

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING  
HELD OCTOBER 23, 2001**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on October 23, 2001, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Huf at 7:48 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:

David Blatt  
Sandy Homel  
Dr. Michael Masko  
John Rhodes  
Jean Rollo  
Dr. Thomas Sexton

CEA/Teachers:

Mick Sander

Public:

Ilyse Aronoff  
Bridget Smith  
Jane Strawley  
Judith Braunston  
Karen Nieckoski

**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 legal and real estate matters.

Mrs. Jankowsky congratulated several students for their pictures appearing on the “Together We Can Save the Earth” calendar published by the Newspaper and Education Program and Waste Management Company. She also spoke about the Tennent Marching Band Celebration of Bands that was held the previous Saturday evening, indicating that it was spectacular.

Mrs. Jankowsky also reported that she and Mr. Faust had attended the PSBA/PASA Conference the previous week and that it was very informative.

Mrs. Huf spoke about the boys’ soccer team, which made it to playoffs, and the girls’ hockey team, which participated in the District 1 field hockey playoffs.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that Dr. Bob Laws had been named Superintendent of the Year.

### **GOOD NEWS/PRESENTATIONS**

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

### **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

### **MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Minutes of the Regular School Board/Work Session Meeting of September 25, 2001.*

*The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mr. Faust abstained since he was absent from that meeting.)*

### **POLICIES**

#### Discussion:

#### 2.1 – Salary for Employees

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that in Section II., the word “shall” should be changed to “may.”

#### 3.21 – Use of Behavior Management Techniques

Dr. Sexton advised that this policy had changed from initial distribution. He outlined the changes and indicated that they were made after receiving the solicitor’s comments. He also indicated that the District would be undergoing a special education audit in January and that some of these changes were referenced in compliance information received in preparation for the audit.

Mr. Strouse advised that the Citizens Policy Committee had indicated that they felt Section II. D. 4 should be removed. However, new procedures indicate that this should be included, with the clarification “(verbal abuse).”

Dr. Sexton also pointed out a housekeeping change in the policy statement page.

### 3.27 – Promotion and Retention

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that in reviewing this policy, it seemed that the main thrust was to remove any implications that the policy dealt with promotion and to focus on the concept of retention. In keeping with that, she suggested that Section III. B. 1 be removed. Mr. Strouse suggested that the section be reworded to state that “A student will be retained if the required credits as approved by the Board are not attained.” This was agreed to.

Dr. Sexton suggested that in Section III. B., the phrase “unless excused in accordance with special education law” be added at the end of the sentence. The Board agreed to this change.

### 6.3 – Home and School Associations and Other Advisory Councils

Mr. Faust asked why Section I was changed to read “may” instead of “shall.” Mr. Strouse explained that the Citizens Policy Committee wanted to state that even if the group met the criteria, there might be other reasons why they would not want to approve them; therefore, the change was made to “may.”

### Final Adoption:

#### 719 – Weapons, Explosive Devices and Caustic Substances

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

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she was still concerned about the language “may” and “shall” in Section IV. A. She felt that she could compromise by using “may then.” She felt that it should be “shall” if the action was not a manifestation of the exceptionality.

Mr. Grossi agreed that it should be “shall.” Mr. Strouse indicated that Mr. Levin stated that he preferred this because of the zero tolerance program, which may be unlawful.

Mr. Avery suggested that “may then” be used, as suggested by Mrs. Jankowsky. Mr. Faust agreed.

Dr. Sexton advised that there was a case from Commonwealth Court that indicated that the discretion of the Superintendent should be built into the policy. He suggested the

following language be added to IV. B. 4: "... unless circumstances justify the Superintendent recommending a lesser penalty."

Mr. Grossi felt that addition was reasonable.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she was willing to yield on the issue but that it was her understanding from attendance at prior expulsion hearings that we don't have a zero tolerance policy and that the Superintendent does have latitude.

It was decided that the policy would be brought back with the above language.

Mr. Grossi indicated that he did not agree with "may then." He felt that "shall" should be used. Mr. Avery felt that the language did not sound like it allowed for latitude of the Superintendent.

Mr. Grossi felt that if "may then" were used, then the same language should be used for regular education students.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky to table this motion until Administration had changed the language. (No second was made at this time.)*

Mr. Blatt felt that "shall" worked if we addressed the court case that granted discretion to the Superintendent as stipulated in law. Discussion ensued on what the word "discretion" meant and how it could be applied.

*Mr. Hertenberger seconded Mrs. Jankowsky's motion to table this matter. The motion to table passed 9-0.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Scholars Bowl Trip to Bel Air High School**

*A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary and final approval for the WTHS Scholars Bowl Trip to Bel Air High School in Bel Air, Maryland, November 9-10, 2001. The cost to the District shall not exceed \$335 for van rental.*

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that when there was a non-athletic event such as this, the people involved should know the procedures for preliminary and final approval so that in the future both approvals would not be requested at the same time.

*The motion passed 9-0.*

2. High School Graduation Requirements

Mrs. Jankowsky explained the background of this matter. Mr. Faust indicated that he was concerned about jumping from 2½ credits to 1½ credits. He felt that Health could be included in the curriculum, spread out over the four years. This would drop it to two credits, rather than 1½. He indicated that this had been discussed at the Education Committee.

Mr. Grossi stated that he assumed the fiscal note was \$5,000 and this proposal was staff-neutral. He indicated that if that was so, he would like this confirmed for the record. Mrs. Homel confirmed that this was the case, but indicated that it could possibly affect ½ teacher. Mr. Grossi suggested that the fiscal note be modified to include this.

Mr. Faust advised that in the past there was a concern that if extra electives were added, more classrooms would be needed. He questioned if there would be any costs associated with that. After further discussion, it was decided that more information was needed on this matter before it could be moved forward.

3. MTB Agreement

Mrs. Jankowsky explained the background of this matter.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Settlement Agreement related to the collection of Earned Income Taxes and authorizes the appropriate officers of the Board to sign the Agreement. Be it further resolved that the District solicitor is authorized to take such action as is necessary to implement the Agreement.*

*A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Grossi to table this motion as there were significant questions as to the terms of the Agreement. He indicated that the solicitor needed to be contacted.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

4. Bus Bid

Mr. Locke spoke about this matter and indicated that as a result of this, all the buses would be automatic transmission.

*A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes the solicitation of bids for the purchase of four 65-passenger school buses and two 24-passenger school buses. Funds to be appropriated from the 2002/03 General Fund Budget upon award.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **PERSONNEL**

*A motion was made by Mr. Hertenberger and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves all personnel recommendations.*

Mr. Strouse questioned why the Board was being asked to authorize a resignation at the same time as an appointment for the same person. Mrs. Rollo explained that the paperwork was behind on some of these. Mr. Blatt claimed responsibility for the delay.

Mr. Strouse questioned whether we need to do the Reappointments. Mrs. Rollo indicated that it was not required.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Strouse to delete the Reappointment list from the motion.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

*The amended motion passed 9-0.*

## **OTHER**

### Tax Collection Suit

Mr. Faust asked if there was any indication when the suit with the tax collector from Upper Southampton would be coming to Court. Mr. Grossi responded that it was originally supposed to be scheduled in October but that it was not on the November agenda of the courts in Doylestown. The issue was that some of the monies were withheld from the School District for a period of three to four months. He felt that we needed to address the issue of tax collection and how it was moving forward. He also felt that we needed to move the systems into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that one issue that concerned her about moving to an electronic system was to what degree the Finance Committee would be looking at the impact if there was not a smooth transition. She felt that the Finance Committee needed a Plan B if things did not go smoothly because school districts depend on tax money for cash flow.

### Trips

Mr. Avery stated that all over the country travelers were reevaluating their travel needs. He asked that school district groups do the same for trips that were already approved.

Mr. Blatt advised that the position he, Dr. Sexton and Mrs. Homel had taken was that they didn't want any of our students to be in an urban area. He indicated that they were scrutinizing every trip and applying good judgment. He also indicated that there were some international trips on the horizon and that he had asked for the final dates as to when a decision must be made on

whether or not a trip would go forward. He stated that they were trying to look at each trip as if it were there own children going.

### **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Judy Braunston of 1455 Nancy Drive, Southampton, felt that the case coming before the courts was political in nature. She felt that it was planned that it would not be heard before the election. She asked the member of the press who was present at this meeting to bring this matter to the public's attention.

Mr. Grossi advised that the Board had pursued due diligence in this case from the beginning.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky 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