

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD MARCH 28, 2000**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on March 28, 2000, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Huf at 7:55 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

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

[Mr. Rosenberger and
Ms. Kolody were absent.]

Public:

Jessica Check
Kelly Janney
Bill Ridenoure
Jim Maltese
Vicki Boruta
Sina Baransky
Donna Marie Saul

Administration:

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

CEA/Teachers:

Mary Corcoran
Mick Sander

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 relative to a legal matter regarding tax collection, a negotiation matter regarding an agreement, a real estate matter regarding a tax assessment and a personnel matter regarding sick leave.

Mrs. Huf advised that the position for the vacant School Board position would be re-advertised and rescheduled due to scheduling problems.

Ms. Kautz announced that Lisa Forlini was picked by the *Courier* as Swimming Coach of the Year.

Mrs. Huf congratulated the Key Club on a successful car wash.

Ms. Kautz reported that she had attended the Life Smarts competition in Harrisburg and that our students came in third.

Mr. Faust announced that the hockey team went to the semifinals.

Mrs. Jankowsky congratulated the staff, students and parents at Klinger for an excellent production of *The Sound of Music*.

Dr. Reid introduced Mary Coughlin, the business manager of Tennent's musical, *Hello Dolly*, which would be held April 6th through 8th. Four of the cast members performed a song from the play.

GOOD NEWS/PRESENTATIONS

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Al Hertenberger of 307 Maple Avenue, Southampton, raised several issues. (1) He was concerned about what was going to happen with block scheduling. He felt the cart was put before the horse in instituting a program before finding the money to fund it. He asked the Board to reevaluate the process. (2) He felt that the special education program needed more help and that we should pursue getting more money for the program. (3) He also felt that the Board meetings should be televised since this would bring information to more people.

Bill George of 122 Iris Road, Warminster, addressed the Board on behalf of the ice hockey team. He spoke about the records of both the varsity and junior varsity teams and stated that a lot of the reason why the teams had done so well was because of the money the Board had given them. The money enabled the teams to get more ice time. Mr. George asked if the hockey program would be receiving more money from the Board this year.

Mr. Grossi advised that there was a recommendation of \$9,000 but that this was rejected by the Finance Committee because of the deficit.

Mr. George asked if there was any way to get the \$9,000 back into the budget.

Mr. Grossi responded that the Finance Committee did not recommend this but that the ultimate decision would rest with the Board

Mrs. Huf explained that the Board was reviewing the budget now and that this matter would be looked at.

Tony Lemma of 826 Grove Avenue, Southampton, suggested that a possible solution might be for the Board to consider pulling a certain amount of money from each of several other selected programs to give to the ice hockey program.

Mike Davitt (a hockey player) of 77 Caledonia Drive, Warminster, stated that he felt the Board had done a lot of unnecessary things during the past year. He explained that it is still very expensive to play ice hockey and that he felt it would be nice for the District to show some appreciation.

Mr. Grossi felt that Mr. Davitt had made some very concrete suggestions in a very eloquent fashion. He felt that showed that the District was doing something right. He indicated that the Board would see what it could do.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Huf advised that the order of the Agenda would be changed.

1. New Course in Science for William Tennent High School for September 2000

Dr. Reid advised that the Board was being asked to consider the addition of a 9th grade Honors Science course. Previously, there were about 22 courses added by the Board. Now approval was being sought for this one additional course.

Mr. Grossi questioned whether students had already made course selections. Mrs. Homel explained that, pending Board approval of the course, letters would be sent to parents/students about the course. Teachers would then advise Mrs. Homel who would be signing up for the new course.

Mr. Grossi asked how this would affect the budget. Dr. Reid responded that they would ask that funding for the course be added to the budget.

Ms. Kautz stated that she would support this request since she felt the course was needed. Mr. Strouse concurred and stated that he felt the course was long overdue.

Mr. Faust stated that he would also support the addition of the course and asked about the process of signing up. Mrs. Homel explained the process and assured that everyone who was qualified would have an opportunity to sign up for the course.

Mr. Grossi stated that he felt that every child that was eligible to take the course should be required to do so.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the curriculum core subjects had Honors level courses. Mrs. Homel indicated that they did.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the addition of the ninth grade course, General Science III Honors, to the 2000/01 Program of Studies at William Tennent High School at a cost not to exceed \$5,650.

The motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked Administration for their prompt response regarding this issue.

Mrs. Huf advised that Ms. Kolody had stopped in at the Executive Session to let her know that she was on her way to Minnesota and could not stay for the Work Session. Mrs. Huf advised that Mr. Rosenberger was also unable to attend this meeting.

2. Programs and Services/Instructional Materials and Research Services Budget for I.U. for 2000/01

Ms. Kautz introduced Warren Lykens, the I.U.'s Business Manager, and Larry Martin, who was in charge of Programs and Services at the I.U.

Dr. Martin gave an overview of the duties of the Program and Services Division.

Mrs. Jankowsky left the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Mr. Lykens spoke about the specifics of the budget.

Mrs. Jankowsky returned to the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Dr. Martin then reviewed Centennial's portion of the budget and gave the Board an opportunity to ask questions.

A motion was made by Ms. Kautz and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the 2000/01 Programs and Services/Instructional Materials and Research Services Budget for Intermediate Unit #22 in the amount of \$76,294.

The motion passed 6-1. (Mr. Grossi was opposed.)

Mrs. Huf announced that there were some students visiting from LaSalle University, Villanova and Bucks County Community College. They were on class assignments.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the Minutes of the: Education Committee – 2/7/00 and Finance and Long Range Budget Committee – 1/24/00, 2/28/00 and 3/9/00.

The motion passed 8-0 (with one minor revision, as discussed.)

POLICIES

Discussion:

5.9 – Animals in the Classroom

Section III. E. – Ms. Kautz requested information on the procedure to be used if a student wishes to assert his/her right to refuse to dissect animals.

Dr. Masko advised that the teacher would announce this right to the students and also there is a statement about this in the student handbook.

4.5 – Cafeterias

Section I. B. 2. – Mr. Faust asked if the word “present” should be changed to “approve.” Mr. Vail confirmed that it should.

Section I. A. 2. – Mr. Faust questioned whether a la carte meals were served now or whether we were looking to do this in the future.

Mr. Rhodes indicated that a la carte meals are serve on a minimal basis.

5.8 – Outside Speakers in the Instructional Program

Section I. – Mr. Faust asked whether the definition of “outside speaker” would apply to outside speakers who would be brought into an individual classroom.

Mr. Strouse felt that it meant any speaker who comes into the District to speak to students.

Mr. Faust felt that the language should be clarified.

Mrs. Huf suggested the addition of the words “...or classroom” after the phrase “...who is engaged to speak to or to be a consultant to a student group(s)” to make the definition clearer.

4.5 – Cafeterias

Section I. B. 2. – Mrs. Jankowsky asked if this was the first year the Board would be approving a budget for the food sold in the cafeteria. Mr. Vail advised that the Board had approved it last year.

Section III. – Mrs. Jankowsky raised the issue of free and reduced lunch prices. She pointed out a major change as to who would be in charge of disseminating the forms. She asked why this was done.

Mr. Vail responded that as the change was made to the new software, the whole issue was reviewed and it was determined that it would be more efficient for the Business Office to handle this.

4.6 – Building Maintenance and Repair

Mrs. Jankowsky questioned whether a form should be developed for “new work” similar to the form used to request maintenance. Mr. Lasher felt that a form for new work was not needed.

5.2 – School Libraries

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the policy statement indicates that the Board “believes that school libraries are an *essential* component of a sound educational program.” However, she felt that the policy only addressed clerical and housekeeping issues.

Dr. Sexton pointed out Section I. A. of the policy, which states that “the principal shall be responsible for seeing that all students have *maximum possible access* to the library materials.”

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that more text might be needed to back up the policy statement. She also felt that there should be some mention of technology use.

Mr. Grossi left the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Dr. Sexton advised that the language was purposely general because there had been changes in the facilities themselves over the years. He indicated that in previous years, the library was the first experience students had with technology, particularly the elementary students. After additional discussion, Dr. Sexton advised that he would bring forward some additional language at the next meeting.

5.8 – Outside Speakers in the Instructional Program

Section II. B. & D. – Mrs. Jankowsky questioned the time frames set forth in these sections. Mr. Strouse felt that they provided some latitude to resolve any problems.

7.17 – Non-Immigrant Students

Section IV. B. – Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that Item 7 “degree program and field of study” did not seem relevant in a K-12 system.

Dr. Sexton pointed out that the language had come directly from the guidelines so Item 7 could probably be deleted.

7.21 – Exemption from Instruction

Section I. C. & E. – Mrs. Jankowsky questioned whether the procedure set forth in these sections worked operationally. She felt that it sounded contradictory.

Dr. Sexton advised that the language had been taken from the PDE directive when the policy was originally written. He indicated that paragraph E could be revised to make it more user-friendly.

Section G. – Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the term “learning outcomes” should be changed to “standards.”

Mr. Faust questioned whether a student would be required to leave a class if a parent requested an exemption, but the student’s beliefs differed from the parent’s. Mrs. Jankowsky wondered whose beliefs would take precedence.

Mr. Grossi returned to the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Dr. Sexton indicated that this language would be reviewed for purpose of clarification.

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

3. Appointments to the Act 48 Committee

Mrs. Jankowsky explained the background of this matter.

Dr. Reid pointed out that there should be three teacher representatives, two education specialists and three administrative representatives on the committee, as well as six parent, business and community representatives, for a total of fourteen.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following appointments to the Act 48 Committee:

<i>Joseph Faust</i>	<i>Parent</i>
<i>Scott Froggatt</i>	<i>Business</i>
<i>Joan Jankowsky</i>	<i>Community</i>
<i>Dominic Puglia</i>	<i>Business</i>
<i>Donna Marie Saul</i>	<i>Parent</i>
<i>Sue Goldsworthy</i>	<i>Community</i>

The motion passed 7-0.

4. Tax Assessment Appeal

Mr. Faust explained that this was basically a legal issue and that our solicitor recommended that we accept a settlement.

In response to a question by Mrs. Jankowsky, Mr. Vail advised that this would cost the District \$4,700 in lost revenue.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board, as per recommendation of the solicitor, accepts the settlement of the District's appeal of a Warminster property to fix the assessment for 1999 at \$80,000. This reduces the assessment from the prior assessed value of \$101,750.

The motion passed 7-0.

5. Addendum to Policy 2.13

Mr. Strouse advised that this matter dealt with the guidelines for placing newly hired administrators on the salary scale.

Dr. Reid pointed out that this had been discussed at the Finance Committee meeting and also that the Board had made changes to Policy 2.13 in order to bring everything in line. She indicated that items 1 through 6 set forth current practice and that item 7 had been added in the event the guidelines in item 6 could not be met.

Mr. Faust raised a question as to where in the policy the Addendum would be included. After discussion, Mr. Grossi requested that the matter not be moved until it was clarified. Dr. Reid advised that it would be brought forth again at the next meeting.

6. Replace Telephone System

Mr. Locke explained that the District's contract with Bell Atlantic would expire in 2002. The recommendation was to introduce a 3 Com communications system, which would operate across the LAN. A replacement phone system was listed in the 1999/2000 budget for \$200,000 to be funded from the General Obligation Bond Issue. The current recommendation was that this expense be moved to the Capital Reserve.

Mr. Grossi advised that the Finance Committee had reviewed and accepted this recommendation.

Mrs. Huf indicated that she had checked into 3 Com and they got very high marks.

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorized Administration to begin the process of replacing the District's telephone system to be purchased under the PEPPM Program at a cost not to exceed \$200,000. Funds to be appropriated from the Capital Reserve Fund.

The motion passed 7-0.

7. Replace McDonald Planetarium Equipment

Mr. Faust explained that this project originally started out as a refurbishment of the planetarium. However, after it was looked at, it was determined that it would be better to replace it.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that the refurbishment was in the bond issue for \$150,000 but this request for replacement was for considerably more.

Mr. Vail stated that at this time the request was for the Board to authorize going to bid on the project. Once the bids are back, then the discussion could go forward on whether or not to proceed and where to appropriate the money from.

Mr. Faust stated that Mr. Vail had indicated that there would be \$1 million left under the bond issue after everything was done so we would not be taking something else off the list to do this. He felt this was a very excellent program, which gets kids interested in science.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that clarification was needed since the memo provided in the Board's packet mentioned the General Obligation Bond but the motion states the Capital Project Fund. She felt that she would have been in favor of this; however, with the current budgetary concerns, she might be inclined to wait. She also stated that she didn't feel that the backup showed strong reasons why this was needed, particularly for the high school students. She did not feel that the report supports the purchase.

Mr. Strouse felt the need for discussion on whether the programs were essential to the operation of the District. In terms of funding, he felt there should be sufficient cost savings for maintenance and refurbishment that could justify the expenditures but felt that the total program should be examined. Mr. Faust agreed.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked whether the machine would be ready for September 2000 if we proceeded with the bids now.

Mr. Lasher could not assure that it would be ready for September. He felt that delivery and installation could take nine months to a year or more.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she had no problem with bids being obtained as long as there was the understanding that we may not ultimately go forward.

Mr. Lasher felt that the numbers obtained in a bid would not be far off from what was estimated.

Mr. Grossi felt that this was an optional issue. He also stated that he would be presenting a plan that would not cut any essential services, would have a series of recommendations on transfers and show where we could make some money, with no tax increase. He also stated that there would be some very difficult decisions for the Board to make when they review his proposal.

Dr. Reid explained that the technical term was Capital Project Fund; however, we have been using General Obligation Bond so we should stick with that now.

Dr. Reid asked how long it would take to receive the bids back. Mr. Lasher responded that it would probably be late May or early June when it would come back before the Board. Dr. Reid explained that by that time we would have more information on several other outstanding matters, including the technology rollout plan, so we might be in a better position to make an informed decision.

Mrs. Huf stated that she supported the special experience room and would like to see other districts be able to use it and also have more community members use it. She felt that the experience was important to the students.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes Administration to advertise for bids to replace the star machine and upgrade the audio and video multi-media capabilities of the McDonald planetarium. Estimated cost of this project is \$435,000, to be appropriated from whatever source the Finance Committee deems appropriate.

Mr. Grossi proposed an amendment to the motion to add that when it gets reported to the Board that all costs be captured for the operation of the facility, including the capital cost and maintenance costs for the projector. This amendment was accepted by Mrs. Jankowsky and Ms. Kautz, as the mover and seconder of the original motion.

The amended motion passed 7-0.

8. William Tennent High School Traffic and Parking Study

A motion was made by Ms. Kautz and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes retaining Carroll Engineering Corporation of Warrington, PA to study the morning traffic patterns at William Tennent High School and

recommend potential solutions. Cost of the study not to exceed \$3,500. Funds to be appropriated from the General Fund Contingency Account.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that this matter had been discussed at the Operations and Finance Committee meetings.

The motion passed 6-1-0. (Mr. Locke was opposed.)

9. Census Enumerator Rates 2000/01

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Census Enumerator rates for the 2000 annual census of population as per Administration's recommendation of \$1.20 per card for census takers and \$675 for the Census Coordinator. Total cost not to exceed \$4,500 based on a 65% response rate.

Mr. Faust stated his concern about the cost. He questioned whether the cost would be more if the response rate were lower. Mr. Rhodes indicated that it would but that we were almost at a 60% response rate already. Therefore, he felt that the \$4,500 cost would not be exceeded.

Mr. Grossi asked what the value of the census was and what we could do with the information obtained. Mr. Rhodes responded that he had requested Mr. Garton's opinion because many schools were not conducting a census even though it is required by School Code.

Mr. Vail stated that the original recommendation brought forward set rates for the next three years; however, it was decided that there would be additional discussion under the budget as to whether the census would continue in future years. This motion would cover only the ongoing census.

Mr. Faust asked what effect there would be if we counted only the cards received and did not sent out enumerators.

Mr. Rhodes pointed out that the \$4,500 included what was already done, not just the cost of sending out enumerators.

Mr. Strouse stated that he believed this was part of the current year budget and that this was not changing the previous figure.

Mr. Grossi asked what we would do with the numbers. Mr. Rhodes advised that they would be sent to Harrisburg and to the Bucks County Planning Commission. He did not know how valuable it would be to them.

Mr. Faust asked if the census enumerators had gone out yet. Mr. Rhodes stated that they were scheduled to go out on April 17th.

The motion passed 5-2. (Mr. Faust and Mr. Grossi were opposed.)

10. Asbestos Removal Bid
11. Lighting Installation Bid
12. Suspended Ceiling Bid
13. Floor Tile Installation Bid
14. Bridge Door Replacement Bid
15. Cafeteria Exit Doors Bid

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

- (10) *Approves the Asbestos Removal Bid No. 2000-15 for Davis, Longstreth and McDonald Elementary Schools to be awarded to Pepper Environmental at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$39,711. Funds to be appropriated from the General Obligation Bond.*
- (11) *Approves the Lighting Installation Bid No. 2000-13 to be awarded to Jack Cohen & Co. at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$141,000. Funds to be appropriated from the General Obligation Bond.*
- (12) *Approves the Suspended Ceiling Bid No. 2000-14 to be awarded to A. Tripod Associates at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$141,625. Funds to be appropriated from the General Obligation Bond.*
- (13) *Approves the Floor Tile Installation Bid No. 2000-16 for Davis, Longstreth and McDonald Elementary Schools to be awarded to Re:Source Pennsylvania at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$43,300. Funds to be appropriated from the General Obligation Bond.*
- (14) *Approves the Bridge Door Replacement Bid No. 2000-12 for WTHS to be awarded to James Doorcheck, Inc. at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$14,200. Funds to be appropriated from the Capital Reserve Fund.*
- (15) *Approves the Cafeteria Exit Doors Bid No. 2000-21 for McDonald Elementary School to be awarded to James Doorcheck, Inc. at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$11,490. Funds to be appropriated from the Capital Reserve Fund.*

The motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

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; Homebound Instructor; Substitute Health Room Aides; and Co-Curricular Additions, Changes and Deletions.

Mr. Faust requested that item 6 under Resignations be separated.

Mrs. Huf noted that Mr. Donald Hawkins was retiring. He had served the District for many years. She wished him well.

The motion passed 7-0.

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

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Mrs. Jankowsky	Yes
Mr. Strouse	No
Mr. Locke	Yes
Ms. Kautz	No
Mr. Grossi	No
Mr. Faust	No
Mrs. Huf	Yes

The motion failed 3-4.

OTHER

1. Solicitor Appointment

Ms. Kautz advised that she wished to bring this matter up because she was aware that other districts review solicitor appointments on a regular basis and she felt there should be a process for reviewing them in this district.

Mr. Grossi explained that during his tenure it has been done either in December or June. He felt that perhaps it could be done by the school year and that it should be involved in the budget process. Possibly the review could be on a two or three year cycle.

Mrs. Jankowsky agreed that it should be done by the school year. She also felt that there should be a process where Administration would provide information as to the solicitor’s timeliness of response and responsiveness to the issues raised.

Mr. Faust felt that December would be too early because of new Board members coming on, but that June would be too late for the budget process. He suggested late April. Mr. Grossi agreed.

It was decided there should be more discussion on how to handle this matter.

2. District Standardized Testing

Mrs. Jankowsky advised the Board that she had heard Roger Farr speak. Dr. Farr has served on a board that developed three nationally normed tests. Mrs. Jankowsky requested Administration to consider what Dr. Farr had to say and review our current in-house standardized testing program to determine if the recommendations of Dr. Farr were worthy of review.

Ms. Kautz left the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

3. Air Condition Elementary Buildings

Dr. Reid advised that this matter had been discussed at the Operations and Finance Committee meetings.

Mr. Vail indicated that Administration was directed to bring this matter forward to the Board for discussion.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that this should be addressed at some point in the future; however, at this time she did not feel that it was a wise thing to pursue.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Faust to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary