

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD DECEMBER 12, 2000**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on December 12, 2000, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Huf at 7:45 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

Staff:

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

CEA/Teachers/Principals:

Donna Dunar
Shannon Christine
Pearline Greene
Nicola Olsin
Judith Braunstan
Karen Rader
Mick Sander
Woody Martin

Public:

Ron Kalstein
Debbie Kalstein
Amy Keppol
Kate Combs
Jane Strawley

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Huf announced that Mr. Wybar was not present at the meeting due to personal reasons. She advised that she had received a thank you note from him regarding his wife's recent illness, which indicated that she was slowly recovering.

Mrs. Huf advised that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting relative to a legal matter regarding payment in lieu of taxes and a personnel matter regarding a sabbatical.

Mrs. Huf advised that the Board Committee and Liaison assignments for the year 2001 would remain the same. She indicated that she needed volunteers of liaisons for the various schools and asked Board members to let her know which school they wished to represent.

Mrs. Huf advised that there would be an Executive Session following this meeting relative to a conference matter regarding evaluation of this meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Standards Presentation

Dr. Masko spoke about the basics of Writing Standards. Donna Dunar spoke about the standards in more detail, while Shannon Christine spoke about how she implements the standards in the classroom. A video was shown of Mrs. Christine teaching a class.

Stackpole 35th Anniversary Video

Pearline Greene introduced members of the Stackpole 35th Anniversary Planning Committee, then showed a video about the anniversary. She introduced Ron and Debbie Kalstein, the video makers, and Nicola Olsen, the star performer in the video.

Mrs. Huf thanked Mrs. Greene for the wonderful video and anniversary celebration.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

Jacqueline Genesio, the Senior Class Treasurer, reported on the following items:

- The Alumni Breakfast would be held on December 22nd. Board members would be receiving invitations. Following the breakfast, graduates from last year would be speaking to Seniors about the first year of college.
- An Expo would be held on January 11th, at which representatives of various businesses would be present to answer questions about their services.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Amy Keppol and Katie Combs reported as follows:

- During December students began working on competition skills in preparation for regional competitions.

- A blood drive would be held in January.
- A Toy Drive was currently in progress. The toys would be donated to a local charity.
- A Thanksgiving Drive had just been completed, which included baskets for needy families.
- Donations were being taken for St. Jude's Foundation.
- The students had gone Christmas caroling at Neshaminy Manor the previous week.
- Following the holidays, all students would be receiving information on Program Planning Night, to be held on January 25th.
- The Annual Dinner Reception to recognize the joint School Directors would be held on January 8th.

GOOD NEWS

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Reid presented the Superintendent's Report (see attached), highlighting the Superintendent's Administrative Objectives for the 2000/01 school year.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Education Committee had met three times so far. At its December 4th meeting, the following matters were discussed:

- Dorothy Henry Alternative School – The issues discussed were: whether this program might be more appropriately placed under Special Education; the physical location of the school and whether it could be located elsewhere (the committee is awaiting recommendations); and whether the standards would be applied to the alternative school and MBIT students.
- Update on Gifted Program – It was decided that this should be reviewed on a more regular basis. Recommendations from the audit were being started.
- Special Experience Room – A lot of information was given to the committee, which will be reviewed further.

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the next meeting was scheduled for January 17th, at which there would be a speaker about the International Baccalaureate Program.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Faust reported that the previous night's meeting had been canceled by Board action due to the fact that most of the Boards were still reorganizing. He advised that the Executive Council would meet prior to the January 8th meeting and that there would also be a Nominations Committee meeting. The January 8th meeting would be held at Aspirations Restaurant.

Intermediate Unit

Mr. Grossi reported on the following items from the previous meeting:

- There was approval of an addition to the building for a cost of \$1.8 million.
- There was a proposal for a mini bond issue. The fees would be approximately \$50,000. Mr. Grossi suggested that the solicitor be contacted to see if he could arrange for the 13 districts to support the building addition and see that the districts get the interest and fee money paid to them. They are reviewing this.
- The I.U. is renting storage space for old papers. Mr. Grossi suggested that the solicitor review whether these papers still needed to be kept.

Mr. Faust asked if the I.U. had looked into either microfilming or putting the information on disk. Mr. Grossi indicated that the I.U. had stated that some of the information must be kept as hard copies, but he stated that he would continue to pursue this matter.

PSBA

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that PSBA had just mailed out catalogues of programs being offered.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Grossi reported on the following items from the Finance Committee's previous meeting:

- The tax collection compensation matter was addressed, which would be discussed later in this meeting.
- Discussion was held regarding the absentee rate and the fair share rates.
- A synopsis of the Business Plan would be prepared.

Mr. Grossi advised that in upcoming months the Finance Committee would be dealing mainly with the budget, so that some of the above matters would need to be set aside until August.

Title VIII

No report.

Federal Lands Reuse Authority

No report.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Locke reported that the Operations Committee had revisited the situation regarding the request from parents for a Penn DOT study on Log College Drive. The parents were still concerned about the safety issues. The Operations Committee reviewed this matter

again and reversed its recommendation. They now felt it should come before the Board for review and a vote for study of the entire Log College Drive by Penn DOT to establish whether or not it is a hazardous road. They would like to put this matter on the agenda for the next meeting.

Citizens Policy

Mr. Strouse reported that Policies 3.13 and 3.23 had come before the Citizens Policy Committee and were on the agenda for this meeting. He advised that the next meeting of the Citizens Policy Committee would be on December 19th.

Legislative Liaison

Mr. Faust pointed out that in the Board's packet there was a report from Mr. Brady of the I.U. regarding legislative matters. He advised that there were no meetings of the Bucks County Legislative Council in either November or December.

Mr. Avery left the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the minutes of:

- *Work Session/Regular Meeting – 10/24/00*
- *Regular School Board Meeting – 11/14/00*

And accepts the minutes of:

- *Education Committee – 11/6/00*
- *Finance and Long Range Budget Planning Committee – 11/20/00*

The motion passed 7-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Initial Distribution:

Mr. Locke noted the following policies for initial distribution:

- 2.13 – Recruitment and Employment of Staff
- 3.13 – Suspected Child Abuse
- 3.23 – Solicitation
- 7.32 – Continuing Professional Education

Final Adoption:Policy 2.7 – Outstanding Achievement Awards

Dr. Sexton pointed out the changes that had been made to this policy in accordance with previous discussions. He explained that this was a new policy, although the procedures had been in effect for many years.

Mr. Avery returned to the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Mr. Faust suggested that the Assistant Superintendent be listed as part of the committee. This was supported by all Board members.

Mr. Strouse suggested that in Section II. B. the Assistant Superintendent be named as chairperson of the Selection Committee.

Dr. Sexton stated that if he was not named as one of the Central Officer Administrators, then it should be changed from three to two.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that, after reviewing this, she felt that the committee would be too large if the previous year's award winners were included on the Selection Committee. She suggested that there be two administrators, whether they be Central or Building. She did feel that the teaching staff and support staff could be represented by one of each. She felt that this would make a more manageable number for the committee.

Mr. Grossi stated that he liked Mrs. Jankowsky's suggestion. Mr. Faust stated that he agreed with all of this. He felt that for the sake of consistency, we should indicate how the support staff and teaching staff representatives would be selected. Dr. Sexton suggested that they be chosen by the Assistant Superintendent. This was agreed to by everyone.

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the adoption of Policy 2.7, Outstanding Achievement Awards, as amended.

The motion passed 8-0.

FINANCIAL

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

- *Schedule of Bills – November 2000*
- *Investments – November 2000*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – November 2000*

And approves the:

- *Treasurer's Report/Fund Profiles – November 2000*

- *Budgetary Transfers – December 2000*

The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Telecommunications/Services Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Telecommunications/Services Bid No. 2000-01 to be awarded to the following vendors:

| | <u>Total Cost</u> |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <u>Section A – Bandwidth Services</u> | |
| <i>Comcast – 7/1/2001 through 6/30/2006</i> | \$794,000.00 |
| <i>Non-recurring charge</i> \$200,000.00 | |
| <i>Monthly fee</i> 9,900.00 | |
| <i>Verizon – month to month for approximately 2 months</i> | <i>approx. 11,116.80</i> |
| <u>Section B & C – Telephone Service</u> | |
| <i>AT&T – 7/1/2001 through 6/30/2005</i> | <i>approx. \$160,000.00</i> |
| <i>Monthly line charge: \$6.65 (See attachment for long distance charges)</i> | |
| <u>Section D – Internet Services</u> | |
| <i>Comcast – 7/1/2001 through 6/30/2004</i> | \$75,600.00 |
| <i>Monthly charge: \$2,100.00</i> | |
| Total | \$1,040,716.80 |

The \$200,000 non-recurring charge is to be funded through the 1998 General Obligation Bond proceeds. The entire total should be eligible for E-rate funding which would result in a 40% (\$416,000) savings. The general fund expenditure for 2001/2002 for this award will be approximately \$164,000.

Mr. Faust asked if the \$200,000 coming from the 1998 General Obligation Bond had been appropriated or if it would come from interest income. Mr. Vail explained that there was a line item of \$500,000 in the 2000/01 projections in anticipation of this bid.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the \$164,000 referred to in the last line of the motion would be a recurring expense in that amount. Mr. Lasher explained that it would be a recurring expense in an amount greater than \$164,000 because the telephone service was not for the full year. The first year would be less than one full year.

The motion passed 8-0.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked Mr. Lasher and members of the technology staff for their work in developing this bid.

PERSONNEL

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

Mr. Grossi requested that the last item under Leaves of Absence be separated.

The motion (as amended) passed 8-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the last item under Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence.

Mr. Strouse stated that approving this item would create a significant disruption in scheduling and in the teaching schedule at the high school. He indicated that he would oppose this motion.

Mr. Grossi stated that he felt it would be a disruption and a disservice to staff members; therefore, he planned to vote against this.

Mr. Faust stated that he felt this was an unfortunate situation and that he would oppose the motion.

Mrs. Huf stated that she opposed this motion for all the reasons stated above.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that while she understood the reasons given by other Board members, she felt the Board was under the obligation to comply with an arbitration ruling governing the right of our represented personnel to rescind sabbaticals. Therefore, she stated that she would vote in favor of this.

Mr. Grossi stated that he felt that when things are wrong you say so and you vote accordingly.

Mr. Faust stated that while the case addressed this situation, it was over ten years old and you never know what a new panel would decide.

The motion failed 2-6. (Mr. Avery, Mr. Faust, Mr. Grossi, Mr. Hertenberger, Mr. Locke and Mr. Strouse opposed.)

COMMUNICATIONS

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

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Tax Collector Compensation

Mr. Grossi stated that the Finance Committee had brought forward a change in the setting of the tax collector compensation as provided by law for the next term. He indicated that he would be bringing forth a compromise at the January meeting.

Fair Share Rental Rates

Mr. Grossi pointed out that there was information in the Board's packet regarding this matter and that it would appear on the January 9th agenda.

Solicitor Proposal

Mr. Grossi stated that direction from the Board was needed on this matter. Mr. Faust suggested that Administration generate a report on how the current solicitors were operating.

Mr. Grossi felt that the Board should hear them all. He felt the Board should decide if it wanted to interview them or not. It should get an opinion from Administration and the Board whether we have been satisfied.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that the Board did not need Administration's performance review on solicitors but felt the Board should identify areas where they needed solicitors' assistance. She also felt that since there were so many new Board members, there should be a short summary provided of what the categories included. Then maybe the Board President could call each Board member and ask them to rate the candidates.

Mr. Faust stated that he would like to see the top three candidates for each position come in for interviews rather than just interviewing the top candidates.

Mrs. Huf advised that she would contact each Board member for their rating of the candidates.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

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