

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

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

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on March 27, 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
Timothy Vail

CEA/Teachers:

Margaret Devine
Victoria Myers
Renee Schaffer
Debbie Dougherty
Colleen Rawlins
Wendy Collins
April O'Donnell

Denise Quinn
Elizabeth Kline
Hank Ballerstedt
Patti Pierantozzi
Diana McCracken
Christine Kenny

Public:

Maryann Rafferty
Joe Devine
Jaimie Dougherty
Samantha Morrison
Michael Loadenthal
Kate Ezokas
Melissa Hewitt

Richard Coe
Derek Bowen
Boris Apel
Brett Bowen
Glenn Bowen
Lorraine Bowen
Matthew Hutcheson

Public (Continued)

Marlene Pray
Lisa Ester
Sharon Rabenstine
Charles J. Winslow
Jennine Winslow
Janet Marinoff

Thomas Finn, Jr.
Valerie Finn
Sheila Aber
Donna Karetny
Marc Gaw

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 an agreement. Mrs. Huf advised that the Board would be meeting again in Executive Session with the Central Bucks School Board immediately following this meeting regarding a real estate matter. The Board would also meet in Executive Session following that meeting regarding a conference matter relative to this Board Meeting.

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that several members of the administrative team had visited the Cherry Hill School District to look at their International Baccalaureate Program. She indicated that more information would be forthcoming, probably at the Education Committee Meeting.

Dr. Reid called everyone's attention to the artwork from Tennent students in the Board Room and also the artwork in the hallways.

GOOD NEWS/PRESENTATIONS

Appointments to Air Force and Naval Academies

Mrs. Poroszok, the Principal of William Tennent High School, introduced Charles Winslow of the Class of 2001. She also introduced Major Sue DiGiovanni from the Air Force Academy and Captain Skip Wogand from the Naval Academy, who presented Mr. Winslow with appointments to their respective academies.

Centennial Education Foundation Minigrant Awards and Website Recognition

Frank Gallagher announced that the Centennial Education Foundation would be presenting 18 minigrants to teachers, totaling over \$7,400. He also reported that the total amount of grants awarded since the Foundation's inception in 1997 was over \$30,000.

Ron Froggatt, President of the Foundation, spoke about the Foundation and presented the grants to the recipients.

Carolyn Fisher presented bonds to the High School web designers, Derek Bowen and Boris Apel, for the Foundation's web site.

Good News Report

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Donna Karetny of 782 Parmentier Road, Warminster, (parent of a first grader at McDonald) spoke about Centennial Child Care. She felt that it provided a safe and loving environment for the children and felt that the families affected by the decision to close the child care facility should be taken into consideration. She felt that not having to have the children bussed to day care was a great advantage.

Maryann Rafferty of 345 Patton Drive, Warminster, voiced her concern about the rent increase for Centennial Child Care and the fact that her daughter would have to be bussed if the facility closed. She felt the Board should allow Child Care to stay for one additional year in order to allow them time to find another location.

Sheila Aber of 566 Winding Way, Warminster, felt that the proposed rent increase was unreasonable and that Child Care should not be treated the same as other businesses. She stated that this was the only daycare located in a school that was open everyday, including snow days and school holidays. She felt it would be beneficial if they were able to stay for one more year in order to allow time to find another location.

Valerie Finn of 493 Hardman Lane, Warminster, spoke about the benefits of Centennial Child Care and asked that they be permitted to stay for one more year so that they could find another location within the school district busing area.

Lisa Estey of 120 East Street Road, Warminster, stated that she was upset to find out that Centennial Child Care would be closing. She indicated that she was a single mother and found that the people at Child Care were very helpful. She felt the school and the Child Care helped to develop the child into the best person they could be. She requested one more year and indicated that it would be greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Huf advised that she had also received several phone calls about this matter. She asked if there was a consensus of the Board to send the matter back to the Finance Committee to see if this could be extended for another year. Mr. Wybar felt that would be an appropriate action.

Mr. Grossi stated that the Finance Committee had already discussed this matter on several occasions and made several suggestions to the Board. He explained what had been done to date. The problem that the Committee found was that this was a subsidy to this particular organization. They felt that if we subsidized this organization, there were others that would also be entitled. This could possibly cause legal problems.

Mr. Strouse felt that this had been discussed since August or September and that Child Care has known the situation existed.

Mr. Faust stated that the Finance Committee had already done the investigative work on this and that anything else should be done at the full Board level.

Mrs. Huf stated that she did not hear support by the Board for an extension. She thanked the parents for coming but indicated that there was not support to grant an extension.

Jamie Dougherty of 649 Claire Road, Warminster, raised the subject of the Unidat After-School Program at Tennent. She indicated that there was some concern that this program was related to Planned Parenthood and that ideas about abortion were being pushed on the children. She also stated that abortion was never discussed. She felt that this was a valuable program and that it should be continued.

Michael Loadenthal of 773 Hostman Avenue, Warminster, stated that he supported the Unidat program also and that abortion was never discussed. Some of the topics included gender issues, combating homophobia and sexism. He indicated that there was a demand for this program and he felt that it should be kept.

Mrs. Homel stated that this had been quoted as being a club at the high school but that it was not. Rather, it was a support group being run by a high school teacher. She indicated that the group had been quite open about their agendas. She also advised that no student was permitted to attend without a signed parental permission slip. Parents were also invited to the meetings.

Mr. Grossi stated that there was no request or recommendation for action by the Board.

Janet Marinoff of 51 Fern Road, Southampton, addressed the issue of the class size policy that had been distributed in the fall. She asked if it had come up for discussion since then and wondered what the status was.

Mr. Faust stated that the policy had been referred to the Finance Committee but that due to budget planning, it had not yet been placed on the agenda.

Mrs. Marinoff requested that it be placed on the agenda soon.

Mr. Grossi stated that this would need to be put into the business plan and then should go to the Education Committee. Mr. Strouse felt that the Board should make sure this was kept track of and that the policy be developed and implemented on a timely basis.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

None

POLICIES

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Programs and Services/Instructional Materials and Research Services Budget for I.U. 22

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the 2001/02 Programs and Services/Instructional Materials and Research Services Budget for Intermediate Unit #22 at a cost of \$76,510 to the District.

At Mr. Faust's request, Mr. Coe of the I.U. explained this budget compared to the regular budget. He indicated that the Programs & Services Division includes the following: professional staff development activities; provides support to school districts on curriculum renewal; has a central library that loans instructional materials to teachers; and provides technology training and support. He spoke about the process of having the budget approved.

Mr. Grossi indicated that he felt this program was worthy of support.

Vicki Boruta of 102 Stahl Road, Southampton, asked whether the I.U. could provide an outcomes based study if requested. Dr. Coe responded that it could.

The motion passed 9-0.

6. Reassessment of Tax Parcel

7. Use of Capital Reserve Funds – McDonald Generator Replacement

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

(6) *Approves fixing the Assessment for Tax Parcel 48-11-4-9C at \$22,050.00 for assessment years 1996, 1997 and 1998. Be it further resolved that the District Solicitor is authorized to execute a Stipulation confirming the revision to the Assessment.*

(7) *Approves the use of Capital Reserve Funds, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000, to replace the emergency generator at McDonald Elementary School.*

The motion passed 9-0.

2. Exception to Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status Policy

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident

and Tuition Status for Students 19-19, 20-19, 9-19 and 5-19 to remain at their current schools until the end of the current school year.

Dr. Reid explained that this family was still in the District but had crossed a school boundary when they moved.

The motion passed 9-0.

3. Middle School Boundary

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following adjustment to the middle school attendance boundary:

Effective September 2001, sixth grade students who reside in Shenandoah Woods will enroll at Log College Middle School.

Mr. Strouse asked whether this had been discussed with representatives of the residents. Mrs. Homel responded that she was working with the Navy Housing Coordinator and that they would be setting up meetings.

Dr. Reid advised that this had come before the Operations Committee and that they recommended sending this to the Board. Mr. Strouse stated that he felt the residents should have had a chance to have a say before the Board voted on this.

Mr. Faust suggested that, since this was a Work Session, the matter could be voted on at the next meeting. If parents or residents had any concerns after reading about this in the paper, they could attend the next meeting. There was a consensus of the Board to do this.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to table this matter until the first meeting in April.

The motion passed 9-0.

Dr. Reid asked what else the Board wanted Administration to do. It was decided that Administration should notify the Navy Housing Coordinator so that they could contact the people affected by this. Mr. Faust suggested that this could also be put on the cable channel.

5. Concrete Replacement Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves awarding of Concrete Replacement Bid No. 2001-5 to Fox Chase Restoration for \$77,825.00 for concrete replacement at Leary and Longstreth Schools.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. MBIT Graduation Waiver

Mr. Faust explained that basically what was being considered was an exemption for the Middle Bucks students of a physical education credit so that they could get their 5th year of English in order to meet the School District graduation requirements. He was concerned because he thought phys ed. was a graduation requirement, as well as a state requirement.

Mr. Grossi stated that the Board had been reassured time and again that these students would be able to meet the graduation requirements. He questioned what had happened.

Dr. Masko explained that the State requires that all students take phys ed. but it doesn't specify the amount of time that it must be. As long as they are taking phys ed., we are meeting the State requirements.

Mr. Strouse questioned whether this exemption would be for this year only or if it was intended as a permanent exemption. Mrs. Homel indicated that it would be a permanent exemption.

Mr. Strouse stated that he had no problem with making a one-year exemption but that he was not in favor of a permanent exemption. He felt that there was time to fix this for next year.

Mr. Faust questioned whether the Board would be setting a precedent for a student to request an exemption from phys ed. for another type of class, i.e. an AP course.

Janet Marinoff questioned why the phys ed. requirements were different for MBIT students than for regular students. She questioned why a student could not drop phys ed in order to make room for another course.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that was an issue that would need to be addressed after the current problem was dealt with.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board continues to approve the exemption of one credit of physical education (.5 credit, .5 credit) for Senior students enrolled at Middle Bucks Institute of Technology in order to meet the graduation requirements for the 2000/01 school year.
[Note: This is a one-time exemption.]*

Dr. Reid suggested that this should be discussed with MBIT regarding an adjustment to their requirements. She felt we should work together on a solution.

The motion passed 9-0.

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 Absences and Appointments;

The motion passed 9-0.

OTHER

Ad-Hoc Committee Report – Support Staff Agreement

Mr. Grossi advised that the Board had received a copy of a proposed Agreement for Support Staff. He asked them to review this as he would like for it to be voted on at the next meeting.

Mr. Faust thanked members of the support staff for their input. Mr. Strouse thanked members of the Board for their work on this.

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 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary