

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD DECEMBER 11, 2001**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on December 11, 2001, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Jankowsky at 7:50 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Scott Avery
Sina Baranski
Joseph Faust
Eugene Grossi
Al Hertenberger
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
Jerry Locke
Harve Strouse

Administration:

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

CEA/Teachers:

Rita Barger
Debbie Faehner
Joanne Fabian
Carol Brockman

Public:

Lisa Diebold
Susan McGorrey
Rebecca Whiting
Megan Grimm
Beth Sleeter
Michael Murphy
Alda Lizzi
Diana Deissler
Christopher Smith
Nena Smith
Danyelle Yondura
Kathy Wolcott
Tim Wolcott
Anna Marie Yondura
Melissa Pool
Jeff Linn
Jonathan Puglia
Tim Grimm
Rebecca Grimm
John Van Note
Karen Bucy
Janice Davis
Gary Graefe
Robert Purdy
Robin Cohen
Sharon Camson
Stan Camson
Eileen Wissmann
Michelle Nunn

Public (continued):

Carl Nunn
Donna Marie Saul
Denise Schwartz
Cindy Gordon
Paula Kalman
Dave McGowan
Laurie McGowan
Philip Zucker
Lisa Gentles
Debbie Oswald
Karen Prybella
Nora Ann Pio
Cathy Williams
Ed Pool
Marge Pool
Wendy Kolb
Roy Kolb

Julie Gross
Laurie Ross
Jean Sweder
Steve Sweder
Ed McTague
Susan Curtis
Rachael Cauto
Janet Pane
Chantel Farrello
Bill Van Horn
Mary Richter
Sharon Williams
Carol Ranch
Walter McGroskey
Darlene Bahn
Bob Crimian
Tom McDonald

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Jankowsky led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Jankowsky announced the Committee assignments for the upcoming year.

PRESENTATION

Middle School Transition and Implementation Plan

Mr. Blatt announced that the Administrative team would present a proposal which would reflect the charge that they were given at the recent Education Committee meeting. At the end of that meeting the team was asked to address some of the concerns. Mr. Blatt indicated that he felt the proposal to be presented this evening was a win-win situation.

The following topics were addressed:

Mr. Blatt	Highlights of proposed schedule
Ms. Spirk	Actual schedule of 6-period day with tutorial rotation
Dr. Clark	Courses to be offered
Dr. Masko	Intensive Reading Intervention
Mrs. Homel	Exploratory Schedule, Team Planning Time, Prep Time

Mr. Blatt strongly suggested that if the proposed schedule was adopted, everyone make a commitment to make the model work. He stated that he would like the opportunity to evaluate the model as we go forward and make minor modifications to fine tune it, if necessary. He indicated that there are very similar models in other schools.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked Mr. Blatt, Dr. Clark, Ms. Spirk, Dr. Masko and Mrs. Homel for their time in developing this schedule, which she felt was a sound compromise for the students.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Kate Hendrickson of 331 Hogeland Road, Southampton, stated that she was happy to see that the issue of the reading program was being addressed but felt that it could be much better. She felt that reading did not get enough attention and that parents should be more involved.

Bob Lucot of 1387 Rosebud Road, Southampton, was concerned about the music programs. He felt that they were a critical part of the community and that they helped the students to develop leadership skills. He indicated that he would like the Board to consider the importance of the music programs to the community.

Susan Curtis of 801 Cypress Road, Warminster, stated that she was quite offended by some comments made by Mr. Hertenberger, as published in *The Intelligencer*. She felt that his basic point was that any student who did not do well on the standardized tests was doomed to failure. She stated that she had a real problem with that statement. She also felt that the District was too concerned with teaching to the standardized tests and was forgetting about teaching the basics. She felt the students needed to learn skills to become independent, successful adults. She felt that at the Log and Klinger meetings the presentations had been well done but that there were no answers to the parents' questions. She wondered why this needed to be rushed through if the questions were not answered.

Janet Marinoff of 51 Fern Road, Southampton, wondered how Board members could be expected to digest this new information and vote on it at this meeting when there were still so many questions. She questioned whether teachers would have time to prepare for the changes and why these changes needed to be made. She wondered if this was Administration's recommendation or just a schedule that meets the criteria they were provided.

Katie Lucot of 1387 Rosebud Road, Southampton, was grateful that this schedule included music but she still felt that other schedules should be taken into consideration. She felt that a lot of what Mrs. Marinoff said made sense.

Carl Nunn, Jr. of 208 Willow Drive, Warminster, asked why? He did not understand why these changes were needed. He stated that we are above the State average on the PSSA's and that in Bucks and Montgomery Counties, were in the middle. He stated that we needed proof that a 6-period day would improve test scores. He felt that this would be an experiment with our children and that, even if the test scores did improve, the students would be losing a lot of other things.

Cynthia Mueller of 228 Gravel Hill Road, Huntingdon Valley, thanked Board members for taking the time to answer her questions individually. She indicated that she was concerned that the arts were the first thing to get cut. She stated that every member of the community had a vested interest in our schools, whether or not they have children in them. She questioned why children are leaving elementary school without knowing how to read at grade level. She spoke about how the arts affect test scores in a positive way.

Mr. Blatt stated that unfortunately, the public had not had the benefit of hearing all the research and conversations. He made comments on the following points:

- The value of the arts and music program – It was absolutely correct that these are important. This is a strong part of the proposal.
- Reading Program – If youngsters are challenged to read, they will be challenged in many areas of life. We need to focus on that. Sometimes when they move from elementary school to middle school, the supports are not there. We want to have them there.

At this point, Mrs. Jankowsky requested that Community Comments be interrupted so that the student reports could be given.

REPORTS

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Gil Torres distributed to Board members a pamphlet on the student-built house and spoke about progress being made on the house.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Paul Midzak reported on the following:

- Free admission was offered to senior citizens for the play, *The Crucible*. By the third night, they had over 70 senior citizens attending.
- There was a pep rally at the end of November to support the sports teams at the end of the Fall season.
- Tennent beat Wood at the Thanksgiving game.
- On December 1st there was a basketball tip-off tournament.
- Over 70 members were inducted into the National Honor Society.
- December 7-8 – Wrestling Tournament at Tennent
- December 8 – FBLA Breakfast with Santa
- December 11 – Safe Drug Free Schools audit
- December 14 – Winter Concert
- Alumni Breakfast to be held the following Friday for the Class of 2001.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS (Continued)

Danyelle Yondura of 100 Elfreth Road, Huntingdon Valley, stated that she was glad the music program had been incorporated into the proposed schedule. However, she felt that music was

only being taught one-third of the time and she did not feel that was enough. She saw this as a theory class and wondered about the students who wanted to perform. She felt that if a student did not play in middle school, they were not likely to play in high school.

Heather Siegfried of 667 Dick Avenue, Warminster, advised that when she was offered a full scholarship to a private school she turned it down because she wanted to attend Tennent due to their music program. She stated that she would hate to see the middle school's music program taken away because that would take away the high school's music program.

Julie Patrick of 199 Belair Road, Warminster, stated that last year Centennial's music program was rated 19th in the nation. She felt that only 30 minutes for a music program at the end of the day was not enough and that if it had to compete with life skills, sports, etc., it would suffer.

Shawn McMullen of 1440 Donna Drive, Southampton, was pleased to hear that there was an attempt to save the music program at the middle school. He stated that he had been in the music program since third grade and that he had seen a decline since then. He indicated that he would like to see the Board's support of the music program.

At this point, an unidentified speaker interrupted and attempted to address the Board, then abruptly left the meeting.

Krista Coonelly of 1014 Hilltop Road, Southampton, (a Madrigal) stated that the proposed changes to the music program at the middle school did not seem like enough to keep alive the standard of what they have at Tennent. She did not feel that the music program at the middle school should be cut back because it is very important.

Megan Grimm of 103 Windsor Avenue, Southampton, (Marching Band) stated that making music an extracurricular activity would be detrimental to the program. She felt that the music program had benefit for the community. She also spoke about music having to compete with sports and that students who participated in more than one musical group would be forced to choose between them.

Daniel Heaton, a student, of 908 Steamboat Station, Southampton, spoke about the importance of the enrichment periods. He felt that having them only three times per week was not enough.

Jonathan Puglia, a student, of 1537 Hartsville Circle, stated that many people had spoken about the need to preserve the music program but that there were a few things that had not been pointed out, such as the fact that there was not enough time to be in band, chorus and other activities at the same time. Regarding information skills, he felt that was a waste of time since most students taught themselves these skills. He felt this time could be used for other things. He also felt that the foreign language program would be suffering if students only had one opportunity for this in middle school and only one language choice.

Christopher Smith (a student) of 834 Roberts Road, Warminster, spoke about the Board making changes that threw schools into disasters that the Board doesn't see, such as at the high school. He asked why the Board wanted to do that at the middle school and requested the Board to take a

closer look at this. He asked what was wrong with what the middle school had now. He asked that the Board not take the heart and soul (the music program) out of the District.

Amy Whiting (a student) of 77 Woodlawn Road, Warminster, spoke about her sister (the previously unidentified speaker) who was a music major at Temple. Having had the music experience at Centennial, her sister was now doing very well at Temple and wanted to voice her support for Centennial's music program.

Mary Richter of 317 Stratford Drive, Southampton, felt that she was missing a lot of information. She did not understand why the schedule was being changed. She stated that she had been an educator for 25 years. She spoke about multiple intelligences, noting that children are not great test takers and that they have different learning styles. She felt that it was important to encourage children to explore their different intelligences and that middle school should not be a time when students are required to pigeonhole themselves.

Liz Watts of 10115 Springview Drive, Southampton, addressed the issue of language in the 8th grade and the fact that students would be limited to only one language choice. She felt that since there were so many unanswered questions, there was no way the new schedule could go forward. She also addressed the issue of a survey that was done through the PTO and distributed copies of the results.

Gary Graefe of 546 Penrose Lane, Warminster, stated that he considered this to be a win-win proposal but still was waiting to hear about 9 to 13 positions that would be eliminated. He offered a challenge that we reduce the class size rather than maintain it. He would like to see us hire 9 to 13 additional positions.

Wendy Kolb of 362 Betsy Lane, Warminster, stated that her daughter had been in the music program since the third grade. She was now in 11th grade and she epitomizes everything good that you hear about a music student. She felt that without the music program, her daughter would not be like that. She felt that what was proposed for the music program was not adequate to prepare students for what they would do in high school.

Susan McGorrey of 1137 Rozel Avenue, Southampton, did not feel that three days per week was enough time for the music program. She thanked Mr. Blatt for recognizing that remediation was a viable plan in the middle school and that it can be implemented in the current middle school situation. She was concerned about languages being cut and would like to see language start in the 6th grade.

Penny Bristow of 78 Newtown Road, Warminster, spoke about the importance of the teams. She felt that her children were not being challenged and was concerned that longer periods would be incorporating more remediation and less challenge. Also, she did not feel that there should be cuts on the sports teams after school at the middle school level. She was concerned that the proposed schedule would not serve all the students and felt that we should spend more time coming up with a plan that would serve everyone.

Debbi Kalstein of 640 Amalie Lane, Southampton, stated that she had a special needs student in the 4th grade. She felt that her son would need the tutorial every day when he gets to middle school. She indicated that she had heard nothing addressing the special needs students who were integrated into a regular classroom.

Bill Van Horn of 526 Winchester Road, Warminster, indicated that his son was very involved in the music program. He was concerned about the amount of time students would have to participate in music. He felt that it was amazing how many leaders have arts and music in their backgrounds. He stated that win-win is not a compromise, it is both parties walking away with what they want. Good leaders can come up with a win-win situation. He challenged everyone to come up with a win-win deal.

Nena Smith of 834 Roberts Road, Warminster, stated that this schedule did not give enough time to things that are important in life and that she hated to see her children used as guinea pigs. She asked the Board not to let the decisions they make be driven by finances or test scores, but rather by people. She requested that they table this matter until they had more information.

Tim Grimm of 103 Windsor Avenue, Southampton, stated that during his children's years in Centennial he has seen a weakening of programs. He urged the Board not to waste our children's lives. They are too valuable.

Debbie Oswald of 916 Log College Drive, Warminster, stated that our middle schools are successful so why do we want to change them? She indicated that she supported increased class time but felt that reading was still a problem. Also, she felt there should be a choice of foreign languages. She suggested one-third year each of Spanish, French and German in 8th grade. She also distributed a copy of a letter she had written to each of the Board members.

Janice Davis of 999 York Road, Warminster, pointed out that we have a Blue Ribbon school and questioned why we want to make changes. She indicated that she had asked this question over and over and still had not received an answer. She felt that the 6-period block was not true block scheduling and that we were going backwards. She spoke about the benefits she had when she was in school and everything that was available to her. She felt that things were being taken away that she had 25 years ago. She stated that she was upset and did not want such a serious decision rushed through. She requested that the vote be delayed and pointed out that curriculum and staff training had not been addressed. She wants her child's teachers to know what they are doing. She wondered how the Board could approve this without all the information. She pointed out that the Board was elected to represent the public's wishes and asked if they were listening.

Judy Foulke of 130 East Bristol Road, Warminster, thanked everyone for their time and effort. She felt that this proposal was light years away from the first proposal but that to fully support this she would need some questions answered. Some of her questions were: do we need to go to a true homogenous grouping, how does this get staffed, what is the cost estimate for this transition?

REPORTS (Continued)

GOOD NEWS

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Blatt spoke about some of the community service activities our students are involved in. He pointed out that staff attendance was at an all-time high of 99% and that this shows they are truly dedicated.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Huf reported that at the Committee's December 3rd meeting, the following occurred:

- Approval of action items, including minutes of a previous meeting, a Reading/Language Arts request and approval of a lead teacher beginning September 2002.
- Presentation of the middle school schedule.

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for January 7th

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

No meeting had been held.

Intermediate Unit

Mr. Grossi stated that a meeting had been held the previous month and that a motion had been made to approve 18 items, which were all approved.

PSBA

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that a seminar that was scheduled for later in the week had been postponed until January.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Grossi reported that there would be a meeting on December 17th.

Title VIII

No report.

Federal Lands Reuse Authority

No report.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Locke reported that this Committee had met the previous month and reviewed bus bids, which were under New Business at this meeting.

Citizens Policy

Mr. Strouse reported that the Citizens Policy Committee had met on November 20th and that the next meeting was scheduled for January 15th.

Legislative Liaison

Mr. Faust advised that there was no meeting during the month of November.

MINUTES

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

- *Work Session/Regular Meeting – 10/23/01*
- *Regular School Board Meeting – 11/13/01*
- *Work Session/Regular Meeting – 11/27/01*

and accepts the minutes of:

- *Education Committee Meeting – 11/5/01*

The motion passed 9-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Final Adoption:

5.5 – Materials Selection

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 5.5, Materials Selection.

Mr. Avery questioned why “freedom from bias” was deleted in Section I. B. 1.a. Dr. Sexton responded that this was included in section d.

Mrs. Huf asked if there was a solicitor’s opinion on this or if this was the Committee’s decision. Mr. Strouse responded that it was the committee’s decision and that they didn’t feel that a legal opinion was needed.

In Section II.D.1.b., Mr. Avery questioned which standards were being referred to, District or State. Mr. Faust felt that this encompassed all standards. Mrs. Jankowsky felt that there was merit to specifying.

Dr. Sexton suggested “standards as adopted by the Board and required by law.” This was agreed to.

Mr. Avery questioned Attachment B – Request for Software Evaluation, Approval and Installation, where it states “No software is to be installed without prior approval.” He questioned whose approval was required. Dr. Sexton pointed out that it was the approval of the individuals designated at the bottom of the form. Dr. Masko explained the procedure.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that we add the individuals whose approval was required, i.e., the Principal and Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. It was decided that would be done.

Mr. Locke and Mr. Strouse, as mover and seconder of the motion, agreed to adding this language.

The motion passed 9-0.

6.2 – Facility Use

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 6.2, Facility Use.

In response to a question by Mrs. Huf, Dr. Sexton confirmed that the changes previously discussed had been made.

The motion passed 9-0.

7.19 – Weapons/Explosive Devices and Caustic Substances

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

In response to a question by Mrs. Huf, Dr. Sexton confirmed that the changes previously discussed had been made.

The motion passed 9-0.

Permission to Develop

Policy on Participation in Graduation

Mrs. Homel stated that there were questions coming forward regarding whether students could participate in graduation in certain situations. She felt that a policy was needed so that there would be consistency and fairness in dealing with these situations.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants permissions to develop a policy on Participation in Graduation.

The motion passed 9-0.

FINANCIAL

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

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

and approves the:

- *Treasurer's Report/Fund Profiles – November 2001*
- *Budgetary Transfers – December 2001.*

The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Middle School Implementation and Transition Plan

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants approval for the Middle School Implementation and Transition Plan, which provides for a 6-period day with tutorial rotation to be implemented in September 2002. Cost to implement the recommendation shall be approximately \$30,000.

Mr. Faust stated that he thought there were some questions asked that he would like to follow up on. He stated that in previous schedules it was decided to have Spanish as the only foreign language offering. He asked if that were the case with this schedule.

Mr. Blatt responded that it was and that there were a couple reasons for this. As a District, we are experiencing dwindling interest in the other languages. Also, it has become increasingly difficult to staff the other languages with teachers.

Dr. Masko further explained that there has been a problem for the last several years with securing language teachers on a less than full-time basis.

Mr. Grossi stated that over the years different combinations of languages had been tried and not worked. Several weeks ago he provided some data showing that our students start their secondary experience at the top and end it at the bottom. He stated that tonight an option was presented that was moving in the right direction. He felt that it attempted to meet the needs of several special interest groups and included some good options.

Regarding the tutorial rotation, Mr. Grossi felt that he had not seen any evidence of this working. He suggested that we add 8-10 positions.

Mr. Grossi proposed that the motion be altered to have teams at 6th grade, homogenous grouping in 7th and 8th grades, and a gifted delivery system via acceleration.

Mr. Locke stated that a lot of the items that Mr. Grossi mentioned addressed some of the parents' concerns. He recommended that the motion be tabled until the Board had an opportunity to review the proposed amendment. *He also seconded Mr. Grossi's amendment.*

Mr. Strouse felt that homogenous grouping could be accomplished with teams, that he was against this amendment and in favor of Administration's proposal. He stated that the reason this was being done was because we were trying to meet the goals and objectives that were laid out years ago. He advised that this proposal did not come from the Finance Committee but from the Education Committee.

Mrs. Huf stated that although she agreed with Mr. Grossi, she felt the proposal could work, and that the Board would not be considering a change if they did not feel it was necessary.

Mr. Faust indicated that before a vote was taken, he would like to go back to comments made by Mr. Blatt at a previous meeting where he stated that he could make a 2-period day work if everyone supported him. He felt the entire community revolved around the parents and that he would like to see this motion tabled until the next meeting so Administration could answer the parents' questions. He felt that there would always be disagreement but that the Board owed it to the parents to try to address their concerns. He felt that a program would have great difficulty working with so many people against it.

Mr. Grossi declared that he would not vote to table this motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Avery to call the question on the amendment.

The motion to call the question on the amendment passed 9-0.

The motion on the amendment failed 1-8. (Mr. Grossi in favor, everyone else opposed.)

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Locke to table the original motion.

The motion to table the original motion failed 2-7. (Mr. Faust and Mr. Locke in favor, everyone else opposed.)

Mr. Blatt made some observations, as follows:

- The old schedule contained 168 minutes for music and the new schedule could contain only about 150 minutes. He felt this was important to consider.
- We would be increasing time on core classes.
- He would be in favor of offering 3 or 4 languages; however, we would need to look at the history and there had been problems.
- Tutorial – although there would be less time, at least we have kept this.
- Our class sizes are reasonable.
- This proposal gives our children opportunities and addresses many of the issues raised.

Mr. Avery questioned homogenous grouping and the gifted issue. He wanted to introduce all three grade levels having homogenous grouping.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this had not come forward from Administration as a recommendation but that it could be addressed later. She would like to have Administration's feeling on this.

Mr. Faust questioned how our evaluation of the I.B. program would fit into this schedule.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that could be looked at further down the line. Mr. Blatt advised that it had been looked at only minimally with this schedule but that this schedule lends itself to an I.B. program. He did feel that there were areas that would have to be addressed to conform with I.B. mandates.

Mr. Grossi felt that Administration must develop some written document about team responsibilities and goals. There was Board concurrence on this.

Mr. Faust pointed out that when we adjusted the middle school program several years ago and when we went to block scheduling at the high school, both had sunset provisions. He pointed out that this did not have a sunset provision.

Mr. Strouse stated that he concurred with both Mr. Grossi and Mr. Faust but that he didn't want to integrate their suggestions with this proposal. He felt he would like to see goals and objectives sometime before the end of May.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that at the January meeting Mr. Grossi's school reform data could be added to the District's school reform data. The Board could then look at the process Mr. Grossi used to develop longitudinal data and decide whether they wanted to adopt it as a model.

Mr. Avery felt that there should be two separate goals, related to team teaching and to test scores.

Mr. Blatt felt that there were certain things that were difficult to measure and that, in his opinion, teaming was one of them. The benefit of teaming was what it does for the kids and parents felt it was effective. Mr. Blatt stated that it was very difficult to get concrete data on the effectiveness of teaming but felt that if our community thought it was important, then the Board needed to consider it.

Mr. Avery suggested that surveys of the community, parents and students might be a tool for measuring.

Mr. Avery raised the issue of questions that had been raised by the community. He felt that those issues should be addressed.

Mr. Locke reiterated that he would have liked to table this motion and consider some of the items that parents raised and that Mr. Grossi brought up. He felt that this matter had been bounced around for a period of time and that we would not be able to come up with a program that would please everyone. He felt that Administration had come up with a very creative and innovative program. He reminded the Board that the plan could be fine tuned once in place but that it had to make a commitment to something. He felt that the current proposal was the best we have seen.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Grossi to call the question.

The motion to call the question passed 9-0.

The motion passed 9-0.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked everyone who had worked on this proposal.

2. Technology Education Courses at WTHS

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Technology Education courses at William Tennent High School beginning school year 2002/03 as listed on the attachment.

Mr. Strouse asked if this came forward with the approval of the Education Committee. Mrs. Huf confirmed that it did.

The motion passed 9-0.

3. Preliminary and Final Approval of WTHS Scholars Bowl Trip

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary and final approval for the WTHS Scholars Bowl Trip to Half Hollow Hills High School West Invitational in Dix Hills, Long Island, New York, on January 4-5, 2002. The cost to the District shall not exceed \$300.00 for van rental.

Mr. Strouse pointed out that this was the second time the Scholars Bowl team had brought forth a request for a trip with relatively short notice. He recommended that they find a way to ask for these approvals ahead of time.

Mr. Blatt advised that with the organization that sponsors these activities, the window that the high schools have to respond is sometimes so short that they don't know ahead of time.

Mr. Faust noted that there were two female chaperones for this trip. He wondered if it were possible to get a male and a female chaperone.

Mrs. Homel felt that Mr. Faust raised a good point but that she couldn't guarantee that.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Exception to Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status Policy

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18 to allow Student 10-8 to attend Willow Dale Elementary School till the end of January 2002. The District will continue to provide transportation.

The motion passed 9-0.

5. Bus Bids

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the transportation bids to be awarded to the following vendors:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>BID DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>BID NO.</u>	<u>TOTAL BID AMOUNT</u>
Rohrer Bus Sales	65-Passenger Conventional Buses (4)	2002-02	\$219,740.00
Rohrer Bus Sales	24-Passenger Bus (1)	2002-03	34,872.00
Blue Bird Bus Sales	19-Passenger Bus With Lift (1)	2002-04	<u>44,762.00</u>
<i>Total Net Expense</i>			\$299,374.00

This will be a 2002/03 General Fund Expenditure.

This compares to a total General Fund Expenditure in 2001/02 of \$295,022.00.

The motion passed 9-0.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Strouse indicated that he wished to delete Item 4 under Resignations, etc. This was agreed to.

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

- *Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence*
- *Appointments*
- *Change of Status*

The motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Avery suggested that we retrieve copies of this item that had already been sent to the library since this motion had been changed. Mrs. Jankowsky agreed. Also, it was decided that the Superintendent would look into this procedure.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Donna Marie Saul of 589 Lowell Road, Warminster, presented petitions given to her by a community member listing people against the middle school changes. She stated that her understanding of why the 6-period day has been passed is the 300-minutes of teaching and the desire of some of the Board members to eviscerate the middle school model. She felt that after

the blatant disregard the Board members have made to the assembled masses, there seemed to be a need for the community to look into three things, as follows:

- Charter schools
- A new private school
- Investigation of the process of recall of School Board Members

John Van Note of 526 Fisher Lane, Warminster, stated that he felt the Board was listening but not hearing but that anything that was put into place we must strive to make the best possible for the children. He felt that if Administration had not been constrained, their plan may have been different from what was presented.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mrs. Jankowsky raised the subject of Board liaisons to PTO's and asked if the Board wished to consider this practice.

Mr. Grossi stated that there was merit to it. However, some of the meetings conflict with committee meetings, which needs to be considered.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if there was support to continue this. The Board indicated that there was.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked Administration to look at the meeting nights of the PTO's so that decisions could be made as to who to appoint to which school.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Avery to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary