

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD NOVEMBER 23, 1999**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on November 23, 1999, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Grossi at 7:50p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Joseph Faust
Eugene Grossi
Betty Huf *
Joan Jankowsky
Rose Marie Kautz
Kristin Kolody
John Priadka *
Robert Rosenberger

(* Arrived at 8:30 p.m.)

Administration:

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

(** Arrived at 9:10 p.m.)

CEA/Teachers:

Jonathan Kircher
Molly Leahy
Carolyn Fisher
Eileen Porozok
Tim Whit
Robert Raymond
Craig Shapiro
Dolores McAdams
Kathleen Pisauro
Al Catarro

Renee Levine
Helene Peyton
John Lacy
Joe O'Connor
Fred DiChiara, Jr.
Mick Sander
Joe Kruczuk
Steve Rubenstein
Mary Ellen Donnelly
Shirley Kelly

Public:

Ted Levine
Stefan Levine
Connye Fleming
Carla Weidner
Jerry Locke
J. Pettit
Thomas Knoll
Jana Allada
Raju Vegesna
Brian Pestridge
Philip DeCecco

Jennifer Schreiber
Scott Rieber
Jeremy Kircher
Tracy Ewaskey
Janet Marineff
Harve Strouse
Donna Marie Saul
Marguerite Genesio
Dr. Ira Lee Riddle
Sina Baranski

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 matters relative to a position update on the athletic program and negotiations items relative to medical benefits. Mr. Grossi welcomed back Mr. Rosenberger, who had been absent in the past due to an extended illness.

Dr. Reid extended the District's sympathy to the Tarlton family, which had suffered a tragedy the previous week.

Ms. Kautz reported that Greg Graves had presented his business plan that day to the Southampton Business and Professional Association and that he had done a great job. She also reported that 66 retirees had gone to Middle Bucks for lunch the previous week (American Education Week.)

GOOD NEWS

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

Dr. Sexton reported that several weeks ago he had attended the Pennsylvania Association of School Social Workers in Harrisburg and that Renee Levine had been named School Social Worker of the Year. He spoke about Mrs. Levine's background and achievements and presented her with a certificate. Mrs. Levine thanked the District for its support.

Dr. Reid reported that Robert Stremme, a 5th grade teacher at Longstreth, had just been designated as a National Board Certified Teacher in the middle child generalist category and that he would be honored at an upcoming meeting.

PRESENTATION – New Courses for Program of Studies

Mrs. Homel spoke about the new AFG course requirements. Eileen Porozok spoke about the new courses and the reasons for them. Carolyn Fisher, John Kircher, Molly Leahy and Tia Moody gave detailed descriptions of the new courses.

Mr. Priadka and Mrs. Huf arrived at the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Mrs. Jankowsky raised the issue of whether MBIT students are being shortchanged as to what electives are offered. Discussion was held regarding this matter. Mrs. Porozok stated that the students will not be shortchanged and that under block scheduling the students will have more academic electives than they have now. However, they do not have as many as other students because they have choices from MBIT.

Dr. Devitt explained that an MBIT student spends forty minutes per day traveling, so he/she loses a little on health and physical education time. Under block scheduling, they will satisfy those requirements plus additional requirements.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that perhaps it should be clarified that MBIT students currently have two to three hours more of electives than students who stay at Tennent.

Discussion was also held regarding AP courses and the certification process – whether or not a student should be required to take the AP exam and who should be required to pay for it.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she would like to know what percentage of students taking AP courses are paying for the exam.

The meeting recessed at 9:25 p.m. and resumed at 9:38 p.m.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Donna Marie Saul of Warminster addressed the Board regarding a meeting scheduled for December 15th for 8th grade parents to find out about block scheduling. She was concerned because there were also two winter concerts scheduled at the elementary schools for the same evening and that this would be a conflict for some of the parents.

Mrs. Porozok advised that block scheduling would be reviewed again on course selection night in January. She also advised that there was a Principal's Forum each month at 9:30 a.m. and that she could provide the exact dates. She indicated that they had been aware of the scheduling conflict but since December was such a busy month, there were no open nights available.

Mrs. Huf stated that she had been late to this meeting because she was attending the Football Banquet for Wood and Tennent. She had presented certificates to Seniors from Tennent. She indicated that the banquet was very nice.

Mrs. Huf indicated that she had attended Grandparents' Day at McDonald the previous week and that she enjoyed it. She also indicated that she had attended a play at Log College and that the students were outstanding.

POLICIES

Discussion:

5.14 – Volunteers

No discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Exceptions to Facility Use Policy

At Ms. Kolody's request, Mr. Jana Allada from Teluga Association explained the reason they were requesting to use the facility.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following exceptions to the Facility Usage Policy. All requests are for the use of facilities at William Tennent High School:

- a. Centennial Aquatics Club*
- b. Warminster Basketball Association*
- c. Kiwanis Club of Southampton*
- d. Tennent Soccer Boosters*
- e. Southampton Soccer*
- f. Warminster Soccer Club*

[Note: The motion included all requests except that of Teluga Association.]

The motion passed 8-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the request for exception to the Facility Usage Policy by Teluga Association.

Mrs. Huf asked what the actual date of usage would be since there were three choices of dates listed on the form. Mr. Allada responded that it would be May 6th.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she would not be supporting the motion since only 1% of the group was Centennial residents. She also indicated that she had suggested last year that the group should find another facility in the future.

Mr. Allada stated that there were probably 30 to 40 families in Bucks County and possibly up to 20 families from Centennial but he wasn't sure of the exact number.

Mr. Faust asked for clarification of the purpose of the waiver. Mr. Lasher stated that it was needed because Teluga was not a community group.

Mr. Faust asked if the District had thought about using this as a cultural learning experience for our students. Mr. Allada stated that they would be happy to do something like that and they would also like to institute a \$500 scholarship. Mr. Faust stated that he would be supporting this.

Mrs. Huf asked if there had been any problems in the past. Mr. Lasher stated that the first year the association used the facilities (two years ago), people felt there should have been more supervision so that problem was addressed last year.

Mrs. Huf asked if Teluga had looked anywhere else for facilities. Mr. Allada advised that they had applied elsewhere but had not found out yet if any requests had been approved.

Mrs. Huf asked if we often allow organizations from outside the community to use our facilities. Dr. Sexton replied that it was unusual.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if Administration had responded to this request. Dr. Reid stated that Administration had encouraged Teluga to look elsewhere for facilities and that Teluga had indicated that they would like to appear before the Board with their request.

Mr. Rosenberger advised that he was opposed to organizations outside the community using our facilities. Ms. Kolody stated that she was pleased that outside groups wanted to use our facilities and that as long as there had been no problems in the past she had no objections.

Ms. Kautz felt that as long as the expenses were covered, she did not object.

Mr. Allada stated that they had an additional \$500 they would like to give to needy families.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that if the Board wanted to grant this exception again, she would still encourage Teluga to find other facilities. Mr. Grossi felt that Teluga should rotate facilities.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would be supporting this motion but felt that Teluga should look elsewhere next year.

The motion passed 5-3. (Mrs. Jankowsky, Mr. Priadka, and Mr. Rosenberger opposed.)

2. Approval of New Courses for Program of Studies

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants approval for new course requirements and recommendations for additional courses.

Mr. Grossi stated that the fiscal note had not yet gone through the Finance Committee. These courses needed to go through the budget process so the Board would be approving only the courses at this time.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she would be opposing this motion since she had seen no evidence that the students were being disadvantaged by having only 24 credits as opposed to the 32 credits offered in other schools.

The motion passed 6-2. (Mrs. Jankowsky and Mr. Grossi were opposed.)

3. Appointment to Citizens' Policy Committee

A motion was made by Ms. Kautz and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants approval of the appointment to Citizens' Policy Committee of John Bonner, a Centennial parent and resident of Warminster. The appointment shall be for the period from November 23, 1999 to June 2002.

Ms. Kolody asked whether the Board had the right to revoke an appointment if a committee person was not doing his/her job. Dr. Sexton responded that the problem had never arisen in the past.

Mr. Faust asked how many vacancies there were on the committee and if there was a cap. He felt that the Board had been approving people fairly regularly for this committee. Dr. Sexton replied that there were a total of nine positions, each for a term of three years.

The motion passed 8-0.

4. Business Office Reorganization – Phase II

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Administration's recommended Phase II Reorganization of the Centennial School District Business Office (as outlined in the attached fiscal note) by creating and eliminating the following positions:

*Positions eliminated: Secretary to Business Administrator – effective 1/18/2000
Senior Accountant, - effective 6/30/2000*

Position created: Administrative Assistant – Business Office – effective 1/1/2000

Mr. Faust stated that he would be opposing this motion because he didn't see how one person could do both jobs.

Mr. Grossi stated that he would be supporting this motion since Mr. Vail had answered most of his concerns.

The motion passed 6-2. (Mr. Priadka and Mr. Faust were opposed.)

5. District Fiber Project Study

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves retaining Elcom Services Group to develop a detailed set of specifications that would be incorporated into a bid for District-wide fiber optic network at a cost not to exceed \$23,760. Funds to be appropriated from the Capital Projects Fund.

Mr. Grossi advised that he had seen an analysis that this had an 18-year payback. He felt that anytime there was more than a 3-year payback in technology, it would not be worthwhile because the technology changes so quickly. He felt that we would not be using fiber optic cable in 18 years.

Mr. Reed stated that there are technologies out there that are significantly faster than what we are using and explained why we need this.

Mr. Lasher stated that if we would rent, the payback would be far higher. We could eventually put our telephones on these lines and have substantial savings there.

Mr. Vail pointed out that what the Board would be authorizing would be a study, not a bid, and that some of these concerns would be addressed in the study.

Ms. Kolody indicated that she had no problem with doing the study and felt that we must move forward. Mr. Faust felt that the study was needed to provide answers to the Board's questions.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she would support the motion but felt that in order to make an informed decision Board members need better information than what had been provided.

The motion passed 7-0-1. (Mr. Rosenberger abstained.)

6. Change in Vision Carriers

7. Change in Dental Carrier

Mr. Faust stated that he would like to put these matters on hold due to contract matters.

8. Transfer of 1969 G.O. Bond Escrow Proceeds

A motion was made by Ms. Kautz and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the transfer of \$450,826.25 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund immediately in anticipation of earmarking at some future time

during the budgetary process of capital uses. This transfer represents the total dollars received from the 1969 G.O. Bond Escrow account left over after all bonds associated with said issue were retired in May 1999.

Mr. Faust explained that this matter had been discussed fully at the Finance Committee meeting. He advised that there was a claim being made by the State, on which Administration had been requested to get more information from our bond attorney. This would be just a temporary holding place until these issues are resolved.

The motion passed 8-0.

9. Warminster Township Tax Collector Audit

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves retaining Stanley Booz and Company, certified public accountants, of Doylestown, PA, to conduct review procedures as outlined in the attached proposal on Warminster Township Real estate Tax Collections services of Kathleen Hodgkinson and her Estate for the period January 1 through December 31, 1999. This action is taken jointly with Warminster Township, with the total cost of \$2,600 being evenly split between the Township and the School District.

Mr. Faust advised that this was agreed-upon procedure, not an audit. He explained that we had done a similar procedure with Upper Southampton. He asked if everyone was satisfied with the procedures or if there was anything they would like to change.

Mr. Vail indicated that he was satisfied with this and that he felt it was the way to go, short of a full-blown audit.

The motion passed 8-0.

10. Social Studies Assessment Consultant

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the appointment of Paul Nolan and Barbara Turnbull, Ph.D., as Social Studies Assessment Consultants to develop and administer the District social studies assessment in grades 3, 7 and 9 during school year 1999/2000 at a cost not to exceed \$14,000.

Mr. Faust asked how many proposals had been received. Dr. Masko replied that there were two but that the other proposal was not suited to our needs. He felt that these individuals appeared to be well qualified.

The motion passed 8-0.

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; Change of Status; Substitute Bus Drivers; Substitute Aide/Secretary; Permanent Per Diem Substitutes; and Co-Curricular Additions, Changes and Deletions (excluding the first five items).

Mrs. Jankowsky clarified that the first item under Change of Status was a change in classification.

The motion passed 8-0.

DISCUSSION

Mrs. Huf stated that she had received a circular from the National School Boards Association regarding a meeting in Orlando on April 1st through 4th, which she would like to attend. Ms. Kolody stated that she would also like to attend. Mr. Grossi advised that all Board members who were interested in going should notify the Superintendent.

Mr. Faust requested that the creation of a full-time Athletic Director position be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Faust advised that impact aid issues were pulled from the agenda because we were waiting for information that Mr. Vail was gathering.

Ms. Kautz indicated that she was still waiting for the 8th grade transition report that she had previously requested. Mrs. Homel stated that since they had been running report cards, they had not been able to run the report yet but they had not forgotten about it.

Mr. Priadka informed the gathering that Tennent would be playing Wood in ice hockey the next night.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary