

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 9, 1999**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on November 9, 1999, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Grossi at 7:53 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

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

\* (Mr. Priadka left at 9:50 p.m.)

Staff:

Sheila Buckley  
Barbara Fash  
Frank Gallagher  
Sandy Homel  
Victor Lasher  
Dr. Nancy Reid  
John Rhodes  
Jean Rollo  
Dr. Thomas Sexton  
Timothy Vail

Public:

Rohan Kuthiala  
Greg Graves  
Jerry Locke  
Preston Feden  
Eileen Conroy  
Ann Alker  
Wes Alker  
Ellen McGrosky  
Sharon Gildein  
Beth Anne Bangs  
Paul Kalman  
Rona Note  
Mike Plotnick  
Ken Kline

Holly Ullrich  
Madeline Carver  
Donna Marie Saul  
Vicki Boruta  
Michele Eichhorn  
Dale Bennett  
Carol Lee Muldowney  
Karen Castle  
Laura Pavlichko  
Gloria Sherman  
Jeff Lucas  
Janet Marinoff  
Harve Strouse

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Mr. Grossi asked if there were any community comments regarding agenda items. There were none.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Grossi announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting regarding a legal matter relative to a lawsuit and a personnel matter relative to positions and salaries. He also announced that Mr. Rosenberger was recovering from surgery and that he hoped to be able to attend the November 23<sup>rd</sup> Work Session.

## **PRESENTATION – NAWC Property**

Mr. Bob Cormack, who was with the Bucks County Economic Development Corporation, and was also the Chief Operating Officer of the Federal Lands Reuse Authority, presented a brief history of the base and the FLRA. He spoke about the recommend plan for land development and other alternatives that were considered.

Mrs. Huf asked what benefit the plan would have for the District. Mr. Cormack responded that as soon as the economic development conveyance takes place, hopefully there would be agreements of sale for the residential portion in Ivyland, which would then generate tax revenue. Also, as soon as the West Campus was conveyed, there will be tax ratables on that site.

## **REPORTS**

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

Rohan Kuthiala, Senior Class President, reported as follows:

- The previous week 12 Danish exchange students had visited Tennent. It was a great cultural experience for everyone.
- Homecoming was held on October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Student Government had held a children's book drive recently and collected 220 books.
- Later in the week, there would be 5 students attending the Pennsylvania Association of Student Council's State Conference.
- The following week would be American Education Week. Student Government would be greeting parents with refreshments and escorting them to the classrooms.
- Fundraisers were being planned to help needy families.

- The Key Club was holding their annual canned food drive to be donated to 15 needy families in the District.
- FBLA was planning Breakfast with Santa.
- FBLA was sponsoring a trip to the Phantoms hockey game to raise money so that they could bring homeless children from shelters to the Breakfast with Santa.
- FBLA was working on school and community service projects to benefit the club and studying for the regional competition.
- Freshman, Sophomore and Junior class officers had held a bake sale the previous week and raised \$100.
- The Senior Class was planning a ski trip and an alumni breakfast for December 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Laura Pavlichko reported that the previous week many students had attended a 3-day conference in the Poconos that fostered leadership skills. She also reported that Open House would be held on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **2. Middle School Gifted Teachers**

Mr. Faust explained that he had requested that this matter be placed on the agenda for discussion.

Vicki Boruta of 102 Stahl Road, Southampton, read a prepared statement regarding reinstatement of the gifted teachers at the middle schools.

Mr. Faust pointed out that there was a lot of additional information referred to in the footnotes of Mrs. Boruta's document and that he would like to have copies of those materials for review. He also requested an administrative response to Mrs. Boruta's document.

Mrs. Huf asked about the status of the audit requested by the Board of the middle school gifted program. She stated that she would like to know the status of the audit before the Board votes on this issue.

Dr. Reid explained that several steps had been taken. There was a team of administrators who held two planning meetings with I.U. members. On December 7<sup>th</sup> there would be a full day workshop where they would review focus questions and identify protocols for the focus questions. She indicated that there would be many participants at that workshop.

Dr. Reid also explained that on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> the audit would be conducted in the elementary, middle and high schools and that there would be a team from throughout Bucks County present. At the end of the three days a report would be given.

Mrs. Huf asked if Administration had been working with the parents of the gifted children. Dr. Reid responded that they would be part of the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and that after that they would be interviewed on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Faust asked if any operational problems had arisen as a result of the removal of the gifted teacher we had last year.

Mrs. Fash responded that there were some significant difficulties in completing IEP's in June but that they have tried to rectify the problems. She indicated that there were still 9 IEP's outstanding out of approximately 148. The 9 outstanding IEP's should be completed within the month.

Mrs. Homel explained that going through a program for the first time is always a challenge. She indicated that she had an opportunity to meet with teachers about some of the problems and that she felt there was a lot of communication between the parents and teachers. She felt that progress was being made.

Donna Marie Saul of Warminster addressed the issue of noncompliance of IEP's. She stated that parents had told her that many of the IEP's were the same, not individualized. That is not in compliance with the law. She indicated that the parents felt that the teachers had not been given the tools to do the job properly; all of the teachers should have gone to the in-service; and there needs to be a teacher at each middle school who is a dedicated IMG teacher. She stated that our students are entitled to this and asked the Board to do the right thing.

Debbie Plotnick of Southampton stated that she had had a wonderful meeting with the team and that together they designed a new IEP. She indicated that she had written most of it and that they were still negotiating on it. She felt that the teachers who were writing the IEP's did not know how to do it and spoke about the importance of having someone who does know how to write them.

Dr. Reid advised that part of the overall plan was a very intensive staff training program. Mrs. Fash spoke about some of the training that was being done.

Mrs. Buckley advised that over the summer there had been three sessions with the teachers to determine what was needed. A series of four after-school program had been set up for teachers who work with gifted students. So far, one of those programs had been held.

Mr. Grossi stated that if it was determined that this did not work after three years, it would be reviewed then.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that the middle school study had been going on since 1996/97 and that she felt the Board owed it to the community to wait the three years that had been decided upon. She felt that the Board had a responsibility to review the matter fully.

Ms. Kolody explained that although she had been a teacher in the past, she could not have written an IEP. She stated that they are very difficult to write. She believed that the Board must listen to the parents. The fact that we may not have been able to meet the IEP's upset her greatly. She asked if there was any special certification required to be a teacher of the gifted. Mrs. Fash responded that there was not.

Ms. Kolody asked if our teachers were academically trained to write IEP's. Mrs. Fash responded that there is a particular skill that must be developed in order to write IEP's and that we are offering this training but it takes time to become adept at it.

Ms. Kolody asked if our teachers were getting sufficient to proficient levels of training in teaching gifted students. Mrs. Homel explained that over the past several years Klinger had made substantial steps in this area and that over the past summer Log had done a lot of the same training. Dr. Reid explained that the District has been looking for not only local expertise but also national expertise for an audit on differentiated instruction.

Mrs. Jankowsky appealed to the parents to allow the audit to continue so that we can determine what is really needed.

Mr. Faust stated that he did not feel that we could obtain accurate data from such a new program. He felt the decision to eliminate the gifted teacher was never fully discussed or well thought out and that there was no study to show what would happen if the gifted teacher was removed.

Mr. Grossi stated that he felt the Board did fully discuss how the program would be changed.

Mr. Faust stated that the reason he requested this matter be placed on the agenda was so that it would up for discussion at two meetings. He felt that at this point it should be held over for a vote at the next meeting.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that the issue had been discussed fully and that it should be voted on. She felt that the Board owed it to the parents to move it forward.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board directs Administration to reestablish the gifted teaching positions at the middle schools, one at each middle school, who will team teach in the gifted classes (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Reading, 8<sup>th</sup> English) and oversee the IEP's for the gifted students in their building. This is for the balance of the 1999/2000 school year. The duties of these positions will be reviewed after the receipt of the I.U. audit of the Special Education program.*

Ms. Kolody indicated that she would like to see the minutes from the August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and any other minutes that existed regarding this matter.

Mrs. Boruta stated that she felt no minutes existed since she had asked for them previously and never received them.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would not support this motion until the audit had been completed.

Ms. Kolody stated that she needed to see the documents before voting.

*The motion failed 2-4-1. (Mrs. Huf, Mrs. Jankowsky, Ms. Kautz, Mr. Grossi opposed; Ms. Kolody abstained.)*

The meeting recessed at 9:50 p.m. [Mr. Priadka left the meeting at that time and did not return.]

The meeting resumed at 10:05 p.m.

## **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; Substitute Bus Drivers; Substitute Safe School Officer; Title I Tutor; Co-Curricular Additions and Deletions.*

Mr. Faust advised that he would like to separate the last item under Appointments since there was information missing.

*The motion passed 6-0.*

Mrs. Rollo informed the Board that the missing information under Appointments was as follows: Daniel Julius would be the new Dean of Students at WTHS, replacing Deborah Greenstein, Effective Date – 1/3/00, Salary - \$62,500.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the appointment of Daniel Julius, replacing Deborah Greenstein as Dean of Students/WTHS, Effective Date – 1/3/00, at a salary of \$62,500.*

Mr. Faust stated that he would like to amend the motion to reflect that the salary would be pending receipt of Mr. Julius's Principal Certificate, which he should be receiving soon. Mrs. Jankowsky and Ms. Kautz, as the mover and seconder of the motion, agreed to the change.

Mr. Faust stated that he had attended interviews that day and that they had been handled very well. Since he had previously voiced concerns about the new interview process, he felt that he should inform the Board that he felt the administrative committee had done an excellent job on this interview and that the process seemed to work well.

*The amended motion passed 6-0.*

Mrs. Homel introduced Mr. Julius and spoke about his background and experience. Mr. Julius thanked the Board and Administration for giving him the opportunity to join Centennial and stated that he was looking forward to starting in January.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Huf asked if there were any items that the Board wished to vote on individually.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested that items 1, 3 and 5 be separated.

6. Increase Tax Collector Surety Bond Amounts
7. Real Estate Tax Collector Compensation
8. Auxiliary Pay Rate 1999/2000 Amendment
9. Accept Authority Audits
10. 65-Passenger Bus Bid

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

- *(6) Approves purchase of supplemental surety bonds to cover District real estate tax collections for the period October 1, 1999 through December 31, 2001, as per the amounts outlined in the attached supplement at a cost not to exceed \$12,789.00. Board further directs that the Administration submit the required applications to each tax collector to be completed and returned as soon as possible in keeping with the requirement of the bonding company.*
- *(7) Directs Administration to authorize and work with the District's solicitor, Begley, Carlin and Mandio, to draft a resolution for Board approval setting forth the compensation and configuration of real estate tax collection for the real estate tax collector term of office commencing January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2005, as per the framework outlined in the attached supplement.*
- *(8) Approves amending the 1999/2000 Auxiliary Pay Rate Schedule to modify the Substitute Bus Driver Rates from \$14.68/\$15.57 per hour to \$14.68/\$16.04 per hour. The higher rate will effect five substitute bus drivers at a total increased annual cost not to exceed \$2,500.00.*
- *(9) Accepts the following Authority Audits as submitted by Stanley Booz & Company:*
  - *Centennial Joint School Board Authority – Final Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 1999.*
  - *Upper Southampton School Authority – Financial Statements for the Year Ended April 30, 1999.*
  - *Warminster Township School Authority – Final Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30 1999.*
- *(10) Authorizes the solicitation of bids for four 65-passenger school buses and three 16-passenger school buses.*

*The motion passed 6-0.*

4. Safe Schools Recommendations and Fiscal Note

*A motion was made by Ms. Kautz and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the recommendations of the Safe Schools Committee and the fiscal notes related thereto as per the attached supplement.*

Mr. Faust wanted to confirm that the number proposed would be reviewed as part of the budget process in February unless the grants were received. Dr. Reid stated that we had received information on the grants.

Dr. Sexton stated that our safe schools grant was funded for \$56,000 and that this information had just been received. He advised that we might need \$22,000 from next year's budget but indicated that this would go through the budget process for next year. There was nothing additional needed for the current year.

*The motion passed 6-0.*

1. Request for Expulsion

*A motion was made by Ms. Kolody and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the Adjudication pertaining to student 23-5. The School District Administration is directed to take the action necessary to effectuate the Adjudication and to properly serve the Adjudication on student 23-5 parents and attorney.*

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that she would be abstaining since she was unable to attend the hearing.

*The motion passed 5-0-1. (Mrs. Jankowsky abstained.) [Note: Ms. Kolody was not present at the hearing but indicated that she had read the material and was prepared to vote.]*

3. Soft Drink Consulting Services

*A motion was made by Ms. Kautz and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves entering into agreement with D&D Marketing, Inc. of Boulder, Colorado, to provide services associated with the development of a Request for Proposal and follow-up analysis and negotiating services (as per the attached agreement) to provide the District with an exclusive agreement with one of the major soft drink companies in the area to provide product and services for the next five to ten years.*

*Board also directs that the President appoint an ad-hoc committee of Board Members and Administrators to work with D&D marketing in the formulation and drafting of the RFP to solicit said agreement.*

Mr. Vail distributed a letter from the solicitor stating his concerns about this matter.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to table this matter.*

*The motion to table passed 6-0.*

5. Privatization of Housing – Naval Warfare Center

[The motion was not made.]

Mr. Faust stated that he would like to table this motion and place it on the agenda for the next meeting for discussion only, with no motion.

**PRESENTATIONS (Continued)**

Data Report - 1998/99

Due to the lateness of the hour, this report was postponed until a later date.

**REPORTS (Continued)**

**GOOD NEWS**

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Reid presented the Superintendent's Report, highlighting American Education Week and the Summer Workshop Report (see attached.)

Mrs. Buckley stated that there was a considerable increase in the number of workshops and participants.

Mr. Faust requested that in the future we separate out the workshops that are instructing teachers versus the ones that are for the calendar, database maintenance, etc., so that we can get a truer picture of the actual participation in workshops.

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the committee had met on November 1<sup>st</sup> and discussed the standards and assessments that had been developed. The next meeting would be on December 6<sup>th</sup> regarding the modern language program, the math program at the middle schools and an action item on standards and assessments.

WTHS Middle States Accreditation

No report.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf reported that a meeting had been held on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was held regarding the telecommunications celebration/teleconference with Lt. Governor Schweiker. She also reported that the December meeting was cancelled.

Mr. Grossi reported that there had been a state audit through 1997/98 and a meeting to review the auditor's audit of last year and that there were no findings in either one.

Ms. Kautz reported that the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary would be held on November 18<sup>th</sup>. She also reported that the counselor's in-service would be held on December 8<sup>th</sup> and she hoped that all of our counselors would attend.

Mrs. Huf advised that the next meeting would be on January 10, 2000 and that all Board members would be invited.

PSBA

No report.

Intermediate Unit

Ms. Kautz reported that the I.U. Foundation had met on October 13<sup>th</sup>, at which the following items were discussed:

- The Treasurer reviewed all the income and expenses for the Golf Tournament.
- An Art Auction was being planned for March 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The next meeting would be held on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

The I.U. Meeting was held on October 20<sup>th</sup>, at which the following occurred:

- The Board met in Executive Session to afford Dr. Coe the opportunity to review his goals and objectives for the 1999/2000 school year.
- The I.U. submitted a proposal to PDE for a Safe Schools grant in the amount of \$195,000.
- There was a comprehensive discussion by the Tech. Coordinator on the merits of a countywide fiber network.
- Two additional classrooms were being leased at the Warminster WREC Center for \$12,200.
- Mr. Godin requested that Centennial send a legislative representative to the meetings since Mr. Alexander is no longer with the District.
- The December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting was canceled.
- The next meeting was scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>.
- In honor of American Education Week, the I.U. was planning a "bus to the future," which would visit five I.U. classrooms throughout the county.
- The I.U. received an Educate America Grant for \$163,000 in consortium with seven districts.

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

No report.

### Title VIII

Mr. Faust reported that he had attended the NAFIS Conference in Washington and that it did not appear that we would be getting any additional funds this year.

## **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

No report.

### Citizens Policy

No report.

### Legislative Liaison

No report.

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

## **MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the Minutes of: Finance and Long Range Budget Planning – Committee Meeting of September 13, 1999; and Education Committee – October 4, 1999.*

*The motion passed 5-0-1. (Ms. Kolody abstained.)*

## **OPERATIONS AND POLICIES**

### Initial Distribution:

Mr. Grossi pointed out the following policy for initial distribution: Policy No. 5.14 – Volunteers.

## **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 – October 1999*

- *Investments – October 1999*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – October 1999*
- *Student Activity/Clearing Fund Report – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 1999 (7/1/99 – 9/30/99)*

*And approves the:*

- *Treasurer’s Report/Fund Profiles – October 1999*
- *Budgetary Transfers – November 1999.*

*The motion passed 6-0.*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

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

## **ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

None.

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

See Schedule attached hereto.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary