

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD JUNE 26, 2001**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on June 26, 2001, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Huf at 7:55 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Scott Avery
Joseph Faust
Eugene Grossi
Al Hertenberger
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
James Wybar

CEA/Teachers:

Gail Gismondi
Dr. Bucky Clark
Sheila Buckley
Woody Martin

Public:

Lou Patrick
Phillip Patrick
Barb Patrick
Donna Marie Saul
Alice Mandes
Norman Schutzbank
David Vineberg
Ruth Vineberg
Roberta Suib
Gerald Suib

Administration:

Dr. Ray Feick
Sandy Homel
Victor Lasher
Dr. Michael Masko
John Rhodes
Jean Rollo
Dr. Thomas Sexton
Timothy Vail

Sylvia Kirkland
Debbie Oswald
Linda MacGregor
David McGowan
Joel Strawley
Jane Lynch
Bobbie Loftus
Sina Baranski
Debbie Plotnick

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 real estate matter regarding a lease agreement and a personnel matter regarding extended sick leave. Mrs. Huf advised that the Board would meet again in Executive Session following this meeting relative to a conference matter regarding evaluation of this Board Meeting and also relative to information regarding the status of the Superintendent search.

Mrs. Huf advised that Mr. Strouse and Mr. Locke were absent from this meeting due to personal business.

Mrs. Huf welcomed Dr. Ray Feick, the Interim Superintendent.

PRESENTATIONS

National Award for Log College Student

Mrs. Homel congratulated Phillip Patrick, a 6th grader at Log College, for placing second in the nation and first in Pennsylvania in the verbal portion of the "PLUS" test conducted by Johns Hopkins University as part of their Search for Talented Youth. Mrs. Homel stated that this is a very demanding test. Mrs. Huf and Dr. Feick presented Phillip with a certificate for his achievement.

National Blue Ribbon – Log College

Dr. Clark spoke about his trip with Gail Gismondi to Washington, D.C. to receive the National Blue Ribbon for Log College. He showed the banner and plaque received in Washington.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Debbie Plotnick of 1225 Woods Road, Southampton, advised that she had decided to pull her child out of the District in favor of private school. She urged the Board to take seriously the voices of the parents of gifted students. She felt that unless we value the needs of the gifted students, we are going to continue to lose them to private schools.

Norman Schutzbank of 8100 Centennial Station Drive, Warminster, (Treasurer of Centennial Station Condo Association) addressed the Board regarding the access road behind Centennial Station. He advised that there was some type of agreement between the builder and the School Board regarding maintenance and liability of the road. He indicated that he would like to meet with members of the School Board regarding this matter before it became a major problem. They would like to determine who was responsible for the road and asked the Board to contact him regarding this matter.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would pass this along to the Operations Committee and that someone would be in touch with Mr. Schutzbank.

Roberta Suib of 1101 Centennial Station Drive, Warminster, indicated that the rumors were that there would be a tax increase of over \$200 per unit at Centennial Station. She stated that it was upsetting for those people who were on limited incomes that there was almost \$200,000 per year in salaries for sports personnel. She felt that the senior citizens were being penalized for this and had no control over it.

Linda MacGregor of 494 Overlook Drive, Warminster, (a member of the Warminster Symphony Society Board of Directors) stated that last year they had requested a waiver and that they were requesting the same this year. Mrs. Huf advised that this matter was on the agenda later in the meeting.

Jane Lynch of 1052 Gorson Drive, Warminster, spoke regarding the closing of McDonald School Day Care. She asked who was renting that space now.

Dr. Sexton explained that Centennial Child Care was renting the space until June 30th and that, to his knowledge, no one was scheduled to take their place.

Ms. Lynch stated that she did not understand why the District was making them leave when there was no one else to fill the space. Mr. Faust explained the rationale of subsidizing Centennial Child Care and the fact that there was a potential legal action against the District.

Ms. Lynch asked that the young people and also the mature people be considered.

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

No report.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

GOOD NEWS

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Feick presented the Superintendent's Report, highlighting the graduation of the Class of 2001 of William Tennent High School.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Education Committee met on June 5th and that she had given a report at the June 12th meeting. At this meeting the Board would be reviewing issues discussed at the June 5th meeting, i.e., new courses at Tennent. The next committee meeting would probably be in October unless needed before then.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Faust reported that there had been no meeting since the last report. The next meeting of this committee will be in October.

Intermediate Unit

Mr. Grossi reported that there was a meeting on June 19th, which he was unable to attend due to the reception for Dr. Reid being held on the same evening.

PSBA

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that all Board members had received information regarding PSBA's summer workshop and the October conference in Hershey. She felt that both would be very worthwhile.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Grossi reported that this committee had met on June 18th and that much of that discussion would be on this meetings agenda under New Business.

Title VIII

No report.

Federal Lands Reuse Authority

No report.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

Citizens Policy

No report.

Legislative Liaison

Mr. Faust reported that he had just received the latest legislative update and that he would have it distributed to Board members.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that there were two Bills in the Federal Legislature regarding fully funding the Individuals with Disabilities Act, both of which would raise the amount of money the Federal Government provides to school districts. She suggested that members of the Board and the public contact their representatives regarding these Bills.

MINUTES

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

- *Regular School Board Meeting – 5/8/01*
- *Budget Hearing Meeting – 5/8/01*

And accepts the minutes of:

- *Finance and Long Range Budget Planning – 5/14/01, 5/21/01, 6/6/01*

The motion passed 7-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIESFinal Adoption:7.16 – Elementary Class Size

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to remove this item from the table.

The motion passed 7-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.16, Elementary Class Size.

The motion passed 7-0.

Discussion:3.4 – Student Trips

Mrs. Jankowsky questioned the meaning of the word “integrity” in the philosophy statement. Dr. Sexton advised that this language had come directly from the solicitor.

His understanding was that this had to do with the relationship of the proposed trip to the curriculum.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that it might be good to add language to that effect in order to avoid confusion. She also stated that this was substantially rewritten and that it would have ramifications for teachers proposing trips. She felt that Administration should review this policy with them. Dr. Sexton advised that it would be reviewed with the staff in September.

3.8 – Exclusion

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this policy had been heavily rewritten. She questioned the language on page 3.8C, under Item E regarding “a mentally retarded student.” Dr. Sexton explained that there were specific provisions under the Special Education Guidelines for mentally retarded students. He advised that this language had been checked for accuracy and it was confirmed that there were different procedures for mentally retarded students.

5.4 – Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Development

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that in this policy she did not see any connection relating curriculum to assessment.

Mr. Faust left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Dr. Sexton stated that Mrs. Jankowsky was correct and that was probably because there was a specific policy relating to standardized testing.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if we review results of standardized tests and teacher grades in order to adjust curriculum. Dr. Masko responded affirmatively and advised that this would come under Section II.A. of the policy, although it was not mentioned specifically. Mrs. Jankowsky asked that there be some mention of this.

5.12 – Planning for Instruction

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out a “housekeeping” item.

Mr. Faust returned to the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS1. Student Disciplinary Matter

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Wybar to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts Adjudication pertaining to Student 5-23. The School District Administration is directed to take the action necessary to effectuate the Adjudication and to properly serve the Adjudication on Student 5-23.

Mr. Grossi and Mr. Avery both stated that they were not present at the hearing but that they had read a copy of the transcript and were prepared to vote.

The motion passed 7-0.

2. Preliminary Approval for WTHS Modern Language Trip to Spain

A motion was made by Mr. Hertenberger and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for WTHS Modern Language Trip to Spain, June 21-30, 2002. There is no cost to the District.

The motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Huf requested the Board's consent to move up Item #18.

18. Facility Use Waiver Request

A motion was made by Mr. Hertenberger and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the application for waiver to the Facility Use Policy for the Warminster Symphony Orchestra to use the William Tennent High School auditorium on Sunday, October 7, 2001. There is no cost to the District.

The motion passed 7-0.

3. 2001/02 District Budget

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the General Fund Budget for Fiscal year 2001/02 in the amount of \$58,365,708, as presented per the attached supplement, and hereby authorizes the expenditures as set forth therein during the Fiscal Year 2001/02 with the following changes. That the position of Gifted Coordinator be deleted along with the benefits at \$50,000 be transferred to a contingency account supported position of Gifted Lead Teacher and the balance be transferred to the Capital Transfer Account. Further, that the position of Assistant Athletic Director and the funds related thereto, including the benefits, be transferred to the Capital Transfer Account.

Mr. Grossi stated that in terms of the lead teacher and the transfer of funds, there needed to be a position description developed before the Board could act on the creation of that account. This proposal was supported by Mr. Strouse and Mrs. Jankowsky. Mr. Grossi stated that he planned to vote for this although he truly did not support the position. He felt that there were other needs that were equally important that needed to be addressed.

In terms of the increase to the budget, Mr. Grossi explained that there was a 26 mill increase. Twelve mills could be attributed to block scheduling at the high school. About \$1.2 million of the increase was for the contracted increase for the staff. \$500,000 was for the 10% increases per year in special education. He stated that this was the first tax increase in seven years.

Mr. Grossi thanked the Board and the Finance Committee for a great deal of work.

Mr. Faust advised that he would be supporting this budget, although he didn't necessarily agree with everything Mr. Grossi said. He felt that the position of Gifted Coordinator was needed and justified. He felt this was a compromise that was needed.

Mrs. Huf indicated that she would not be supporting this budget. She felt the tax increase was too large.

Regarding the co-curricular listing, Mr. Faust explained that everything on the list was under collective bargaining and that the Board had no prerogative to save these costs.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

The motion passed 6-1.

4. Cafeteria Budget 2001/02

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopted the attached supplement in the amount of \$1,614,915 as the Centennial School District Cafeteria Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2001-2002 as presented, and hereby authorizes the expenditures as set forth therein during the Fiscal Year 2001-2002.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that this would increase the cost of lunches for students by five cents and the cost for adults by ten cents.

The motion passed 7-0.

5. Cafeteria Pricing 2001/02

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the cafeteria pricing for the 2001/02 school year as recommended by Administration per attached Cafeteria pricing request report dated May 18, 2001.

The motion passed 7-0.

6. Conference Requests

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the overnight conference requests for 2001/02.

A motion to amend was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to revise the "Board" category by deleting the \$500 set forth for the NAFIS Conference and applying that amount to PSBA Workshops and Seminars.

Mr. Faust stated that he did not feel the numbers were accurate.

The motion to amend passed 7-0.

The amended motion passed 7-0.

7. Induction Plan

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the 2000-2006 Induction Plan.

Mrs. Jankowsky explained the basics of the plan.

The motion passed 7-0.

- 8. Tenet Hospital Assessment
- 9. 2001/02 Insurance Renewal Premiums
- 10. 2001/02 Fringe Benefit Renewal Premiums
- 11. Closing of Books 2000/01
- 12. Reappointment of District Treasurer
- 13. William Tennent Display Sign
- 19. Emergency Generator Bid

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

- (8) *Hereby directs the solicitor to immediately withdraw the appeal presently pending before the Bucks County Board of Assessment on the reduced assessment of the Tenet Health System Bucks County LC Property (Parcel #'s 49-024-039 & 49-024-039-006.) This action is taken in consultation with the District solicitor and property appraiser hired to review this matter.*
- (9) *Approves the 2001/02 District Insurance Premiums as per the attached supplement.*
- (10) *Approves the attached fringe benefit rates with Keystone (Point of Service and HMO); Eckerd Prescription Rates; Delta Dental Rates; and SCS Vision Rates for the period July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002.*
- (11) *Authorizes the Administration to close the 2000/01 Centennial School District books as of June 30, 2001, incorporating all accruals therein; that all bills that arrive and are due by June 30, 2001 are approved for payment provided the Administration reviews the bills and is satisfied the same are just and proper obligations of the School District, and provided said expenditures are within the budget; that the transfer of budget amounts necessary for the processing of budgeted expenditures are approved subject to review and ratification by the Board in September 2001; and that the School District auditors be directed to proceed with conducting the necessary audit for the close of the Fiscal Year 2000/01.*
- (12) *Approves the reappointment of H. Robert Luebbe as District Treasurer for the fiscal year 2001/02 at an annual stipend of \$1,250 and that the Public Officials Bond for the Treasurer be renewed in the face amount of \$20,000 for fiscal year 2001/02.*
- (13) *Approves the William Tennent Display Sign Bid No. 2001-27 to be awarded to Banacom Instant Signs at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$17,445.00. Funds to be appropriated from General Fund (\$3,500) and William Tennent High School Clearing and Student Activity Funds (\$13,945).*
- (19) *Approves the Emergency Generator Bid No. 01-25 be awarded to Cummins Power at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$20,300.00. This will be a capital reserve account expenditure.*

Mrs. Huf informed the Board that Mr. Luebbe apologized for not being present at the meeting. He had a previous engagement.

Regarding item #11, Mr. Faust stated that the discussion at the Finance Committee was that the bill list would still be mailed to the Finance Committee and any other Board member who requested it. If there was a significant reason, a Board member could request that a bill be pulled until September so that the Board could have a chance to review it.

The motion passed 7-0.

14. New Courses at WTHS

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Wybar to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the development of the following courses and their inclusion in the 2002/03 WTHS Program of Studies:

<i>Net Prep II (1.0)</i>	<i>Grades 10, 11, 12</i>
<i>Web Page Design II (1.0)</i>	<i>Grades 10, 11, 12</i>
<i>AP Statistics (1.5)</i>	<i>Grades 11, 12</i>
<i>Basic Conversational Spanish (.5)</i>	<i>Grades 9, 10, 11, 12</i>
<i>French IV A (1.0)</i>	<i>Grades 10, 11, 12</i>
<i>German IV A (1.0)</i>	<i>Grades 11, 12</i>
<i>Spanish IV A (1.0)</i>	<i>Grades 10, 11, 12</i>

Mr. Grossi stated that he planned to vote against this. He indicated that he was not against any of the courses but was against the fact that the focus of these curriculum changes and additions was on one small group of the student body. Until he saw a comprehensive total focus, he could not vote for these.

Mr. Faust stated that he was opposing this motion for similar reasons. The high school still did not have a reading remediation program in place and he felt that the District needed to focus more on remediation.

Mrs. Jankowsky disagreed. The high school was guided basically by accreditation for growth goals and these courses directly related to those goals. She indicated that she would be supporting this motion.

Mr. Hertenberger indicated that he would support this but agreed about the reading remediation.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that the Star period was provided for students who needed additional help. If there was a problem with reading, she felt that it was Administration's responsibility to bring that forward.

Mr. Wybar felt that if there was a need for remediation at the high school level, then we should look at reading programs at the lower levels also.

Mrs. Huf advised that this had been discussed at the Education Committee and that other courses had been suggested. Those courses were reviewed and narrowed down. Therefore, she indicated that she would be supporting this motion.

The motion passed 5-2. (Mr. Grossi and Mr. Faust opposed.)

15. PDE Mandate Waiver – Dorothy Henry Alternative School

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Mandate Waiver Program Waiver Applications for the continued operation of the Dorothy Henry Alternative School. Said waivers seek relief from provisions of the School Code Article XIX, Section 1901-C(1) and 1901-C(5).

Mr. Faust questioned what was being waived. Mrs. Homel explained that there was a new section to the School Code describing an alternative school. Their description of an alternative student was different from the type of student we send to Dorothy Henry. Therefore, we are requesting a waiver from that description. Also there is a requirement that after one semester we evaluate whether the student can be returned to the high school, but that is not how we operate so we are requesting a waiver from that provision also.

The motion passed 7-0.

16. Pupil Transportation Contract for 2000/01

A motion was made by Mr. Hertenberger and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes an additional pupil transportation contract for the 2000/01 school year. The total cost of this additional contract is estimated at \$620.00.

The motion passed 7-0.

17. Business Plan

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the inclusion of the Business Plan as part of the Finance/Business section of the District Management Plan.

Mr. Grossi thanked Dr. Sexton for his work in compiling this.

The motion passed 7-0.

20. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status

[This item was pulled from the Agenda.]

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 (pulling Item #9); Appointments; Homebound Instructor; Support Staff Substitutes; Co-Curricular Additions, Changes and Deletions; Accepts Awards of Tenure.

Mr. Grossi advised that he would like to pull the next-to-the-last item under resignations.

The motion (excluding the two items pulled) passed 7-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Item #9 under Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence.

The motion failed 1-4-2. (Mr. Wybar in favor; Mr. Avery, Mr. Faust, Mr. Grossi and Mr. Hertenberger opposed; Mrs. Huf and Mrs. Jankowsky abstained.)

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Item #10 under Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence.

Mr. Grossi asked why this item had an effective date of July 10th. Dr. Feick advised that it was because the individual was entitled to vacation and that was covered under this period. Mrs. Rollo confirmed that this was how the letter of resignation was written.

After discussion, Mrs. Jankowsky felt that if the Board wanted to change the effective date to June 30th, then the motion should be tabled until the matter could be researched.

Mr. Grossi wanted to know whether or not this had already been researched and if the Board was opening itself up to having to give the person more vacation. Mrs. Rollo confirmed that he would not be entitled to more vacation and that this had been researched.

The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Grossi felt that the Board should have a legal opinion on this.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Huf referred to the list of communications attached hereto.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Bobbie Loftus, the Warminster Township Tax Collector, requested verification of the tax millage and when she would receive written notification.

Mrs. Huf responded that the tax rate would be 250 mills, due to a 26 mill increase, and that Mrs. Loftus would receive notification the following day.

Donna Marie Saul of 589 Lowell Road, Warminster, stated that she thought our laws were to be made in sunshine. She felt that although the Board probably followed the *letter* of the Sunshine Law regarding the Gifted Coordinator compromise, they did not follow the *spirit* of the law. This compromise was never discussed at a public meeting. She stated that the Board often said it is listening but it doesn't seem that they were listening on this subject.

Mrs. Saul also spoke about the “abysmal handling” of the math substitute situation at the high school. She wondered who would be taking responsibility for that situation.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she would like to have a discussion at the Education Committee level regarding the subject of reading. She asked Dr. Masko to add this topic to her list.

Mr. Hertenberger stated that he felt absentee teachers and substitutes should be made a priority. The shortage of substitutes was discussed.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

None.

Mr. Faust left the meeting at 9:43 p.m.

Mrs. Huf stated that the next Board Meeting would be on August 14th.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Avery to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary