

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD FEBRUARY 27, 2001**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on February 27, 2001, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Huf at 7:42 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
Dr. Thomas Sexton
Timothy Vail

CEA/Teachers/Principals:

Keely Mahan
Gloria Wetzel
Carolyn Fisher
Jerry Albrecht
Shannon McCall
Jane Strawley
Woody Martin

Public:

None

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 the following: a legal real estate matter regarding a waiver of conflict of interests; a personnel

matter regarding a grievance; and a personnel matter regarding a retirement. She also advised that the Board would meet in Executive Session again after this meeting relative to a conference matter regarding evaluation of this Board meeting.

Mrs. Huf reported that she had attended a Transportation Dinner the previous Saturday and that it was a wonderful evening. She thanked Mr. Rhodes for inviting her.

Mr. Rhodes announced that Anita Kulp had received the *Driver of the Year* award.

Mr. Wybar commended Mr. Rhodes and his staff.

PRESENTATION

Elementary Summer Program

Dr. Sexton commented on the background of the Elementary Summer Program and indicated that they would like to run a similar program next summer.

Mr. Gallagher spoke about the program in detail. The theme for the program was “No Summer Rust.” He indicated that they felt the program had been successful and that they have started to plan for this year. Board members were then given an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

GOOD NEWS

Gloria Wetzel advised that they had received a phone call from Laura Bush. Mrs. Bush advised that she would not be able to come to read to the students for Dr. Seuss’s birthday, but that she appreciated the invitation.

Mrs. Homel reported that we were notified by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National State Teacher of the Year and Pennsylvania Department of Education that there were two nominations from Centennial. Dean Roberts and Debbie Walker received official notification that they were semifinalists for Teacher of the Year. She congratulated both teachers and wished them well.

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

None.

Mrs. Huf then requested a change to the order of the Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Preliminary and Final Approval for WTHS Key Club Trip Convention at Valley Forge, PA on March 17 and March 18, 2001
2. Preliminary and Final Approval for the WTHS Students to Attend the FBLA State Competition on April 18 to April 20, 2001

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

- (1) *Gives preliminary and final approval for WTHS Key Club Convention trip to Valley Forge, PA on March 17 and March 18, 2001, at no cost to the District.*
- (2) *Gives preliminary and final approved for WTHS students to attend the FBLA State Competition on April 18 to April 20, 2001, at a cost to the District of \$4,742.*

Mrs. Jankowsky asked for an explanation of the extenuating circumstances which necessitated the Board to grant both preliminary and final approval on the same night.

Mrs. Homel explained that the Key Club advisor from the first semester had left the District and we were in search of a new advisor for the club. Their previous advisor did not feel that it was appropriate for him to make plans when he would not be here to carry them out. So the two new advisors are doing this now.

Regarding the FBLA approval, Mrs. Homel explained that this request was a result of having just learned recently that the students qualified for this competition. We had no control over this.

The motion passed 9-0.

POLICIES

Discussion:

Mr. Locke pointed out that the following policies were up for discussion: 2.14 – Processing Employees (recommended for rescission) and 5.3 – Standardized Testing Program.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked the Board to consider adding a 5th item under Section I of Policy 5.3, which would read as follows: “Recommendations regarding the standardized testing program shall be submitted to the Education Committee for review and processing to the full Board.”

Dr. Reid advised that she had reviewed President Bush’s educational plan and that a large part of it related to annual testing for students. She felt that if this passed it would impact all districts.

Mr. Strouse asked why rescission was being recommended for Policy 2.14.

Dr. Sexton stated that it was based on the fact that most of what was contained in that policy was also contained in procedures that Ms. Rollo was putting together for the Human Resources Office. Section I. D. would be added to Policy 2.13.

Mr. Strouse asked if the procedures were already in place. Dr. Reid responded that they were. Mr. Strouse felt that this rescission should wait until Policy 2.13 was also in place. Dr. Sexton agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

3. District Calendar 2001/02

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Wybar to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the District Calendar for the 2001/02 school year. That calendar provides for 181 days of instruction for students, 8 professional development days and 2 parent conference days.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Solicitor Selection

(a) *A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints the firms of Michael Levin & Associates (Mike Levin, Principal), Begley, Carlin & Mandio (Jeff Garton, Principal) and Eastburn and Gray as General Counsel for the Centennial School District, effective April 1, 2001. Compensation shall be as listed in the proposals, as follows:*

<i>Michael Levin & Associates</i>	<i>\$137.50/hr. – principal \$116/hr. – associates \$50/hr. –paralegal (Note: Discounted rate of \$116/hr. if all legal work assigned to firm (excluding litigation.)</i>
<i>Begley, Carlin & Mandio</i>	<i>General Legal - \$85/hr. thru 6/01 \$100/hr. thereafter Labor Relations - \$125/hr.</i>
<i>Eastburn and Gray</i>	<i>\$95/hr.</i>

Mr. Faust questioned why we were adding a third firm (Eastburn and Gray.) Mr. Grossi stated that he was recommending the third because of the diversity it would provide. He felt that they had special expertise in real estate matters and that this would give us some latitude.

Mr. Faust pointed out that we were currently in the middle of real estate assessment appeals with one of the other firms. He stated that he would be concerned about transferring that work. Mr. Grossi indicated that he would not

recommend transferring any existing work. He advised that having three firms as General Counsel would give us a good base to spread around the workload.

A short discussion ensued as to whether or not to amend the motion to include item 4e. It was decided that item 4e would be included as part of this motion (4a) rather than separately. Mr. Grossi clarified that the real estate work was included as part of this motion.

Mr. Faust asked how this would work operationally since the Board was naming three firms as General Counsel. Mr. Grossi responded that the Board and Administration would work together in terms of assignment based on workload and area of expertise.

Mr. Avery left the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

The motion passed 7-1. (Mr. Faust opposed.)

- (b) *A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints the firm of Michael Levin & Associates as Special Education Legal Counsel for the Centennial School District, effective April 1, 2001. Compensation shall be as listed in the proposal, as follows:*

\$137.50/hr. – principal

\$116/hr. – associates

\$50/hr. –paralegal

(Note: Discounted rate of \$116/hr. if all legal work assigned to firm (excluding litigation.)

The motion passed 8-0.

- (c) *A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints the firms of Levin & Associates and Begley, Carlin & Mandio as Labor Counsel for the Centennial School District, effective April 1, 2001. Compensation shall be as listed in the proposals, as follows:*

Michael Levin & Associates \$137.50/hr. – principal

\$116/hr. – associates

\$50/hr. –paralegal

(Note: Discounted rate of \$116/hr. if all legal work assigned to firm (excluding litigation.)

Begley, Carlin & Mandio General Legal - \$85/hr. thru 6/01

\$100/hr. thereafter

Labor Relations - \$125/hr.

The motion passed 8-0.

- (d) *A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints the firm of Ballard, Spahr, Andrews & Ingersoll (John Langel, Principal) as Special Labor Counsel for the Centennial School District, Effective April 1, 2001. Compensation shall be as listed in the proposals, as follows: [Not specified.]*

The motion passed 8-0.

Mr. Avery returned to the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Mr. Vail pointed out that Ballard Spahr did not specify an hourly rate. He indicated that he had spoken to John Langel, who indicated that the rate could be negotiated.

5. Bucks County Head Start, Inc. Contract

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves entering into a contract with Bucks County Head Start, Inc. for use of District facilities at the Administration Building for the 2001/02 fiscal year at a rate of \$17,000.

The motion passed 9-0.

6. District Safety Committee Budget

Mr. Grossi stated that the Finance Committee had had a change of heart that they needed to finalize on their meeting of March 19th. He indicated that they endorse the Safety Committee wholeheartedly and they felt they would like to make this an ongoing effort with a continuing budget. They would like to discuss this again at the Finance Committee meeting and would like to bring it forward at a later date.

OLD BUSINESS

None

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: Appointments; Change of Status; Permanent Per Diem Substitute; and Co-Curricular Additions, Changes and Deletions.

The motion passed 9-0.

OTHER

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary