

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 14, 1999**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on September 14, 1999, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Grossi at 7:50 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Joseph Faust  
Eugene Grossi  
Betty Huf  
Joan Jankowsky  
Rose Marie Kautz  
Kristin Kolody \*  
Robert Rosenberger  
Kristina Wiercinski

(\* Note: Ms. Kolody was sworn in as a Board member during the course of the meeting. Mr. Priadka was absent.)

Staff:

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

(\*\* Mrs. Homel arrived at 8:35 p.m.)

CEA/Teachers:

Kerry Bauerle  
Joanne Marchesani  
Richard Osbeck  
Cheryl Tonkinson  
Joanne Silverman  
Teri Hecht

Doris Walsh  
Pam Lynch  
Linda Currie  
Clarisse Brown  
Keely Mahan  
Michael Gearty

Public:

Timothy Lesinski  
Nelson C. Shane  
James L. Maltese  
Polly Maltese  
Ralph Maltese  
Laura Stellato

Domenic Stellato  
Robert A. Shaffer  
Eileen Tagmeyer  
Joseph Tagmeyer  
Ron Sklodowski  
LaDonna Sklodowski

Public (continued):

Janis Keyso  
Michael Heil  
Kathleen Johnston  
William Johnston  
Sam Wilf  
Julie Cassidy  
Gerry Taylor  
Ira Lee Riddle

Vicki Boruta  
Donna Marie Saul  
Karen Whitney  
Harve Strouse  
Sina Baranski  
Justin Truelove  
Jordan Truelove  
Dolores Kolody  
James Kolody

**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 legal issues relative to tax collection policies and also personnel issues regarding evaluations, salary and interviews.

**REPORTS**

**STUDENT COUNCIL**

Tim Lesinski, a Senior Class officer, reported as follows:

- Many of the clubs had begun having meetings and sporting events had also begun.
- The Senior Class Breakfast had been held the previous week.
- Student government was planning activities, including a holiday candygram sale, and was also planning to revise its constitution.

Mr. Lesinski stated that it was his goal to increase student participation in activities this year.

**MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Ida Gaston reported that students at MBIT were preparing for the VICA, HOSA and DECA competitions.

**GOOD NEWS/PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Sexton congratulated Dominic Truelove of Log College for being named the winner of the July poster for the 1999-2000 Earth Day Calendar contest. In Dominic's absence, Dr. Sexton presented the certificate to Dominic's father.

Congratulations were extended to Vic Lasher, who received a funding commitment letter from Universal Service Administrative Company, which administers the E-rate program. Dr. Reid and Mr. Grossi presented Mr. Lasher with a certificate.

Mrs. Jankowsky was presented with a pin and a certificate representing the Advanced Boardmanship Award from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

Michael Heil and James Maltese received certificates for being named National Merit Semifinalists.

Ms. Kautz announced that the girls' field hockey team had taken over first place in the Colonial Division.

Dr. Reid announced that there would be two presentations.

#### Centennial Education Foundation

On behalf of the Centennial Education Foundation, Mr. Alexander presented the following mini-grants:

- Theresa Essig and Gerald Aungst of McDonald. In the absence of the recipients, these awards were accepted by Clarisse Brown, who explained that the money would be used for Craven Hall and for a scanner for graphics organizers.
- Richard Osbeck of Log College, who indicated that the grant money would be used for the Home and School Association by providing for participation in a workshop to enhance team building skills and self esteem.
- Keely Mahan of McDonald, who stated that this money would be used for the fifth grade's Asian Festival.
- Linda Currie of McDonald, who stated that the money would be used by the second grade teachers for Geo Safari talking globes, world map activities charts and supplemental material for the Health curriculum.

#### Elementary Spelling Program

Dr. Masko introduced a presentation by Joanne Marchesani and Kerry Bauerle on the Elementary Spelling Program. Ms. Marchesani and Ms. Bauerle explained that the program had been developed by the six elementary reading specialists. They gave a detailed presentation on how the program would work.

Mrs. Homel arrived at the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

The presentation was concluded at 9:00 p.m.

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Reid presented a short report on the opening of the new school year. (See attached report.)

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that this committee would hold its first meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup> and that the topic would be “Class Size K-12.”

### WTHS Middle States Accreditation

No report.

### Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf reported on the following items from the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- MBIT has 900 students this year.
- Portfolio assessments were discussed.
- The Summer Program Improvements report was given.
- Although newspaper articles were published about a possible merger with another vo-tech school, this was never part of discussions at MBIT.
- Open House will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup>. They will be celebrating 30 years in operation.
- The next meeting was scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested enrollment numbers after October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Intermediate Unit

Ms. Kautz introduced Pat Valentine-Briel, who will be the I.U. liaison for the year.

Ms. Kautz reported that a meeting had been held on September 13<sup>th</sup>, at which the following occurred:

- The Board presentation was devoted to the proposed addition to the I.U. facility to address the need for more staff development technology and meeting space. The Board unanimously approved a motion to contract for consulting engineer services and authorized the solicitation of bids for construction.
- Carole Smith was appointed to replace Warren Smith as Assistant Director of Special Education.
- Tom Lear rescinded his retirement, at least for another year.
- The I.U. Education Foundation has 121 golfers signed up for September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The Foundation has given out \$8,000 in grants to teachers in its first year of operation.

- The Special Education Services Contract with Bristol Borough, Centennial and Neshaminy was approved.
- Participation for the coming year in the Delaware Valley Energy Consortium and the Bucks County Limited Healthcare Consortium was also approved.
- An I.U. workshop entitled “Challenging the Gifted” would be held on October 26<sup>th</sup>.
- The next meeting was scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup>.

### PSBA

Ms. Kautz reported as follows:

- The PASA Conference would be held in Hershey September 28<sup>th</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Region 11 Cabinet would be holding a luncheon on September 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The 5 I.U. Board members attending the conference would be voicing their concern to PSBA regarding the conference being held during the week.
- The Legislative Policy Council meeting would be on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Mr. Faust reported that a meeting had been held on September 13<sup>th</sup>. The following items were discussed:

- The soft drink proposals were discussed again but the matter was tabled so that additional information could be obtained.
- The Committee did move forward with some machines from Canada Dry that have noncarbonated beverages. These machines will be placed in the cafeteria area.
- There was an update on earned income tax.
- Impact aid issues were reviewed.
- The budget calendar was moved forward.

### Title VIII

Mr. Faust advised that he was trying to set up an ad hoc committee.

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

No report.

### **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Ian Truelove of 1189 Charter Road, Ivyland, addressed the Board regarding possible reconsideration of its policy of not allowing home schooled students to take courses at MBIT. He indicated that he has seven children in the District. Currently two of his sons would like to be home schooled but would also like to take MBIT courses.

Mr. Grossi explained that the Board had just been advised of the matter and that the policy was currently under review. He indicated that there were a number of issues that must be looked at, which would include a solicitor's opinion and the scope of policy changes needed. He stated that it would take some time but the Board would do its best.

Mr. Faust stated that since the two students were currently attending Tennent, they should be entitled to attend MBIT. However, if they later decided to be home schooled, then this would become an issue. Ms. Wiercinski advised that if they were attending Tennent now, she saw no reason why they couldn't attend MBIT.

Robert A. Shaffer of 1150 Mill Creek Road, Southampton, addressed the Board regarding the hiring of three additional security guards at Tennent. He questioned the reason for the decision. Mr. Grossi responded that the events at Columbine High and also the fact that several death threats had been made prompted the decision.

Mrs. Homel talked about a survey that was done about security in other districts.

Mr. Shaffer questioned what other duties the security guards would have and what equipment they had. He stated that he did not like the idea of an "armed camp" atmosphere.

Mr. Grossi explained the duties of the guards, including hall duties and front desk duties. He indicated that the officers were professionally trained to handle whatever may occur.

Dr. Reid explained the research of Dr. Bender and the presentation that he gave in the spring. She stated that the security guards are not an isolated issue but a component of the security program.

Mrs. Huf emphasized the need to keep our students safe and stated that she did not consider this an "armed camp" situation.

Mr. Shaffer stated that he hoped the Board would continue to look at this matter. Dr. Sexton addressed the subject of monitoring safety in an effort to answer Mr. Shaffer's concerns.

William Johnston of 554 Byron Road, Warminster, addressed the issue of moving the bowling program from Pike Lanes to Thunderbird Lanes. He stated that he was told the reason for the change was that Pike Lanes was not handicapped accessible and that in his opinion Thunderbird Lanes were not either. He felt that the setup of the front entrance with the driveway at Thunderbird was not safe for children. He also stated that the bathrooms at Thunderbird were not handicapped accessible. He indicated that he had contacted the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association and that they were going to look at it. He also questioned whether Pike Lanes had been notified of the reason for the change.

Samuel Wilf of 121 Second Street Pike, the proprietor of Pike Lanes, addressed the Board about the history of bowling in Bucks County. He advised that people from the Blind Association had been bowling at Pike Lanes for years, as had other handicapped persons. He also advised that he would have a handicap ramp installed by the end of the month.

Dr. Reid advised that the District had done a complete review of this situation since the previous meeting and asked Mrs. Homel to summarize this review. Mrs. Homel explained the background of the situation and detailed chronologically the correspondence and contacts made and received since this matter was first brought forward in February. She advised that the solicitor had been consulted and that he had advised that the bowling program be moved to a facility that was in compliance with ADA regulations.

Mr. Grossi acknowledged that this matter had not been handled as well as it could have been but that we must be in compliance with the law.

Ms. Kautz felt that after the concern was raised back in February, Pike Lanes should have been given an opportunity to comply before a move was made. Mrs. Homel agreed.

Mr. Grossi stated that there had been an error in procedure but all that could be done at this point was to deal with the current situation and see that this type of mistake was not made in the future.

Eileen Tagmeyer of 714 Fox Hunt Lane, Warminster, stated that she was glad the decision was made to move to the handicapped facility.

Vicki Boruta of 102 Stahl Road, Southampton, stated that she did not feel the issue was whether or not the bowling alley was accessible but rather that Mr. Wilf was not given the opportunity to remedy the problem. She felt that an apology should be offered.

Joseph Tagmeyer of 714 Fox Hunt Lane, Warminster, advised that he had approached the lanes earlier in the year and they told him they didn't have to be accessible and that they could go somewhere else.

Jim O'Brien, Esquire, of 875 Rozel Avenue, Southampton, addressed the Board regarding the home schooling issue. He stated that his family had a 50-year history with Centennial schools. He voiced his support of home schooling and of Mr. Truelove's request for more openness and a spirit of cooperation with home schooling parents. He indicated that he would be willing to participate in discussions on this subject.

Donna Marie Saul of 589 Lowell Road, Warminster, questioned what allotment was received for children who are home schooled and whether they were considered members of the school district.

Ms. Wiercinski responded that home schooled children are not on the rolls so there is no allotment for them.

Nelson Shane of 11 Gibson, Warminster, advised that his children had been home schooled at various times and voiced his support of home schoolers being permitted to participate in District activities.

There being no additional comments from community members, Mr. Grossi announced that there would be a change in the order of the Agenda.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 2. School Director Appointment

Mr. Grossi explained that Joe Reh, for personal reasons, had moved out of the district and submitted his resignation as a member of the Board. Mr. Grossi indicated that resumes had been reviewed and interviews conducted for the opening on the Board. He explained the procedure that would be used for making the new appointment.

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints Kristin Kolody of 1534 Windmill Road, Warminster, who is a resident of Region 3, to the Centennial School Board until the term expires on December 6, 1999.*

There were no other nominations.

*The motion passed 7-0.*

Ms. Kolody was then sworn in and took her place at the Board table.

### 1. Exceptions to Facility Use Policy

*A motion was made by Ms. Wiercinski and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the applications for waivers to the Facility Use policy for the following groups:*

<i>Centennial Aquatic Club</i>	<i>Friday night use of Log College Pool 11/5/99 – 2/25/00 – No Charge to District</i>
<i>Southampton Basketball</i>	<i>Sunday use of Klinger Gym 1/2/00 to 2/13/00 – No Charge to District</i>
<i>Warminster Township Parks &amp; Recreation</i>	<i>Tuesday night use of Log College Pool 9/21/99 – 11/23/99 – 50% Reduction in Fees</i>

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if Ms. Wiercinski and Ms. Kautz would consider amending the motion to read “No cost to District” rather than “No charge to District” and also by adding a cost on the third item. Also, the use of the pool was questioned. Jamie Forlini of Centennial Aquatics clarified the use. The changes as suggested by Mrs. Jankowsky were agreed to by Ms. Wiercinski and Ms. Kautz, as well as clarification on the Centennial Aquatics item. The revised motion read as follows:

*A motion was made by Ms. Wiercinski and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the applications for waivers to the Facility Use policy for the following groups:*

<i>Centennial Aquatic Club</i>	<i>Friday night use of Log College Pool 11/5/99 – 2/25/00 – No Cost to District. 50% reduction in fees (\$236.25)</i>
<i>Southampton Basketball</i>	<i>Sunday use of Klinger Gym 1/2/00 to 2/13/00 – No Cost to District</i>
<i>Warminster Township Parks &amp; Recreation</i>	<i>Tuesday night use of Log College Pool 9/21/99 – 11/23/99 – 50% Reduction in Fees (\$236.25)</i>

*The motion passed 8-0.*

### 3. Exception to Transportation Policy

Ms. Wiercinski announced that she had received a telephone call indicating that there would be someone moving in next door to the Devlins and that they had a son who would be walking to school. Therefore, the recommendation to grant this exception should be withdrawn.

Rick Devlin of 1215 Marge Drive, Southampton, stated that he felt that Brittany should be permitted to continue riding the bus as this was a safety issue. He indicated that she had been riding the bus so far this year as a carryover from last year and also that so far the new neighbor had been getting rides to school. Also, he stated that the boy was a fifth grader and he did not feel that it was appropriate for the boy to be responsible for the safety of his daughter.

Mr. Rhodes felt that if the Board was not going to vote on this matter, Brittany should be permitted to ride the bus for at least the rest of the week until her parents could make alternate arrangements.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the busing of Brittany Devlin, 1215 Marge Drive, to Stackpole Elementary School for the 1999/00 school year.*

Mr. Faust felt that the Board needed to draw the line somewhere or it would need to make exceptions for everyone.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that if this motion passed, she felt the Board would have to review the busing policy in order to ensure that everyone was being treated fairly.

Mrs. Huf advised that she would be supporting the motion because she felt she was hearing the same safety issues as last year when the motion was approved.

*The motion failed 2-5-1. (Mr. Faust, Mr. Grossi, Mrs. Jankowsky, Mr. Rosenberger, Ms. Wiercinski opposed; Ms. Kolody abstained.)*

It was decided that Brittany could ride the bus until September 21<sup>st</sup> in order to allow time for her parents to make alternate arrangements.

4. Pupil Transportation Contracts for 1999/00

*A motion was made by Ms. Wiercinski and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes the services of pupil transportation contractors and rates as submitted by Administration.*

*The motion passed 7-0-1. (Ms. Kolody abstained.)*

5. Assistant Superintendent's Salary – 1999/2000

*A motion was made by Ms. Kautz and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the salary of \$101,000 for Dr. Thomas W. Sexton, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education/Administrative Services for the 1999/2000 school year. The Assistant Superintendent will also receive a performance bonus of \$1,000 for the 1998/99 school year.*

*The motion passed 7-0-1. (Ms. Kolody abstained.)*

6. Out-of-State Approved Private School Enrollment

*A motion was made by Ms. Wiercinski and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes entering into agreement with Bancroft Rehabilitation Services to provide educational services to a Centennial special needs student for the period August 19, 1999 through January 15, 2000 as per the attached contract. Services from an out-of-state agency are required as no Approved Private School in the Commonwealth can accommodate this student's special needs. This action is taken with the understanding that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania does provide for 60% reimbursement for students placed in out-of-state facilities.\**

Mr. Vail confirmed that the total cost was \$63,714 and that the District would be reimbursed for 60% of that cost. \*Ms. Wiercinski and Ms. Kautz agreed that the cost be added to the motion.

In response to a question by Mr. Faust, Mr. Vail confirmed that the solicitor had reviewed this matter.

A roll call vote was taken on this motion, as follows:

Mr. Faust	Yes
Mrs. Huf	Yes
Ms. Kolody	Abstain
Mrs. Jankowsky	Yes
Mr. Rosenberger	Yes
Ms. Kautz	Yes
Ms. Wiercinski	Yes
Mr. Grossi	Yes

*The motion passed 7-0-1.*

7. Longstreth Elementary School Right-of-Way

*A motion was made by Ms. Wiercinski and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves granting Bell Atlantic-PA, Inc. a Right-of-Way at the Longstreth Elementary School to install a fiber-optic telephone line.*

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to amend the motion by adding that the Business Manger is authorized to enter into this Agreement.*

*The motion to amend passed 7-0-1. (Ms. Kolody abstained.)*

*The amended motion passed 7-0-1. (Ms. Kolody abstained.)*

**PERSONNEL**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absences; Appointments; Change of Status; Title I Tutors; Co-Curricular Additions and Deletions; and accepts Award of Tenure.*

The following items were requested to be separated:

- Mr. Faust – page 2, 6<sup>th</sup> item from the bottom
- Ms. Kautz – page 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> item from the bottom
- Mr. Grossi – page 2, 8<sup>th</sup> item from the top and 4<sup>th</sup> item from the bottom.

*The motion passed 7-0-1, as to the items not separated. (Ms. Kolody abstained.)*

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the second item from the bottom on page 1.*

Ms. Kautz stated that she felt this would be one too many in the security area. Mrs. Jankowsky agreed. Ms. Kautz felt that this person was not trained for the position. Ms. Rollo explained that this position is “Acting” but that interviews would be conducted for a permanent person to fill the position.

Mr. Faust asked for more information about the requirements for the position.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to table the motion until further information could be obtained.*

*The motion to table passed 8-0.*

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the 6<sup>th</sup> item from the bottom on page 2.*

Mr. Faust stated that he did not support the salary. Mrs. Jankowsky agreed but felt that since the applicant pool was small and the program needed to be provided to students, she would support the motion.

*The motion passed 5-2-1. (Mr. Faust and Ms. Wiercinski opposed; Ms. Kolody abstained.)*

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the 8<sup>th</sup> item from the top and 4<sup>th</sup> item from the bottom on page 2.*

Mr. Grossi explained that he requested that this item be separated because he felt that the enrollment policies needed to be addressed in the future, although he stated that he would support this motion at this time.

*The motion passed 7-0-1. (Ms. Kolody abstained.)*

## **MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the minutes of: Regular Board Meeting – 8/17/99.*

Mrs. Huf stated that she would abstain since she was absent from the meeting due to illness.

Several revisions to the minutes were suggested.

*The motion passed 6-0-2. (Mrs. Huf and Ms. Kolody abstained.)*

## **OPERATIONS AND POLICIES**

### Discussion:

Ms. Wiercinski suggested that these items wait until the next meeting due to the lateness of the hour. However, Dr. Sexton advised that he needed any changes to Policy 2.10. Mr. Grossi requested that any suggested changes to Policy 2.10 be given to Dr. Sexton as soon as possible.

Final Approval:

7.4 – Induction and Orientation

*A motion was made by Ms. Wiercinski and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the adoption of Policy 7.4, Induction and Orientation.*

*The motion passed 7-0-1. (Ms. Kolody abstained.)*

**FINANCIAL**

*A motion was made by Ms. Kautz and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the:*

- *Schedule of Bills – August 1999*
- *Investments – August 1999*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – August 1999*

*And approves the:*

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – August 1999*

*The motion passed 7-0-1. (Ms. Kolody abstained.)*

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 a.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary