

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD OCTOBER 24, 2000**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on October 24, 2000, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Huf at 7:48 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Scott Avery
Joseph Faust
Eugene Grossi
Al Hertenberger
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
Jerry Locke
Harve Strouse
James Wybar

Administration:

Sheila Buckley
Frank Gallagher
Sandy Homel
Victor Lasher
Dr. Michael Masko
Eileen Poroszok
Dr. Nancy Reid
John Rhodes
Jean Rollo
Dr. Thomas Sexton
Gloria Wetzel

Staff/CEA/Teachers:

Deb Walker
Linda Jacobson
Carol Monaghan
Sue Brown
Michael Jones
Sharon Kalb
Eleanor Carol
Barbara Barnett
Maureen Walker
Debra Baker
Geri LaGuardia
Carol Jerdan
Dianne Henwood

Ruth Higginbotham
Fred Prout
Karen Nicholas
Mary Purdy
Margaret Devine
Jean Meyers
Suzanne Clark
Shirley Kelly
Sue Brown
Charlene Mertz
Monica Fournier
Leslie Bonner

Public:

George Rich
Mary Rich
Darwin Dobson
Joan Dobson
Doris Cox
Arthur Cox
James Mann
Ruth Mann
Joan Devlin
Ray Devlin
Bill Moosher
Terry Mackey
T. J. McPeak
Walt Shead
Patricia Myers
Lola Biuckians
Jeffrey Pride
John Rementer
Keith Froggatt
Glenn Baun
Anthony Centofanti
Dick Hoffman
Jeanne Hoffman
Willa Hayes
Richard Barron
Linda Centofanti
Victoria Wuest
Ray DiMaio
Robert Sullivan
Joe Kosich
Joe Warner
Andrew Hillman
Anita Miller
Roberta Fechner
Mel Fechner
Brigham Breiner
Valerie Breiner
Fred Jankowski
Pam Beardsell
Loretta Munshaw

Harold Munshaw
Bryan Munshaw
Heather Munshaw
E. Zimmerman
Albert Zimmerman
John Held
Marge Andrusko
Jerome Andrusko
John Rondinelli
Jim Smith
Audrey Woodard
John Woodard
William S. Rumpf
Mayron Williams
Karin Dietz
Sean Jonassen
Taylor Harris
Kim Irvine
Debra Colquhoun
Janet Marinoff
Kathleen Murphy
Johnson Family
Feeley Family
David Bangs
Patti Bangs
Marge Heybach
Carol Newborg
Frederick Bolich
Anita Kulp
Beverly Blackway
Jason Blackway
Ruth Blackway
Cheryl Dereiter
Lynn Peterson
Jose Rivera
Michael Romen
Robert Luebbe
Jean Dickson
Arlene Russell

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Huf led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Huf reported that she had attended the Celebration of the Bands and that it was excellent.

Mrs. Huf announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting relative to a legal matter regarding policy and a personnel matter. She also indicated that the Board would meet in Executive Session again immediately following this meeting relative to a conference matter regarding evaluation of the Board meeting.

GOOD NEWS/PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Reid stated that she would like to share some information on an initiative that they had been working very hard on for a number of years. She indicated that this was the first year that they had implemented the Centennial School District Student Performance Standards. She explained that parents had received copies of the standards and that Administration had been working with staff members.

Dr. Reid introduced Dr. Gloria Wetzel, Principal of Leary, who spoke regarding standards implementation. Three second-grade teachers from Leary, Linda Jacobson, Debbie Walker and Carol Monaghan, also spoke regarding the particulars of applying standards in the classroom.

Mr. Faust commented that the presentation was excellent. He asked how this compared to the five other elementary schools in the District. Dr. Sexton explained that the schools were at different stages of implementation. He indicated that it was incredible to see the enthusiasm of the students at Leary and he encouraged Board members to visit the school.

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Anita Miller of 400 Grape Street, Warminster, stated that her son attends McDonald and that in the previous school year she saw great improvement from the beginning of the year to the end. She thanked the teachers.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of September 12, 2000.

The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESSSale of Tax Parcel No. 48-7-2

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board has determined that Bucks County Tax Parcel 48-7-2, located on Street Road in Upper Southampton Township, and containing approximately 9.24 acres is unused and unnecessary for School District purposes. Be it further resolved that the Administration is herein directed to offer said property for sale by sealed bids in accordance with the provisions of the Public School Code subject to the following conditions:

- 1. The sale shall be “as is” except the School District shall provide good title to the buyer;*
- 2. The sale shall be subject to no contingencies except the title contingency noted previously;*
- 3. The settlement shall occur within sixty (60) days of the approval of the sale;*
- 4. All bids shall be accompanied by a certified check payable to the School District in the amount of 10% of the bid;*
- 5. The School District shall have the right to reject any and all bids for any reason; and*
- 6. Such other conditions that would normally be included in the sale of real property.*

There was no second to the motion; therefore, discussion was closed.

Since there was a major outcry by members of the community present at the meeting who wished to speak and were being denied the opportunity to do so, the Board recessed at 8:20 p.m. to hold an Executive Session. The meeting resumed at 8:23 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky that the Board suspend the rules for this specific issue and open the floor for community comments.

The motion passed 8-0. (Mr. Hertenberger was not in the room at this time.)

Michael Griffin of 1448 Stephen Way, Southampton, stated that he was glad that there had been no second to the motion regarding the sale of property. He felt that the fields were public access and should not be sold to any party for commercial purposes. He felt that if the School District did not wish to maintain the fields, they should transfer them to Upper Southampton Township for no consideration in order to perpetuate open space for the use of the residents.

Mr. Hertenberger returned to the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Arthur Cox of 439 Rick Road, Southampton, stated that he had been a resident since 1954 and he was under the impression that this land was donated to the School District and that it was to be used for recreation. This was the only open ground on the southwest corner of the township and it was used every day or night throughout the year. He felt it would be a disgrace to get rid of it.

William Moosher of 3456 Central Avenue, Huntingdon Valley, stated that he represented the Marine Corps League and that he shopped in Southampton. Mrs. Huf advised Mr. Moosher that since he was not a resident of Centennial School District that he was not permitted to speak.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Faust to suspend the rules in order to allow Mr. Moosher to speak.

The motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Moosher stated that he would like to see the field preserved for the children. He also advised that there were seven Veteran memorials on the field and that Memorial Day festivities were held on the field each year.

Keith Froggatt of 790 Linden Drive, Southampton, stated that the Supervisors were in favor of keeping this property as open space and in keeping sports fields. He strongly urged the Board to transfer this property to Upper Southampton.

Dominic Cintofanti of 781 Trowbridge Drive, Southampton, (President of Southampton Knights Football) stated his concern about selling this land to a developer. He felt that would be shortsighted and wrong. He felt the Board either didn't know the history of the land or didn't care. He spoke about the history and indicated that the land had been sold to the District for \$1 to be used for educational purposes and to be used as open space.

Stephen Ullrich of 323 Belair Road, Southampton, pointed out that all of the different groups of people in attendance at the meeting were there because they wanted the land to be preserved. He stated that Upper Southampton and Warminster Townships had 600 signatures on petitions. He also addressed environmental issues. He stated that the land allowed the children from both townships to get off the streets and into sports activities. He felt the loss of the field would be an extreme hardship to the sports programs that used it.

Lola Biuckians of 1255 Valley Hill Trail, Churchville, thanked the Board for postponing this issue from October 10th until this date so that some of the options could be discussed. She indicated that the Upper Southampton Board had met on October 16th and discussed this matter. They decided that Shelmire Field was extremely important to their sports teams, CYO and the veterans. It was used for ceremonial activities as well as sporting events. She stated that it was the position of the Board of Supervisors that the land should remain the property of the residents of Southampton. She requested that the property be returned to the rightful owners, the residents of Southampton. Mrs. Biuckians also spoke about the history of the land and the School Board in Southampton. Finally, she requested the Board to send copies of agendas for all future meetings to the Township Office.

Bob Matthews of 1400 Nancy Drive, Southampton, indicated that he was speaking on behalf of Our Lady of Good Council CYO. He advised that they had three sports teams that relied on the Shelmire Field and that if they lost that field, it would be difficult to find another field to use. He also spoke about the flooding implications if the land was developed. He requested that the property be turned over to the township.

Dobby Dobson of 39 Charlotte Avenue, Southampton, (from the Republican Club of Southampton) stated that the Republican Club asked him to give the Board a listing of reasons

why they thought the property should be given back to the township. He asked the Board to reconsider.

Anita Miller of 400 Grape Street, Warminster, requested the Board to reconsider. She indicated that she worked for a title company and felt that the Board should be aware of the deed restrictions on the property.

Edward J. Gibbs of 536 Centennial Road, Warminster, advised that he was the current Commander of VFW Post 6493 in Warminster. He spoke about the veterans and the use they make of the field. He felt it would be an injustice to the veterans to sell the land for commercial purposes.

Trey Burg of 1666 Bonnie Brae Drive, Huntingdon Valley, asked the Board to read the sign hanging on the wall behind them, which read "*Dedicated to the Students and their future.*" He asked the Board to stand on its principles, not on money. He requested that the land be donated to the township.

Victoria Wuest of 538 Rick Road, Southampton, addressed the issue of rain runoff on adjoining properties. She felt that if a parking lot were put over the field, the adjoining properties would be underwater. She also spoke about the athletic use of the field.

Harold Munshaw of 529 Belmont Avenue, Southampton, stated that Shelmire Field was not just about having a field play on, but that it was also about memories. He asked the Board to not only make the field part of the children's future but to preserve it as part of their childhood memories.

Brian McVan of 543 McGlynn Road, Warminster, stated that he would like to convey the sentiment that organized athletics is education. He asked if there was anyone in the room who doubted that if this issue were placed on the ballot in the upcoming election, the proposed sale would not pass. He pointed out that not one person had spoken in support of a sale. He felt that, considering the size and intensity of the public in attendance at this meeting, if the Board tried to proceed with a sale, they would be sued by many of the clubs, which would be very costly. Mr. McVan challenged Mr. Grossi to make a motion that the Board not sell this property.

Anthony Centofanti of 630 Whittier Drive, Warminster, stated that there was not a lot of open space in the township and that the sports teams took a lot of pride in the fields they used. He felt that the fields were critical and that selling this property would not help the children at all. He requested that the land be sold to the township for \$1. He asked the Board to do the right thing.

The meeting recessed at 9:10 p.m. and resumed at 9:28 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Exception to Policy 7.18 – Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to policy 7.18 to allow Student 3-3 to attend Kindergarten at Longstreth Elementary School for the 2000/01 school year. Transportation shall be the responsibility of the child's parent.

The motion passed 9-0.

2. Preliminary Approval for WTHS Swim Team Trip to North Miami, Florida, December 26, 2000 – January 1, 2001

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if this was the first time the swimming team would be attending this facility for training. Pam Beardsell, President of the Swim Team Boosters spoke on behalf of the swim team since Lisa Forlini, the Coach, was unable to attend the meeting. Mrs. Beardsell advised that the swim team had taken this same trip three years ago.

Mr. Strouse asked if this was a required trip for team members. Mrs. Beardsell stated that it was optional and that if a member did not go, it would not affect their status on the team.

Mr. Faust asked if approving this would make it a school-sanctioned trip, thereby requiring School District rules to be adhered to. Dr. Reid responded affirmatively.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Wybar to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for the WTHS Swim Team trip to North Miami, Florida on December 26, 2000 to January 1, 2001. There is no cost to the District.

The motion passed 9-0.

3. Final Approval for WTHS Band Trip to the Gator Bowl December 27, 2000 - January 1, 2001

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval for the WTHS Marching Band trip to the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville and Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, on December 27, 2000 to January 1, 2001.

Mr. Faust asked how many students usually went on the trip. Mr. LoVecchio stated that this was the highest they had had yet, with a 99% attendance rate.

Mr. Avery asked if this was school sanctioned. Dr. Reid responded that it was.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Exceptions to Facility Use Policy

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Facility Use Waiver Applications for the following groups:

- *Warminster Basketball Association, Sunday use of the WTHS gym on December 17, 2000, at no cost to the District;*
- *Spartans Wrestling Group, use of WTHS gym on Sunday, December 10, 2000, at no cost to the District;*
- *National Women's Football League, use of WTHS practice field on Saturday, November 18 and November 25, 2000, at no cost to the District.*

The motion passed 9-0.

5. Crossing Guard at WTHS

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the placement of a crossing guard at the William Tennent High School driveway at Centennial Road in the morning only at a cost to the District not to exceed \$1,500 per year. Funds are to be transferred from contingency account and Warminster Township will pay the remaining cost.

Mr. Faust asked what would happen if there was a problem with the township. Mr. Locke responded that in such a case, the matter would have to come before the Board for further action. Mr. Rhodes advised that the Second Class Township Code stated that the cost of a crossing guard should be split.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked what the earliest date was that the crossing guard could be placed. Mr. Rhodes stated that it would, hopefully, be by mid-November.

Mr. Locke stated that we would get an assessment report on the effectiveness of this.

The motion passed 9-0.

6. Request for Bids for Solicitorship

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes Administration to solicit proposals from area legal firms with school law expertise to act as District legal counsel for a three-year prior. Said proposals are to contain sections on general counsel, labor counsel and special education counsel.

Mr. Strouse stated that he thought the discussion had been that this would be an annual renewable proposal. Mr. Faust thought this was to be at the discretion of the Board.

Mr. Grossi stated that this could be taken care of when the selection was approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to amend the motion by adding the phrase "...with annual renewals" at the end of the first sentence.

The motion to amend passed 9-0.

Mr. Wybar asked if the Board was obligated to take the lowest bid or if it could select. Mr. Grossi responded that the Board could select.

The amended motion passed 9-0.

7. Permission to Apply for Grants

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board gives permission to Administration to apply for the following grants:

- (a) IDEAS Grant (NASA) for \$40,000;*
- (b) Digital Grass Roots Grant for \$20,000;*
- (c) Crisis Prevention Institute Grant for \$2,000;*
- (d) Students Achieving Standards Grant for up to \$180,000.*

The motion passed 9-0.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Faust questioned the payment of the soccer cheerleading coach since the season runs concurrently with football. After discussion, there was a consensus to remove this item until the next meeting so that it could be clarified.

Dr. Sexton advised that the contract stated a cheerleading coach for soccer and a football cheerleading coach, so they should be separate.

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; Adult Education Teachers; Support Staff Substitutes; and Co-Curricular Additions, Changes and Deletions (with the exception of the Soccer Cheerleading Coach.)

The motion passed 9-0.

POLICIES

Initial Distribution:

5.15 – Honor Roll

Mr. Strouse stated that the Citizens Policy Committee had met and had a very extensive discussion on this matter. It was a very heated discussion and the compromises were very well reached. He felt that what was coming forward was a very good policy.

Dr. Sexton asked if the Board wished for this to be brought forward as a discussion item at the next meeting. It was decided that it did.

Discussion:

2.1 – Salary for Employees

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that at the previous meeting, Administration had recommended that this policy be rescinded. She advised that this had been reviewed by the solicitor and that the Board had his opinion.

Mr. Faust expressed his concern about rescinding this policy. He agreed with the CEA that this was a contractual issue but felt that if this was removed as a policy, there would be no policy covering a compensation plan for support staff. He felt that maybe this policy should be amended so that it covered only support staff. Mr. Strouse agreed.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that this could be incorporated into agreements with the different groups. Mr. Faust stated that his concern in handling it that way was that the document would have an expiration date. Mrs. Rollo felt that it would be more feasible to the staff if it was in the document they receive rather than having it in the policy book. Mr. Faust pointed out that it could be in both.

Mrs. Huf asked if it was the consensus of the Board to rescind the policy. Mr. Faust stated that he would like to send it back to the Administrative Policy Committee for input. There was a consensus of the Board to do so.

2.6 – Personal Appearance

No discussion.

4.11 – Student Activity/Clearing Funds

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she had a problem with the policy statement page. She felt that the second paragraph discussed operational aspects and that it should not be on this page. She suggested that the first two paragraphs be combined, as follows: *“The Centennial School Board recognizes that it acts as trustee of all funds raised by and for*

student projects and activities and also acts as custodian of various other monies in a trust capacity.” There was consensus that this change be made.

Mr. Strouse made the following comments:

- Section I. A. – Requiring four signatures on a voucher seems like too many.
- Section I. C. – Do we have a Director of Elementary Education? And should it be either/or?
- Section I. E. – Should be integrated with item A.
- Section I. F and II. E. – Both use the phrase “school internal accounts.” What is that?

Permission to Revise:

2.13 – Recruitment and Employment of Staff

Mrs. Jankowsky explained the contents of what was included in the Board’s packet as it related to the 40% Salary Range Profile. She recommended a change to Item D on page 2.13C of the policy. She felt this would give us a sound basis for making a salary offer. She suggested that the Board consider piloting this.

Mr. Faust explained the current practice. He felt that the suggested practice be piloted, but only for the people that the Board was not involved in interviewing. Mr. Grossi agreed.

Mr. Faust requested that under a pilot program, the Board would get information about why a candidate was in the third or fourth quartile.

Dr. Reid asked if it would be helpful to take a current position and show what it would be on the pilot as a basis of comparison. She also indicated that it would be important to make sure that our ranges were correct.

There was a consensus of the Board to have Administration pilot this matter.

Mr. Faust stated that he would like to see the policy before this was piloted. Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that this be an attachment to the policy rather than incorporating the language into the policy.

Mrs. Rollo pointed out that PSBA recommended that ranges be reviewed every 12 to 18 months.

OTHER

REACH Charter School

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the District had received a formal application from the REACH Charter School.

Dr. Reid responded that it had not.

MBIT

Mr. Faust advised that the Executive Council for MBIT had awarded Dr. Lees a 6% increase with a maximum of 3% to go into base and the other 3% (or all 6% if he chose) to go into 403(b) (pension plan). The motion had passed with two people opposed (Mr. Faust and Mr. Strouse) because they thought 6% was too high.

Mr. Faust also advised that the October enrollment data had been received. It was noted that while all other districts had slight increases, we had a fairly substantial decrease. We lost about 30 students in the 10th grade. Dr. Lees thought a possible reason for this was that since career planning night for 9th graders had to be rescheduled due to a snow day, it was not well attended. Also, over the last few years there was a lot of marketing on the automotive program, whereas this year there wasn't. Therefore, the bottom dropped out of the automotive program. Mr. Faust indicated that he had requested Dr. Lees to look into this matter. Preliminarily, he found that students raised the issue of additional graduation requirements. However, this was very preliminary data and Mr. Faust felt that this matter should be looked into here. He questioned whether graduations requirements could be keeping students from going to MBIT.

Dr. Reid commented that they would be looking into this issue and reminded the Board to look at the entire picture.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that another matter that concerned her was student absence. Mr. Faust stated that there were 38 instances where calendars didn't match up. He advised that MBIT had developed a calendar that it would share with the other districts. He also pointed out that MBIT's calendar is not approved until after the sending districts' calendars are approved.

Mrs. Huf asked if the Board would suspend the rules to allow a community member to speak who was not here earlier.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Faust to suspend to rules to allow a community member to speak at this time.

The motion passed 9-0.

Donna Marie Saul of 589 Lowell Road, Warminster, asked if there would be discussion of proposed changes to block scheduling for the middle school and changes in block scheduling at the high school at the Education Committee Meeting on November 6th. Mrs. Jankowsky stated that the agenda called for the discussion of options.

Mrs. Saul also asked if the public would be able to get copies of the proposed changes and if handouts would be available. Mrs. Jankowsky responded that they generally were.

Mrs. Saul asked if there was any reason why committee meetings were not held in the Board Room so they could be broadcast. Mrs. Huf stated that sometimes there was a conflict with the broadcasting.

Mr. Faust advised that committee meetings were very conversational and that they called for open discussion. He felt that if they were held in the Board Room that they would be similar to Board Meetings where the Board was seated at the head table and the public was separated. He felt that would be the wrong type of atmosphere for a committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Faust to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary