

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD SEPTEMBER 25, 2001**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on September 25, 2001, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Huf at 7:35 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Scott Avery
Eugene Grossi
Al Hertenberger [Arrived at 8:00 p.m.]
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
Jerry Locke
Harve Strouse
James Wybar

Administration:

David Blatt
Barbara Fash
Sandy Homel
Dr. Michael Masko
Jean Rollo
Dr. Thomas Sexton
Timothy Vail

Public:

Lori Flaherty
Donna Siegfried
Donna Marie Saul
Eileen Lenox

Terry Pfeiffer
Gerri Taylor
Debbie Oswald
Barb Preedy
Barb Fox

CEA/Teachers:

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Huf led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for the victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Huf extended condolences to Mr. Faust, his children and family on the passing of Mr. Faust's wife, Tina.

Mrs. Jankowsky voiced sincere gratitude and thanks on behalf of herself and the Board to everyone who worked to get the buildings ready for the start of school, including the custodians, electricians and technology associates. Mr. Blatt thanked Mrs. Jankowsky for attending all of the building inspection sessions.

GOOD NEWS

Mrs. Homel presented the Goods News Reports (see attached Reports from September 11 and September 25, 2001.)

PRESENTATION

The Middle Bucks Institute of Technology presentation by Mr. Lees was postponed to a later date.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Donna Marie Saul of 589 Lowell Road, Warminster, addressed the Board regarding the summer reading requirements, which stated that the students must read three books and do a double-entry journal. This was to be handed in on the first day of school. However, students were given a grace period for handing in their reports if they did not have them on the first day. Mrs. Saul felt it was unfair for all students to be weighted the same whether their reports were on time or late. She felt the Board should be aware of this situation.

Mrs. Saul also addressed the issue of high school transcripts. She explained that there was an area on the transcript for community service. Since neither she nor her daughter had any idea that community service was recorded on the transcript, they did not submit any information about this to the District. She felt that there should be some type of written policy about this defining the parameters. Mrs. Homel stated that she would respond to Mrs. Saul on this matter.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the Minutes of the Finance and Long Range Budget Planning Committee of 6/18/01 and approves the Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of 8/14/01.

The motion passed 7-0.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Blatt stated that he wanted Mrs. Saul and every parent in the District to feel that their concerns were important and legitimate. He indicated that he was sure there would not always be agreement but felt that we could solve problems in the best interests of the children. He stated that he would prefer to address and solve problems prior to Board

Meetings since he wouldn't personally know the facts in each case. In this way, the issue could be investigated prior to a Board meeting. He didn't feel that a parent should have to wait two weeks for a Board Meeting to have their concerns addressed. He assured everyone, however, that this did not mean that he was trying to stifle public discussion of issues.

Mr. Blatt felt that the opening of the schools went smoothly. He indicated that Representative Greenwood had visited on September 17th and that he had many kind things to say about the District.

Mr. Blatt spoke about the Centennial Education Foundation's annual social, to be held on November 9th. He stated that Board members were welcome to attend.

He also advised that the high school had collected over \$4,600 for the Red Cross, Back to School Night had been held at the high school and that the athletics programs were off to a good start.

CITIZEN'S POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Strouse reported that the Citizen's Policy Committee had met and reviewed three policies, which would be coming before the Board. He advised that the next committee meeting would be on October 16th.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Locke advised that the Operations Committee meeting scheduled for that day had been postponed and would be rescheduled.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

No report.

INTERMEDIATE UNIT

No report.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the first meeting of the Education Committee would be held on October 1st.

Mr. Hertenberger arrived at the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

POLICIES

Final Adoption:

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 5.4, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Development.

The motion passed 8-0.

Discussion:

4.4 – Student Membership

Mrs. Jankowsky asked for clarification of recording of attendance information, which Dr. Sexton provided.

Mr. Avery asked if Section I should specify who would enter data regarding registration, transfer or withdrawal of students. After discussion, it was agreed that specifying who would do this would make Section I consistent with the rest of the policy.

7.19 – Weapons/Explosive Devices and Caustic Substances

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she thought that if there was a weapons offense, it would automatically come before the Board. However, in Section IV of the policy, it states that it “may.” Dr. Sexton advised that he would get clarification from the solicitor on this.

7.24 – Acceptable Use of Computer Technology

Dr. Sexton explained that this policy had first come before the Board in 1997 and was amended in 1999. Therefore, it would not necessarily be due for review again already but Administration found last year that with the passage of the Children’s Internet Protection Act, districts were required to have this policy so he felt that this should be reviewed. The Act also calls for public discussion of this policy so this would cover that requirement.

Dr. Sexton also advised that this policy was included on the District’s calendar. He briefly summarized the changes that had been made to the policy.

Mr. Strouse stated that since this was also related to the e-rate consideration, he would like to move it at this meeting because e-rate applications must be submitted by October 1st.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that a student had told her that the restrictions on the use of computers at the high school were so restrictive that it became very difficult to do research on the computers. She wondered if this issue had been addressed.

Mr. Locke pointed out that students still had the opportunity to use computers at a public library or at home.

Dr. Masko indicated that this had been discussed with him by Mr. Reed. He indicated that they do block students from some sites with sexual content, hate sites, etc. but that teachers are allowed to request that a site be unblocked.

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.24, Acceptable Use of Computer Technology.

The motion passed 8-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Exceptions to Facility Use Policy

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Facility Use Waiver Applications for the following groups:

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| <i>(A) Southampton Basketball</i> | <i>Sunday use of Klinger Gym, January and February 2002. There is no cost to the District.</i> |
| <i>(B) Warminster Township Parks & Recreation</i> | <i>Use of Log College Pool, Tuesday evenings, September 25, 2001 through November 20, 2001. Requesting a 50% waiver of fees: \$200.00.</i> |
| <i>(C) Centennial Aquatic Club</i> | <i>Use of Log College pool, Friday evenings, November 2001 through February 2002. Requesting a 50% waiver of fees: \$375.00.</i> |
| <i>(D) Centennial Aquatic Club</i> | <i>Use of WTHS pool, September 2001 through May 2002. Requesting a 50% waiver of fees: \$4,090.00.</i> |
| <i>(E) Centennial Aquatic Club</i> | <i>Sunday use of WTHS pool, January 6, 2002. Requesting a 50% waiver of fees: \$227.50.</i> |
| <i>(F) Warminster Symphony Orchestra</i> | <i>Sunday use of the WTHS Auditorium – Sundays, December 2, 2001, March 3, 2002, and May 12, 2002. There is no cost to the District.</i> |
| <i>(G) Kiwanis Club of Southampton</i> | <i>Use of WTHS Gym, November 30, 2001 and December 1, 2001. Requesting elimination of fees: \$330.00.</i> |

(H) Southampton Soccer Sunday use of WTHS Gym, February 17, 2002 (and February 16, 2002). There is no cost to the District.

The motion passed 8-0.

2. Adoption of 2002/03 Budget Calendar

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the calendar for the formulations and adoption of the fiscal year 2002/03 General Fund Budget.

The motion passed 8-0.

3. Pupil Transportation Contracts for 2001/02

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes the services of pupil transportation contractors and rates as submitted by Administration.

The motion passed 8-0.

4. Appointment of PSBA Delegates

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints the following three School Board Members as voting delegates to the Legislative Policy Council: Joseph Faust, Joan Jankowsky and Betty Huf. The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 18, during the PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference 2001.

The motion passed 8-0.

5. Staffing/Enrollment

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board: (a) approves the use of two special education positions from the contingency account to be used at the elementary and middle school levels, as needed; (b) approves the hiring of 1.5 additional teachers at William Tennent High School at a cost not to exceed \$71,084.87.

Mrs. Jankowsky questioned how the dollar figure was arrived at for item (b) since a person had not yet been identified.

Mrs. Homel explained that the figure included salary and benefits and that it accommodated if the person had a Masters Degree. She also indicated that this figure was for the full school year.

Mr. Grossi felt that an amount did not need to be specified in the resolution.

Mr. Strouse asked if we had any idea when this would happen. Mr. Blatt responded that the process would gear up the following day.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that it would be best in this instance to delete the dollar amount since there were contingency positions provided for in the budget. Mr. Avery agreed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Avery to amend the motion by deleting the words "at a cost not to exceed \$71,084.87."

The motion to amend passed 8-0.

The amended motion passed 8-0.

Mr. Blatt stated that he wanted to recognize the willingness of the Board to go forward and understand the issues. He thanked the Board for the confidence placed in Administration.

OLD BUSINESS

Financial Reports

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

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

And approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – August 2001*
- *Budgetary Transfers – June 30, 2001*

The motion passed 8-0.

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: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absences; Appointments; Change of Status; Mentor Consultants; Title I and Reading Tutors; Kindergarten Bus Aides; Co-Curricular Additions, Changes and Deletions.

The motion passed 8-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the additional Personnel item entitled "Curriculum Resource Team Members."

The motion passed 8-0.

Mr. Strouse questioned why the Board was appointing someone to the CRT who was going on FMLA leave. Dr. Masko explained that normally someone would take her place while she was out.

Mr. Strouse felt that it would be better to have someone who would be there the whole year. Dr. Masko stated that this person had served for years in this position and would bring that experience with her. He felt confident that she would do a good job.

Mr. Blatt felt that if there was a major concern about this, it should be discussed in Executive Session since it was a personnel matter. Mr. Strouse stated that if no other Board member was concerned, then he would discuss it privately with Mr. Blatt.

Dr. Masko stated that there were other qualified teachers who could step in while this person was out.

OTHER

Middle School Initiative

Mr. Blatt requested additional time to review the work of the individuals on this matter. He felt that he would like to get some input on this and explained that since he had come to the District there had not been a great deal of time to review this matter in depth but that he would like to do so. He requested the Board to grant him until December to do so.

Mr. Strouse concurred that Mr. Blatt needed input but did not feel that he needed three months. Mr. Locke disagreed. He felt that Mr. Blatt should have time to review this thoroughly. Mr. Wybar also felt that Mr. Blatt should have sufficient time to understand the proposal.

Mr. Grossi stated that the Board needed to be in a position to make a decision by the beginning of December.

A lengthy discussion ensued as to what timetable was needed in order to proceed operationally. Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that a special meeting could be held to discuss only this issue if need be.

Debbie Oswald of 916 Log College Drive, Warminster, stated that she hoped this decision would not be rushed. She volunteered to help with this, if needed. She felt that there should be a separate meeting outside the Board meeting, which should be advertised to the public.

Mr. Grossi stated that he wished they could grant Mr. Blatt more time but, operationally, the December meeting must be the limit.

Mr. Strouse stated that the Board had a motion to receive a report by the date of this meeting related to the middle school program. He felt there needed to be a motion to amend that date.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to defer that report to November 13, that the Board schedule an interim public meeting between November 13 and 27 and the Board will act on the recommendation at the December 11th meeting.

Mr. Strouse stated that he felt a caveat should be made providing that the Board receive a report as soon as possible about Administration's current status on the proposal. Mr. Avery stated that he would like it by October 9th. Mr. Strouse agreed.

A short discussion was held on how Mr. Blatt should report his progress to the Board. It was decided that his time was better spent reviewing the matter rather than writing interim reports.

Mr. Avery emphasized that the Board has at times been criticized about class sizes and that tonight the Board immediately moved on this issue. He wanted to bring the public's attention to this matter.

The motion passed 7-1.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Avery to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary