

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING  
HELD APRIL 18, 2000**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on April 18, 2000, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Huf at 7:35p.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

Administration:

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

\* Ms. Kautz arrived at 9:25 p.m.

CEA/Teachers:

Jon Kircher

Public:

H. Robert Luebbe  
William L. Bauer, III  
Keith Keppeler  
Scott Avery  
R. Meinert  
Donna Marie Saul  
Jessie Maurer  
Brian Lally

**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 negotiations matter relative to an employee agreement and a conference matter relative to Board in-service.

## **GOOD NEWS/PRESENTATIONS**

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

Mrs. Huf announced that she had received a calendar from Waste Management, which included artwork from two Klinger students, Maria Lapchenko and Lisa Feden, who were named grand prize winners of the Earth Day 2000 Poster Contest.

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Leigh Lieberman of 396 Byron Road spoke regarding how much attention we need to give to our high level Math and Science courses, including AP and gifted. She cited statistics included in a Lockheed Martin newsletter from 1998 which stated that we are producing fewer computer science graduates than we were a decade ago. The demand is increasing and the supply is decreasing. She felt that not enough emphasis was being placed on our advanced and gifted programs and also felt that the creation of a gifted program coordinator was very important.

## **MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the Minutes of the Finance and Long Range Budget Committee of 3/13/00, 3/20/00 and 3/23/00.*

*The motion passed 7-0.*

## **POLICIES**

### Request Permission to Develop:

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that at the previous meeting she had requested permission to develop a policy regarding secondary class size. Administration has now forwarded a memo to the Board to that effect.

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board grant permission to develop a policy outlining class size parameters for middle and senior high school.*

*The motion passed 7-0.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. School Director Appointment

Mrs. Huf asked if there was a motion from the floor to fill the School Director vacancy in Region III from April 18, 2000 through December 3, 2001.

Mr. Strouse thanked the candidates for allowing the interviews to be taped since he could not be present for them. He indicated that they were very helpful. Mrs. Huf also thanked the candidates for showing their interest in the School Board.

Mr. Faust placed in nomination the name of Sina Baranski. He indicated that she had been attending School Board Meetings for a long time.

Mr. Grossi placed in nomination the name of Scott Avery.

Mrs. Huf asked if there was a motion for the position of School Director.

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to nominate and appoint Scott Avery as School Board Director.*

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Rosenberger to nominate and appoint Sina Baranski as School Board Director.*

Mrs. Huf asked if there were any other nominations.

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Faust to close the nominations. Mrs. Huf declared the nominations closed.*

*A roll call vote was taken as follows:*

<i>Mr. Rosenberger</i>	<i>Sina Baranski</i>
<i>Mr. Grossi</i>	<i>Scott Avery</i>
<i>Mr. Faust</i>	<i>Sina Baranski</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>Scott Avery</i>
<i>Mr. Strouse</i>	<i>Scott Avery</i>
<i>Mr. Locke</i>	<i>Scott Avery</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Sina Baranski</i>

*The vote was 4 in favor of Scott Avery, 3 in favor of Sina Baranski.*

Dr. Reid advised that according to the solicitor, Section 508 of the School Code requires a majority vote of five.

Mr. Faust asked what options there were at this point. Dr. Reid advised that if the Board does not have a majority vote, the question would have to be determined by the Court.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that, procedurally, there are Board rules stating that we can't vote on the same matter twice. She asked if the Board wished to wait until later in the meeting since another Board member would be arriving later.

Mr. Strouse suggested that the final count be deferred until Ms. Kautz arrived at the meeting.

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Locke to suspend the rules and re-vote when Ms. Kautz arrived.*

*The motion passed 7-0.*

2. Preliminary Approval of WTHS Key Club to Participate in the American Cancer Society "Relay for Life" in Doylestown on May 20-21, 2000

Jonathan Kircher, a Social Studies teacher at Tennent and Director of the Key Club, spoke about this event. He indicated that 62 students had signed up, which was double the amount attending last year. He advised that the Kiwanis Club of Southampton would be providing a canopy tent for the Key Club's use.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves preliminary request of WTHS Key Club to participate in the American Cancer Society "Relay for Life" in Doylestown on May 20-21, 2000. There is no cost to the District.*

*The motion passed 7-0.*

3. Approval of Middle Bucks Institute of Technology 2000/01 Budget

Dr. Lees, Administrative Director of MBIT, spoke about the proposed budget of \$5.2 million. He indicated that there was a 6.5% increase in the budget and a 3.2% budget-to-budget increase. He also addressed the new initiatives that were included in the budget and spoke about the continued increase in enrollment. He stated that the enrollment was expected to continue to increase.

Dr. Lees then answered questions from the Board.

Mr. Grossi stated that he felt a budget-to-budget comparison did not tell us what the actual increase was and that he felt the increase was excessive.

Mr. Strouse also felt a budget-to-budget comparison was not a good method to use. He advised that he had a problem with the new initiative for in-school suspension. He questioned why it was necessary when we already have such a program in the District.

Dr. Lees explained that to have a student present at MBIT when a conference was necessary or to have an MBIT teacher present to help with classwork would be more effective than having the sending school handle an MBIT suspension.

A lengthy discussion ensued about the advantages versus disadvantages of MBIT handling their own in-school suspensions.

Mr. Locke questioned what difficulty eliminating this initiative would cause or deferring it since it was not crucial to the educational program.

Dr. Lees explained that they felt the initiative would be an effective tool in helping students develop self-discipline and to continue to participate in MBIT programs. He felt it would maintain program continuity. Dr. Lees also explained that the budget had already been approved by the Executive Council and was now going out to the districts. He felt it would not be impossible to eliminate or defer it but that it would be very difficult at this time.

Mr. Faust left the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that it was up to the Board to make the decision as to what was appropriate for Centennial students.

Mr. Grossi was concerned that decisions affecting Centennial students were being made by others.

Mr. Faust returned to the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology 2000/01 budget in the amount of \$5,259,634.*

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Locke to amend the motion by indicating that Centennial School District would not participate in the in-house suspension program and that the in-house suspension of any Centennial student would be administered at Centennial.*

*The motion to amend passed 5-2. (Mr. Faust and Mrs. Huf were opposed to amending the motion.)*

Mrs. Jankowsky requested that in the future the Board be provided with an actual-to-budget percentage rather than a budget-to-budget percentage.

*The amended motion passed 5-2. (Mr. Faust and Mrs. Huf were opposed.)*

4. New Scholarship to Benefit WTHS Senior

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she did not recall approving scholarships generated by community members or graduating students.

Mr. Vail explained that, as Trustee of the Student Activity Funds, his recommendation was that if the money was going to be run through those funds then the Board should approve the scholarship. He indicated that he had since learned that it was possible that the scholarship sponsor might wish to give the money directly to whatever institution the student directs. If that were the case, the Board would not need to approve the scholarship.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that there were a lot of other scholarships on the books. She questioned whether the Board should retroactively approve them also.

Mr. Vail stated that he did not know the history of those scholarships but he thought that from this point forward the Board should approve scholarships. He also felt that if the funds were run through a District account, the Board should approve the scholarship.

Mr. Strouse stated that the audit from the Department of Education stated that students should be approving disbursements from activity funds. He did not know that it was appropriate to run scholarship money through the Student Activity Fund. Also, he felt that the information from Mr. DiPasquo indicated that he wished for the funds to be paid directly to the University, not through the District. Therefore, Mr. Strouse felt that this was not a matter that should require Board approval.

Mr. Grossi agreed with Mr. Strouse and also agreed that if there were funds going through certain accounts, the Board should approve them. He felt that this matter should wait until more information was obtained on how the scholarship would be handled. It was the consensus of the Board to do that.

Mr. Faust asked if an answer could be obtained by the next meeting, since this matter would appear on that agenda. It was decided that if an answer could not be obtained by the next meeting, the matter could be tabled at that time.

5. Continuation of Program at Dorothy M. Henry Alternative School for 2000/01 School Year

Mr. Rosenberger questioned why approval was needed from PDE on this matter. Mrs. Homel explained that it was because the programs at the Dorothy Henry School differ from those offered at Tennent.

Mr. Grossi stated that he felt we should have information and tracking on how many seniors who have come through this program receive their diplomas. Mrs. Homel indicated that that information could be provided.

Mr. Rosenberger asked why a separate site was needed to run the program.

Dr. Sexton explained that the reason for a separate site was to accommodate students who did not function well in a large environment such as the high school. Dr. Masko confirmed that most of the students who do not function well at Tennent are successful when they make the change to the Dorothy Henry School.

Mr. Lasher pointed out that he did not recall any vandalism having occurred at the Dorothy Henry School.

Mr. Grossi commented that the students at the school vote on who may attend. Mr. Faust questioned where a student would go if the vote was not in their favor. Mrs. Homel indicated that she had personally spoken to some of the students who were not accepted. She indicated that they had arrived with an attitude that might have upset the whole balance of the school and the other students. When such a student goes back to Tennent, they work with the guidance counselor and are watched very closely.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants approval to make application to the PA Department of Education for the continuation of the Dorothy M. Henry Alternative School program for the 2000/01 school year.*

*The motion passed 7-0.*

6. Reappointment of District Treasurer

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes the appointment of H. Robert Luebbe as Treasurer for the fiscal year 2000/01 at an annual stipend of \$1,250 and that the public official bond for the Treasurer be renewed in the face amount of \$20,000 for fiscal year 2000/01.*

Mr. Grossi thanked Mr. Luebbe for his continuing service to the District. He indicated that he felt Mr. Luebbe had served the District well.

*The motion passed 7-0.*

7. Flexible Spending Accounts – Professional Staff

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board sets health care flexible spending account minimum and maximums at \$240 minimum per year (\$10 per pay) and a maximum of \$2,500 per year. Sets maximum dependent/elder care flexible spending account minimum at \$240 per year (\$10 per pay) and maximum at \$5,000 as per IRS regulations commencing July 1, 2000 in conjunction with provisions outlined in the Centennial Education Association Agreement extension for the period July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2003.*

Mr. Faust stated that the purpose of this was to comply with IRS regulations and that it was not a collective bargaining matter.

*The motion passed 7-0.*

8. Facility Use Fees

*A motion was made by Mr. Rosenberger and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the fee schedules, charges and hourly rates for facility use for the 2000/01 school year, as attached.*

*The motion passed 7-0.*

9. Stock Supply Bid

10. Garbage and Trash Removal Bid

Mr. Strouse asked how the stock supply item had been budgeted for the current year.

Mr. Vail explained that what they had tried to accomplish in this budget was to get all of the buildings and departments to be more diligent in having their needs expressed in the bids rather than as individual purchases.

Mr. Strouse asked if the actual-to-budget should be about the same. Mr. Vail confirmed that it should be about the same or lower since we would be getting a better price.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves: (9) the Stock Supply Bid No. 2000-18 (for building and classroom supplies) to Kurtz Brothers at the net base total bid price of \$35,527.24; and (10) the Garbage and Trash Removal Bid No. 2000-24 to be awarded to B.F.I. Waste Systems of North America, Inc. at the lowest responsible bid amounts as follows: 2000/01 - \$41,146.78; 2001/02 - \$42,778.93; 2002/03 - \$44,004.06.*

*The motion passed 7-0.*

## **PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Jankowsky asked for an explanation of the appointment of the long-term substitute. Mrs. Rollo explained that there was an ongoing, unpredictable absence at Davis. It would still be open-ended but the substitute had worked enough days to be considered a long-term substitute.

*A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absences; Appointments; and Co-Curricular Additions, Changes and Deletions.*

*The motion passed 7-0.*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### VITA Education Services

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Memorandum of Agreement with VITA Educational Services to collaborate in the delivery of the Adult Basic Education Program in the Centennial School District.*

*The motion passed 7-0.*

## **OTHER**

### Middle School Enrollment

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that in reviewing the enrollment for the middle schools, she noted that the enrollment at Klinger had exceeded Log College. She pointed out that there were eight fewer classrooms at Klinger and she was advised that Administration was looking into this matter and that the Board would be advised.

Ms. Kautz arrived at the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

### Competency for Professional Staff

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the Board had received a competency update for professional staff. She requested that this issue be placed on a future agenda for discussion. It was decided that it would be placed on a work session agenda.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 1. School Director Appointment (Continued)

Mrs. Jankowsky explained to Ms. Kautz what had occurred so far on this matter earlier in the meeting.

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Locke to appoint Scott Avery to the position of School Board Director to fill the vacancy in Region III from April 18, 2000 through December 3, 2001.*

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Rosenberger to appoint Sina Baranski to the position of School Board Director to fill the vacancy in Region III from April 18, 2000 through December 3, 2001.*

*A roll call vote was taken as follows:*

<i>Mr. Strouse</i>	<i>Scott Avery</i>
<i>Mr. Locke</i>	<i>Scott Avery</i>
<i>Ms. Kautz</i>	<i>Sina Baranski</i>
<i>Mr. Rosenberger</i>	<i>Sina Baranski</i>
<i>Mr. Grossi</i>	<i>Scott Avery</i>
<i>Mr. Faust</i>	<i>Sina Baranski</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>Scott Avery</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Sina Baranski</i>

*The vote was 4 in favor of Scott Avery, 4 in favor of Sina Baranski.*

Mrs. Huf advised that since there was no majority vote, the matter would have to be decided by the Courts.

Dr. Reid noted that the Board would have thirty days to take additional action before the matter would be referred to the Court of Common Pleas.

Ms. Kautz noted that she had arrived at this meeting late because she had been attending an I.U. meeting. She reported that the Region 11 dinner had been changed to May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Conshohocken Tech School. That date conflicted with the Centennial School Board meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Rosenberger to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 7-0. . The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary