade 8, such as which students should take a foreign language and which should take remedial reading. She also pointed out that Grade 6 is a transitional year.

Mr. Faust and Ms. Kautz indicated their support for realignment of the standardized testing program.

Mrs. Huf returned to the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

Mrs. Homel stated that the information obtained in the tests would be more useful if done in Grade 7.

7.28 – Terroristic Threats/Acts

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that this policy should be more global since it only covers threats or acts by students. She felt it should include staff/employees. Mr. Priadka stated that if an adult committed a terroristic act that it would be covered under state law. Mrs. Huf asked if, instead of “student,” the policy could read “perpetrator.” Mr. Priadka indicated that it could.

Mr. Faust felt that under Section IV, everything referred to the “building principal”, whereas he felt it should read “building administrator.” Dr. Sexton explained that they would be acting in the name of the principal. It was decided that it should read “building principal or designee”, or similar language.

7.29 – Safety

Mr. Priadka questioned, in Section I.C., why the words “if possible” were included. Mr. Lasher indicated that the phrase could be removed.

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)5. Impact Aid – Appointment of Board Member

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that in the past, the Board had appointed the Chairman of the Finance Committee to this position. She suggested, in light of Mr. Reh’s illness, that Mr. Faust be appointed to this position. Mr. Priadka indicated that he felt that Mr. Faust was the most knowledgeable person for the position.

After a short discussion over how the position had previously been filled, a motion was made by Mr. Priadka and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints Joseph Faust, Board Member, to serve as Impact Aid representative. This appointment is in accordance with federal regulations requiring the appointment of a representative prior to the filing of Centennial’s funding application in March 1999.

The motion passed 5-0-1 (Kautz abstained.)

6. Impact Aid – Application

Mr. Vail advised that this application was due to be submitted by March 1 and that it was ready to submit. After the Board adopted this resolution, the application would be mailed.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board directs Timothy E. Vail, Business Administrator, to prepare and submit the District’s Title VIII (Impact Aid) application for 1998/99.

The motion passed 6-0.

7. Conveyance of Federal Property

A motion was made by Ms. Kautz and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes the Board President to submit the attached letter to the U.S. Navy requesting consideration of Impact Aid language in the upcoming conveyance of federal property to Warminster Township.

Mr. Faust advised that the Finance Committee requested additional copies to be distributed to Warminster Township and the FLRA. He requested that this be included in the motion.

Ms. Kautz and Mrs. Jankowsky agreed to the addition to the motion.

The motion passed 6-0.

8. District Calendar – 1999/2000

Dr. Sexton briefly explained the calendar. Mrs. Huf indicated that transportation would be provided from Centennial to MBIT on days when Centennial is closed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the proposed Centennial School District calendar for the 1999/00 school year.

The motion passed 6-0.

9. Elementary Modern Language Pilot

Dr. Masko explained that at the December Board Meeting, when the middle school language program was discussed and approved, the Board had asked Administration to pursue the possibility of an elementary after school program in foreign language. He indicated that Administration had done so and that they recommended trying this out on a pilot basis for one year, after which it would be evaluated.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves a pilot elementary after-school modern language program in the 1999-2000 school year at no cost to the District and at locations to be determined by Administration.

The motion passed 6-0.

10. Middle School Performance Targets

No action required at this time. This matter will be voted on in March.

11. Social Studies Assessment

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the \$14,000 required for this was included in the budget document. Dr. Reid indicated that it was not. Mrs. Jankowsky stated that if this motion was approved, the \$14,000 must be added to the budget.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board recommends development of a program assessment instrument for social studies K-12 not to exceed \$14,000.

The motion passed 6-0.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that Administration had presented this concept to Curriculum Council and had its support and endorsement.

12. Adult Education Instructor's Fees

A motion was made by Ms. Kautz and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the payment of fees for the Adult Evening School instructors for the 1998/99 school year. These fees are supported by the tuition paid by students of the Adult Evening School.

The Board thanked Mrs. Fikaris for teaching Computing to seniors at no cost.

The motion passed 6-0.

OTHER

Dr. Reid advised that at the Finance Meeting there was a request for Administration to look at some possible studies and presentations regarding the Homestead Act (Act 50). Mr. Grossi stated that we might wish to pursue studies by Public Financial Management and also by PSBA. This matter will be placed on the March agenda.

Times for the capital tour were discussed and it was decided that the tour would be on Saturday, March 6, at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Priadka commended Mr. Vail for his work on the preliminary budget and the way in which it was put together.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Priadka to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary