

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
HELD MARCH 14, 2000**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on March 14, 2000, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Huf at 7:44 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

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

[Kristin Kolody was absent.]

Administration:

Barbara Fash  
Frank Gallagher  
Pearline Greene  
Sandy Homel  
Victor Lasher  
Dr. Michael Masko  
Dr. Nancy Reid  
John Rhodes  
Jean Rollo  
Dr. Thomas Sexton

CEA/Teachers:

Stephanie Badulak  
Hank Ballerstedt  
Kerry Bauerle  
Pat Culkin  
Margaret Devine  
Debra Dougherty  
Jane Drebes  
Jenny Foight-Cressman  
Beth Anne Fox  
Ray Garritt  
Nancy Gifford  
Julie Goodling  
Joanne Marchesani

Shannon Meakim  
Lenore O'Donnell  
Susan Pearce  
Joseph Pisacano  
Maria Pisoni  
Kim Quillen  
Lynne Rotolo  
Mick Sander  
Rena Seitz  
Cheri Tenaglia  
Susan Wagner  
Sue Young

Public:

William Kerins  
Jack Leitmeyer  
Dolores Leitmeyer  
John Tumelty  
Ron Schumann  
Ron Froggatt  
Pat Brown

Matt Ifkovitz  
Susan Kerins  
Richard Coe  
Donna Marie Saul  
Sina Baransky  
Ira Lee Riddle

**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 a personnel matter relative to a request for extended leave, a legal matter relative to tax collections and a conference matter relative to Board in-service.

Mrs. Huf also noted that Ms. Kolody would be resigning from Board service effective March 30<sup>th</sup> and outlined the procedure to be used to fill the vacancy. She indicated that the new appointment would be made at the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and would be effective through December 3, 2001.

Ms. Kautz introduced Dr. Richard Coe, Executive Director of I.U. #22.

**REPORTS**

**STUDENT COUNCIL**

No report.

**MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Matt Ifkovitz reported on the VICA and DECA competitions that students had participated in. There were 18 MBIT students who brought home medals from the VICA competition and 10 MBIT students who received awards from the DECA competition.

**GOOD NEWS/PRESENTATIONS**

Al Perlini, Legislative Aide to Representative Roy Reinard, presented a Citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to Dr. Reid for receiving the William H. Martin Award from the Bucks County Council of Boy Scouts of America.

Frank Gallagher presented grants on behalf of the Centennial Education Foundation to thirty teachers, to be used for special projects.

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

Dr. Masko then introduced Jim Webb and Bob Reed, who made a presentation regarding “Technology for Administrative Functions.”

Jack Leitmeyer of 490 Steamboat Drive, Southampton, asked if the teachers had been given adequate training and time to train, whether the system is backed up, and the cost of the system.

Dr. Masko explained several different training opportunities that had been provided to the teachers.

Mr. Webb advised that the system was totally backed up each evening and that a minimum of one backup per week was sent off-site.

Mr. Reed explained that there were two costs involved – the overall Pro-Soft System cost of \$340,000 and the Grade-Quick System cost of approximately \$10,000.

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Mrs. Huf announced that the Community Comments portion of the meeting would be moved forward.

Jack Leitmeyer of 490 Steamboat Drive, Southampton, addressed the Board regarding the concerns of the retirees of the community. He advised that they received no incremental increases in benefits and that their medical benefits had been reduced. He commended the Board for keeping the tax rate the same for the past six years; however, he stated that the article in the Courier-Times disturbed him. He felt that the Board was asking the community to make up for problems someone else had created. He felt that working taxpayers could handle a tax increase, but the senior citizens could not.

John J. Tumelty, Jr., of 135 Windsor Avenue, Southampton, asked how the Board could justify adding new teachers if the tax revenues were down. He could not understand why more teachers would be needed under block scheduling. He questioned how the District could justify keeping a tax collector that did not have experience in the field.

Bill Kerins of 1465 Estate Lane, Southampton, (the Upper Southampton tax collector) addressed the Board regarding his position on the tax collection matter. He stated that he had been a tax attorney for twenty years, although this had been his first experience in tax collection. He spoke about what he did as a tax collector and stated that he had collected 99% of the taxes he had contracted for. He also felt that errors had been made by the Business Office, which he spent

time fixing. He spoke of personal problems he had experienced that had affected his performance but felt that if there was a problem it was with the Business Office, not with him.

Mrs. Huf advised that since this was a legal matter, the Board had no comment.

## **REPORTS (Continued)**

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Reid presented the Superintendent's Report (see attached), highlighting the Strategic Plan and the Elementary Foreign Language Experience Program.

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Education Committee had met on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The meeting focused on the gifted program evaluation final report. Mrs. Jankowsky advised that the report identified needs in the gifted program and set forth recommendations. Mrs. Jankowsky advised that Curriculum Council had reviewed the report and generated items to be addressed by the Education Committee.

#### Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Faust reported on the following matters from the meeting of the Executive Council the previous evening:

- Recognition was given to regional winners at competitions.
- Last year when MBIT was audited a citation was issued because some of the building was not being used for vocational education. A committee has been formed to make recommendations on how the program can be modified to be in compliance with the regulations.
- A letter was received from the Central Bucks School District requesting permission to use MBIT grounds to store 15-20 buses on a temporary basis. They will develop a proposal before any action is taken on this matter.
- The budget was reviewed for the first time. On a budget-to-budget basis, there is an increase of 3.2%. Including new initiatives, the increase would be 6½%. Centennial's portion, with adjustments, would be approximately \$1.4 million.

Mr. Grossi stated that he didn't understand why they kept adding personnel, particularly an in-school suspension resource person. Mr. Faust indicated that he had asked this question and was told that it was not practical for each school's in-school suspension person to handle this matter.

Mr. Faust stated that he also had questions about the initiative regarding a public safety position. He felt that MBIT would be providing the same training as that which is provided for free by the county.

### Intermediate Unit

Ms. Kautz reported as follows:

- The I.U. Board met on February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The Board was presented with an award from the Foundations Behavioral Health “Partnership in Youth Service Award” for 1999 for participation in Project Fast, a partnership between families and the community.
- Dr. Elliott Seif gave the Board an update on the status of Chapter 4 Curriculum and Standards Assessment.
- The Board approved the Programs and Services Budget for 2000/2001. The Finance Committee had met before the meeting and recommended approval. There has been no increase to the District’s contributions for the last five years other than those caused by an increase in student population. The I.U. Administration will attend our Board meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> to answer questions.
- Dr. Coe presented the Association of School Officials International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting to Wendy Macauley, Director of Finance, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998.
- Stanley Booz presented the audit report for the year ending June 30, 1999. It was an unqualified report.
- The next meeting is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The I.U. Education Foundation will meet on March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The third annual Golf Classic will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The I.U. will be holding a workshop on School Law for Board Members on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

### PSBA

Ms. Kautz reported as follows:

- A meeting has still not been held this year, probably as a result of the change of Region 11 Director. The By-laws state there must be a minimum of one meeting per year. Hopefully, a meeting will be scheduled soon.
- The Forum Advisory Committee met in Hershey at the Leadership Conference and reviewed the survey results. The suburban forum ranked state funding, unfunded mandates and charter schools as the top three concerns.
- On May 16<sup>th</sup> there would be a daylong session on education reform and teacher accountability in Horsham.
- The deadline for submitting proposals for an education session at the October Conference is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### AFG

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that no meeting had been held yet but that there would probably be one in the summer.

Mrs. Homel advised that the high school would be doing a six-day run of block scheduling from March 22<sup>nd</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>.

Strategic Planning Committee

This was reported on earlier in the meeting.

**FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Mr. Grossi reported that the committee had scheduled several meetings dealing with the budget. It has already reviewed revenues and had good concurrence on the numbers as projected. He indicated that the goal for the preliminary budget adoption was April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Title VIII

Mr. Grossi stated that the Government still owes the District \$400,000. Discussion was held regarding contacting the representatives again regarding this matter.

FLRA

Vic Lasher advised that an agreement of sale had been signed with Industrial Investments and that the FLRA was trying to move the transfer of the west side effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. Variances must be obtained from Warminster Township in order to make the project viable.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Rosenberger reported that the Operations Committee met earlier in the evening and gave approval to Mr. Lasher to recommend to the Finance Committee that the current phone system expenditure be moved from a bond expenditure to the capital reserve fund.

Citizens Policy

Mr. Strouse reported that this committee had met the previous month and brought forward for distribution to the Board a policy on Animals in the Classroom. This policy will be discussed at the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Legislative Liaison

Mr. Faust reported that the Board's packet contained minutes from John Brady regarding Governor Ridge's Proposed Commonwealth Budget and the Legislative Report. He advised that he had copies of the Bills if anyone was interested in seeing them.

Mr. Faust advised that he had attended a seminar on Act 48.

## MINUTES

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the minutes of: Work Session/Regular Board Meeting – 2/1/2000; Regular School Board Meeting – 2/8/2000; and accepts the minutes of Education Committee Meeting – 1/3/2000.*

Mr. Grossi stated that he wanted to abstain on the February 8<sup>th</sup> minutes since he was absent from that meeting.

Two minor revisions to the February 1<sup>st</sup> minutes were discussed.

*The motion passed 7-0-1 (as revised.) (Ms. Kautz abstained; Mr. Grossi abstained on February 8<sup>th</sup> minutes only.)*

## OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

### Initial Distribution:

Mr. Rosenberger enumerated the following policies for initial review:

- 4.5 – Cafeterias
- 4.6 – Building Maintenance and Repair
- 5.9 – Animals in the Classroom

## 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 – February 2000*
- *Investments – February 2000*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – February 2000*

*And approves the:*

- *Treasurer’s Report/Fund Profiles – February 2000*
- *Budgetary Transfers – March 2000.*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

## OLD BUSINESS

None

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Student Disciplinary Matter
2. WTHS Chorale Trip to New York City
3. Concrete Replacement Bid

4. Paving Bid
5. District Calendar 2000/2001
6. Indoor Track Competition

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

- (1) Adopts the Adjudication pertaining to Student 10-20. The School District Administration is directed to take the action necessary to effectuate the Adjudication and to properly serve the Adjudication on Student 10-20.*
- (2) Grants final approval for the William Tennent High School Chorale Trip to New York City on May 26-28, 2000. There is no cost to the School District.*
- (3) Approves the Concrete Replacement Bid No. 2000-11 to be awarded to Fox Chase Restoration at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$68,800.00. This will be a general obligation bond fund expenditure.*
- (4) Approves the Paving Bid No. 2000-10 to be awarded to Pennsbury Excavating at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$27,188.96. This will be a general obligation bond expenditure.*
- (5) Adopts the proposed Centennial School District calendar for the 2000/2001 school year.*
- (6) Grants preliminary approval/final approval for a William Tennent High School student, Troy Roberson, to attend the National Level in Indianapolis, IN, at an approximate cost of \$1,087.00.*

Mrs. Jankowsky requested that Item #1 be separated.

*The motion pertaining to Items 2-6 passed 8-0.*

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the Adjudication pertaining to Student 10-20. The School District Administration is directed to take the action necessary to effectuate the Adjudication and to properly serve the Adjudication on Student 10-20.*

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she would not be supporting this motion since it was more stringent than what Administration recommended. She was in favor of what the Board had recommended.

*The motion passed 4-3-1. (Mr. Locke, Mrs. Jankowsky and Mrs. Huf opposed; Mr. Rosenberger abstained.)*

Mr. Rosenberger stated that he had not received the transcript of the hearing. Ms. Kautz asked that in the future, as a matter of course, Administration make sure that a Board member who is absent receives a copy of the transcript.

## **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*

- *Substitute Bus Driver*

*And accepts:*

- *Award of Tenure*

Mr. Grossi requested that the third item under Resignations be pulled.

*The motion passed 8-0 (with the exception of the pulled item.)*

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Item 3 under Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence.*

Mr. Faust pointed out that the effective dated was listed as 3/8/00 - 6/7/00. He wondered if it would be better to state that it was effective through the balance of the school year. Mrs. Rollo confirmed that that would be better.

*The motion passed 6-2. (Ms. Kautz and Mr. Grossi opposed.)*

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Donna Marie Saul of 589 Lowell Road, Warminster, requested the Board and Administration to prepare and implement an Honors General Science course for the 2000/2001 school year. Although parents had been assured at the previous Board meeting that this matter would be looked into, there was some indication at the Education Meeting that it would not be possible to implement this course for the upcoming school year. She questioned this since there were 21 courses that had recently been approved by the Board which had not yet been implemented, so she felt there was still time. Mrs. Saul advised that she had spoken to Ms. Spirk, who indicated that there were 23 to 28 eighth grade students that would be recommended for such a course if it were available. She felt that Log College would have similar numbers. Mrs. Saul emphasized that this was not solely a gifted issue and that any eligible student would be able to participate and take advantage of this course. She also pointed out that this course was recommended in two separate places in the audit report.

Mr. Faust left the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

### **1. AFG**

#### **(a) English 1 and English 2 Courses for 2000/01 School Year**

Dr. Masko explained the plan for English at the high school for the 2000/01 school year.

Mr. Faust returned to the meeting at 10:33 p.m. Mr. Locke left the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

Mr. Grossi asked for clarification that the contents of the current English, Grade 9 course would be covered under the new English 1 course and that the new English 2 course would be an enrichment of English 1. He felt that this would be a watering-down of the current curriculum.

Dr. Masko stated that there is a desire to move to a more standardized and standards-based system. In the past the curriculum has been open to interpretation, it has not been formalized.

Mr. Locke returned to the meeting at 10:40 p.m.

Mr. Strouse questioned why these courses were being changed now since they had part of the curriculum renewal process. He also questioned how materials could have been chosen if the curriculum was not defined.

Dr. Masko stated that the materials were chosen specifically with the sequence in mind. He also stated that since we were not happy with reading scores, the English 2 course would provide an opportunity for the students to develop better reading skills.

Mr. Faust stated that at the time of materials selection, the committee was aware that there would be five English courses. He expanded on the work of the materials selection committee.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that there was still a lack of specificity in the written plan course. Dr. Reid felt that as we move toward a standards-based system, there will be more specificity.

Mr. Rosenberger left the meeting at 10:55 p.m. and returned at 11:00 p.m. Ms. Kautz left the meeting at 10:58 p.m. and returned at 11:03 p.m.

(b) Start Time for After-School Co-Curricular Activities

Mr. Grossi discussed the concerns raised in the memo contained in the Board's packet regarding this matter. He suggested that the time students spend in the classroom be lengthened.

Mrs. Homel expressed concern that there would be low participation in co-curricular and other activities if they did not start until 3:00.

Mrs. Jankowsky expressed some confusion about the content of the memo versus comments made at the Education Committee meeting. Also, she was concerned about the amount of time students would lose.

Mrs. Jankowsky raised the issue of “double dipping” by teachers. Mr. Faust agreed and stated that co-curricular pay may need to be adjusted to cover only that portion of time that is used outside the teaching day.

(c) Graduation Requirements and MBIT

Mr. Faust advised that they had approved the graduation requirement that each student must have five years of English; however, they have now been told that MBIT students cannot schedule five years of English. Dr. Reid advised that the matter was being looked into.

Mr. Grossi asked if a proper committee forum could be found to discuss these issues so that some direction could be determined. Mrs. Huf asked for volunteers.

Mrs. Homel advised that the fifth year of English was not an oversight. She stated that she would like the high school administration to look at this issue before a decision is made.

Mrs. Huf requested continual AFG updates to the Education Committee.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this problem may have been mentioned in documentation that was privy to high school Administration but that it was not brought forward at a public meeting.

Mrs. Homel stated that it had been included in several Power Point presentations. She also indicated that this would not affect current students, but would affect the ninth graders coming through. Therefore, there was some time to work it out.

Mr. Grossi felt that a committee should be set up to fully discuss this matter. Mr. Locke agreed.

It was decided that the Ad Hoc Committee would consist of Mr. Grossi, Mr. Strouse and Mr. Faust, with Mrs. Homel as liaison.

(d) Identified “Concept” Items in Written Planned Courses Versus Delivered Concepts in Classroom, K-12

It was decided that this had been covered in the above discussions.

2. Solicitor Appointment

Ms. Kautz advised that this matter could wait until a future time.

3. District Standardized Testing

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that this matter could wait until a future time.

4. Board Appointment to Act 48 Professional Education Committee

Mr. Faust spoke about the requirements of Act 48, including that for a teacher's certificate to remain effective, they must have six credits in collegiate study or in-service courses or 180 hours of professional development time.

Mrs. Huf advised that people were needed to serve on this committee. Dr. Reid asked how the Board wanted to proceed on this matter.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that we look for community members and the Centennial Education Foundation.

It was decided that Mrs. Huf and Dr. Reid would discuss this matter further and that it would appear on the agenda for the next meeting.

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

See Schedule attached hereto.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Mr. Grossi to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary