

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD JANUARY 23, 2001**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on January 23, 2001 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
James Wybar

Administration:

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

CEA/Teachers:

Mick Sander

Public:

Carol Morrow
Pete Murphy, Jr.
Laura Murphy
Sina Baranski
Bobbie Loftus

Rachael Cauto
Mary Piechocki
Jane Strawley
Lori Goodwin
Pete Murphy, Sr.

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 proposed agreement for payment in lieu of taxes, a personnel matter regarding terminations and permanent per diem substitutes. She also advised that the Board would be meeting again in Executive Session immediately following this meeting relative to a conference matter regarding evaluation of this Board Meeting.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that the Ad Hoc Committee for MTB matters would meet on January 30th at 7:00 p.m. She indicated that it would be an Executive Session regarding a legal matter; therefore, it would not be open to the public.

PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Huf presented the Meritorious Budget Award to Mr. Vail, the Business Manager, and three members of the Finance Committee, Mr. Grossi, Mr. Faust and Mr. Strouse. The award was from the Association of School Business Officials International and was for fiscal year 2000/01.

Dr. Reid spoke about School Board Directors Recognition Month. She indicated that this year the District was working very hard on standards and that the focus was on writing. She distributed a booklet to Board members that contained writing samples from students of various grades. Each Board member read one of the writing samples.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Since the community members all wished to speak about an item already on the agenda, they were asked to hold their comments until that item came up for discussion.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

None

GOOD NEWS/

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

Mrs. Huf then requested and received the Board's permission to move up New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Penn DOT Study on Log College Drive

Mr. Locke explained that the Operations Committee had been approached by parents regarding this matter. The parents requested that a Penn DOT study be conducted to see if hazardous vehicular conditions existed on Log College Drive. The Operations Committee felt that the study should be done but it required Board approval.

Mr. Faust stated that a few years ago a study was done that only covered part of the street, but that portion of the street was deemed hazardous.

Lori Goodwin of 1208 Darrah Road, Warminster, stated that Log College Drive was dangerous and that cars routinely speed on it. When the snow must be plowed, the children have to walk in the road. She stated that she would like to have the study done.

Rachael Cauto of 1187 Log College Drive, Warminster, stated that she feared for the children's lives as they went to and from school. She described hazardous conditions. She indicated that there was a lot of commercial and truck traffic through this area and that there were two or three buses already going past her house that were only partially full.

Kathleen Carriere of 1174 Nassau Road, Warminster, distributed a map showing the area. She spoke about the hazardous conditions on behalf of the children in the neighborhood.

Laura Murphy of 1193 Darrah Road, Warminster, stated that there is a bend in the road at one point where cars cannot see very well and there is no stop sign there. She indicated that cars fly up the road and that the conditions were very scary.

Barbara Karonci of 1338 Barness Drive, Warminster, stated that her street was near the WREC Center and that there was a lot of traffic to and from the center. She indicated that she would be willing for the children to get on the bus at Log College.

Mary Piechocki of 1171 Log College Drive, Warminster, advised that she did not have children in the public school but that she had seen a great increase in the traffic in this area. She felt that a traffic study was warranted. She advised that at least one out of six cars went through the stop sign and most exceeded the speed limit.

Several of the community members also pointed out that there were dump trucks from various companies using these roads and they also were not obeying the traffic laws.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if these violations had been reported to the authorities. The community members indicated that they had on various occasions.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked what the timeline would be and what process was involved in a survey and also if there was a cost.

Mr. Rhodes advised that there would be no cost for the study. He indicated that we would write a letter requesting the study, which was usually answered in three to four weeks, with someone visiting the school. He indicated that he did not know what their workload was at this time. After that a report would be issued within three to four weeks.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if this matter was unanimously brought forward by the Operations Committee. Mr. Rhodes indicated that it was.

Mr. Grossi stated that he had no problem with a Penn DOT study being done but felt that there were more issues involved. He stated that if the busing of Central Bucks students coming to the WREC Center was causing problems, then he wondered why we were renting space to Central Bucks in these facilities within the District.

Mr. Wybar stated that the Central Bucks buses were not necessarily going to the Center. He felt that they also used this road as a shortcut to get to Street Road.

Mr. Grossi felt that we should communicate with Central Bucks about this since there were main roads the buses should be traveling on rather than using Log College Drive. He also felt that we should speak to Warminster Township about this.

Mr. Locke agreed that this matter needed a total review but that initially we should start with Log College Drive.

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes Administration to initiate a Penn DOT survey of Log College Drive to determine if that road qualifies for designation as a Hazardous Walking Route under state regulations and standards.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested Administration to also draft the impact on bus schedules and how it would impact busing operations.

Dr. Reid asked if the Board wished for Administration to communicate with Central Bucks and Warminster Township. The Board indicated their assent.

The motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Rhodes felt that writing to another school district asking them not to use public roads would cause problems. However, Mr. Grossi felt that it shouldn't be a problem asking another school district to change their route for the safety of the children.

2. Real Estate Tax Collector Compensation

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the full resolution attached herein as Supplement 2 setting forth the compensation and performance requirements for the upcoming four-year term of the elected tax collectors in all three municipalities commencing on January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2006.

Mr. Grossi pointed out the changes made, which had been discussed at the Finance Committee meetings.

Barbara Loftus of 401 Gibson Avenue, Warminster, stated that she had just completed here first year as tax collector. She stated that she had many difficulties with the District.

She felt that she had brought in more revenue and would now be getting a salary cut. She wanted to know if the District was dissatisfied with her services. She felt that the District paid the Southampton tax collector more per parcel than what it was paying her.

Mr. Grossi explained in detail that in the past there was a request for a certain amount to be paid per bill to cover printing costs, etc., which was granted. Somehow, without Board authorization, there was added to each bill a fee for inputting the information electronically. Under this resolution, the District would agree to input the data and electronically transfer the information; therefore, the District would not pick up the cost of inputting. Mr. Grossi explained that in the past there was a duplication of services, which was now being corrected. Therefore, there was no decrease of costs paid. He felt that this was fair. He also stated that he felt Mrs. Loftus was doing a good job.

Mr. Faust stated that he felt the additional fee that was added to each bill was for printing, not inputting. He also felt, however, that some of that cost was for ink, etc., which were reimbursable expenses under the law. Mr. Faust commented that he did feel that Mrs. Loftus was receiving a pay cut.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that this package was put together by the Finance Committee after several meetings. She felt that if the Board did not feel this was going to be adopted, it should go back to the Finance Committee. However, she stated that her recollection was that this was unanimously approved by the Finance Committee.

Mr. Strouse indicated that he supported the resolution as presented. He advised that it had been the subject of many Finance Committee meetings and did not feel that it should have to be changed at this point.

Mr. Grossi confirmed that there were at least four Finance Committee meetings at which this was discussed. The committee felt that this was fair and he did not feel that they could do any better.

Mr. Faust respectfully disagreed with Mrs. Jankowsky that this should go back to the Finance Committee. However, he stated that if the Board felt that Mrs. Loftus was being treated unfairly, then they could increase the salary. He saw no merit in sending this back to Finance at this point.

Mr. Wybar suggested that the Board come to a compromise with Mrs. Loftus for just the first year. His suggested compromise was \$500.

Mr. Avery agreed to the \$500 for the whole term of the contract.

A motion was made by Mr. Wybar and seconded by Mr. Avery to amend the motion by increasing the payment to the Warminster Township tax collector by \$500 for the 2002-2003 school year, from \$20,800 to \$21,300.

Mr. Strouse stated that he was not in favor of amending this motion. Mr. Grossi stated that he was not in favor of this and that he felt this was fair as written.

Sina Baranski of 854 Pelham Avenue, Warminster, stated that she was very disappointed in the District. She felt that Mrs. Loftus did not have the papers ahead of time for review and did not feel that she was being paid enough. She stated that as a member of the community, she was disgusted.

Mrs. Huf requested a roll call vote:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| <i>Mr. Strouse</i> | <i>No</i> |
| <i>Mr. Locke</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Mr. Hertenberger</i> | <i>No</i> |
| <i>Mr. Wybar</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Mr. Avery</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Mr. Grossi</i> | <i>No</i> |
| <i>Mr. Faust</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i> | <i>No</i> |
| <i>Mrs. Huf</i> | <i>Yes</i> |

The amendment passed 5-4.

A roll call vote was taken on the amended motion, as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Mr. Strouse</i> | <i>No</i> |
| <i>Mr. Locke</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Mr. Hertenberger</i> | <i>No</i> |
| <i>Mr. Wybar</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Mr. Avery</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Mr. Grossi</i> | <i>No</i> |
| <i>Mr. Faust</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i> | <i>No *</i> |
| <i>Mrs. Huf</i> | <i>Yes</i> |

*(*Because the original motion was entirely and thoroughly reviewed by the Finance Committee and came forward with a unanimous recommendation. This is unfair to the tax collectors who were not present at this meeting.)*

The amended motion passed 5-4.

Mr. Strouse stated that he resented the process they had been through on this. He felt that it obviated much of the work done at the Finance Committee to come up with the numbers.

Mr. Faust stated that he could not disagree with his colleagues but the tax collectors were told this was on the agenda for this meeting. He indicated that the Finance Committee

only makes recommendations to the Board but that the Board has the right to vote as they see fit.

6. Appointment of Impact Aid Representative
7. Impact Aid Application

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

- (6) *Appoints Eugene Grossi, Board member, to serve as Impact Aid representative. This appointment is in accordance with federal regulations requiring the appointment of a representative prior to the filing of Centennial's funding application in January 2001.*
- (7) *Directs Timothy E. Vail, Business Administrator, to prepare and submit the District's Title VIII (Impact Aid) application for 2000/01.*

The motion passed 9-0.

3. Reappointment of Superintendent, 2001-2004

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints Dr. Nancy A. Reid as Superintendent of Schools for a term commencing July 1, 2001 and ending June 30, 2004 in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Employment Agreement.

Mr. Faust stated that he would be voting against this motion. He indicated that while he respected the job Dr. Reid had done, he felt there had been some distinct failings of the School District that had not been addressed to his satisfaction.

Mr. Strouse concurred that Dr. Reid had done a very good job; however, he felt there were situations that were not adequately addressed, so he would be voting no.

The motion passed 7-2. (Mr. Faust and Mr. Strouse opposed.)

4. Reappointment of Assistant Superintendent, 2001-2004

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints Dr. Thomas W. Sexton as Assistant Superintendent of Schools for a term commencing July 1, 2001 and ending June 30, 2004 in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Employment Agreement.

The motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Faust and Mr. Hertenberger left the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

1. Pupil Transportation Contract for 2000/01

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes an additional pupil transportation contract for the

2000/01 school year. The total cost to the District for the additional contract is estimated at \$1,577.

The motion passed 7-0.

8. WTHS Metal Courses

Dr. Masko gave some background information on this subject and indicated that the solicitor had advised that this be handled through the Board.

Mr. Hertenberger returned to the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Wybar to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves deletion per Section 1124 of the School Code of the following courses from the WTHS Program of Studies:

Course #0991- Metalworking and Woodworking

Course #0992 – Metalworking

The motion passed 8-0.

9. Permission to Apply for Funding

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to apply for Toyota TAPESTRY (Community Sky Tour Program: Astronomy for Everyone) grant for \$10,000.

The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Jankowsky spoke about the accomplishments of Mike Webb, Principal of Willow Dale, who would be retiring. She indicated that she hoped he spent his retirement in good health.

Mr. Faust returned to the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Dr. Sexton stated that Mr. Webb had been with the District since 1970. He indicated that he had served with distinction, first as a teacher, then as Assistant Principal for six years and as Principal of various schools since 1978. He felt that Mr. Webb would be sorely missed and that he was an outstanding educator and a gentleman.

Mrs. Huf also wished Mr. Webb well in his retirement.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Wybar to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence; Appointments; Permanent Per Diem Substitutes; Support Staff Substitute; Substitute Bus Driver; Substitute Custodian; and Co-Curricular Additions, Changes and Deletions.

The motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Avery noted that there was a new position at Klinger and Log for Keyboarding. He requested the schedule for this position. Dr. Reid advised that it would be provided in the Friday Update.

Mrs. Huf, Mr. Avery and Mr. Grossi left the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

POLICIES

Discussion:

7.2 – Fire Drills

Section I. A. – Mr. Faust questioned whether there was one central point for checking attendance or if the individual teachers were responsible for it.

Dr. Sexton responded that the individual teachers were responsible for the children they should have under their supervision at the time of the fire drill.

Mrs. Jankowsky questioned why this policy was sent to the solicitor for review. Dr. Sexton responded that it was to make sure that there were no other legal implications that we didn't know about. He indicated that the policy was also reviewed by Mr. Lasher.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that recently some parents had appeared before the Board to question the timing of the Honor Roll policy. She suggested that in the future, the cover sheets include an effective date for the policy revisions indicated and that there be a suggestion by the Policy Committee as to when the best time to implement the policy would be. The Board agreed to this.

2.3 – Drug and Alcohol Testing for CDL Licensed Drivers

Dr. Sexton pointed out a typing error on the cover sheet.

3.19 – Homebound Instruction

Section II. C. 2. – Mr. Strouse questioned whether this would cover an absence of ten school days *per semester*. Dr. Sexton clarified that it meant ten school days in a block for a particular illness.

Section III. B. 7. – Mrs. Jankowsky questioned the change in the language from “assign” to “determine.”

Mr. Grossi returned to the meeting at 9:46 p.m.

Dr. Sexton advised that this question had been raised by the Citizens Policy Committee. There were some circumstances discussed where the regular classroom teacher may have seen the child for the bulk of the marking period, so the responsibility would be up to the principal to determine who should have the responsibility for grading.

Mr. Avery and Mrs. Huf returned to the meeting at 9:48 p.m.

Final Adoption:

2.13 – Recruitment and Employment of Staff

3.13 – Suspected Child Abuse

3.23 – Solicitation

7.32 – Continuing Professional Education

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

2.13 – Recruitment and Employment of Staff

3.13 – Suspected Child Abuse

3.23 – Solicitation

7.32 – Continuing Professional Education

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested some housekeeping changes to this policy.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Avery to amend the policy as follows:

- *In Section II, delete A and re-letter B and C as A and B, respectively.*
- *Change Section III. A., as follows: “The Board shall appoint, in accordance with Act 48, parents and representatives...”*

The motion to amend passed 9-0.

Additional discussion was held on changes to be made.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to amend the motion as follows:

- *Change the title of Section III to “Composition and Role of the Continuing Professional Education Committee.”*
- *Add another item under Section III, as follows: “The Superintendent shall appoint the Professional Education Plan and Program Coordinator.”*
- *Add another item under Section III, as follows: “The Committee shall have the responsibility of performing an annual review.”*

The motion to amend passed 9-0.

The amended motion passed 9-0.

OTHER

Process for Approval of New Courses

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that recently the Board had occasion to approve a course shortly before it needed to be implemented. She felt that there should be an administrative process regarding this. She advised that she had asked Administration to do this and that they had already begun.

Dr. Masko advised that the policy that currently exists was Policy 5.4 and that it was on its way to the Citizens Policy Committee. He spoke about the specifics of the policy.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Avery to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary