

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD DECEMBER 14, 1999

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on December 14, 1999, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Huf at 7:47 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Joseph Faust
Eugene Grossi
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
Kristin Kolody
Jerry Locke
Robert Rosenberger
Harve Strouse

[Note: Ms. Kautz was out of town.]

CEA/Teachers

Bob Stremme
Sherry Weinberg

Staff:

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

Public:

Timothy Lesinski
William Winthrop
Robert Salvia
Keith J. Starr

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Huf thanked Mr. Grossi for leading the Board for the past two years. She announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting regarding personnel matters relative to salary, sabbatical leaves, co-curricular positions, extended sick leave and a legal matter related to earned income tax.

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Sexton spoke about the background and achievements of Jean Avery, particularly with regard to the Citizens' Policy Committee. Mrs. Huf and Dr. Reid presented a Superintendent's Citation to Mrs. Avery for her years of service to the District. Mrs. Avery thanked Dr. Reid and spoke briefly to the Board about remembering that they are here for the children.

Dr. Sexton spoke about the achievements of Robert Stremme and his being awarded National Board Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Dr. Reid and Mrs. Huf presented Mr. Stremme with a certificate. Mr. Stremme spoke about the National Board Certification process and thanked everyone for their support.

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

Tim Lesinski reported as follows:

- The FBLA had held a Breakfast with Santa the previous weekend.
- The Alumni Breakfast would be held on December 23rd.
- A ski trip was being planned.
- Student Government was trying to continue its community service activities and had sold "remembrance ribbons" for the Tarleton family. The money raised would be donated to the surviving family members.
- The Senior Sweetheart Dance was being planned.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

GOOD NEWS

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Reid spoke about the artwork hanging in various areas. She then introduced the Annual Data Report, which was presented by Dr. Sexton. Dr. Sexton advised that the information would be available to the public by the end of the week.

Mr. Grossi congratulated Administration for providing full and complete data.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. Huf announced the Committee Appointments for the upcoming year, as follows:

Finance – Mr. Grossi, Chair; Ms. Kolody and Mr. Strouse
 Education – Mrs. Jankowsky, Chair; Mr. Faust and Mrs. Huf
 Operations – Mr. Rosenberger, Chair; Mr. Locke and Ms. Kautz
 MBIT – Mr. Faust, Chair; Mr. Locke and Ms. Kautz (Alternate: Mrs. Huf)
 Citizens' Policy – Appointment not made yet.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Education Committee had met on December 6th regarding modern languages. She stated that they reviewed the following items:

- the elementary school pilot program
- the middle school and high school programs
- issues remaining from the previous meeting
- alignment between 8th and 9th grade Algebra I programs
- clarification on the words “developmentally appropriate” relative to the standards in the reading/language arts program
- approving student performance standards (this will be voted on at the next meeting.)

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that she was the liaison for the elementary schools to the Reading/Language Arts Material Selection Committee and that the committee had met on several occasions. She indicated that the committee had narrowed down the choices to three publishers and that the committee would come before the Education Committee on January 3rd regarding this matter.

WTHS Middle States Accreditation

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that this committee would meet the following day.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Faust reported that since there had been no meeting in December, there would be no report. He advised that the next meeting would be on January 10th.

Mr. Faust advised that he had attended the Open House in November and that he felt MBIT was a very worthwhile institution. He expressed that he looked forward to serving on the Committee in the upcoming year.

Intermediate Unit

No report.

PSBA

No report.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Grossi reported that the Committee had met in November and examined the revenues, which did not look good. The next meeting would be held on January 24th.

Title VIII

Mr. Grossi reported that the base was moving toward privatization.

FLRA

Mrs. Huf reported that there was a report in the Board's packet regarding this matter.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

Citizens Policy

No report.

Legislative Liaison

Mr. Faust advised that there was a report in the Board's packet regarding this matter from John Brady of the I.U.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested that, as a matter of procedure, she would like typed reports in the Board's packet. By so doing, the Board could be prepared to suggest action to be taken.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Mrs. Huf advised that Bobbie Loftus had been in attendance at the meeting earlier and wanted to introduce herself as the new tax collector; however, she had to leave due to another commitment.

Keith J. Starr of 938 Willopenn Drive, Southampton, stated that he had had the pleasure of participating in the Panthers Invitational Wrestling Tournament at the high school the previous weekend. He felt that over the years there had been a lack of consistency in the athletics program but that Mr. Lou Patchioli is now doing a wonderful job. He felt that Mr. Patchioli brought a lot of consistency to the program and that the athletes responded well to him. He asked the Board to consider what he had to offer.

Mr. Rosenberger stated that he shared Mr. Starr's sentiments and agreed that the District's history (sports-wise) was not the best. He felt that Mr. Patchioli had done an excellent job and that he knew him personally.

Robert Salvia of 1135 Woods lane, Warminster, spoke about the importance of a full-time Athletic Director and expressed his support of Mr. Patchioli.

Bill Winthrop of 540 Buckstone Drive, Southampton, stated that he felt the athletic position was an important part of the whole educational program. He requested the Board to consider remedying the shortcomings of the program.

Tom Carrier of 1174 Nassau Road, Warminster, stated that he felt sports was an important part of the whole and asked that the importance of athletics be considered. He stated that he is going through the recruiting process now with one of his sons and felt that it would be helpful to have a full-time Athletic Director.

Mrs. Huf thanked the members of the community for coming to the meeting to express their views and agreed that athletics was important.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the minutes of:

- *Regular School Board Meeting – 10/12/99*
- *School Board Meeting/Work Session – 10/26/99*
- *Regular School Board Meeting – 11/9/99*
- *School Board Meeting/Work Session – 11/23/99*

and accepts the minutes of:

- *Finance & Long Range Budget Planning Committee – 10/25/99*
- *Education Committee – 11/1/99.*

The motion passed 8-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Final Approval:

5.14 – Volunteers

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the adoption of Policy 5.14, Volunteers.

The motion passed 8-0.

FINANCIAL

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the:

- *Schedule of Bills – November 1999*
- *Investments – November 1999*

- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – November 1999*

And approves the:

- *Treasurer's Report/Fund Profiles – November 1999*
- *Budgetary Transfers – December 1999.*

The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Exception to Policy 7.18 – Resident, Non-Resident Tuition Status

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants an exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident Tuition Status, and approves the request for Jill and Robin Tarleton to continue to attend Centennial Schools and receive transportation from Centennial School District until the end of the 1999/2000 school year at no cost to the family.

The Board discussed the specifics of how this would be accomplished.

The motion passed 8-0.

2A1. Adjudication Student 2-19

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger (no second) to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts Adjudication 2A1 pertaining to student 2-19. The School District Administration is directed to take the action necessary to effectuate the Adjudication and to properly serve the Adjudication on student 2-19.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

2A2. Adjudication Student 2-19

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts Adjudication 2A2 pertaining to student 2-19. The School District Administration is directed to take the action necessary to effectuate the Adjudication and to properly serve the Adjudication on student 2-19.

Mrs. Huf advised that she had not attended the hearing but had read the paperwork and was prepared to support this motion.

Mr. Faust advised that he would be supporting this motion.

Mrs. Huf advised that the procedure was that if you were not in attendance at the meeting you could request a copy of the transcript. If you read the transcript, you were permitted to vote.

Mr. Strouse stated that he had read the transcripts but since he was not on the Board at the time, he would be abstaining.

Mr. Grossi stated his opinion that this was a plain and simple case of double jeopardy. He felt that penalties had been given and the issue had been handled on that basis. He felt that the Adjudication was completely unfair and he would not support it. He also stated the he would not support 3A1 or 3A2 for the same reasons.

Mrs. Jankowsky concurred with Mr. Grossi. She felt that the student had received appropriate disciplinary measures and had made restitution. She pointed out that this was a \$39.50 vandalism case. She stated that she would not support the motion.

Mr. Faust felt that this matter did not warrant expulsion but felt that there should be more penalty paid.

Mr. Rosenberger felt that Administration had done a good job on this matter and indicated that he would support the motion.

Mr. Faust stated that he felt the administrators were following the law by taking this action.

Ms. Kolody felt that this was not a case of double jeopardy and advised that she would be supporting the motion.

Mr. Locke asked if the Board dismissed these two, would it be dismissed completely or go back to Administration. Mrs. Huf clarified that it would be completely dismissed.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that legislators should be notified about the amount of time and money used up on this matter in order to satisfy requirements. She stated that it far exceeded the \$39.50 in damages and that the legislators may not be aware of this nuance of the law.

Mr. Faust pointed out that the motion was for a one-day in-school suspension.

Mrs. Huf stated that there are policies that the Board must abide by; therefore, she would support the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, as follows:

<i>Ms. Kolody</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Rosenberger</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Grossi</i>	<i>No</i>

<i>Mr. Faust</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Strouse</i>	<i>Abstained</i>
<i>Mr. Locke</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed 4-3-1.

A question arose as to whether the vote was sufficient for the motion to pass. Mrs. Huf advised that the solicitor would be consulted and the Board advised of his opinion. [See page 97.]

A recess was called at 9:43 p.m. The meeting resumed at 9:51 p.m.

3A1. Adjudication Student 19-8

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts Adjudication 3A1 pertaining to student 19-8. The School District Administration is directed to take the action necessary to effectuate the Adjudication and to properly serve the Adjudication on student 19-8.

Ms. Kolody asked what the difference was between 3A1 and 3A2. Dr. Masko advised that 3A1 included community service and 3A2 did not. Ms. Kolody stated that she had attended the hearing for this student and felt that it would not hurt the student to do community service.

Mr. Grossi advised that he would not support this motion for the same reasons indicated above.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she concurred with most of the previous statements. She indicated that this student did not perform vandalism and that it was totally accidental on his part. He had no intent to do harm to anyone or anything. She stated that he had already been punished and that having to go through this process was punishment enough.

Mr. Strouse stated that he would abstain for the same reasons given above.

A roll call vote was taken, as follows:

<i>Ms. Kolody</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Rosenberger</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Grossi</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Faust</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Strouse</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Mr. Locke</i>	<i>No</i>

Mrs. Huf *No*

The motion failed 1-6-1.

3A2. Adjudication – Student 19-8

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Ms. Kolody to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts Adjudication 3A2 pertaining to student 19-8. The School District Administration is directed to take the action necessary to effectuate the Adjudication and to properly serve the Adjudication on student 19-8.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she had the same comments as listed above.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that for any subsequent infraction, the student would be subject to permanent expulsion.

A roll call vote was taken, as follows:

<i>Ms. Kolody</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Rosenberger</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Grossi</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Faust</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Strouse</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Mr. Locke</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed 4-3-1.

Mrs. Huf stated that clarification had been received by the solicitor regarding Motion 2A2 (*see page 96.*) Dr. Sexton explained that he and Mrs. Homel had spoken to the solicitor, who advised that a 4-3-1 vote would be a vote that counts. The one abstention would be the same as a Board member being absent so it would not be counted in the total. Section 1318 of the Code applies, not Section 508. Therefore, the majority of the Board members voting on the issue would carry the vote.

Dr. Reid clarified that Administration had followed State law and the School Code in these matters.

4. Athletic Director

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the full-time position of District Athletic Director at a starting salary of \$46,000.

Mrs. Huf stated that she felt that Mr. Patchioli was doing an excellent job and she would be in support of a full-time Athletic Director.

Mr. Faust advised that he would support this resolution and Mr. Patchioli; however, he pointed out that the motion was to create the full-time position only.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she would not be supporting the motion at this time since she felt that there were other academic issues that should be dealt with first.

Mr. Grossi stated that he would be supporting the motion and felt that the position was absolutely necessary at this point.

Mr. Strouse asked if this was a District Athletic Director or a high school Athletic Director and if the hiring was for the current school year or next school year, and whether it was budgeted.

Mrs. Huf explained that it was a District Athletic Director position. Mr. Grossi stated that it was not budgeted at this time but was intended for this year.

Dr. Reid advised that this would require a budget transfer of \$23,000 or less. Mr. Vail explained that it would come out of the budgetary reserve.

Mr. Faust felt that having someone responsible for overseeing the coaches and teams was important.

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that this person would report to the high school principal but would also be supervising the middle school programs. Mr. Grossi stated that this person would be evaluating coaching as well.

Mr. Faust advised that no fixed hours had been assigned to the position because that is a difficult thing to do in athletics. However, after the first year the Board would receive a report of the hours worked in order to evaluate whether the salary was appropriate.

The motion passed 7-1. (Mrs. Jankowsky was opposed.)

5. Permission to Accept Funding
6. School Bus Bids

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following:

- (5) *permission to accept funding for the following grants for the 1999/2000 school year in the amounts indicated:*
 - Read to Succeed (Stackpole) - \$40,000*
 - Safe Schools Initiative - \$56,048*
- (6) *transportation bids to be awarded to the following vendors:*

MA Brightbill, 65-Passenger Conventional Buses (4), Bid No. 2000-04, Total Bid Amount - \$214,092.00

MA Brightbill, 16-Passenger Buses (2), Bid No. 2000-05, Total Bid Amount - \$72,334.00

MA Brightbill, 24-Passenger Bus (1) (Alternate), Bid No. 2000-05, Total Bid Amount - \$39,267.00

Total Net Expense - \$325,693.00.

Mr. Faust pointed out that we are almost at capacity on some of the 16-passenger buses so why not get all 24-passenger buses.

Mr. Rhodes stated that he had not yet seen the 24-passenger buses and their configuration. He would like to see one before we commit to more. He felt that probably next year we would request two additional buses if we like this one and it works well.

Mr. Rosenberger left the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

The motion passed 7-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence (items 1 through 5); Appointments; Change of Status; Per Diem Substitutes; Saturday School Proctors; Title I Tutor; Co-Curricular Additions and Deletions (items 1 and 2.)

The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Rosenberger returned to the meeting at 10:22 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves item 6 under Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence.

Ms. Kolody stated her concern that this would affect the students halfway through the year.

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that this was a request for an exception to the policy since it came after April 1st, which is the deadline date.

The motion failed 0-8.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Items 3 through 7 under Co-Curricular Additions, Change and Deletions.

A motion to table was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Grossi.

The motion to table passed 8-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Huf referred to the list of communications attached hereto.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that she had received a letter from P. Bowen of Hatfield regarding the ice hockey program. Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she would like to find out if what Mrs. Bowen had written was true and if the incident could be looked into.

Mr. Faust indicated that he would also like Administration to look into whether all students participating in the program are following PIAA regulations for eligibility. He would like to see a report from Administration that the team lived up to its requirements to receive the money from the District.

Mr. Grossi added that he would like to know if the team lived up to the requirements of the District. Mr. Strouse and Mr. Locke indicated that they would like to receive copies of Mrs. Bowen's letter.

Dr. Reid asked for direction of what Administration should do. Mrs. Jankowsky asked that Administration find out if the incident occurred. Mrs. Huf suggested that a copy of the letter be sent to the coach and he should be asked to respond. Also, Administration should follow-up on Mr. Faust's questions.

Mr. Faust stated that there should be ongoing communication between the AD and the coach. He felt that if there wasn't, then he objected because in order for the hockey team to receive the funds, there were things they needed to comply with. Also the District needed to provide information about athletic eligibility.

Mr. Rosenberger asked for backup information about ice hockey. Dr. Reid stated that she would also see that the other new Board members receive that information as well.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Keith Starr of 938 Willopenn Drive, Southampton, expressed his gratitude to the Board for being so deliberative. He stated that he appreciated the Board's efforts.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

1. Centennial Newsletter Proposal

Dr. Reid explained the process being used to obtain proposals for the newsletter. She indicated that she would like this to come before the Board for discussion in January.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that this should come through the Finance Committee before it comes before the Board.

Mr. Faust indicated that he would like to support this going through the Finance Committee along with some of the other proposals. He didn't want the appearance of any problems with Mr. Metzger; he had no problems with him. He felt the matter should have a full public discussion through the Finance Committee and the Board with all of the proposals so that it could be shown that this was the best proposal. He wanted to avoid the appearance of impropriety.

Mr. Strouse concurred.

Dr. Reid stated that this could be done. Mr. Grossi indicated that it could be placed on the agenda for the Finance Committee.

Ms. Kolody stated that she would like to see samples. She also asked that we find out if it will be permissible for the newsletter to be put on the Internet so that members of the community could read it.

2. Primary Election Day – April 4, 2000

Mrs. Huf questioned whether Governor Ridge changing the date of Primary Election Day would cause a problem for the District. Dr. Sexton explained that Administration was recommending that the calendar not be changed. This was being brought to the Board for information only.

Mrs. Huf asked if we would be allotting parking spaces for the voters. Dr. Sexton explained that we would do our best to provide parking.

3. Technology Support Specialist

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that since the Board had accepted the resignation of the Technology Support Specialist, it needed to provide Administration with some direction.

Mr. Grossi stated that he did not feel the position needed to be filled. Ms. Kolody indicated that she would like to see the job description and suggested that maybe it should be re-evaluated.

Mr. Faust indicated that he was also in support of re-evaluation but felt that the Board needed some information from Dr. Masko and Dr. Reid. He stated that he would like their opinions as to whether to fill the position and that he would like to see data.

Dr. Masko indicated that he would be glad to provide information and data.

Mr. Faust asked, since Mrs. Fikaris had already left, whether we would be okay without someone in the position until this is re-evaluated. Dr. Masko responded that it would be difficult to get by since the position provides a very central function to the District and

also serves as support for the Administration Building. He felt that it was a very important position.

Mr. Faust asked if he felt the necessity for a temporary fix. Dr. Masko stated that that would be appreciated since, otherwise, Mr. Reed and Mr. Sheaffer would be taken away from their jobs to try to cover the duties of this position.

Mr. Grossi felt that this should be re-evaluated but that we needed to get the job done however possible for now. Also, he indicated that we neglected to say that Ms. Fikaris would be missed and that she had done a great job.

Mr. Reed stated that the position was an important one to the District. He stated that Ms. Fikaris had spent a lot of time interfacing with vendors when there were problems with printers or 27" monitors, which were coming out of warranty. He indicated that she had been very instrumental in writing the curriculum for training and also for running a number of workshops for administrative staff. He encouraged a temporary fix and stated that information would be provided as soon as possible.

Dr. Reid stated that for the January meeting she would like to have Dr. Masko and Mr. Reed provide that data. Also, if there were interim needs, that information should be brought forward in January because at that time the technical support we have at the high school would be leaving.

Ms. Kolody asked if it was possible to put a number of hours on how much time is being taken from someone else's job perform the duties of this position.

4. Human Sexuality Course

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she would still like to receive the comparison information on the Human Sexuality course that she had requested at the previous meeting.

5. Peer Mediation Course

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that at the last meeting she had requested information on whether there were any plans to standardize this throughout the elementary schools and the middle and high schools.

Dr. Sexton advised that this matter had been discussed the previous week at a meeting of the Safe Schools Committee. He explained that they were looking not only for continuity throughout the elementary schools but also longitudinally throughout the schools K-12.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

Mrs. Huf wished everyone a happy holiday and a safe New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary