

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

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

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on April 11, 2000, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Huf at 7:35 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

Staff:

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

CEA/Staff:

Gary Scott
Karen Adams
Mick Sander

Public:

Gary Rochestie
Dave Detwiler
Cyndi Detwiler
Gail Rochestie
Ashley Rochestie
Leigh Lieberman
Noelle Burlingame
Jane Strawby
Barb Patrick

John Kilker
Monica Spina
Solomon Weinstein
Barbara Weinstein
Donna Marie Saul
Bonnie Rubin
Dave Siddons
Mike Davitt
Bill George

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 a Release & Settlement Agreement, a legal matter regarding a student, a legal matter regarding tax collections, and a negotiations matter regarding an employee agreement.

Mr. Grossi stated that in response to a question regarding tax collections, the Board has received an internal memo from the Business Office regarding concerns raised by Mr. Kerins. He indicated that the Board was satisfied with that response but since there are legal issues involved, the contents of the memo would not be released.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

David Detwiler (parent of a Junior) of 1174 Davisville Road, Warminster, addressed the Board regarding the fact that students were not able to schedule the AP courses they wanted. He distributed a report that included a statement of the problems and recommendations.

Gary Rochestie (parent of a Junior) of 106 Spring Flower Court, Huntingdon Valley, spoke about the obligation of the School District to provide adequate education to the gifted students. He advised that before his daughter entered Tennent she was promised that she would receive a challenging education. He stated that these students do not pick courses randomly; they plan them. He advised that 7 of the 15 AP courses had been canceled, which would adversely affect these students. He felt that promises have been broken and that mediocrity is being offered.

David Stith of 826 Second Street Pike, Southampton, stated that he felt these decisions affected not only the students but also the school itself and how colleges looked at the school. He felt that the cutting of the AP courses was bad for the students, bad for the school and bad for the future. He felt that the District should reward the students who had planned by making these courses available to them.

Barbara Weinstein of 1799 Brandywine Drive advised that the courses she had taken in the Philadelphia public school system were more advanced than those her son now has to pick from. She stated that most of the surrounding school districts offer these courses and that Centennial should too. She felt that these were basic courses. She was afraid that her son would not be on equal footing with students from other schools.

Mrs. Huf asked whether the brochure stated that if the enrollment was not there, the courses might not be offered.

Mrs. Homel responded that she would have to look it up. (See below.)

Mrs. Huf stated that she was concerned about the issues presented and asked if this could be revisited. She felt that the parents had legitimate concerns.

Mrs. Homel advised that she would discuss this again with high school administration. She felt that for the incoming 9th graders, a possible solution might be to alternate the courses that are offered.

Mr. Grossi felt that block scheduling would have an impact on the AP courses but thought that it was outrageous to say that we promote mediocrity. He suggested that the AP and Honors courses could be combined. He felt there needed to be a written policy about this.

Mr. Faust left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Mr. Strouse pointed out that many of the students who had signed up for AP Physics had already taken Honors Physics.

Mrs. Homel stated that she had found the following on page 14 of the course brochure: "Selection of Courses – Decisions about what courses will be offered and which will be dropped and how many students will be in each class and how many teachers of each subject will be needed are based upon student course selections. The schools makes the decision about when courses are offered throughout the two semesters."

Dr. Reid assured everyone that they would look at every possible way they could offer this course.

Mr. Rochestie stated that all of the students who had applied for the AP course had already taken the Honors course.

Mr. Stith stated that statistically there were only a certain number of students who would be qualified to take the course. Mr. Grossi agreed that this fact should have been considered.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that it seemed that the possibility of this course not being available without block scheduling was still there. However, in changing from block scheduling it could be that this was not looked at closely enough. She stated that she hoped there would be a positive resolution of this problem.

Mr. Faust returned to the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Mrs. Huf thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and stated that Administration would look into the matter. She hoped that we would be able to find a way to offer the courses.

Bill George of 122 Iris Road, Warminster, addressed the Board regarding ice hockey. He wanted to assure that when the budget came forward for a vote the ice hockey team would get their fair share. He stated that an *Intelligencer* article from April 3rd stated that there was no spectator interest in ice hockey as there was for football. He felt that statement was untrue. The article stated that Centennial was the only District that helped to fund the ice hockey team. He stated

that was also untrue in that there were two other districts that had done so. Mr. George felt that if money could be taken from ice hockey, it could be taken from other sports as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Huf advised that there would be a change in the order of the agenda.

2. Final Approval – Trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval for the William Tennent High School Spanish language students' trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico from June 23, 2000 to July 3, 2000. Total: 12 students and 2 teachers. There is no cost to the District.

The motion passed 8-0.

6. Preliminary/Final Approval for a Tennent Student to Attend All-State Band in Pittsburgh, PA, April 12-15, 2000

A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval/final approval for a William Tennent High School student, Lorraine Kraus, to attend the All State Band Festival in Pittsburgh, PA, April 12-15, 2000, at an approximate cost of \$1,670.96.

Gary Scott, the Music Coordinator, provided some background information on this trip.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested that in the future the Board have more advance notice of how many music students might possibly be going a trip. This would enable the Board to act in a more efficient manner.

The motion passed 8-0.

Mrs. Jankowsky congratulated everyone who had been involved in the production of "Hello Dolly".

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council representative reported that the Junior and Senior Proms would be coming up, that student government had raised \$4,000 and that Rage for AIDS would be coming up soon also.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

GOOD NEWS

Mrs. Homel reported that a site visitor had been at Log College for the past two days to determine whether Log College would be named a National Blue Ribbon School.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Reid pointed out the displays in the hallways and in the Board Room. She then presented the Superintendent's Report, highlighting Business and Community Partnerships and the third quarter's Vandalism Report. (See attached.) Frank Gallagher also spoke about the Business and Community Partnerships.

Mr. Faust left the meeting at 8:39 p.m. and returned at 8:41 p.m.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that there had been a meeting scheduled for the previous evening but it had been changed so the Finance Committee could meet. The next Education committee meeting was scheduled for May 8th regarding the Math program.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Faust reported that the Executive Council had met the previous evening and saw a presentation on the Adult Education Program. He indicated that the highlight of the meeting was the budget presentation. The budget had some new programs in it but Centennial's cost would be slightly under what it was last year. The budget was approved by the Executive Council and would be coming to Centennial for action in the near future.

Mr. Faust also reported that there was a motion to authorize Administration to pursue federal funding.

Dr. Reid asked if the Board wanted to have a representative from MBIT at the next meeting for the budget discussion. It was decided that would be a good idea.

Mr. Rosenberger left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Intermediate Unit

Ms. Kautz reported as follows:

- A meeting had been held on March 21st, at which there was a presentation by the Student Forum.
- There was a report on early intervention.

- There was an update on the work on the building, which has been set back a little since the parking lot needed to be reconfigured due to wetland considerations.

Mr. Rosenberger returned to the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

- Two parents attended the meeting because they were concerned about the facilities at the Warminster Rec Center where the I.U. rents rooms for some special ed programs. Warren Smith met with the parents and will look into their concerns.
- The next meeting was scheduled for April 18th.

PSBA

Ms. Kautz reported that Region 11 had not met yet this year. She advised that Arlene Gordon from Pennsbury had been appointed Assistant Director and that Stuart Knauss had replaced Ed Godin. Also, May 3rd was set as the tentative date for the PSBA Region 11 Dinner.

AFG

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that several meetings ago she had mentioned that Administration had distributed a status report on the transition to block scheduling. At that time she had suggested that she and Mrs. Homel review the report. Having done so, Mrs. Jankowsky advised that several issues had been identified as needing resolution and/or to be brought to the attention of the Board, as follows:

1. The number of marking periods and frequency of progress reports needs to be established.
2. Elimination of the mid-term exams.
3. A proposal for final exams in all subjects except physical education.
4. The possibility of a Senior exemption from final examinations.
5. Transitional graduation requirements.
6. The possibility of 5th year Seniors.

In addition, there were several other issues that may need to be addressed, as follows:

- Absent student issues.
- Threshold for awarding homebound instruction.
- Out-of-school suspension. This may not be a wise choice under block scheduling due to the amount of material the student would miss.
- Family trips – should they be limited to less than the current five-day allowance.
- Mandatory Saturday school for failures in the second semester marking period.

In another report dated March 1999, it was noted that MBIT students could schedule all currently required courses except for 5th year English. Has it been resolved that they can meet this requirement?

Mr. Grossi questioned what should be done about the time that is lost when a staff member is absent.

Mrs. Huf asked Mrs. Homel if she could address these issues to the Board in written form. Mrs. Homel responded that she could have a response in the Friday Update of April 21st.

Mr. Grossi stated that it had come to his attention that Administration was looking at reworking the curriculum in several areas. He requested to see in writing whether or not this was being done.

Dr. Reid advised that they had a second trial run of block scheduling over a six-day period and that it was very successful. Mr. Faust stated that what he saw was very amazing and that the degree of learning surprised him. He felt that the lesson plan was very engaging.

Strategic Planning Committee

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that this committee would probably not meet until the end of May but that in the meantime the committee had identified four goal areas and leaders as follows:

- Standards – Gloria Wetzel
- Staff Achievement – Sheila Buckley
- Technology – Robert Reed
- Community Partnerships – Frank Gallagher

Mrs. Jankowsky also advised that the committee had identified the memberships of these goal areas. Dr. Masko indicated that the memberships included teachers, parents, community members and administrators. He also advised that each of the teams had met and that at the end of May they would report to the Board.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Grossi reported that the original budget proposal requests were \$57,230,000 and that the estimate of expenditures was \$53,130,000, which represented a \$4.1 million increase over actual expenditures for this year (a 7.7% increase.) He explained that if that rate of increase would repeat for two years, it would amount to another \$4.4 million, or \$8.5 million over two years, or 69 mills. Those numbers were found to be unacceptable by the Finance Committee, Administration and anyone else who looked at the numbers.

Mr. Grossi advised that to date the budget committee had had many meetings and had eliminated about \$500,000 of additional budget requests. They had reviewed approximately \$800,000 in budget adjustments to date. Mr. Grossi advised that if they would accept the first two rounds that would reduce the problem to \$2.8 million for this fiscal year.

Mr. Grossi advised that there was a very serious concern by members of the committee with the next cycle of technology that would be needed. All of the members of the committee agreed that this is a very serious fiscal crisis and that it cannot be stabilized in one year; it would take two years.

Mr. Grossi stated that it was his opinion that they were in a period of denial and that it was time for the Board and Administration to get together to solve the problem. He indicated that the committee would bring forward a proposal that would be a two-year plan, including 9 to 10 mills of new taxes. He indicated that we would need the help of the taxpayers, parents and teachers to implement the recovery plan.

Mr. Strouse reminded everyone that the Finance Committee meetings were open to the public and that the next meeting would be on April 17th.

Title VIII

No report.

FLRA

Mr. Lasher advised that the FLRA had an Agreement of Sale for the West Side of Jacksonville Road, which was scheduled to take place around July 1st. The remaining condition of the sale was to obtain a certificate of occupancy from Warminster Township.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

Citizens Policy

Mr. Strouse reported that the committee had met on March 12th and reviewed policies 5.12 and 3.7. He indicated that these policies would be brought forward at the April Work Session.

Legislative Liaison

Mr. Faust indicated that the last meeting had been canceled and that the next meeting would be held sometime near the end of April.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the minutes of the Work Session/Regular Board Meeting – 2/22/00 and the Regular School Board Meeting – 3/14/00.

The motion passed 8-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Final Approval:

- 4.5 – Cafeterias
- 4.6 – Building Maintenance and Repair
- 5.8 – Outside Speakers in the Instructional Program
- 5.9 – Animals in the Classroom
- 7.17 – Non-Immigrant Students
- 7.21 – Exemption from Instruction

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

- *4.5 – Cafeterias*
- *4.6 – Building Maintenance and Repair*
- *5.8 – Outside Speakers in the Instructional Program*
- *5.9 – Animals in the Classroom*
- *7.17 – Non-Immigrant Students*
- *7.21 – Exemption from Instruction*

Dr. Sexton advised that a few minor revisions/additions had been made, as requested at the previous meeting.

The motion passed 8-0.

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 – March 2000*
- *Investments – March 2000*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – March 2000*

And approves the:

- *Treasurer's Report/Fund Profiles – March 2000*
- *Budgetary Transfers – March 2000*

The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS1. Release and Settlement Agreement

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Release and Settlement Agreement filed at Civil Action No. 99-CV-3262. The full cost is to be paid by and on behalf of the School District and its current and former employees and officials by the School District's insurance carriers. The President and Secretary of the School Board are hereby directed to execute the Release and Settlement Agreement on behalf of the School District.

The motion passed 8-0.

2. Spanish Language Students Trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico

[This matter was handled earlier in the meeting.]

3. Recruitment and Employment of Staff

Mr. Strouse advised that on page 2.13 C, Section D, items 1 and 2, the salaries listed as examples should be deleted.

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the addendum to Policy 2.13, Recruitment and Employment of Staff (with the above revision.)

Mrs. Jankowsky agreed that the suggested changes would improve this policy; however, she asked the Board to consider that this was the only part of the policy that addressed salary. There was no section dealing with salaries for professional staff or support staff but this addendum would be for administrators not interviewed by the Board. She suggested that this be handled by a memorandum of understanding to the Superintendent or else include all the other categories of employees in the policy.

Mr. Faust felt that salary was an integral part of recruitment and employment. He stated that he did not believe in memorandums of understanding with the Superintendent. He stated that for other classifications the numbers were defined but for administrators they were not.

Mr. Strouse felt that administrators were different from the other categories and that he felt it was appropriate here since it was part of the recruitment.

The motion passed 6-2. (Mrs. Jankowsky and Mrs. Huf opposed.)

- 4. Permission to Apply – 1999/2000 Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grant
- 5. Paper Supply Bid
- 7. Financial Reports

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

(4) Approves permission to apply for the following 1999/2000 school year grant in the amount indicated: Technology Literacy Challenge Fund - \$500,000.

(5) Approves the Paper Supply Bid No. 2000-19 be awarded to WWF Paper Corporation at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$74,986.28.

(7) Accepts the following revisions to the 2000/01 Budget Calendar adopted October 12, 1999:

<i>May 23, 2000</i>	<i>Preliminary Budget adopted by</i>
	<i>Board of School Directors</i>
<i>June 13, 2000</i>	<i>Public Hearing on the Budget</i>
<i>June 27, 2000</i>	<i>Final Budget Adopted</i>

The motion passed 8-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absences; Appointments; and Title I Tutor.

The motion passed 8-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that the issue of class size policy be placed on the agenda since there had been discussion about the need to codify this into a more standard form.

Dr. Reid advised that it would be placed on the April 18th agenda for discussion.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto. Mr. Grossi advised that there would also be another Finance Committee meeting on April 25th.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Faust to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary