

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD APRIL 20, 1999**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on April 20, 1999, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Grossi at 7:46 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Joseph Faust
Eugene Grossi
Betty Huf
Rose Marie Kautz *
John Priadka
Robert Rosenberger
Kristina Wiercinski

(* Arrived at 9:04 p.m.)

Administration:

Barbara Fash
Pearline Greene
Sandy Homel
Victor Lasher
Dr. Michael Masko
Dr. Nancy Reid
John Rhodes
Jean Rollo
Dr. Thomas Sexton
Timothy Vail
Gloria Wetzel

CEA/Teachers:

Kerry Bauerle
Elizabeth Kempf
Jonathan Kircher

Public:

Steven Merin
Matt Merin
Donna Merin
Sandra Ebinger
Myra A. Nevius
Sue Bazzel
Jeanne Tomko
Ruth Luebbe
H. Robert Luebbe
Grace Loscalzo
Brian Reiff
Robert Levin
Donna Levin
Bonnie Stenberg
Maria Faunce
Henry & Judy Tairanglo
The McGintys
Ira Lee Riddle
Harve Strouse

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Grossi called for a moment of silence for the students, staff and families involved in the shooting incident at the high school in Littleton, Colorado, earlier in the day.

Mr. Grossi announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting regarding personnel matters relative to retirement incentives, compensation and a legal matter, and a conference matter relative to the Board retreat.

Pursuant to a request by Administration, three Board members were appointed to the Reading/Language Arts Textbook Selection Committee, as follows: Mrs. Huf – Elementary; Mrs. Jankowsky – Middle School; and Mr. Faust – High School.

Mr. Grossi advised that Mr. Reh was still recuperating from his illness but was improving steadily. Also, Mrs. Jankowsky was absent from the meeting due to illness and Ms. Kautz was absent due to an I.U. meeting. (Ms. Kautz arrived later in the meeting.)

Dr. Reid commended the Bucks County Youth Services Alternative Program students for the gardening efforts and pointed out artwork by Klinger Middle School students that was displayed in the Administration Building.

GOOD NEWS/PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Kastle spoke briefly about the Robot Club, a new student activity at Tennent, and introduced Judy Hoffman, the teacher involved with the club. Ms. Hoffman spoke about the team's first competition at Penn State in Abington. Randy Tobias, a member of the club, provided a demonstration of the competitive presentation, which involved programming a Lego robot to perform various tasks. After the demonstration, Mr. Grossi congratulated the club on its achievement and offered good wishes for its future success.

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Donna Levin of Warminster read a prepared statement on behalf of the parents of seven students who had been suspended from Tennent for an alleged hazing incident. The statement accused the Board of proceeding with disciplinary action prior to a thorough investigation and requested that the boys be reinstated after their suspensions were up.

Maria Woods of 812 Spruce Road, Warminster, advised that her son had been on the Wrestling team in the past and spoke highly of it. She voiced her concern over this matter.

Mr. Grossi advised that because the Board may need to hear this case and act as a jury, they could not listen to pertinent facts or otherwise comment on the issue. Ms. Wiercinski explained that Board members had imposed a blackout on themselves for this reason. Mr. Grossi assured the parents that due process would be afforded everyone involved.

Mr. Grossi then announced that the order of the Agenda would be changed.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Permission to Apply for Funding from Coca-Cola Foundation

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Ms. Wiercinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the request to apply for funding from Coca-Cola Foundation for a \$15,000 grant to support the development of the Stackpole multimedia publishing center.

Mrs. Huf asked if this would open the door for commercialization within the District. Pearlina Greene responded that it would not involve commercialization other than a small sign stating the equipment was purchased through a grant by the Coca-Cola Company.

Mrs. Bauerle, the reading specialist, spoke about the program. Children from Stackpole School distributed a T-shirt and book entitled "*We Spy Stackpole School*" to each Board member. Mrs. Bauerle explained how the students planned and carried out the project and how it was tied into the curriculum. Dr. Sexton commended everyone involved with the project.

The motion passed 6-0.

1. Final Approval of WTHS Marching Band Trip to Quebec and Montreal from April 30 through May 5, 1999

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board gives final approval for William Tennent High School Marching Band trip to Quebec and Montreal from April 30 through May 5, 1999 at an approximate cost of \$600 to the District.

The motion passed 6-0.

2. Preliminary Approval of WTHS Spanish Language Students' Trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico from June 23 to July 3, 2000.

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Mr. Priadka to resolve that the Centennial School Board gives preliminary approval for William Tennent High School Spanish Language Students' trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico from June 23 to July 3, 2000, at no cost to the District.

The motion passed 6-0.

17. Preliminary Approval of WTHS Key Club Students' Overnight Trip to Doylestown on May 22, 1999

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Mr. Priadka to resolve that the Centennial School Board gives preliminary approval of William Tennent High School Key Club Students' overnight trip to Doylestown on May 22, 1999.

It was reported that the students would be camping overnight in Central Park in Doylestown and that at this point there were seven students planning to attend.

The motion passed 6-0.

15. Exception to Facility Use Policy for WTHS

19. Exception to Facility Use Policy for Stackpole Elementary School

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Ms. Wiercinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the exception to Facility Use Policy for: (#15) the Habitat for Humanities of Bucks County to use the High School auditorium at no cost to the District; and (#19) The Links, Inc. to use Stackpole School at no cost to the District.

Mr. Faust requested the rationale for #15, since this request was originally turned down. Mr. Grossi explained that the original request did not meet policy guidelines, therefore an exception had to be requested. Mrs. Homel provided additional details.

Dr. Reid clarified that, contrary to what was set forth on the application, there would be no cost to the District for custodial fees.

Brian Reiff of Habitat for Humanity briefly addressed the Board regarding this request.

Mr. Rosenberger requested a background check on the organization prior to a vote. Mr. Faust requested that the paperwork be corrected.

A motion was made by Mr. Priadka and seconded by Mr. Rosenberger to table the portion of the motion that related to Item #15.

The motion to table passed 6-0.

Mr. Grossi advised that the portion of the motion relative to Item #15 would be tabled until the next regular Board Meeting on May 11th.

Discussion continued with respect to Item #19.

Mr. Faust asked for information on The Links, Inc. Myra Nevius explained that The Links is a national women's service organization with over 10,000 members throughout

the United States. The requested use was for a children's art fair, which would last for three hours. Mrs. Huf noted that only 4% of the organization's members were residents of the District. Ms. Nevius explained that the application was on behalf of the Bucks County Chapter, whose members are spread throughout the county.

The motion passed 6-0 (as it related to Item #19 only.)

10. Reappointment of Treasurer to Centennial School Board

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the reappointment of H. Robert Luebbe as treasurer for fiscal year 1999/00 at an annual stipend of \$1,250 and that the public official bond for the treasurer be renewed in the face amount of \$20,000 for fiscal year 1999/00.

Mr. Grossi provided some background information on Mr. Luebbe and thanked him for his service.

Mr. Luebbe stated that he appreciated the confidence we have in him. He also stated that he had enjoyed working with Mr. Vail, the new Business Manager and that he felt Mr. Vail was very qualified.

The motion passed 6-0.

18. Busing Request

Ms. Wiercinski advised that at 5:30 that evening the Operations Committee had met regarding a busing matter and issued a recommendation to the Board. The committee's findings were as follows:

- the incident involved a 9th grade Tennent student
- the average speed on the road in question was 30-33 mph
- speed checks were performed approximately every other day and two or three times per week
- the accident was caused by driver error
- there was no crime committed or citation issued

In light of the above findings, the committee recommended that transportation arrangements remain the same in this matter.

Janet Marinoff of Fern Road, Southampton, requested the addition of a bus stop. She stated that she felt the existing bus stop was unsafe and that there were also safety issues involved regarding the walk to the bus stop in the early morning hours. She requested a bus stop be placed at Fern and Holly Roads.

After a brief discussion of specifics, a motion was made by Ms. Wiercinski and seconded by Mr. Rosenberger to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the

recommendation of the Operations Committee with regard to the busing incident that was discussed on April 20, 1999.

The motion passed 4-2 (Priadka and Huf opposed.)

4. Permission to Apply for Read to Succeed Grant for 1999/00

A motion was made by Mr. Priadka and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the request to apply for funding for a \$55,000 state grant to support Read to Succeed and a \$27,500 supplement from the 1999/00 General Fund as the required match to support this program.

The motion passed 6-0.

5. Permission to Apply for Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Program Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Priadka and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the request to apply for funding for a \$150,000 Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Program grant to support the Community for Learning Reform Model at McDonald School.

The motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Kautz arrived at the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

6. Approval of the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology 1999/00 Budget

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Priadka to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology 1999/00 budget in the amount of \$4,888,226.

Mr. Grossi advised that Centennial's cost this year was slightly below last year. He urged support of this budget with new initiatives.

Dr. Lees spoke briefly about the three new initiatives regarding telecommunications, the addition of a computer teacher and an increase in the support staff by a one-half position (an instructional assistant to work with the special needs students.)

Ms. Wiercinski and Mr. Faust left the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

The motion passed 5-0.

8. Continuation of Program at Dorothy M. Henry Alternative School for 1999/00 School Year

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants approval to make application to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the continuation of the Dorothy M. Henry Alternative School program for the 1999/00 school year.

The motion passed 5-0.

11. Pupil Transportation Contract for 1998/99

A motion was made by Ms. Kautz and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes an additional pupil transportation contract for the 1998/99 school year at an estimated cost of \$1,192.

The motion passed 5-0.

12. Premium Only Plan – Support Staff

Mr. Grossi advised that this matter would be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

9. Out-of-Assigned-Zone School Placement

Mr. Grossi stated that this policy had been in effect for two years. One of the years there was no problem; the other year there was a problem requiring implementation of the policy. He questioned why this was appearing now for rescission since this was only the second year of a three-year cycle.

Dr. Sexton explained that the procedure was intended to be implemented when a student who registers after August 15th creates the need for an additional teacher. In such case the student would be assigned to the closest school where additional staff would not be required. He indicated that there was considerable testimony on the part of several parents who felt that the class size policy should be lowered. Dr. Sexton felt that this was not necessary and that the large class sizes were caused by students being transferred to other schools because of this policy. He was also informed that several students went to parochial school because of this policy.

Mr. Faust returned to the meeting at 9:12 p.m. Ms. Wiercinski returned to the meeting at 9:13 p.m. Mr. Rosenberger left the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Mrs. Huf voiced her support of rescinding the policy.

Mr. Priadka left the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Mr. Grossi felt that the policy needed to be in effect for three years so that the impact could be evaluated.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board rescinds approval to out-of-assigned-zone school placement.

Mr. Grossi stated that he felt this should be handled at the next meeting but that it was up to the Board.

The motion failed 1-4. (Faust, Grossi, Kautz and Wiercinski opposed.)

Mr. Rosenberger and Mr. Priadka returned to the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

13. Dissolution of Authorities

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the attached resolutions accepting the request by the Centennial Joint School Board Authority, the Upper Southampton School Authority and the Warminster Township School Board Authority to terminate their existence upon acceptance of same by the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The motion passed 7-0.

20. Investment Approval

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes the investment of District monies in the Federated Investment Managers Government Obligations Fund as per the attached corporate resolution. All monies invested are to be in AAA Standard & Poor's Mutual Fund Government Securities in keeping with Section 440.1(v) of the Pennsylvania School Code. Monies will be available for draw down as required to meet expenses as deemed necessary by Administration.

Mrs. Huf stated that she was apprehensive about this.

Mr. Grossi advised that the Finance Committee supported these recommendations.

The motion passed 4-3. (Faust, Huf and Priadka opposed.)

A question was raised as to whether five "aye" votes were required to pass this motion. After researching the question, Ms. Wiercinski advised that five "aye" votes were not required.

14. Middle School Performance Targets

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Middle School Performance Targets as presented.

The motion passed 7-0.

16. Bid No. 99-28 – Gym Floor Refinishing at WTHS

A motion was made by Ms. Kautz and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves gym floor refinishing at William Tennent High School Bid No. 99-28 to be awarded to Dean Harley & Son in the amount of \$15,384.

Ms. Kautz asked when this had last been done. Mr. Lasher responded that it had never been done.

Mr. Faust questioned whether we had ever used this firm. Mr. Lasher responded that in the past two years they had been used at both McDonald and Davis, with satisfactory results.

The motion passed 7-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts all personnel recommendations.

The motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

7. Adoption of 1999/00 Preliminary Budget

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Priadka to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the preliminary budget for 1999/00 for \$55,521,195.

Mr. Grossi advised that this was the preliminary budget recommended by the Finance Committee and that there would be some adjustments made. He indicated that the budget was in balance and that there would be no tax increase.

Mr. Faust stated that the budget was balanced but that we would be using \$840,000 from the fund balance. As retirements come through, we may have a truly balanced budget, enabling us to save the fund balance. He indicated that we should have this information within the next ten days.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Mr. Rosenberger	Yes
Ms. Kautz	Yes
Mr. Priadka	Yes
Mr. Faust	Yes
Mrs. Huf	Yes
Ms. Wiercinski	Yes
Mr. Grossi	Yes

The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Faust asked when the public hearing would be held. Mr. Vail responded that it would be on May 11th.

POLICIES

Discussion:

2.5 – Prohibiting Discrimination in Employment

Dr. Sexton explained that this policy was appearing because a Board Member requested the addition of a *Consequences* section.

2.23 – Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace

Dr. Sexton advised that the solicitor had reviewed this policy.

Mr. Faust questioned whether “look-alikes” should be included, i.e. attempting to pass off a substance as a controlled substance. Mr. Rosenberger advised that an actual drug must be involved in order to prosecute. Ms. Wiercinski clarified that we could carry out proceedings against students in-house for this but that the police would not prosecute.

7.14 – Tutorial Services

No discussion.

Final Approval:

2.27 – Retirement Incentive Program

A motion was made by Ms. Wiercinski and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the adoption of Policy 2.27, Retirement Incentive Program for Administrators.

The motion passed 7-0.

7.28 – Terroristic Threats

A motion was made by Ms. Wiercinski and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the adoption of Policy 7.28, Terroristic Threats/Acts.

Dr. Sexton advised that he and Ms. Wiercinski had discussed this matter subsequent to the last Board meeting. He also discussed the issue with Mr. Garton and Mike Levin, who has written several articles on this topic. Mr. Levin assured him that, regarding the issue of *probable cause*, the policy would not place us in the position of being an arm of the law. He did, however, suggest several other changes that would not affect the intent of the policy, particularly a revision of Section IV. A. 1. A question was raised as to whether the *Employee* section should read the same way as the *Student* section. There was consensus of the Board that it should.

Mr. Faust questioned the issue of conducting an investigation and notifying the police. Discussion ensued regarding the order in which these should occur and the fact that they could not occur simultaneously. Mr. Priadka felt that it should be decided on a case by case basis and that it should be quickly determined whether or not to call the police.

Ira Lee Riddle questioned the use of the word “*Guidelines*”. Ms. Wiercinski felt that this word was appropriate.

The motion passed 6-1. (Faust opposed.)

Rescission:

4.10 – Purchase of Equipment and Supplies

A motion was made by Ms. Wiercinski and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the rescission of Policy 4.10, Purchase of Equipment and Supplies. It has been superseded by Policy 7.31, Purchasing Procedures, adopted 12/8/98.

The motion passed 7-0.

Permission to Develop Policy:

Hazing

Mr. Grossi advised that Administration had requested permission to develop a policy regarding hazing. Mrs. Huf distributed to the Board copies of the National School Board Association’s policy on hazing and requested that Administration copy and distribute the Pennsylvania policy, which she had just received.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the development of a policy regarding hazing.

Dr. Sexton also recommended that the proposed policy go through the Citizens' Policy Committee for their review.

The motion passed 7-0.

OTHER

1. Mr. Faust stated that he would like Administration to develop a policy on students suspected of having weapons in school. Dr. Sexton advised that a policy exists but could be reviewed.
2. Mr. Priadka indicated that he would like to bring forward Centennial's emergency procedures. Dr. Reid stated that this could be included in the Friday Update.
3. Mr. Faust stated that an issue involving tax collection that had been discussed in Executive Session would be coming forward at the next meeting. Mr. Grossi advised that the matter would be listed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Priadka and seconded by Mr. Rosenberger to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary