

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD OCTOBER 12, 1999**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on October 12, 1999, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Grossi at 7:57 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

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

CEA/Teachers:

Carla Capriotti  
Margaret Devine  
Karen Molly  
Karen Belli  
Sue Brown  
Karen Rader  
Michael Gearty

Staff:

Barbara Fash  
Frank Gallagher  
Sandy Homel  
Victor Lasher  
Dr. Michael Masko  
Dr. Nancy Reid  
John Rhodes  
Jean Rollo  
Dr. Thomas Sexton  
Timothy Vail  
Dr. Gloria Wetzal

Public:

Michelle Eichhorn  
Krisi Hanisci  
Jen Hiddemen  
Timothy Lesinski  
Harve Strouse  
Pat Leashen  
Donna Marie Saul  
Ira Lee Riddle

**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 personnel issues relative to job responsibilities and salaries.

Dr. Reid announced that she had received a call from a band booster parent requesting that she reminded Board members that they were invited to the Celebration of Bands the following Saturday evening.

Mr. Grossi advised that Mr. Rosenberger would be absent from this meeting, Ms. Kolody was ill and Ms. Wiercinski was absent due to job responsibilities.

Mrs. Huf reported that the PSBA conference was very beneficial.

### **PRESENTATION – Read to Succeed**

Mr. Gallagher gave an overview of the Read to Succeed Program, including funding information. Dr. Wetzel spoke in more detail about the program. Karen Belli, Leary's Reading Specialist, reported on the after-school program and Susan Brown, Leary's IST teacher, spoke about assessments that are being used.

### **REPORTS**

#### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

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

- Class officers and members of Student Government at all grade levels were busy planning activities for the year.
- A fundraiser was being planned for local hurricane flood victims.
- A book drive was being planned.
- Planning had begun for National Students Against Violence Day.
- The Alumni Breakfast was being planned.
- A ski trip was being planned for December.

#### **MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Laura Pavlichko, a Senior at Tennent, reported as follows:

- The VSO Membership Drive was underway.
- The 1999/2000 school year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MBIT.
- *Aspirations* would be opening on October 13<sup>th</sup> and would be open on Wednesdays and Thursdays during the school year.
- On October 27<sup>th</sup> a dedication and celebration would be held for the new telecommunications technology program.
- On November 1<sup>st</sup> a tour would be held for students visiting from Denmark.
- The Annual Open House would be held on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **GOOD NEWS/PRESENTATIONS**

Mrs. Homel introduced Mr. Terrence H. White, who would be the new Assistant Principal at Tennent (providing that his appointment was approved by the Board at this meeting.) She spoke about Mr. White's background and experience. Mr. White thanked the Board for considering his appointment.

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

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Reid presented the Superintendent's Report (see attached), highlighting the following areas:

- 1999/2000 Enrollment Report
- LEASE Summer Program, Bucks County Community College
- Summer Facilities Projects
- Legal Fees Summary, 1998/99
- Vandalism Report, First Quarter 1999/2000

Mrs. Jankowsky requested trending information on Special Education enrollment. Mr. Grossi made several suggestions for making the report easier to understand.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the committee had met on October 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss class size, K-12. Although a very lengthy discussion was held, the committee was not yet prepared to make a recommendation. The next meeting would be held on November 1<sup>st</sup> regarding standards and assessments.

### WTHS Middle States Accreditation

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the planning committee had not met, the Board had received a copy of a memo from Mike Devitt to Mrs. Homel regarding AFG and schedule transition, and the next meeting of the planning committee was scheduled for early November.

Mr. Grossi requested information on how many students take Algebra 1 in the middle school and then move to Algebra 2 in high school. He felt that in order to complete the process, we should wait a year to determine the grade distribution of those particular students.

Mr. Faust raised a question about whether the "Mid-November" meeting outlined on the schedule would be during a Board Meeting or at a special meeting. Mrs. Homel indicated that she would find out and advised the Board in the Friday Update. Mr. Faust felt that if the discussion was expected to be lengthy, a separate meeting should be held.

### Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf reported on the following items from the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- The Administrative Report included a final report for last year's adult education program. The figures had increased from the previous year.
- The Enrollment Report for October 1<sup>st</sup> showed an increase of approximately 77% over the past five years.
- Goals and objectives for the 1999/2000 school year were reviewed.
- The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was discussed.
- The Open House scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> was discussed.
- The culinary arts students would be serving food at the New Hope Art Auction.
- The next meeting would be held on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Huf asked whether Centennial was planning to have its students visit MBIT this year to see what it has to offer. Mrs. Homel advised that she would get an answer to that question the next day.

### Intermediate Unit

Ms. Kautz advised that this report had been given at the last meeting. She reported that the golf tournament had raised approximately \$10,000, which would be given out as educational grants. The next golf tournament will be held on September 25, 2000. The next I.U. meeting would be held on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

### PSBA

Ms. Kautz reported that a meeting was held at the State Conference in Hershey. Discussion centered on the fact that the conference was being held during the week and that makes it difficult to attend. The conference is scheduled to be held during the week until 2003.

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

Mr. Faust advised that this report had been given at the last meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Title VIII

Mr. Faust reported that the NAFIS Convention was scheduled for the upcoming weekend. He also advised that meetings are scheduled with representatives of Congressman Greenwood, Senator Spector and Senator Santorum.

## **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

No report.

### Citizens Policy

No report.

### Legislative Liaison

No report.

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Tom Dougherty of Southampton addressed the Board about an incident where his son's school bus arrived ten minutes late and dropped his son off two blocks away from his bus stop. The place where he was dropped off was not an actual bus stop, there was no sidewalk and it was a busy road where he was not permitted to walk by himself. Mr. Dougherty indicated that he would like to register a complaint. He advised that the bus driver was new but that this was the third time in the last few years that something like this had happened. He questioned the training of the bus drivers.

Dr. Reid indicated that this was the first time she had heard about the incident so she would request a report from Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Vail the next day. Mr. Grossi indicated that this would be followed up on and that Mr. Dougherty would receive a written report.

Mr. Faust requested a short memo regarding what training our bus drivers receive.

Dr. Reid apologized if something was done incorrectly and assured Mr. Dougherty that both he and the Board would receive a report.

In response to a concern about whether someone in Transportation could be reached if there was a problem, Mr. Rhodes explained that the Transportation Department phones are manned all day until 6:30 p.m. and that there is no voice mail on those phones.

Laura Rivera advised that she had a Special Education student at Tennent who received a class ranking of "zero". She indicated that last year her ranking was "120" and felt that it was unfair not to provide a Senior Special Education student with a class ranking.

Mrs. Homel advised that she had received a letter, which she forwarded immediately to the high school principal as a top priority. She indicated that she had a meeting scheduled for the following day during which this would be discussed. She stated that she would try to put this matter into place as soon as possible.

Mrs. Rivera felt that this should be corrected not only for current students but also for former students. She advised that since many special education students drop out of school, she would like to start a mentoring program to encourage them to stay in school.

Mr. Grossi responded that a proposal would certainly be reviewed. He assured Mrs. Rivera that the ranking issue would be thoroughly investigated.

Mr. Faust requested that the review address the issue of why Juniors were provided with rankings but Seniors were not.

## **MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the minutes of: Regular Board Meeting – 9/14/99; Work Session/Regular Meeting – 9/23/99; and accepts the Minutes of Finance and Long Range Budget Planning – 6/14/99.*

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she liked the new look of the Minutes. Several Board members agreed that they were easier to read.

*The motion passed 6-0.*

## **OPERATIONS AND POLICIES**

### Discussion:

#### 7.12 – Home Education

Mrs. Jankowsky raised a question about Section II. A. 1 a. She questioned whether a decision by a parent to home school must be made by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Sexton stated that we had been liberal on this issue in the past. Mrs. Jankowsky felt that it should be one way or the other and that if an exception is requested, it should come before the Board.

Page 7.12B, Item 6.a. – Mrs. Jankowsky raised a question about who the “evaluating teacher or administrator” would be. Dr. Sexton advised that it would be the supervisor of the home program.

Page 7.12C, Item 8.a.(2) – Mrs. Jankowsky questioned the testing policy. Dr. Sexton explained that the District has little control over the testing policy.

Page 7.12G, Item III.A.1. – Mrs. Jankowsky questioned how an administrator would determine whether a student was attempting to re-enroll in the District for the sole purpose of obtaining a diploma. She requested more specificity in the policy. Dr. Sexton explained that it is incumbent upon the parent to provide justification for why the student should be re-enrolled.

Page 7.12G III.A.2. – Mrs. Jankowsky requested that the phrase “mastery of outcomes” be changed to “mastery of standards.” Dr. Sexton agreed.

Mrs. Jankowsky also questioned why a section regarding the parents’ right to hire a tutor had been removed from the previous policy. Dr. Sexton explained that this had been removed by the solicitor but he didn’t know why. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she would like to have the reasoning for the deletion and also the rationale for removing the section on instructional materials and crediting graduation.

In response to a question raised by Mrs. Huf, Dr. Sexton advised that there are 41 students being home schooled within the District.

Mrs. Huf asked how we could ensure that they were actually being home schooled and that policy was being followed. Mrs. Fash advised that parents must submit a course action plan for the year and that if a concern was raised, it would be checked out.

Dr. Sexton advised that there is no “check process” other than receiving a report from a neighbor that a child appears to be missing school. However, the District does have the authority to investigate any reports it receives. It does not have the authority to perform random checks.

Mr. Faust questioned why Appendix A was titled “Before the Board of School Directors of the Centennial School District” when the Notice does not actually come before the Board. Dr. Sexton stated that this had been written previously by the solicitor. Mr. Faust requested that the solicitor review it now.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that while she was a supporter of public education, she has seen that home schooled children do very well and that the parents and students take this very seriously.

Mr. Grossi felt that you should go either one way or the other. Either a student should attend public school or be home schooled. He felt that students should not be able to pick and choose among the programs.

There was additional discussion on the subject of whether home schooled students should have the same priority as Tennent and Wood students. Ms. Kautz requested an opinion from the solicitor on that subject. Mrs. Jankowsky requested that the parochial students be included in the opinion. There was a consensus of the Board to request the solicitor’s opinion.

Final Approval:

2.10 – Appraising Professional Performance

2.24 – Communicable Disease

3.6 – Student Records

3.16 – Hazing

### 7.24 – Acceptable Use of Internet

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to the following policies: 2.10 – Appraising Professional Performance; 2.24 – Communicable Disease; 3.6 – Student Records; 3.16 – Hazing; and 7.24 – Acceptable Use of Internet.*

Policy 2.10 – Ms. Kautz requested some spelling corrections and stated that in the future she would like the policy to include principals. Dr. Sexton stated that this policy would probably be brought back again next year for review and expansion.

Mrs. Huf asked about the requirement of a portfolio. Mrs. Homel explained the requirements for the portfolio and what would be included in it.

Policy 7.24 – Mr. Faust questioned Section II. F. He stated that he was uncomfortable with the discontinuation of the letter sent home to parents to be signed consenting to their child's use of the Internet. Dr. Sexton explained that the paperwork had become unmanageable. Mr. Faust felt that it was important that we ensure that parents are aware that they can notify the school if they do not want their child to have access to the Internet. Dr. Sexton explained that this information was included in the Student Handbook and the District calendar. Dr. Reid suggested that principals could place this in the school's newsletter and it could also be put over the cable so that parents are aware of it. Mr. Grossi felt that would be a good idea.

Policy 2.24 – Mrs. Jankowsky questioned the reference to "workplace." Dr. Sexton explained that the policy was meant for staff members.

Policy 3.16 – Mrs. Jankowsky questioned Section V. B. She felt that this should pertain to both athletic and non-athletic activities. It was the consensus of the Board that the first sentence of this section should be modified to read "Administration shall prepare written directives to all coaches *and sponsors of activities...*"

Mrs. Jankowsky also suggested that Section V. D. be amended to read as follows: "Administration shall provide training for coaches, *sponsors, athletes and participants in non-athletic activities* about hazing, sexual harassment and other forms of improper conduct at the start of each season *or activity* with reminders throughout the season/year." It was the consensus of the Board to accept these changes.

*The motion passed 6-0.*

### **ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Patricia Pileggi addressed the Board regarding her son. She advised that he attended Log College and was in special education for Reading and English. She indicated that there had been an issue with a teacher sending a note home informing her that her son and a friend had been discussing guns and that she was concerned. Mrs. Pileggi informed the Board that her son had

checked out a book from the school library entitled Weapons. She stated that she had questioned why this book was in the library but was given no indication that it would be pulled from the shelves. She felt that it was very inappropriate for the book to be in the library.

Dr. Reid advised that there is a policy about this and a procedure for reviewing any book that is questioned. Dr. Masko confirmed that there is a policy and a procedure for a parent to request material to be removed.

Dr. Reid requested Mrs. Pileggi to leave the book for review. Mr. Grossi advised that a full review and report would be made.

Mrs. Pileggi also questioned the appropriateness of a magazine that a teacher had brought to school, which contained an unsuitable picture.

## **FINANCIAL**

*A motion was made by Ms. Kautz and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the: Schedule of Bills – September 1999, Investments – September 1999 and Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – September 1999; and approves the: Treasurer's Report/ Fund Profiles – September 1999 and Budgetary Transfers – September 1999.*

*The motion passed 6-0.*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Recommendations of Ad Hoc Committee – Administrative Interviews
2. William Tennent Yearbook Account Donation
5. Superintendent's Salary – 1999/2000

Mr. Grossi advised that he had received requests to defer these matters to the next meeting.

3. Independent Accountant's Report – Upper Southampton

*A motion was made by Ms. Kautz and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Independent Accountant's Report conducted by Stanley N. Booz and Company of 1998 tax collection records of Patricia Ott, Tax Collector of Upper Southampton Township. This report was conducted as a result of a joint arrangement between the District and Upper Southampton Township upon the resignation of Mrs. Ott in December 1998.*

Mrs. Huf stated that she wished to clarify that this was a report, not an audit.

Ms. Kautz questioned item h of the letter from Stanley Booz & Co. Mr. Vail indicated that was all the information he could obtain on this matter. Mrs. Huf asked if he was comfortable with the letter. Mr. Vail stated that he had requested more information but was told that was all that could be provided.

Mr. Faust asked that if an audit was done, wouldn't we just get the same response. Mr. Vail felt that there was no way to say for sure, but that was possible. Mr. Faust wondered if we could ask the auditing company if they felt that if an audit were done it would change their position on this. Mr. Vail advised that he would get more information.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that this item be put on the agenda of the Finance Committee. It was decided that would be done.

*The motion passed 6-0.*

4. 2000/2001 Budget Calendar

*A motion was made by Ms. Kautz and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the attached calendar for the formulation and adoption of the fiscal year 2000/2001 General Fund Budget.*

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that the Business Administrator was right on target, i.e., that the Board was adopting the Budget Calendar on October 12, as called for on the calendar.

*The motion passed 6-0.*

6. Release and Settlement Agreement

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Release and Settlement Agreement for student 1.16.*

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that since she was not present for the hearing, she would be abstaining.

*The motion passed 5-0-1. (Mrs. Jankowsky abstained.)*

7. Report of the Safe Schools Committee

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the recommendations of the Safe Schools Committee as presented on September 23, 1999.*

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that the Board consider tabling this motion until fiscal notes could be attached.

*A motion to table was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Ms. Kautz, until such time as Administration could develop the fiscal notes to be attached to this motion.*

*The motion to table passed 6-0.*

## **PERSONNEL**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absences; Appointments; Mentor Consultants; Change of Status; Curriculum Resource Team Members; Substitute Bus Drivers; Substitute Cafeteria Workers/Monitors, Playground Monitors; Co-Curricular Additions and Deletions; and Reappointment List.*

Mrs. Huf noted that there were some new teachers due to the class size policy. Mr. Faust noted Mr. Alexander's resignation and spoke about Mr. Alexander's dedication to the District. He felt Mr. Alexander would be missed.

Ms. Kautz noted the retirement of Theresa Kozak and indicated that she would also be missed. Mr. Vail agreed that she would be greatly missed.

Ms. Kautz questioned the bus aides. Mr. Rhodes explained that they were eight-day employees who were needed for the beginning of school for the Kindergarten buses.

Mr. Faust questioned the salary of the person who would be replacing Dr. Traub.

Ms. Rollo advised that there were two changes to be made to the Personnel list, as follows: the resignation of Jennifer Koenig had been rescinded and Mr. White's start date would be December 13<sup>th</sup> or sooner.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested that the designation of the third person on the last page be changed from "Trainer/Assistant" to "Assistant." Mrs. Rollo explained that in the contract the position is referred to as "Trainer/Assistant." Dr. Sexton suggested that this change be addressed for the next football season. It was the consensus of the Board to do so.

*The motion passed 6-0.*

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Grossi referred to the list of communications attached hereto.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

Mrs. Huf thanked Mr. Patchioli and his staff for an outstanding Hall of Fame Dinner. She felt that they had done an excellent job. Mrs. Jankowsky agreed. Mrs. Jankowsky also noted that

there had been some excellent speakers at PSBA and felt that the District should try to get some of these speakers. Ms. Kautz advised that this would be checked into.

### **ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Donna Marie Saul of Warminster addressed the Board regarding an article that had appeared in the paper regarding the alternative school. She wondered what the criteria was for being in the alternative school, if this was a special education program, how children were admitted into the program and if they were special education students.

Mrs. Homel explained the school serves a variety of students who are not necessarily special education students or students with behavioral or academic difficulties. She explained that some students do better in a smaller, more nurturing environment. She explained the procedure for being admitted to the school.

Mrs. Saul questioned the cost per pupil since at this time there were 27 students with three teachers. Mrs. Homel explained that enrollment generally increases as the year progresses and that enrollment would probably go up to about 40 students.

Mrs. Saul stated that she hoped the Board would remember how the needs of these students were being met when confronted with the issues of other students who need additional attention. She asked the Board to keep this in mind in the future.

Mr. Grossi brought up the fact that the students in this school were students that society was in danger of losing and that there have been many successes.

Mr. Priadka left the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

### **SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

See Schedule attached hereto.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Faust to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary