

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
HELD OCTOBER 9, 2001**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on October 9, 2001, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Huf at 7:37 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

CEA/Teachers:

Eileen Poroszok  
Sherri Barrett  
Melissa Kamenir

Administration:

David Blatt  
Sandy Homel  
Dr. Thomas Sexton  
Timothy Vail

Public:

Bob Lees  
Paul Midzak  
Richard Coe  
Gilbert Torres, Jr.  
Fred Escobar  
Donna Marie Saul  
Janet Marinoff  
Sina Baranski

**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 legal matter. She also advised that an Executive Meeting had been held on October 8 for the purpose of discussion of pending litigation.

Mrs. Huf recognized Dr. Robert Lees of Middle Bucks Institute of Technology and Dr. Richard Coe of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit, both of whom were present at the meeting.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### Recognition of Klinger Middle School Student

Mr. Blatt introduced Janice Spirk, the Principal of Klinger Middle School. Ms. Spirk spoke about the National Middle School Journal and a contest they had hosted. She introduced Sherry Barrett, a teacher at Klinger. Ms. Barrett spoke about the contest in more detail, indicating that it sought artwork from young adolescents in conjunction with October's being the Month of the Young Adolescent. One of her students, Lena Escobar, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, was the winner of the contest. As such, her poster was published by the National Middle School Organization in their journal.

Ms. Escobar presented a copy of the poster to Mrs. Huf and Mr. Blatt.

Mr. Hertenberger suggested that this poster be presented to the grade schools to show them what can be achieved by students who are not much older than they are. Mrs. Huf felt this was a good idea.

Ms. Spirk indicated that a copy of the poster would be posted in each of the classrooms.

### Presentation by MBIT Director

Mrs. Huf introduced Dr. Robert Lees, Administrative Director of MBIT.

Dr. Lees spoke about the administrative structure of MBIT and the related costs. He provided comparisons of costs with similar schools and stated that he had worked very hard over the past six years to reduce the cost per pupil.

Mr. Faust asked whether the fact that Centennial sent more students to MBIT would drive down our cost per pupil. Dr. Lees indicated that it would have a definite impact on the cost per pupil but that this went hand in hand with the programs being offered to attract students.

Mr. Grossi advised that he was not interested in comparisons with other schools because he felt they were inefficient also. He pointed out that there were some facts that were not included in Dr. Lees' report, such as transportation, debt services, etc. He felt that we needed to do better with certain apprentice programs, such as plumbing and that we need to think outside the box. He felt that the cost per student could still be improved.

Mr. Blatt stated that he felt we should always be looking for ways to improve. He believes in the purpose and value of vocational education for students, however, he did not connect with some of the things he heard here. He did agree that we need to look outside the box and stated that he was happy to be a partner with Dr. Lees in finding new and creative ways to help our children.

Mrs. Huf thanked Dr. Lees for attending the meeting. She indicated that she felt there was not a Board member present who was not in support of vocational education.

Mr. Faust stated that he felt we should be careful not to duplicate central office positions and create a fifth school district.

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None

## **REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

### **MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Gil Torres, a carpentry student at MBIT, reported as follows:

- The precision machinery students traveled to the VICA competition in June and that a Tennent student had won a bronze medal.
- The MBIT preschool opened its doors to students in September for children ages 3 through 5. He felt they were doing a wonderful job.
- The salon run by the Cosmetology students opened on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Appointments would be taken for Fridays.
- Aspirations Restaurant would be opening for business on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The carpentry students would be building a four bedroom, 2½ bath house to be sold upon completion.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

Paul Midzak, a senior, stated that he had met with Mr. Blatt and that he was really looking forward to helping the senior class and involving the community. Mr. Midzak reported as follows:

- College tutorials had been held for students.
- A lot of college recruiters have visited the school and he had seen a lot of student turnout.
- Earlier in the month an activity fair was held. The students would like to promote more activities for the high school so that younger students can see what the high school has to offer.
- There was also a parents' series so that parents could learn how the application process was handled at Tennent.
- At the football game the previous weekend there was a Hall of Fame that promoted football players from the past.
- Tennent has four National Merit scholars.
- The enrollment in Advanced Placement classes is very high.
- The sports teams are doing very well this season.
- Some of the student clubs got together and raised \$4,632 to donate to the American Red Cross. Mr. Midzak felt that this really showed the character of the student body.
- The Fire Chiefs of local fire departments have decided to take a bus up to New York to pay tribute to the workers at the World Trade Center site. The Senior class will try to arrange a fundraiser to raise money to send the Fire Chiefs on this trip.

- The Senior Class would like more community involvement. They plan to have a school play and have a reduced cost for senior citizens.
- The Blue Angels came to Tennent for an assembly.

Mr. Grossi remarked that the reports from the student representatives were two of the best he has heard.

Mr. Blatt commented that he was very impressed with Paul Midzak. He indicated that he and Mrs. Poroszok had met with Paul and had a chance to brainstorm about a few things. He spoke about putting together a Centennial "Gold Card" for senior citizens of the District, which would allow anyone aged 55 and older to attend presentations free. Hopefully this would help senior citizens feel that they are more a part of the District.

Mr. Blatt spoke about the staff and students underwriting the cost of the Fire Chiefs trip to New York. It would be a way of showing respect. He indicated that a letter would be sent to the Fire Chiefs later in the week.

### **GOOD NEWS**

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

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Blatt reported that recently the High School Marching Band had won the Arlen Saylor trophy for best band at the Boyertown Cavalcade of Bands Show. This is the longest continuous band competition in the country. This was the fourth time out of eight appearances that our band won the cup.

Mrs. Huf extended congratulations to Mr. LoVecchio and the band.

### **LEGISLATIVE LIAISON**

Mr. Faust advised that at the Federal level, the legislative process had almost come to a halt except for terrorism issues. On the State level, there were also a lot of issues that revolved around terrorism.

### **MIDDLE BUCKS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Mr. Faust reported that the Executive Council had met the previous evening. He summarized the meeting as follows:

- The official October 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment numbers were made available. Two hundred forty Centennial students were attending MBIT, accounting for 28% of MBIT's student population. Mr. Faust requested Mr. Blatt to distribute this report with the Board's Friday Update.
- The 2001/02 goals and objectives were reviewed.
- There was a report on the adult evening classes.

- The Delaware Valley Culinary Institute certificate program had begun, in conjunction with Delaware Valley College. Seven courses would be needed to obtain a certificate in this program.
- Various personnel issues were approved.
- There was a discussion of a Central Bucks lease/purchase of MBIT. This case will be taken to each individual Board.

Mr. Grossi stated that he would like a report on whether costs and expenses of the adult courses would be covered.

Mr. Faust indicated that MBIT's Open House would be held on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **INTERMEDIATE UNIT**

Mr. Grossi reported that there had been a meeting the previous month and that there would be one the following week.

### **PSBA**

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that PSBA's annual Leadership Conference would be held the following week. She also advised that they would be changing the location of the Summer Workshop Program to Lancaster and that it would run from Thursday afternoon to Saturday morning.

Mrs. Jankowsky also reported that PSBA would be running a ConnecTech 2001 Conference for Technology on October 31 – November 2 in Hershey.

Mrs. Huf read a letter from PSBA thanking Centennial for its participation in the 2001/02 PSBA property casualty program.

Mr. Faust asked if PSBA had looked into running the Summer Conference on a Saturday and Sunday.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **EDUCATION**

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the committee had met on October 1<sup>st</sup> and received an update on the Gifted Program and our current status with regard to standards. The committee approved a request from High School Administration to change the graduation requirements within the physical education program. They also looked at the elimination of a computer applications course for students in the MBIT program. The committee requested additional information about this.

Mr. Faust asked about the change to the phys ed requirements. Mr. Strouse clarified that this was approved by the committee and would be presented to the full Board.

### **CITIZENS POLICY**

Mr. Strouse noted the policies for initial distribution.

### **FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Mr. Grossi stated that the Finance Committee had met the previous month and that the Board would be receiving the minutes of that meeting.

### **TITLE VIII**

No report.

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Locke reported that the Operations Committee had met earlier in the evening and reviewed the bus and van request for 2002/03. This matter will appear on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Operations Committee also reviewed time schedules, which will appear on the next meeting's agenda.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked for a report on the backup of traffic on Centennial Road entering the high school. She asked if the Board could assume that the changes made last year were working. Mr. Locke advised that the changes had proven successful.

Mr. Locke also advised that there was a report on the air conditioning of the elementary schools, which had been presented to the Superintendent for review. After Mr. Blatt had an opportunity to review the report, it would be presented to the Board.

Mr. Faust advised that he would like a report about the parking issue. Mr. Locke agreed to provide this.

### **MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the minutes of the Education Committee Meeting of June 5, 2001.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **OPERATIONS AND POLICIES**

### Final Approval:

#### 4.4 – Student Accounting

*A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 4.4, Student Accounting.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

#### 7.19 – Weapons/Explosive Devices and Caustic Substances

*A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.19, Weapons/Explosive Devices and Caustic Substances.*

A letter received from Michael Levin, the solicitor, was distributed.

*A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Faust to table this matter until the Board has had an opportunity to review Mr. Levin's letter of October 4, 2001.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

### Initial Distribution:

Mr. Strouse enumerated the following policies for initial distribution:

- 2.1 – Salary for Employees
- 3.21 – Use of Behavior Management Techniques
- 3.27 – Promotion and Retention
- 6.3 – Home and School Associations and Other Advisory Councils

## **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 – September 2001*
- *Investments – September 2001*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – September 2001*

*and approves the:*

- *Treasurer's Report/Fund Profiles – September 2001*
- *Budgetary Transfers – October 2001*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **PERSONNEL**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/ Leaves of Absence; Appointments; Change of Status; Title I Tutors; Permanent Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Support Staff Substitutes; and Co-Curricular Additions, Changes and Deletions.*

Mr. Faust pointed out that the second position under Resignations had been empty for some time. He wondered how we were operating. Mr. Blatt advised that Dr. Sexton was helping out and that other people were assisting. They hoped to resolve this matter as quickly as possible.

Mr. Faust wondered if it would be possible to bring someone back temporarily on a per diem basis until this position was filled. Mr. Blatt stated that they were waiting to see how a couple of things unfolded this week and that hopefully there would be a resolution to the matter.

Mrs. Huf recognized Hilda Graf's retirement and stated that Hilda had been Vic Lasher's secretary for many years.

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Huf referred to the list of communications attached hereto. She also advised that the Board had received an invitation to the Oxford Round Table in England.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Richard Coe of 410 Merion Drive, Newtown, thanked Mr. Hertenberger for volunteering to help out at the I.U.'s Annual Education Foundation event, which had been held several weeks ago. The event was a fundraiser for teacher grants.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

### Act 73 – Awarding Veterans Diplomas

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board remand this to Administration and request that they develop a policy since this surfaces as a result of an act by our State legislature.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

See Schedule attached hereto.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary