

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD JANUARY 22, 2002**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on January 22, 2002, 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
Dr. Thomas Sexton

* Mrs. Homel arrived at 8:45 p.m.

CEA/Teachers/Staff:

Diane Krause
Debbie Sobczak
Monica Fournier
Charlene Mertz
Pat Hill
Jill Goldner
Sue Brown
Lauren Zucker
Shannon McCall
Woody Martin
Michelle Lampl
Geri LaGuardia
Cathy Kalbfleisch
Evelyn Strong
Karen Belli
Gloria Wetzel

Jean Meyers
Mary Purdy
Alicia Rizzello
Deborah Walker
Carol Monaghan
Deborah Dougherty
Margaret Devine
Rena Friedant
Regina Gibbons
Colleen Caccavo
Roxanne Patterson
Maria Pisoni
Sharon Thomas
Susan Klenk
Leslie Bonner

Public:

Keith Crews
Grace Crews
Vanessa Thomas
Sarah Bennett
Jane Strawley
Nancy Piotrowski
Phillip Piotrowski
David Manlon
Sandy McDeid

Judith Fletcher
Matt Fletcher
Michael Horvath
Jackie Horvath
Jenna Calhoun
Michael Monaghan
Anita Miller
David Green
Brian Green

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that she had been remiss in the two previous meetings in not stating that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to each of those meetings. The items discussed at those Executive Sessions were as follows:

- December 11, 2001: Real Estate matter regarding Central Bucks' need for land
Negotiations
Personnel items
- January 8, 2002: Two Personnel matters

Mrs. Jankowsky also advised that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting relative to two personnel matters. She offered her apologies to the Board and the community for these omissions.

Mrs. Jankowsky announced that Mrs. Baranski would be serving on the Citizens Policy Committee, replacing Mr. Locke, who had a conflict on the evenings the Citizens Policy Committee would be meeting.

Mrs. Jankowsky also announced that the previous week she and Mr. Blatt had begun tours of the District's facilities to meet with administrators. They visited the high school and the two middle schools. She offered commendations to the art students and staff at the high school for the beautiful artwork. She thanked the students from Hallways 6A and 6B at Klinger Middle School for their fine work. She stated that the hallways looked beautiful. She also thanked the students and staff at Log College Middle School for their project exhibitions in the Science program, that it was delightful.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she had received a note from a Klinger parent advising Board members that there would be an adults-only meeting at Klinger on January 28th regarding drug awareness.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that the Centennial Education Foundation would be auctioning off a Jeep Wrangler. Tickets were \$25 each and could be purchased from Mr. Hertenberger.

Mr. Hertenberger stated that the proceeds from this auction would provide funds for grants, which teachers could use for special programs that were not provided for within the budget.

PRESENTATIONS

Board Member Recognition – Leary School

Dr. Gloria Wetzel stated that the Leary School team, made up of educators, staff, parents and students, wished to salute the support of the Centennial School Board. She explained that when Leary was awarded the Blue Ribbon of Excellence last year, they wanted to thank the Board for its continued support. The art teachers came up with a mosaic that reflects all parts of the educational community working separately yet together to produce a living work of art.

Dr. Wetzel spoke at length about everyone who had helped with the process of submitting the application for Blue Ribbon School. She also explained how they came up with the idea of the mosaic and how it was made.

Matt Fletcher, a 4th grade student at Leary, read a thank-you to the Board that he had prepared. He thanked them for the computer labs, the reading anthologies, for hiring the janitors and for the buses. He thanked the Board for everything.

It was decided that the mosaic would remain in the Board Room for a while; then be displayed at Leary.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Anita Miller of 400 Grape Street, Warminster, addressed the Board regarding the public posting of progress for each student with regard to the reading standard at McDonald School. She felt that this should not be done, that it should be between the student and the teacher. She indicated that she had made several calls regarding this matter but that the progress reports were still being displayed. She advised that she had spoken to Mrs. Poole, who didn't feel that the posting was improper.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that the Board would consult with Administration and keep Mrs. Miller advised.

PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

Data Report

Dr. Sexton presented the Data Report for Centennial School District for the 2000-2001 school year, which addressed the following topics:

- Student Achievement
- Student Profile
- Staff Profile
- District Profile
- Financial Profile

Dr. Sexton then entertained questions from the Board.

Mr. Grossi stated that 60% of AP students taking the AP exam was way too low (page 5.) Mr. Grossi asked how many special education students were returned to regular education classes (page 10.) Dr. Sexton advised that he could get this information.

Mr. Faust stated that Centennial's tuition rate was usually higher at the secondary level but that this year it was higher at the elementary level (page 28.) He questioned why.

Dr. Sexton stated that it was his understanding from Mr. Vail that we get the tuition rates from Harrisburg, that we do not determine them. Mr. Faust requested more information on this.

Mr. Avery questioned the difference of approximately \$800,000 between expenditures versus revenue (page 24.) He wondered if we could explain where the difference came from. Dr. Sexton indicated that he could find out. Mr. Grossi stated that we probably deficit spent by that amount (and that we planned to.)

Mr. Grossi questioned why there was a drop in the number of students who took the AP exam (page 5.)

Dr. Sexton stated that many of the students sign up for the courses with the intention of taking the exam but as they get closer to it, they change their minds. Mrs. Jankowsky advised that the expectation used to be that if a student took the AP course, they also took the exam. Somewhere along the line, that changed.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she felt that it would be a good idea to examine the special education information.

Mrs. Homel arrived at the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

MINUTES

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that only Committee Minutes should be presented at Work Sessions and that the Board Meeting minutes should be held until the first meeting of the month (the Regular School Board Meeting.) She indicated that that was how it would be done in the future.

GOOD NEWS

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

Dr. Sexton congratulated the Boys High School Basketball team for a great record. He also advised that the Superintendent's birthday was the following day.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that, as liaison to Stackpole Elementary School, she was pleased to hear that the Stackpole staff had a community service project in which the teachers and the staff were volunteering to run a homework club once a week. She commended them for this effort.

MINUTES (Continued)

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

- *Reorganization Meeting – 12/3/01*
- *Regular School Board Meeting – 12/11/01*

The motion passed 9-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting of 12/3/01.

The motion passed 9-0.

POLICIES

Discussion:

2.2 – Professional Personnel Placement, Assignment and Transfer

No discussion.

3.26 – Student Attendance

Mrs. Jankowsky questioned Item II, D. She wondered if this was added because there was a problem with student punctuality

Dr. Sexton stated that he thought this was added to standardize the policy.

6.5 – Diplomas for World War II Veterans

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this was a new policy, which would put the District in compliance with Act 73 of 2001.

Mr. Faust asked if this policy had been reviewed by the solicitor. Dr. Sexton responded that it was discussed over the phone with the solicitor.

7.6 – Gifts

No discussion.

7.25 – Adult Smoking

No discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Exception to Board Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Students 1-1 and 13-18
2. Exception to Board Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 3-7

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

- *An exception to Policy 7.18 to allow student 1-1 to remain at Leary Elementary School in his special education assignment and student 13-18 to remain at McDonald Elementary School because of ESL placement until the end of the 2001/02 school year. The parents will provide transportation.*
- *An exception to Policy 7.18 to allow student 3-7 to attend Klinger Middle School till the end of the 2001/02 school year. The District will continue to provide transportation.*

Mr. Strouse asked if Administration was recommending these exceptions. Dr. Sexton answered affirmatively. Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that in the future Administration could note their recommendation in the backup material provided.

The motion passed 9-0.

3. Preliminary Approval for Trip by WTHS Key Club to Convention in Pittsburgh, PA

Mr. Strouse asked how many students would be going. Shannon McCall, a teacher at Tennent and advisor to the Key Club, responded that there would be seven students going on the trip.

Mr. Faust stated that he would support this trip but noted that there were three chaperones, all female.

Ms. McCall stated that at this point, there were all females going on the trip.

Mr. Blatt stated that he understood Mr. Faust's concern but that this had been discussed at the cabinet level and that they were aware of the situation.

Mr. Strouse pointed out that transportation was being provided by the mother of one of the students. He questioned whether there was a policy regarding a parent providing transportation to other students and parents and wondered whether there was an insurance concern.

Ms. McCall felt that this might be covered by the Kiwanis. Mrs. Homel stated that she would speak to them the next day and that if there was a concern, transportation could be provided by the school van.

Mr. Grossi reminded the Board that this was only preliminary approval. The policy requires that before final approval is given, the insurance provisions must be properly addressed.

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for the WTHS Key Club trip to Pittsburgh, PA on March 22-24, 2002. There is no cost to the District.

Mr. Faust questioned whether Act 34 clearances, etc. were needed since a parent was being listed as a chaperone for the trip.

Mr. Blatt stated that he would get an answer for this question but that he did not think Act 34 clearances were needed for a chaperone for an isolated event.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Lead Teacher of Language Arts K-8

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that this had come forward from the Education Committee.

Mrs. Huf questioned whether this was K-8 or K-12. Dr. Masko advised that it was originally brought forward as K-12. The advice of the Education Committee was that it should be K-8. They felt that K-12 was too much to ask of a part-time person.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that this was half of the potential position and that it was a pilot program.

Mr. Strouse was concerned that this was a K-8 position for a person who was teaching at the high school. He stated that he would vote in favor of the motion because he felt the position was necessary but that he preferred that the person be teaching at the appropriate level.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves creation of the position of Lead Teacher of Language Arts K-8 for the 2002/03 school year as a one-year pilot program. Fiscal note of \$24,545 includes salary and benefits.

Mr. Faust commented that he felt he was put in the position that he had been asking for this particular position for the last couple years but that he could not support it in this particular form. He felt that something was needed K-8, no matter how it was set up, because we are passing on 25% of our students to the high school without even a remedial reading program at the high school. He felt that we were correct in addressing this early but felt that a more holistic approach was needed.

The motion passed 8-1. (Mr. Faust opposed.)

5. Impact Aid Application 2002

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board directs Timothy E. Vail, Business Administrator, to prepare and submit the District's Title VIII (Impact Aid) application for 2002.

The motion passed 9-0.

6. Appointment of Impact Aid Representative

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints Joseph Faust, Board Member, to serve as Impact Aid representative. This appointment is in accordance with federal regulations requiring the appointment of a representative prior to the filing of Centennial's funding application in March 2002. Mr. Faust is authorized to sign the completed 2002 Impact Aid application as it is submitted to the U.S. Department of Education.

The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Superintendent's Contract

Mr. Grossi advised that the contract had been prepared but that there was a glitch. Therefore, the motion would be made but he asked that it be tabled until the next meeting so that it could be redone properly.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves that the conditions set forth for Mr. Blatt's employment as Superintendent have been fulfilled and a form of agreement satisfactory to the School District's solicitor has been prepared. The President and Secretary are authorized to execute said Agreement.

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

The motion to table passed 9-0.

Mr. Grossi apologized to the Board for this problem. Mrs. Jankowsky advised that this matter would come forward at the next meeting.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves all personnel recommendations.

The motion passed 9-0.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Board Liaison to Home and School Association Meetings

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that at the previous meeting she had asked if the Board members were still committed to having this and that they indicated that they were. A list of buildings and their meeting dates was to have been distributed to Board members; however, Board members indicated that they did not receive it.

Mrs. Jankowsky decided that this would wait until the next meeting. Board members could volunteer for a school that fit their schedules. Then assignments would be made and the Associations notified.

Mrs. Huf advised that the next Education Committee meeting would be on Monday, February 4th.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary