

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD APRIL 6, 1999

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on April 6, 1999, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Grossi at 7:42 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Joseph Faust
Eugene Grossi
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
Rose Marie Kautz
Robert Rosenberger
Kristina Wiercinski

Public:

Harry T. Lipschultz
Elliott Seif
Karen Nice
Jean Nice
Sina Baranski
Janet Marineff
Ira Lee Riddle

Staff:

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

CEA/Teachers:

Molly Leahy

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 two personnel items and a conference item regarding the Board retreat.

Mr. Faust reported that on April 8th the elementary schools would be participating in the countywide reading Olympics and that all Board members were invited.

Dr. Reid advised that Mr. Reh had called her to thank the Board for the fruit basket that had been sent to him. [Mr. Reh was absent from this meeting due to illness.]

Dr. Reid advised that every three years the District is required to perform a census; therefore, on Monday, April 12th, postcards would be sent to each Warminster resident who resides in either Leary or Willow Dale Schools. If the mailers are returned, a census enumerator does not have to visit the homes. Dr. Reid indicated that a notice would appear in the newspaper regarding the census.

Ms. Kautz reported that she and Dr. Reid had attended Market Day at Klinger the previous week and that \$3,715 had been raised for the Children's Miracle Network. Mr. Alexander advised that all of the children who participated were invited to appear on the Children's Miracle Network Telethon in June.

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

Mrs. Homel gave this report on behalf of Ari Gottlieb, as follows: the Senior Class was planning a Mr. Tennent Competition for April 22nd, they would be participating in Rage for AIDS on May 15th and are sponsoring an MS Walkathon; on April 17th the Junior Prom would be held; Tennent Clean-up Day was approaching; the Reading Olympics would be held on April 8th; the Student Government would be participating in Operation Helping Hand; the Student Forum had made a presentation to the I.U. Board; the soccer, track and volleyball teams were having successes; and the Athletic Council would be painting the football stadium food stand.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

GOOD NEWS/PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Homel presented the Good News Report (see attached).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Reid introduced Harry Lipschultz and Barbara Fash, who made a brief presentation on the W.I.S.E. organization (Warminster, Southampton, Ivyland Embracing... Communities That Care.) They also introduced Sina Baranski, a Vice-Chairperson, and spoke about the wide range of people involved in the organization. They are hoping to have a presentation next month on inhalants and inhalant abuse.

Dr. Reid reported on parent conference data.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that the next meeting would be on April 12th regarding “Standards”. She indicated that there would be a three-part presentation, including: (1) Dr. Masko – District performance standards in math and language arts; (2) Dr. Reid – new standards in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Standards Consortium; and (3) Dr. Masko – Pennsylvania standards. She felt that this would be an informative meeting for new School Board members.

WTHS Middle States Accreditation

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the evaluation team had met with Board members, the Superintendent and Mrs. Homel on March 31st to discuss the process of evaluation. Later that day the evaluation team addressed the entire staff from the high school.

Mr. Faust advised that the implementation team would meet on April 18th. Mrs. Jankowsky asked him to determine at that meeting where we are with regarding to AP courses and the foreign language requirement at the high school.

Mr. Grossi advised that there were some fiscal notes attached to the proposals regarding Mid States and that they would be examined at the April or May Board Meeting for accuracy and completeness.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf reported that the next meeting would be on April 12th.

Intermediate Unit

Ms. Kautz reported that a meeting was held on March 16th, at which Student Forum members made a presentation. She also reported as follows:

- The 1999 directories and resource guide had been distributed.
- Stanley Booz was approved as auditor until June 30, 2001.
- A resolution was approved outlining qualifications for the Executive Director position.
- Warren Likens’ contract was approved for an additional four-year period.
- Board Members met in Executive Session with the Personnel Committee to consider options for hiring. It was decided that they would use a combination of looking inside, then doing an outside search. Ms. Kautz noted that the salary has not yet been set and that a meeting would be held in mid-April to determine what should be included in the contract.
- She sent a letter to legislators requesting their support for House Bill 16 and Senate Bill 153 to increase school funding for special education to school districts. Mrs. Jankowsky requested that copies be distributed to Board members.

- The I.U. had arranged for free admission to the Michener Museum for all Bucks County students and teachers.
- She received a letter from the Department of the Auditor General indicating that the audit for 1997 and 1998 would begin on March 29th.
- The Education Foundation would be meeting on April 7th. At its previous meeting, the by laws were revised and two grants were approved. At its upcoming meeting they would be discussing an ad book for the September 27th golf outing.

PSBA

Ms. Kautz reported that the PSBA Region 11 cabinet would meet prior to the Regional Dinner on May 5th.

She also reported that a joint meeting of the Authorities had been held on March 25th, at which officers were elected and a resolution was unanimously passed to terminate the Authority.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Faust reported that three meetings had been held, at which the preliminary budget was reviewed and recommendations for changes were made. He advised that a new budget document was being printed and that another meeting would be held on April 19th. He indicated that at this point the budget was still a working document. Mr. Vail stated that the next step would be to bring the paperwork before the Board.

Title VIII

Mr. Faust reported that an ad hoc committee meeting would be scheduled soon. He advised that he had spent several days in Washington at the NAFIS conference. He met with Senator Santorum's staff as well as other committee people regarding Title VIII's being up for reauthorization (as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.) He indicated that he is in the process of writing an in-depth report for the Friday Update.

Mr. Faust also advised that there would be another Section 8002 Conference in June in South Dakota. He suggested that the Board consider sending Mr. Vail to this conference since he had attended previous conferences.

FLRA

Mrs. Huf questioned whether there would be a cost involved in engaging financial advisors, as described in Mr. Lasher's FLRA Report. Mr. Lasher stated that this was unknown at this point.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

Citizens Policy

No report.

Legislative Liaison

Mr. Grossi advised that this would be included in the Friday Update.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Sina Baranski of 854 Pelham Avenue advised that there would be a W.I.S.E. presentation on April 8th at 7:30 p.m. in the Klinger Middle School Cafeteria. She also introduced Dr. Ira Lee Riddle, who was involved with W.I.S.E.

Karen Nice of 1031 Riviera Road, Warminster, addressed the Board regarding a hazing incident that involved her son. Mr. Grossi cautioned her that since an investigation was underway, she should be careful not to discuss the facts of the incident since it could taint her case. Mrs. Homel advised that the investigation was complete and that she would be meeting with the solicitor the following day to confirm several issues. In response to Mrs. Nice's concerns that she be advised of developments, Dr. Reid indicated that Mrs. Nice would be contacted the following day.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the minutes of: School Board Meeting/Work Session – 2/23/99; Regular School Board Meeting – 3/9/99; and accepts the minutes of: Finance & Long Range Budget Planning Committee – 2/22/99; and Education Committee – 3/1/99.

The motion passed 7-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Initial Distribution:

Ms. Wiercinski noted the following policies for initial distribution: 2.23 – Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace; and 7.14 – Tutorial Services.

Final Approval:

3.11 – Prohibiting Discrimination in Education

A motion was made by Ms. Wiercinski and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the adoption of Policy 3.11, Prohibiting Discrimination in Education.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked for confirmation that, under Section V, Consequences, the intent was that a letter would always be placed in the personnel file of the perpetrator. Dr. Sexton confirmed this.

The motion passed 7-0.

7.28 – Terroristic Threats

[No motion was made at this time.]

Ms. Wiercinski advised that the Commonwealth Court had just made an issue about the fact that if school boards perform investigations, they may be considered an arm of the police, thereby raising “reasonable suspicion” to “probable cause.” She indicated that they suggested that school boards include certain language in their policies regarding this.

In light of this new information, Mr. Grossi suggested that this policy be returned to the solicitor for review. Mrs. Jankowsky advised that PSBA had sent out an EMG publication regarding board policies on terroristic threats and acts, which spoke about parental notification. She felt that this could also be reviewed by the solicitor.

Mr. Grossi requested that this be returned to Administration.

FINANCIAL

A motion was made by Ms. Kautz and seconded by Ms. Wiercinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the: Schedule of Bills – March 1999 (all funds), Investments – March 1999, Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – February 1999, and General Fund Budget Report – February 1999; and approves the: Treasurer’s Report – February 1999 and Budgetary Transfers – 1998/99 Budget Year.

Ms. Wiercinski left the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Several items were clarified.

Ms. Wiercinski returned to the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

The motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. WTHS Student Trip to Salisbury, England

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval for the William Tennent High School student trip to Salisbury, England from July 5 to July 19, 1999.

The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Faust left the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

2. Approve Capital Improvements to Administration Building

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the appropriation of \$18,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to finance renovations to the front entrance area of the administration building to accommodate the new reception/waiting/lunch room area.

Mr. Grossi advised that this would be coming out of existing funds. In response to a question by Mrs. Jankowsky, Mr. Vail advised that the money would be taken against the current year's budget.

Mr. Faust returned to the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

The motion passed 7-0.

3. Suspended Ceiling Bid
4. Lighting Installation Bid
5. Asbestos Removal Bid
6. Tile Installation Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following bids: (3) the Suspended Ceiling Bid No. 99-24 to be awarded to A. Tripod Associates at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$44,400.00; (4) the Lighting Installation Bid No. 99-25 to be awarded to Fisher Electric at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$35,000.00; (5) the Asbestos Removal Bid No. 99-26 for Klinger Middle School and McDonald Elementary School to be awarded to Pepper Environmental for alternate no. 1 at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$21,000.00; and (6) the Tile Installation Bid No. 99-27 for Klinger Middle School and McDonald Elementary School to be awarded to Mid Atlantic Flooring Co. at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$28,869.00.

Mrs. Huf commented that she had missed the building tour but that she had gotten together with Mr. Lasher to see what work was going to be done. She thanked him for all the work that had been done to change the lighting.

The motion passed 7-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Ms. Wiercinski and seconded by Mr. Rosenberger to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absences; Appointments; and Substitute Bus Drivers.

A motion was made by Ms. Wiercinski and seconded by Ms. Kautz to amend the motion by removing the second name under “Resignations.”

The motion to amend passed 7-0.

Mr. Vail noted the following change under the Appointments section: the start date for Ms. Markoski should have read 4/6/99 rather than 4/8/99.

The motion passed 7-0.

A motion was made by Ms. Wiercinski and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board would not accept the requested leave of absence of the second name that appears on the list under the code “U-S.”

The motion passed 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that this was the second year in which the new format for Board Meetings was being piloted. She felt that the idea was that the policy was to be changed to reflect the new format but that the old policy was still currently in place. She suggested that this be placed on a future agenda.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

Ms. Kautz noted that she would not be available for the Board Meeting on April 20th since she would be up at the I.U. (The Board Meetings for April were scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays rather than the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary