

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD MARCH 13, 2001**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on March 13, 2001, 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:

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

CEA/Teachers/Staff:

Margie Marengo
Donna Mooney
Brenda Hurley
Vicki Buzan
W. S. Wallace
Tom Lavinia
Mick Sander

Public:

John R. Frank
Martha L. Frank
Betty Marengo
Valerie Breiner
Kate Hendrickson
William K. Ream
Mary Widmer
Shari Meltzer

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 personnel matter regarding a grievance and a personnel matter regarding an agreement. She

advised that the Board would meet again in Executive Session after this meeting relative to a conference matter regarding evaluation of this Board Meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Pride Award

Frank Gallagher spoke about Margie Marengo's career and her work in the District. Dr. Reid, Mrs. Huf and Mr. Gallagher then presented Ms. Marengo with an award from the District in recognition of her being awarded the Pride Award from the Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs.

Standards

Mrs. Homel spoke about the presentation, then introduced Brenda Hurley from Log College and Vicki Buzan from Klinger. The subject was the Standards Apprentice Program, entitled "Where Have We Been, Where are We Now, Where are We Going?" Miss Spirk and Dr. Reid also commented on the program. Dr. Bucky Clark observed that the students were beginning to talk about standards as part of their everyday learning.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Martha Frank of 188 Willow Drive, Warminster, introduced herself as a candidate for the Centennial School Board. She stated that she was very pleased with the presentation just made and with the marvelous progress that has been made with the Blue Ribbon Schools.

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

Bob Kalwari, Senior Class President, reported on the following:

- Information had been gathered on the Senior Class Privilege. He would be meeting with Dr. Reid about this in the near future.
- Rage for AIDS would be held in mid-May.
- "Mr. Tennent" would be held possibly in late April.
- The 10th Grade Semi-formal would be held at the end of March.
- Work was progressing on Black & White Night. Over 600 students were participating.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

None.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

(This item was moved up on the agenda.)

Centennial Child Care

Mr. Grossi advised that relief was requested by Centennial Child Care from the Board policy in terms of the rental of facilities. He indicated that the Finance Committee could not find any terms or recommendations for relief. Representatives from Centennial Child Care asked if they could make a presentation.

Mary Widmer, the Executive Director of Child Care, Inc. addressed the Board regarding the fact that Child Care's rent was being increased by 185%. She indicated that they are a non-profit organization and that the only way they could pay this increase would be to raise the parents' fees. She indicated that they have asked the Board and the Finance Committee to raise the rent incrementally or at least to provide an exception for one year so that they could find another location. She stated that their clients were from McDonald School and that if Child Care left, they would lose their clients because they could not provide transportation. She advised that the I.U.'s rent was being increased by only 35%. She suggested that maybe Child Care's could be raised that amount.

Mr. Grossi explained that this issue arose out of a study of the District's facilities use. He felt that at this point the District was subsidizing Child Care's use of the space and that it could not continue to do so. He also stated that the Finance Committee could not grant an exception; that would be up to the full Board.

Mr. Faust stated that starting next year we would be putting computer labs in the elementary schools, which would create space problems. Regarding the subsidizing of Child Care, he felt that there were several other companies doing similar things that were not being subsidized.

Dr. Reid pointed out that this issue was time-sensitive because it was important for the parents to know if Child Care would be moving or closing so that they could make alternate arrangements for their children. She indicated that Administration would like to get a sense of what the Board would like to do.

Mr. Strouse advised that at the Finance Committee meeting, there was a sense that they were not inclined to grant an abatement. He indicated that this matter had come before the Finance Committee three or four times in the past and that there was nothing new to be discussed.

Mr. Grossi stated that this is a good program with good people. There were several years where the rent was not increased but at this point we are subsidizing the program and we should not be doing so. He felt there should be a correction and that it should have been made before this. He recommended a rate of \$13,500 and possibly \$15,000 the second year. He indicated that there were increased demands on the facilities and that he did not know any way out of this box.

Mrs. Huf asked if it was the wish of the Board to have this matter placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mrs. Widmer stated that basically they were asking for one more year in order to make plans. Mr. Faust suggested that if the Board decided not to continue the program, they could do a before-and-after program only so that it wouldn't tie up a classroom.

Mr. Grossi advised that the Finance Committee would not bring forward anything other than the \$13,500/\$15,000 proposal. The only other avenue would be for a Board member to bring this forward for a special exception.

A question was raised as to when Child Care became aware of this problem. It was clarified that Child Care was notified in September.

Mrs. Huf asked if there was any support for an exception. She stated that if there was not, then this was a dead issue.

Klinger Ramp

Mr. Locke stated that at the last Operations Meeting the parents approached the Committee regarding the decision made last year to allow a student designated to attend Log College to be allowed to attend Klinger because he would be going to school with friends he had made during elementary school. They informed him that there was a problem with the ramp. The parents indicated that although the District provided an aide to the child to negotiate the 30-foot ramp so that he could go to the Nurse's Office, and the aide had been satisfactory, they felt that Centennial had not lived up to its commitment of making the entire school negotiable for the child without the use of an aide.

Mr. Locke indicated that there was another child coming in who required a wheelchair but that he would be able to navigate the ramp himself. He stated that the parents felt that although Centennial had made a concession in letting the child come to Klinger, the ramp did not afford independent movement.

The issue was that the child had lost his independence because of the situation with the ramp. The parents have asked what was happening with making Klinger more handicapped accessible.

Mr. Locke advised that they have looked at redistricting of students at Klinger to Log College since there were more classrooms available at Klinger. The Operations Committee has approved this and has asked the full Board to review this. Mr. Locke felt that the redistricting might resolve some of these concerns. Members of the Board had an opportunity to look at the schools the previous weekend and made every effort to address these concerns.

Mr. Avery stated that when the Board first reviewed this, the aide was a temporary measure to accommodate the need to assess Klinger. At that time Mr. Grossi indicated there was room in the budget for capital improvements. Mr. Avery questioned whether something had changed.

Mr. Locke advised that we said we would review the overall situation if this did not prove a successful method of resolving the situation.

Mr. Grossi advised that according to the Americans with Disabilities Act we must have a school that is accessible – that school is Log College. We said we would find a way to address the problem at Klinger. It was decided to use an aide. We said if that didn't meet the situation, then we would look at it again. Apparently, this does meet the need. Therefore, Mr. Grossi felt that the solution had worked satisfactorily and that is the solution to the problem.

Mr. Faust asked whether there were any other issues with Klinger, other than the ramp. Mr. Lasher indicated that there were not. Mr. Faust stated that he would like to hear from the parents.

John Feeley of 1012 Tomlinson Road, Southampton, stated that when they appeared before the Board last year Mr. Grossi said we would use an aide for one year until a permanent solution to the ramp could be found. Mr. Feeley indicated that the Johnson child was totally satisfied with the aide. Mr. Feeley indicated, however, that he tried to teach his son to be independent and that to have to be pushed by an aide worked against this. He felt there was some miscommunication. His understanding was that the ramp would be fixed so that it could be used by anyone in a wheelchair.

Mrs. Fash advised that the Johnson student had always had an aide, not only for negotiating the ramp but for other reasons as well. The Feeley student was able to negotiate the ramp independently. What they suggested was that an in-house service provider would be a ramp monitor, not only for these students but also for other students who might be using wheelchairs in that facility for other reasons, i.e., broken leg, surgery, etc. They felt that there should be accessibility for the general population who is handicapped, not just the children accessing the building.

Mr. Feeley commented that help would be needed for anyone using the ramp to attend a play or other event.

Mrs. Huf remarked that she thought there was a ramp at the back entrance for anyone attending a play, etc. Mr. Feeley responded that there was.

Mr. Grossi stated that if we were looking at the facilities on a long-range basis, that we deal with this along with other needs on a coordinated basis. He felt that the issue was that we were extending our compliance beyond what the law required and suggested that we look at the whole physical plant.

Mrs. Huf asked about the acceptability of moving the students to Log College. Mr. Feeley indicated that that was not acceptable.

Mrs. Jankowsky summarized that the two families were pleased with the solutions for now and that the Finance Committee would review the long-range plan. Also, the District was in compliance with the law.

Mr. Feeley stated that he was not aware that his son would have to go to Log College. He felt it was unfair that they did not know.

Kevin Johnson stated that his son, Bobby, was now going to Klinger and that everything was going well. He thanked the Board for assisting him in going there. He indicated that he wanted to clarify the issue for future problems with other children.

REPORTS (Continued)

GOOD NEWS

Mrs. Homel presented the Good News Report (see attached.) She also congratulated the following:

- Barbara Fash for being among the Honored Education Category Nominees by the Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission.
- Frank Gallagher for receiving an Award of Excellence from the Pennsylvania Excellence in Education Communications Contest for the School District Calendar.
- Dr. Sexton for receiving an Award of Honor for the Annual Data Report for 1999/2000.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

None.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Education Committee had met on March 7th regarding the process Administration used to review the 6-12 delivery system. The Committee will meet again on March 22nd regarding updates on the Technology program, the Gifted program and Materials Selection Process.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Faust reported on the previous night's meeting of the Executive Council as follows:

- There was recognition of regional competitions for various groups, including VICA and DECA.
- There was a Budget presentation. In preliminary form, there was an overall increase of 5.9%. Compared budget to budget, it is 1.8%. New initiatives account for 4.1% of the budget. If the budget passes as is, Centennial's contribution would be \$1,466,634 (with adjustment.) This includes the curtailment of the Marketing and Management program.
- One item of concern was that MBIT was planning to develop a calendar that matches Central Bucks. Mr. Faust wanted to know how many conflicts Centennial would have. He requested to see the calendar.
- Mr. Faust was working with Dr. Lees on Mr. Grossi's presentation. They were trying to work something out but Dr. Lees had been very busy.

Mr. Grossi commented that he felt we were paying for too many administrators and staff; that the money was not going to the students.

Intermediate Unit

Mr. Grossi stated that there had been a meeting and that there would be one coming up in April.

PSBA

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that PSBA would be running a program on April 4th called "Board/Superintendent Relations." She asked Board members to let Dr. Reid know if they wished to attend.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Grossi stated that the Finance Committee would be meeting on March 19th.

Title VIII

No report.

Federal Lands Reuse Authority

Mr. Lasher reported that the FLRA Board had approved an Agreement of Sale with Erickson Retirement Communities.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Locke reported that Penn DOT's review of the walking route was completed on February 26th. The results of their investigation were that the route was non-hazardous. Mr. Rhodes was still reviewing the situation as far as stop signs and potential crossing guards.

Citizens Policy

Mr. Strouse reported that there would be a meeting of this committee on March 20th and that the public was invited to attend.

Legislative Liaison

Mr. Faust stated that the legislative report was included in the Board's packet.

MINUTES

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

- *Regular School Board Meeting – 2/13/01*
- *Work Session/Regular Meeting – 2/27/01*

And accepts the minutes of:

- *Education Committee – 1/17/01, 2/12/01*
- *Operations Committee – 1/22/01*
- *Finance and Long Range Budget Planning – 1/22/01*

The motion passed 9-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Final Adoption:

5.3 – Standardized Testing Program

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 5.3, Standardized Testing Program.

The motion passed 9-0.

FINANCIAL

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

- *Schedule of Bills – February 2001*
- *Investments – February 2001*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – February 2001*

And approves the:

- *Treasurer's Report/Fund Profiles – February 2001*
- *Budgetary Transfers – March 2001*

The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Adjudication – Student 10-15

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts Adjudication pertaining to Student 10-15. The School District Administration is directed to take the action necessary to effectuate the Adjudication and to properly serve the Adjudication on Student 10-15.

A roll call vote was taken:

<i>Mr. Strouse</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Locke</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Hertenberger</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Wybar</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Avery</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Mr. Grossi</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Faust</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed 8-0-1.

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

Mr. Strouse questioned, under Co-Curricular, why the Board was being asked to approve in March items that had effective dates of February 14th.

Mrs. Homel explained that all paperwork must be finished before these are brought to the Board but that the employees have 30 days to get their clearances in. She indicated that she would not bring forward a list from a building until they were all in.

Mr. Avery noted that upon approval of this motion, Michael Webb would be retiring as of the end of June. Mrs. Jankowsky thanked Mr. Webb for his service.

The motion passed 9-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Huf referred to the list of communications attached hereto. She also noted that she had received the following: a thank you note from Eastburn Gray for the Board’s appointing them as

General Counsel; an invitation to the Reading Olympics at Log College; and a letter from Begley Carlin & Mandio regarding the Tenent Health Systems Appeal.

Dr. Reid asked that they would be setting up a “Getting Acquainted session” with Eastburn Gray in the near future.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

[This was handled earlier in the meeting.]

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Avery to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0.. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary