

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD MAY 22, 2001**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on May 22, 2001, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Huf at 7:43 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
Sandy Homel
Victor Lasher
Dr. Michael Masko
Robert Reed
Dr. Nancy Reid
John Rhodes
Jean Rollo
Dr. Thomas Sexton
Timothy Vail

CEA/Teachers/Principals:

Mick Sander
Margaret Devine
Jean Meyers
Debbie Walker
Monica Fournier

Ed Austin
Cliff Bowen
Gloria Wetzel
Eileen Poroszok

Public:

Katie Leiby
Ethan Leiby
Kyle Hayes
Ned Bangs
Pat Bangs
John Platt
Bill Jones
Gwen Jones

Dianne Henwood
John Henwood
Melissa Henwood
John Andres
Bill Jones
Mary Lou Jones
Dave Bangs
Arlene Russell

Public (Continued)

Barb Pearson
Mike Jones
Sharon Kolb
Janet Marinoff
Fred Brimmer
Vicki Boruta
Kate Hendrickson
Donna Marie Saul
Lauren Zucker

Inge McKernan
Rose Marie Doh
Hilde Graf
Kass Graber
Linda Fanelli
Frank McCloskey
Larry Hannon
Dottie Grams
Larry Sicher

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 and a legal matter regarding insurance. She also advised that the Board would meet again in Executive Session following this meeting relative to a conference matter and evaluation of this Board Meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Outstanding Achievement Awards

Mrs. Huf and Dr. Reid presented Outstanding Achievement Awards to the following employees:

- Karen Belli – Reading Specialist, Leary Elementary
- Dianne Henwood – Secretary – Human Resources
- Dorothy Grams – Bus Driver
- Hilde Graf – Class I Secretary
- Ed Austin – Lead Teacher, Social Studies
- Mike Masko – Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

The meeting recessed at 8:06 p.m. and resumed at 8:15 p.m.

Bus Driver Awards:

The Centennial School District bus driver team won a first place award. The team consisted of Larry Hannon, Larry Sicher, Fred Brimmer, Frank McCloskey, Mike Jones and Barb Pearson. Also, Larry Hannon won first place individually.

GOOD NEWS/

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Ed McTague of 1065 Brennan Drive, Warminster, addressed the Board regarding block scheduling at the middle school. He felt that children entering middle school would be faced with too many changes at one time and that middle school children were too young for a block schedule. He also asked if this was still under consideration or if it was a done deal.

Mrs. Huf responded that it was still under consideration.

Debbie Oswald of 916 Log College Drive, Warminster, addressed several issues, as follows: (1) Test Scores – She questioned why the District is more concerned about test scores than about whether the students are meeting the standards. She felt that instead of changing the middle school schedule, we should find out why the test scores are not as expected. (2) Budget – Questioned why there was no tax increase for seven years and now there will be a major tax increase. (3) Block Scheduling at Middle School – Raised several questions on why block scheduling was being considered and how certain issues would be handled. (See copy of letter from Mrs. Oswald to the Board dated May 22, 2001, attached.)

Dr. Reid requested that Mrs. Oswald leave the list of questions with her so that they could be addressed. She also explained the process being used to explore a change in the middle school.

Janet Marinoff of 51 Fern Road, Southampton, addressed the issue of the five period block at both the high school and middle school.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

These minutes will appear at the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

Mr. Grossi reported on the search for a Superintendent.

NEW BUSINESS

[Several items were moved up.]

2. Exceptions to Board Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Students 10-18 and 19-18

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants an exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for student 10-18 to attend William Tennent High School in grade 9 and

student 19-18 to attend Log College Middle School in grade 6 during the 2001/02 school year at a tuition rate that coincides with their current school taxes. The District will not provide transportation.

Richard Rudnet of 1513 Hartsville Road, Warminster, addressed the Board regarding this exception.

The motion failed 0-9.

1. Exception to Board Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 3-16

After discussion on this matter, the Board decided that it needed more information. Therefore, this matter would appear on the agenda for the next meeting.

POLICIES

Discussion:

3.1 – Drug/Alcohol

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested some changes to the format of this policy, particularly Section III. She also suggested some wording changes.

Discussion was held regarding Section III. C. 8 regarding special education students and also Section III. E.

4.2 – Conferences

Mr. Faust questioned how the meal allowances were arrived at under III. D. Dr. Sexton advised that they were based on data from actual experiences over the past two years.

7.16 – Class Size

A long discussion was held regarding this policy. Dr. Sexton clarified several matters.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out the date of implementation of September 2001. She questioned whether the budget was developed with these numbers in mind. Dr. Sexton explained that the intent was that in September 2001 we would use this to look at staffing for the following year. It was decided that this should read September 2002 to prevent confusion.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that the policy statement on the first page of the policy should be more philosophical.

On page 7.16 B, Sections C and D were discussed regarding new housing developments and also decreases in enrollment after the beginning of school. Mr. Grossi felt that Section D was unnecessary. Dr. Sexton indicated that it could be removed but that it merely codified current practice. It was decided it could be removed since it was in the Management Plan.

On page 7.16 C, Section IV. B., Mrs. Jankowsky questioned the definition of an "academic subject." Mrs. Homel felt that it meant a core subject. Mr. Grossi was concerned with the statement "shall not exceed 32 students." He was concerned with the financial impact of this statement. Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that this was a discussion only and that the Board was not voting on this tonight. There was time to obtain more information.

In Section IV. C, Mrs. Jankowsky felt that the specific classes should not be listed.

Mr. Faust raised the point that Section III. B. did not relate to class size. He also questioned that Section III. D. seemed to be inconsistent as to whether a second team would be created at 125 or 150 students. Dr. Sexton explained that it was written to coincide with current practice.

Vicki Boruta of 102 Stahl Road, Southampton, questioned whether this policy was written before block scheduling was instituted at the high school. She felt that the policy did not address this. Mr. Faust felt that these numbers should be reviewed.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the language of Section IV. A and B comes directly from the contract. She wondered if having the contractual language in a policy would make us more vulnerable.

Janet Marinoff stated that she saw nothing in the policy relating to the AP courses. She stated that it was her understanding that it was recommended that AP classes have 18 students per class. She indicated that some of the AP classes have had 32 or more students in them. She asked if a lower maximum could be established for the AP classes. She was also concerned about a minimum (15) being placed on classes. She did not want to see the elimination of AP classes because of lower enrollment.

7.19 – Weapons/Explosive Devices and Caustic Substances

Dr. Sexton stated that the solicitor recommended that this policy be updated because of Special Ed needs.

Mrs. Jankowsky questioned whether the policy would preclude a teacher bringing in a weapon for instructional purposes (i.e., a Revolutionary War musket, Japanese samurai sword, etc.) Dr. Sexton stated that he would check with the solicitor regarding this question.

Mr. Faust felt that Section IV. D, "Other Instruments" should also appear until Section II since "Non-intended Use Weapon" was removed.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Bethanna Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants approval for the Special Education Services Agreement between Bethanna, Inc. and the Centennial School District for the 2001/02 school year at a per diem rate of \$107 per student, not to exceed a maximum of \$500,000 for the year.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Youth Services Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants approval for the Contract Agreement between Youth Services of Bucks County, Inc. and the Centennial School District for the 2001/02 school year at a per diem rate of \$57.50 per student, not to exceed maximum of \$239,760 for the year.

Mrs. Fash advised that the per diem rate is the same as last year.

The motion passed 9-0.

5. WTHS Graduation Requirement

Mr. Faust stated that he would like this matter to be held over until the next meeting. Since it involved a change in graduation requirements, he felt that he would like more time to discuss other options with Administration before voting.

Mrs. Homel answered some questions regarding the physical education requirements. Mr. Strouse questioned whether the proposed changes to the phys ed program would benefit MBIT students. Mrs. Homel explained that the MBIT situation was not driving this change but that ultimately it could benefit. Mr. Avery felt that he would need to know the impact of these changes on MBIT before he would be prepared to vote.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that this was a move in the right direction.

Donna Marie Saul of 589 Lowell Road, Warminster, raised the possibility of early graduation and wondered whether that could be a possibility with the graduation requirements.

Dr. Reid stated that at this time that option did not exist. Dr. Masko stated that if we were to move in that direction, it would require creating a set of procedures.

Mrs. Huf left the meeting at 11:20 p.m.

Dr. Reid advised that additional information would be provided.

6. Professional Education Plan Revision

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves revisions to the Professional Education Plan 2000-06.

The motion passed 8-0.

7. Technology Roll-Out Plan 2001/02

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the fourth year (2001/02) of the Technology Roll-Out Plan funded by the 1998 General Obligation Bond at a cost of \$618,425. This plan includes the purchase of student personal computer workstations and their associated carts/tables for the District's six elementary schools, as per the attached supplement.

The motion passed 8-0.

8. Facility Use Fees 2001/02

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Facility Use Fee Schedule for the 2001/02 school year.

The motion passed 8-0.

9. Budget Calendar

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board amends the 2001/02 Budget Calendar adopted September 26, 2000, to change the date of final budget adoption from May 22, 2001 to June 12, 2001.

The motion passed 8-0.

Mrs. Huf returned to the meeting at 11:30 p.m.

10. Replace McDonald Generator

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes Administration to solicit bids for the purchase of a

new emergency generator at McDonald Elementary School. Estimated cost is \$25,000. Funds to be appropriated from the Capital Reserve Fund.

The motion passed 9-0.

11. Athletic Equipment Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Athletic Equipment Bid No. 2001-16 for Athletic and Physical Education Equipment for the 2001/02 school year to be awarded to the vendors as per the attached supplement in the amount of \$47,544.61.

The motion passed 9-0.

12. Permission to Begin 2001/02 Purchasing

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes Administration to commence with summer supply, book and equipment ordering for the 2001/02 school year within the limits of the previously adopted 2001/02 preliminary budget.

The motion passed 9-0.

13. Reduction in Force

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the elimination of teaching positions and the resulting termination/furlough of certified staff as indicated on the listing submitted by Administration.

The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absences; Appointments; Substitute Custodians; Substitute Support Staff; Secondary Summer School Staff; and Co-Curricular Additions, Changes and Deletions.

The motion passed 9-0.

OTHER2001/02 District Goals

Dr. Reid thanked everyone for their submissions of suggested District goals. She suggested that one goal should related to standards since that seemed to be something that everyone mentioned. She also suggested performance targets.

Mr. Faust wondered if the Board could start reviewing whether some of the MBIT courses could be handled here. Dr. Masko advised that he and Mrs. Homel had already begun looking at this matter. Dr. Reid pointed out that Mr. Wybar had listed this subject on his submission form, suggesting that an in-depth dialogue be conducted with MBIT.

It was decided that something would be prepared for the June 12th meeting.

2001/02 District Calendar

Mr. Avery pointed out that graduation was scheduled for a Monday. He hoped that would not create problems. Dr. Sexton pointed out that this year the reason for the request that the graduation date be changed was caused by a change in the original schedule due to snow days.

Mr. Faust pointed out that this calendar had already been approved. He felt that it should not be changed at this time.

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 11:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary

[Note: The Board Secretary was absent from this meeting. Minutes were prepared from notes of Mr. Faust, Assistant Board Secretary, and from tapes of the meeting.]