

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD MAY 9, 2000**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on May 9, 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/Teachers:

Ann Boger
Georgia Ballard
Debbie Faehner

Public:

Ed Boger
Shannon McBride
Heather Savage
Eleanor DiLuigi
Taneesha Poramer
Kenya D. Taylor
Benjamin Serrano
Linda Chern
Robert Luebbe

Lynn Miller
Vicki Lipovica
Karen Weissman
Mara Weissman
Felisia Yanes
Elma Yanes
Dennis Franks
Dipali Patel
Sina Baranski

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 real estate matter relative to the conveyance of property and a legal matter regarding tax collection.

Mrs. Huf advised that Mr. Locke was absent from the meeting due to a personal commitment.

Mrs. Huf reported that to date five petitions had been filed to fill the vacant School Board Director position. The President Judge would be deciding which Judge to assign the case to. Then the procedure for filling the vacancy would be determined by the court.

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Reid presented to the Board a Centennial School District throw cover. These were being sold by the Prom Committee to raise money.

Reading Olympics

Dr. Masko spoke about the Reading Olympics program and the hard work done by Ann Boger, Georgia Ballard and Debbie Faehner, as well as the Tennent students. Dr. Reid and Mrs. Huf presented certificates and pens to the three teachers in appreciation for their efforts.

Mrs. Boger thanked the many people who were involved in the program.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Lynn Miller of 723 Henry Avenue, Warminster, spoke regarding the ESL (English as a Second Language) Program. She indicated that although she had no children in the District, she had sponsored a family from Kosovo this year that had a Freshman in the program. She stated that the classes were large and only every other day and that the children needed more than that.

Vicki Lipovica of 514 7th Avenue, Warminster, addressed the Board regarding the ESL issue also. She stated that her brother was a participant in the program and that she felt English needed to be taught in small classes.

Eleanor DiLuigi of 1513 Pheasant Drive, Warminster, informed the Board that she had taught in the District for many years. She requested more for the ESL classes. She felt that they needed to be smaller and should be taught every day. She also indicated that she appreciated the Board's not having raised taxes during the past year and suggested that a possible way to save money would be to cut back on the ice hockey program.

Mrs. Homel responded by explaining that the ESL program at the high school was presently serving 22 students, although the enrollment will fluctuate from year to year. She indicated that the program is being studied very carefully as we move into block scheduling. We are looking to schedule English every other day but in the in-between days there will be a study skills course one semester and a test prep course the other semester. The students would be with the same teacher consistently every day for 90 minutes. As they move into their second 90-minute class, they would be with the same teacher (one semester for Social Studies, the second semester for Science), so they would have a solid three-hour block of time with the same teacher. Also there will be a tutor in the room working with the students.

Mrs. Homel indicated that currently the program is structured so that the students would stay with the ESL teacher for math class. Having been a math teacher for many years, she felt that math is a universal language and that these students could function very well in a math class. She felt that this was a change that should be made to the program. She explained that the program was not being dismantled, but that we are trying to find ways to better serve the students and get them out into the mainstream more quickly than they currently are.

Mr. Grossi clarified that this was a program change, not a monetary change.

Mara Weissman of 871 Phillips Road, Warminster, advised that she was a participant in numerous music programs and that she would like to become a music educator. She addressed the Board regarding the elimination of the Music Theory AP course. She noted that AP Physics had been reinstated and then presented five signatures of students wishing to take the Music Theory AP course.

Heather Savage of 120 East Street Road, Warminster, addressed the Board regarding the Advanced Theater class that was dropped. She indicated that she had a list of 14 names of students who would be willing to take the class if it was reinstated. She advised that without this class she would be at a significant disadvantage in competing with students from other schools when applying for scholarships.

Mrs. Homel requested Mara Weissman to speak to Mrs. Poroszok the following morning regarding her concerns. Ms. Weissman said that she had already been informed that there needed to be 12 people signed up in order to reinstate the class but she felt that there would not be that many.

Mrs. Homel recommended that Ms. Weissman speak to her music teachers because they might be able to offer some assistance on this matter. She also advised Ms. Savage to ask the 14 students on her list which classes they would be coming out of to enter Advanced Theater. That information should be provided to Mrs. Poroszok.

Mr. Faust left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Grossi stated that he was proud of the students for coming before the Board. He indicated that in the past students had felt they were being cheated by not having block scheduling. Now

at the last several meetings students were indicating the exact opposite. He stated his concern about the implementation of the block scheduling program.

Mrs. Huf asked whether the issue was block scheduling or not. She pointed out that there would be only 5 students signed up for the class with or without block scheduling.

Mr. Faust returned to the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Mr. Grossi stated that he did not know whether the problem was block scheduling or not but that there was definitely something wrong with the equation.

Dr. Reid stated that when the Board approved the 22 new courses in November/December, it was expected that there would not be enough students to fill all of them. She pointed out that there were times in the past when courses such as Advanced Theater could not be offered under regular scheduling. She felt that the issues of low enrollment and block scheduling should be separated.

Dr. Masko advised that this was not the first time this had happened. It has, in fact, happened many times over the past ten years.

Mr. Grossi felt that not enough time had been taken to examine all aspects.

Mr. Rosenberger expressed his appreciation to Administration for all the work that had gone into this so far. He felt that they would continue to work on it and voiced his encouragement.

Ms. Savage advised that she was basing her graduation project on block scheduling. She stated that she had found that the vast majority of students could not make the commitment for a 1½-credit course under block scheduling. There was not enough time. She also stated that there were many students who had great ideas but were afraid to speak at a Board meeting.

Mr. Grossi requested a copy of Ms. Savage's paper when it was completed. He also invited students to his living room to speak.

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

No report.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Taneesha Poramer of 769 Meadowwood Lane, Warminster, reported as follows:

- Eleven MBIT students had advanced to national competitions. Six MBIT students would be traveling to the HOSA competition in Cleveland, Ohio, in June; two MBIT students competed at the DECA competition in Louisville, Kentucky, the previous

week; and three MBIT students would be competing at the VICA nationals in Kansas City in June.

- On May 15th there would be a Cosmetology and Hair Show Competition.
- On June 12th the Senior Awards and Recognition Ceremony would be held.

GOOD NEWS

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

Mr. Rosenberger congratulated the boys' and girls' track teams for all their recent accomplishments.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Reid presented the Superintendent's Report (see attached.)

Mr. Rosenberger left the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Mr. Strouse stated that the Board had been discussing the financial status of the District, which was in need of repair. He felt that one of the ways of adjusting this was to look at the educational delivery system. While the four goals outlined by Dr. Reid in her memo were critical to development, he felt they were systemic issues. Mr. Strouse indicated that he felt the educational delivery system should take a higher priority.

Mr. Rosenberger returned to the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Mr. Grossi stated that he saw the need for reorganization of the physical plant and reorganization of the delivery system K-12. He felt that a long-term strategy was needed.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt the need to look at the educational delivery system also.

Mr. Faust felt that the priority goals for the strategic plan should come out of the strategic plan. He also felt that we should take a long-range look at the educational delivery system.

Dr. Reid thanked the Board for sharing their comments but felt that some direction was needed, as well as a clear definition of what they meant by "educational delivery system." She felt that this needed to be discussed at the Education Committee and Finance meetings as well as Board meetings. Also, she needed to know what the priorities were and how many goals there should be.

Mr. Grossi felt that basic skills should be taught earlier so that 11th and 12th graders would have a broader selection of courses to choose from. He also spoke about milestones (such as the PSSA) and the need to prepare students for them.

Mr. Strouse suggested that various other items needed to be looked at besides the delivery system, such as the physical plant and compressing and accelerating curriculum.

Dr. Sexton stated that he would be concerned that milestones not become millstones. He named several ongoing issues, such as curriculum renewal, special education mandates, literacy adoption, strategic plan, standards and the financial problems the District is currently having. He was concerned that once we make a commitment to a direction, we need to see that through before we add more layers. He felt that we currently have several layers out there and was concerned about the stress on the organization.

Mrs. Huf suggested that the Board brainstorm on this and see what it could come up with.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that this could be listed as a Work Session item at a future meeting.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Education Committee had met the previous evening. The main focus of the meeting was the Math program. The following items were discussed:

- The role of the lead teacher.
- The alignment of the Algebra 1 course.
- Math recommendations for the Gifted Program.
- The issue of reducing class size in Grades 1-3.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that the next meeting would probably not be held until October.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Faust advised that the Executive Council had met the previous evening. The following topics were covered:

- Recognition of winners from the State competitions.
- A Sophomore from MBIT who attends Central Bucks was named President of the HOSA State Club.
- A tour of the student-built house project. The students were also building 5-10 cabins for a handicapped day care facility. The materials were donated by the Lion's Club.
- Approval of the calendar for the next school year.
- Hiring a replacement for technology position.
- Reappointment of the Treasurer.
- Approval to enter into a contract with the Bucks County Office of Employment and Training (similar to adult education.)
- Authorization for Administration to advertise and recruit a public safety teacher. [Mr. Grossi questioned why we couldn't send the students to Bucks County Community College for this since it would cost less.]

Intermediate Unit

Ms. Kautz reported as follows:

- The Strategic Planning Committee had met on April 13th & 14th and formulated a draft of Mission, Objectives and Strategies. Action teams will now be formed.
- Ed Godin, Dr. Coe, Dr. Smith and Ms. Kautz visited the Warminster Rec Center I.U. classrooms following input from two parents. Their concerns were addressed and a report was given to the full Board at the April 18th meeting.
- There was a report given on the Elementary Physical Support Program, which operates in the Neshaminy and Quakertown School Districts.
- Larry Martin updated the Board on the recent Reading Olympics.
- Regarding the building addition, a “review” letter is expected to be received from the Township; proposals to bid should go out the first week in June and a bid opening date set for July 11th. Target date for completion is the end of 2001 or first quarter of 2002.
- A Personnel Committee meeting would be held on May 15th to review a proposal for the support staff.
- The Programs & Services Budget was sent to Harrisburg.
- The next meeting would be held on May 16th.

PSBA

Ms. Kautz reported that the Region 11 meeting was schedule for May 23rd.

She also reported that she had attended a PSBA workshop on Act 48 with Dr. Masko and Mrs. Jankowsky. Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that Administration put Act 48 on the agenda under “Reports” so the Board could be kept up to date on this issue.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that Act 48 covers two areas: professional education plan and alternative education programs.

AFG

No report.

Strategic Planning Committee

Dr. Masko reported that four action teams had been commissioned, whose task it was to develop the action steps of the four priority goals. They were scheduled to complete their work during May. After presentation by the action teams to the steering committee on May 31st, the final strategic plan document will be prepared, which will be submitted to the Board in August.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Grossi reported that the next meeting would be on May 15th.

At the last meeting the changes to the budget were reviewed. We will be spending significantly less than our planned budget for this year. While the two-year revenue need had not changed drastically, it took out of this year's budget the 10-mill option. Mr. Grossi advised that the committee would bring forward to the Board at the next meeting a preliminary budget calling for no tax increase. However, this will not negate the fact that there is a need for change.

Mr. Faust pointed out that a vote had not yet been taken. The vote would be taken on May 15th.

Title VIII

No report.

Federal Lands Reuse Authority

Mr. Lasher reported that the FLRA continued to work to try to resolve the code compliance issues. Currently, we are going through the land development process for the east and west sides.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

Citizens Policy

Mr. Strouse reported that a meeting would be held on May 16th.

Legislative Liaison

No report.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that a recent article in The Inquirer had a report on legislation that had passed the House on full funding for IDEA. That Bill would now move to the Senate. Mrs. Jankowsky recommended that everyone send an e-mail to the legislators to encourage support of this.

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 Meeting – 3/28/00*
- *Regular School Board Meeting – 4/11/00*

And Accepts the minutes of:

- *Finance & Long Range Budget Planning – 4/6/00, 4/10/00, 4/17/00*

The motion passed 7-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Mr. Rosenberger noted the following policies had been distributed for initial review:

- 2.9 – Workers Compensation
- 3.7 – Student Responsibility/Discipline
- 5.12 – Planning for Instruction
- 7.20 – Curriculum Review by Parents

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

And approves the:

- *Treasurer’s Report/Fund Profiles – April 2000*
- *Budgetary Transfers – May 2000*

The motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Facility Use Waiver Application – Warminster Symphony Orchestra
2. “Relay for Life”
3. WTHS Student Trip to Landau and Berlin, Germany

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

- (1) *Grants preliminary/final approval for the Warminster Symphony Orchestra to use the William Tennent High School Auditorium on Sunday, May 14, 2000. There is no cost to the District.*
- (2) *Grants final approval for the William Tennent High School Key Club to participate in the American Cancer Society “Relay for Life” in Doylestown, PA on May 20-21, 2000. There is no cost to the District.*

- (3) *Grants final approval for the William Tennent High School student trip to Landau and Berlin, Germany, August 3 to August 29, 2000. There is no cost to the District. Preliminary approval was given February 1, 2000.*

Mr. Faust requested that item #2 be pulled.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the request in item #1 was being made because it would be on a Sunday. Generally items do not appear at a business meeting that have not previously appeared at a work session. She felt that we should not make a habit of this.

Marie Mullen of 111 Heath Court, Chalfont, responded that they have a youth soloist every year and that they did not know the soloist's schedule sooner. That was why the request was being made so late.

Dr. Reid suggested that in the future maybe the request could be made in advance, then if a date change was necessary it could probably be accommodated.

The motion on items 1 and 3 passed 7-0.

2. "Relay for Life"

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Ms. Kautz to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval for the William Tennent High School Key Club to participate in the American Cancer Society "Relay for Life" in Doylestown, PA on May 20-21, 2000. There is no cost to the District.

Mr. Faust voiced his concern over the wording of the chaperone issue, i.e., "A number of staff members from WTHS will also be attending."

Mrs. Homel stated that this would be an overnight trip but that there would be activities going on most of the night. Therefore, the other staff members would be doing shifts that had not yet been determined.

Mr. Grossi suggested that maybe the language should be amended before the motion was approved. Mr. Faust stated that in the future he would like to make sure that a policy check was made on these requests before they were presented to the Board.

A motion to amend was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Faust by indicating that approval was contingent upon the appropriate number of chaperones being provided as outlined by District policy.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the Board would like to have this before the event. It was decided that it would.

The motion to amend passed 7-0.

The amended motion passed 7-0.

- 4. Permission to Accept – 1999/2000 Grants
- 5. Art Supply Bid
- 6. Classroom Furniture Bid
- 7. Medical Supplies Bid
- 8. School Bus Video Cameras Bid

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

- (4) *approves permission to accept funding for the following grants for the 1999/2000 school year in the amounts indicated:*

Link to Learn - \$34,500

Safe and Drug-Free Schools - \$75,981

- (5) *approves the Art Supply Bid No. 2000-17 to be awarded to Kurtz Brothers at the net base total bid price of \$46,779.66. The balance of the bid will be awarded to the following:*

J. L. Hammett Company \$871.13

- (6) *approves the Classroom Furniture Bid No. 2000-23 to be awarded to the following bidders:*

<i>Item No. 1</i>	<i>Chairs, Sled Based Stacking</i>	<i>Virco Manufacturing</i>	<i>\$ 1,079.40</i>
<i>Item No. 2</i>	<i>Chairs, 4-Legged Stacking</i>	<i>Virco Manufacturing</i>	<i>\$11,518.95</i>
<i>Item No. 3</i>	<i>Student Stations No Book Rack</i>	<i>Tanner School Furniture</i>	<i>\$ 6,750.00</i>
<i>Item No. 4</i>	<i>Student Station with Book Rack</i>	<i>Tanner School Furniture</i>	<i>\$11,846.25</i>
<i>Item No. 5</i>	<i>Steel Folding Chairs</i>	<i>Virco Manufacturing</i>	<i>\$ 835.00</i>
<i>Item No. 6</i>	<i>Chair Caddy</i>	<i>Virco Manufacturing</i>	<i>\$ 215.00</i>
<i>Item No. 7</i>	<i>Cafeteria Tables</i>	<i>Reject Virco</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
<i>Item No. 8</i>	<i>Computer Tables</i>	<i>Tanner School Furniture</i>	<i>\$ 5,492.40</i>
<i>Item No. 9</i>	<i>Computer Tables</i>	<i>Tanner School Furniture</i>	<i>\$ <u>1,545.28</u></i>
			<i>\$39,282.28</i>

- (7) *approves the Medical Supplies Bid No. 2000-20 to be awarded to the following vendors for a total cost of \$7,578.18.*

Delcrest Medical \$ 943.49

Interboro Packaging 3.09

Micro Bio-Medics 3,747.24

School Health 492.82

Sportsman's 2,391.54

\$7,578.18

- (8) *approves the School Bus Video Camera Bid No. 2000-25 to be awarded to Bucks County International at the bid amount of \$22,987.30. This will be a Federal Grant Safe Schools expenditure.*

Mrs. Jankowsky questioned the big increase over previous years in Item #5.

Mr. Vail explained that this was similar to the situation that existed with the general supply bid. He indicated that some new measures had been taken to make sure the bids were as comprehensive as possible so that individual orders should not be necessary.

In item #8, Mr. Grossi asked why we were accepting the high bid.

Mr. Rhodes explained that the camera is specifically designed for the school bus system we have and that the other bidders could not meet the specifications.

Mrs. Huf asked if we had purchased from Tanner School Furniture before. Mr. Rhodes responded that we bought from them last year and that they are a very good company.

The motion passed 7-0.

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; Change of Status; Substitute Professional Staff; Substitute Bus Driver; Substitute Aide.

The motion passed 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Technology Expectations

Dr. Masko advised that he had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Faust and Mr. Strouse, who shared their concerns about the staff technology competencies.

One point that Dr. Masko was able to clear up was that a staff member must meet the proficiency level in the first year that it appears and then must maintain that proficiency level in subsequent years.

Another topic discussed was that of assessment of the expectations. Dr. Masko advised that Curriculum Council had finalized an assessment format, which was distributed to the Board. Through the assessment format the Supervisor of the staff member would conduct an assessment each year. The employee would be responsible for demonstrating how they have met the expectations in terms of their particular job responsibilities.

Dr. Masko asked that they also consider a skills assessment as a companion assessment. They are hoping that the Tech Literacy Challenge Fund grant would be approved, thereby enabling us to develop a skills assessment.

Dr. Masko indicated that a third area of concern related to the relationship of the technology expectations to the student competencies. He advised that he had included in the Board's packet a summary of Student Technology Competency Development and Implementation.

Mr. Faust questioned why e-mail and the Internet are not included in the elementary level. Dr. Masko responded that these were originally set up to be delayed at the elementary level. Although it seems that more challenging expectations are desirable, we are also asking teachers to keep up to date in their particular areas, to learn to use new Reading/Language Arts materials, to teach the gifted, to learn techniques for block scheduling, standards, etc. We are already asking a lot from the teachers.

Mr. Strouse stated that he felt that getting proficient in technology would help the teachers in all the other areas. He felt the bar was set too low.

Mr. Faust requested Dr. Masko to revisit the e-mail and Internet components for the elementary teachers. He felt that rather than requiring proficiency in these two areas, we could require basic skills.

AP Physics

Mrs. Homel advised that several parents had asked whether anything could be done about scheduling this course since it had been in the master schedule for several years prior to this. After review, it was determined that we could do this without severely impacting the rest of the students.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested that the subject of the Middle School attendance boundary be placed on the agenda for the next work session.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to adjourn the meeting. The

motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary