

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD JANUARY 11, 2000**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on January 11, 2000, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Huf at 7:48 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Joseph Faust  
Eugene Grossi  
Betty Huf  
Joan Jankowsky  
Rose Marie Kautz  
Kristin Kolody  
Jerry Locke  
Robert Rosenberger\*  
Harve Strouse

(\*Mr. Rosenberger arrived at 8:59 p.m.)

Staff:

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

CEA/Staff:

Georgia Ballard  
Brenda Hurley  
Gail Gismondi  
Nancy Moore  
Kimberly Quillan  
Stephen Grossman  
Marie Diehl  
Beth Campbell  
Cliff Bowen  
Karen Bennett  
Lizabeth Pannella  
Linda K. Bielawski  
Evelyn Fetterman  
Ian McIlhenny  
Kathy Lawrence  
Brian Sayre

Elizabeth Vandegrift  
Wendy Derby  
Mark Swartwood  
Kathy Patton  
Susie Boyle  
Debbie Faehner  
Sewell Wallace  
Keith Costigan  
Susan Klenk  
Mick Sander  
Paul Hvizda  
Tom Michaud  
Dixie Williams  
Ann Van Zelst  
Dee Hallowell  
JoAnn Collins Walsh

CEA/Staff (Continued):

Chris Zobel  
Bonnie Klein

Barbara Poole  
Colleen Cerino

Public:

Lorraine Bowen  
Matt Ifkovitz  
Sue Donovan  
Mary Beth Van Note  
Rose Apa  
Nancy Koch

Warren Smith  
Mary Talle  
Vicki Boruta  
Janet Marinoff  
Lillian Hennig  
Florence Vissar

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Huf led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Huf announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting regarding legal issues relative to earned income tax, a student disciplinary matter, a contract revision and personnel issues relative to co-curricular positions and the results of an investigation.

Mrs. Huf also announced that she had appointed Mr. Faust and Ms. Kolody to serve on the Technology Steering Committee and Mrs. Jankowsky to serve on the Outstanding Employee Committee.

Mrs. Huf advised that Mr. Rosenberger had been attending another meeting but that he would be arriving soon.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Log College Blue Ribbon

Mrs. Homel congratulated everyone at Log College on being named a Blue Ribbon School of Distinction. Mrs. Huf read from the plaque, which was then presented to Dr. Bucky Clark by Dr. Reid and Mrs. Huf.

Dr. Clark spoke about what it meant to be a Blue Ribbon School and the lengthy preparation that was required. Gail Gismondi, Brenda Hurley and Georgia Ballard, from Log College, also spoke about the preparation process.

Dr. Clark thanked the students, staff, community members, businesses, parents, Board members and Mrs. Homel for all their help and support.

Mrs. Huf congratulated Dr. Clark and asked the Board to join her in giving Log College a standing ovation.

2. School Directors' Month

Dr. Reid spoke about School Directors' Month and about the responsibilities of the directors and the amount of time and work required. Each Board member received a plaque and several small gifts as a token of the District's appreciation.

Mr. Faust thanked Administration for recognizing the Directors. He also thanked Log College, Bucky Clark and his staff and former staff members because he felt that it was because of their influence on him when he was attending Log College that he was now a Board member.

Ms. Kolody also thanked Dr. Clark and his staff.

The meeting was recessed at 8:30 p.m. and resumed at 8:40 p.m.

## REPORTS

### STUDENT COUNCIL

Mike Gearty advised that Tim Lesinski, the Student Council representative, had to leave. Mr. Gearty reported that preparation for the Senior Sweetheart activities were underway and that auditions were beginning for the school musical, *Hello Dolly*.

### MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Matt Ifkovitz, a Senior at Tennent and a culinary arts student at MBIT, reported as follows:

- A Program Planning Night would be held at MBIT on January 26<sup>th</sup> for any students considering attending MBIT.
- The Adult Evening School would begin its new semester on January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The culinary arts students had made 11 or 12 ice sculptures for the Doylestown First Night celebration.
- On the previous evening the culinary arts students had prepared dinner for the School Board Directors.
- Aspirations Restaurant was continuing to do well. Mr. Ifkovitz invited everyone to try it out.

Mrs. Huf asked Mr. Ifkovitz to extend the Board's thanks to the culinary arts students for the dinner. She stated that the Board members enjoyed it very much and that it was well done.

## **GOOD NEWS**

Dr. Sexton presented the Good News Report (see attached.)

Ms. Kautz announced that Troy Roberson from Tennent had brought home two gold medals in track from the meet at Lehigh and also that he had set two new records.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Reid called attention to the artwork in the Board Room and the hallways. She then presented the Superintendent's Report (see attached), which consisted of the Progress Report on the 1999/2000 District Goals.

Mr. Rosenberger arrived at the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Education committee had met on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The following issues were discussed:

- The Reading/Language Arts selection process.
- Approval of District Student Performance Standards and Assessments in grades 3, 5, 8 and 11.
- Elementary class size reduction.
- Elementary modern language pilot survey data. [Mrs. Jankowsky advised that in the Committee's opinion there was enough interest to warrant running the program so there would be a motion under "New Business" to approve a pilot program in each elementary building.]
- The next meeting would be held on the first Monday in February. The topic would be student assistance strategies and preparation for Accreditation for Growth. [Mrs. Jankowsky advised that since the audit of the gifted program would not be ready for discussion in February as originally scheduled, that topic would be scheduled for discussion in March.)

Mr. Faust indicated that when the Board approved the standards there was one clarification that Administration was going to provide to the Education Committee. Mrs. Jankowsky stated that the status would come forward to the Board with the clarification provided and that it would be discussed at that time.

## **WTHS Middle States Accreditation**

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Planning Committee had held an all-day meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The primary focus was on the data profile book that would be generated for the AFG process. Mrs. Jankowsky advised that one issue that was not resolved was the issue of how we address the teacher competencies in technology. It was suggested at the meeting that this be a subject for Board discussion.

Mrs. Jankowsky announced that she had received a copy of a letter directed to Eileen Poroszok from the Commission on Secondary Schools of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools stating that they had approved the awarding of accreditation to William Tennent High School for a period not to exceed five years.

#### Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Faust reported that the Executive Council had performed the following actions at its meeting the previous evening:

- Approved the Nominating Committee's report.
- Reviewed the budget timetable, which should go before the School Boards in April or May.
- Approved personnel matters.
- Approved the bill for the student-built house.
- Approved an agreement to make MBIT a Microsoft authorized academic training provider.
- Amended the Agreement with 3COM to make it an authorized site for testing and training for network technology.

Mr. Faust reported that after the meeting 36 School Directors attended a dinner for School Directors Month. Dr. Lees presented a history of the thirty years of MBIT. Ms. Kautz, Mr. Grossi and Mrs. Huf were recognized for their service.

Mr. Faust advised that committee assignments would not be available until the next meeting.

#### Intermediate Unit

Ms. Kautz reported as follows:

- The I.U. Board did not meet in December. The next meeting was scheduled for January 18<sup>th</sup>.
- There was an informative article in the Courier regarding the building expansion. Due to Act 48, it would be a timely addition due to increased demands.
- The I.U. was awarded a Safe Schools grant totaling \$106,000 for countywide coordination, Safe Schools training and creating Web-accessible resources for safe schools.
- Dr. William Penn, PDE's Director of Special Ed, had retired as of December 31, 1999. No successor had yet been named.
- The I.U. Education Foundation meeting would be held on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### PSBA

Ms. Kautz reported that Stuart Kessler of Colonial School District would complete the unexpired term of Ed Godin as the Region 11 Director. Mr. Godin was now the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of PSBA for 2000.

Ms. Kautz stated that in order to help the Suburban Forum Advisory Committee determine the focus issues for the year 2000, committee members were asked to submit suggestions to a survey. She requested Board members to submit to her any items they would like to be considered.

Mrs. Huf advised that she had received a letter stating that they will be highlighting Pennsylvania Public Schools at the next convention and asked if there was anything about our schools that we wanted to have displayed. Mrs. Huf indicated that she would be passing the letter on.

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

Mr. Grossi reported that the next meeting would be on January 24<sup>th</sup> and that the preliminary agenda included revenue projections and reaffirmation of procedures for the budget presentation.

#### Title VIII

No report.

#### FLRA

Mr. Lasher referred to the report contained in the Board's packet.

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### Citizens Policy

Mr. Strouse reported that a meeting would be held on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### Legislative Liaison

Mr. Faust referred to the report contained in the Board's packet. He also reported that there would be a meeting of the Bucks County School Directors Legislative Council at the I.U. the following evening. Some of the topics for discussion included:

- The Governor's proposed budget.
- Early retirement incentives.
- Projected increase for special education.
- Changes in special education regulations.
- Schedule of meeting dates.
- HB 8 – Professional Educators' Recertification.
- HB 1576 – Relief for School Districts of the responsibility to pay for education of expelled students.

- HB 1679, which would provide penalties for the failure to exercise parental responsibility.
- Senate Bill 3841, which provides a clearinghouse for missing and kidnapped children.
- HB 461 which provides for law enforcement officers to provide notice of arrest to school administrators of any school employee.
- HB 1962 regarding early severance plans.
- House Resolution 227, regarding Congress's obligation to fully fund obligations under IDEA.

## COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

## MINUTES

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revised minutes of Reorganization School Board Meeting – 12/6/99, and accepts the minutes of Education Committee Meeting – 12/6/99.*

Mrs. Detwiler explained the revisions to the minutes.

*The motion passed 8-0-1. (Ms. Kautz abstained.)*

## OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

### Initial Distribution:

Mr. Rosenberger enumerated the following policies for initial review:

- 1.2 – Centennial School Board Meetings
- 2.12 – Personnel Records
- 3.1 – Drug/Alcohol
- 4.3 – Playground/Physical Education Equipment

## FINANCIAL

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

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

*And approves the:*

- *Treasurer's Report/Fund Profiles – December 1999*
- *Budgetary Transfers – January 2000*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Christ's Home Crisis Unit
2. Appoint Impact Aid Representative
3. Impact Aid Application
4. Appointment of Bucks County I.U. Representative
5. Summer Projects – PDE Application
6. Telecommunications Band Width Services Bid
7. Elementary Modern Language Pilot Program

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

- (1) *Adopts the Christ's Home Proposal for a Crisis Unit. Staff will be contracted through the Bucks County Intermediate Unit. (One teacher, one assistant.)*
- (2) *Appoints Eugene Grossi, Board Member, to serve as Impact Aid Representative. This appointment is in accordance with federal regulations requiring the appointment of a representative prior to the filing of Centennial's funding application in January 2000.*
- (3) *Directs Timothy E. Vail, Business Administrator, to prepare and submit the District's Title VIII (Impact Aid) application for 1999/2000.*
- (4) *Nominates Rose Marie Kautz, Board Member, to serve on the Bucks County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors for the term of June 30, 2000 through June 30, 2003.*
- (5) *Approves applying to the Department of Education for approval of the plans and specifications for the work described as follows: repave employee parking lot at Bus Garage, replace floor tiles at Davis, replace lockers, ceiling and lighting at Klinger, replace lighting at Leary, replace lockers, ceiling, lighting and concrete at Log College, replace ceiling, lighting and floors at Longstreth, replace floor tiles and concrete at McDonald, expand library at Stackpole, replace bridge doors, weight room matting, and repair cooling tower at William Tennent, and replace concrete at Willow Dale. The Board certifies that, to the best of its knowledge, information and belief, construction bid documents comply, or will comply, with applicable laws, regulations and policies, and the project will not pose a hazard to the health and safety of users. Specifications include all applicable statements set forth in the current PDE document entitled "Required Clauses for Specifications." Construction contracts will not be entered into prior to PDE approval. If the Board proceeds with this project, the lowest responsible bidder(s) will be selected. The Board also certifies that the above-described work will proceed whether or not additional on-site work that is subject to Act 34 of 1973 goes forward. This motion is for permission to apply to the Department of Education and does not commit the District to do these projects.*

- (6) *Approves the Telecommunications Band Width Services Bid No. 2000-06 to be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, Bell Atlantic, in the amount of \$50,068.80 for a one-year period. Service will be on a month to month basis.*
- (7) *Approves the development of a 10-week Voluntary Elementary After School Language Pilot Program in Spanish at each elementary school at no cost to the District. The Pilot Program will take place in the Spring of 2000 and will be organized and administered by the Bucks County Community College Office of Continuing Education.*

Mr. Lasher explained the various bids for telecommunications.

Dr. Smith from the I.U. spoke regarding Christ Home. He explained that there should be a maximum of twelve children in residence at any time.

Mr. Strouse questioned Item 12 of the Christ Home Agreement regarding the District's responsibility for any underpayment. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding how the amount would be determined and the District's responsibility pay any bill that was rendered, regardless of whether or not it was correct.

Dr. Sexton clarified that Item 12 as it appeared in the contract contained several changes suggested by our solicitor.

Mr. Grossi felt that there was more financial information and fiscal notes needed before any action could be taken.

*A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Faust to segregate Item 1 from the motion.*

*The motion to separate passed 9-0.*

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to table Item 1.*

*The motion to table passed 9-0.*

Mrs. Jankowsky confirmed that this matter would appear on the January 25<sup>th</sup> agenda.

*The original motion, excluding Item 1, passed 9-0.*

## **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 Absence; Appointments; Change of Status; Permanent Per Diem Substitutes; Title I Tutor; Substitute Custodians; Substitute Bus Driver.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Huf stated that she had received a letter from the Auditor General's Office stating that they would be conducting an audit for the years ending 1997 and 1998. That audit began on January 10<sup>th</sup>. She also received a letter from the SPCA regarding the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Leroy Ellis Award awarding a teacher up to \$10,000 for a program that emphasizes animals, either wild or domesticated.

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

Mrs. Jankowsky questioned Item 1 on the list regarding the real estate tax assessment item. She asked if it would appear on the Finance Committee's agenda. It was decided that it would be added to the agenda.

## ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

## BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

### 1. Technology Support Specialist

Mr. Reed indicated that the Board had received a packet regarding the recommendations for this position. He explained the history of the position and the current needs.

Mr. Grossi stated that he did not understand the need for this position due to the decentralization. He felt that having a person in this position would encourage dependence rather than having the individuals become proficient on the system.

Ms. Kolody disagreed. She felt that there needed to be someone to perform maintenance and act as the "expert."

Mr. Faust felt that there were some needs and that this should be funded but felt that there could be some shifting of responsibilities. He felt that for now the Board had the responsibility to fund the position.

Dr. Reid stated that Administration needed direction as to whether or not to advertise the position.

Mr. Faust stated that he would be willing to support a temporary position until a study is done. The merits of hiring a person temporarily were discussed, particularly regarding quality of personnel, whether or not they would need to fill the entire job description or just perform basic tasks to take some of the load off Mr. Reed and the network administrator.

Mr. Grossi stated that whenever there is a loss of personnel like this, the position should be re-evaluated to determine current needs.

Dr. Masko pointed out that he would have to reassign the duties involved in staff development, which usually begins in February. There would be a lot of planning for the summertime, i.e., course writing, less plan development, etc.

Mr. Rosenberger felt that a lot of money had been spent on the computers, so someone should be hired to take care of them.

Ms. Kolody felt that this position should be filled. Mr. Locke agreed.

Mrs. Huf asked for the consensus of the Board as to what direction it wished to take.

Mr. Strouse stated that he did not see how the two areas fit together, i.e., a technician to fix machines and a person to work on staff development.

Dr. Reid explained that although there did seem to be a dichotomy between the two, there is the talent out there to do it. Mr. Faust stated that this position did not originally start out that way but that the position description was written to match Mrs. Fikaris's talents.

A poll was taken of the Board to determine whether the consensus was to hire someone full time or apply a temporary fix to the problem:

Mr. Rosenberger	Hire full-time person
Ms. Kolody	Hire full-time person
Mr. Grossi	Temporary fix
Mr. Faust	Temporary fix
Mrs. Jankowsky	Temporary fix
Mr. Strouse	Temporary fix
Mr. Locke	Temporary fix
Ms. Kautz	Hire full-time person
Mrs. Huf	Temporary fix

The consensus of the Board was to apply a temporary fix (6-3) through June 30th.

2. E-Mail for School Board

Mr. Reed presented several options for providing e-mail to Board members. After discussion, it was clarified that Board members need not all choose the same option and that they should each notify Mr. Reed of what they wished to do.

3. Rate Increase for Solicitor

Mr. Faust requested clarification on correspondence that was received from one of our solicitors regarding a rate increase. Mr. Faust advised that when the Board approved this

solicitor, it be at a certain rate. He felt that another motion would be needed to approve the solicitor at the new rate. It was decided that this matter should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

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

See Schedule attached hereto.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary