

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING  
HELD FEBRUARY 26, 2002**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on February 26, 2002, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Jankowsky at 7:40 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

CEA/Teachers/Principals:

Pearline Greene  
Sue Young  
Woody Martin  
Mick Sander  
Jerry Albrecht  
Carolyn Fisher  
Deena Hausman

Administration:

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

Public:

Herb Smull  
Donna Marie Saul  
Stephen Bondira  
Alison Hawkes  
Eileen Phillips  
Cynthia Mueller  
Stephen Ullrich  
Susan Smull  
Rich Hausman

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Jankowsky announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting relative to legal matters regarding actions under New Business.

Mrs. Jankowsky also made the following announcements:

- A reminder to Board members to return their I.U. voting forms as soon as possible.
- Financial interest forms are due to be filed with the school district by mid-March.

Mrs. Jankowsky then read a statement about the School Board's prudent handling of District finances. It stated that events at the State level were placing all Pennsylvania school districts in a difficult budgetary position. Several examples were given. Relative to the Public School Employee Retirement System, there was a 517% increase to our District, which translated to a \$900,000 unfunded mandate from the State in that category alone. Also, the Commonwealth is proposing a 1% increase in our basic subsidy. For special education a 1.5% increase in State funding borders on the outrageous. All of this, plus the normal costs for fuel, heating, lights, etc. add up to an extremely difficult and challenging budget year. The Board felt that providing information and an explanation on these issues would help engender a degree of understanding and appreciation for what school districts throughout the State are facing. Mrs. Jankowsky advised that there would be public information sessions scheduled across the school district over the next two months regarding this matter.

## **PRESENTATION**

### Stackpole School Homework Club

Pearline Greene, Principal of Stackpole School, spoke about the homework club that had been started at Stackpole School. She explained how it worked and that it had been underway for about five weeks.

Dina Hausman, a Stackpole teacher, spoke about how the club came about and indicated that there had been positive feedback from both students and parents.

Sue Young, another Stackpole teacher, stated that she had students requesting to be invited to the club and also had parents ask if their children could attend.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked Mrs. Greene, Mrs. Hausman and Mrs. Young for coming to this meeting. Mr. Blatt thanked them for their dedication.

Mr. Faust asked whether transportation had been an issue. Mrs. Greene responded that so far she was aware of only two students who had not been able to attend because of transportation problems.

Mr. Grossi stated that if the program was successful, possibly we could find transportation for it.

Dr. Sexton agreed that if this program was continued, transportation could be addressed.

## COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Cathy Harlem of 330 Twin Streams Drive addressed the issue of State seals on diplomas. She hoped that the District would tell the State that it was unfair to label a child on the basis of one test. She felt that it was a form of discrimination.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that she thought these opinions had been expressed by most of the Board members also.

Cynthia Mueller of 228 Gravel Hill Road, Huntingdon Valley, had several issues of concern, as follows:

- She indicated that she had attended a team meeting and that she noticed one of the teachers who usually ran the meeting was leaving at 1:00 for a middle school initiative. She felt that if there were six teachers leaving early, that was a concern.
- She was told there were teachers that were pulled out of class and told that they might not have jobs next year and that this had been done before the budget was even presented to the Board. She felt that was a poor way to handle this since the teachers then had to go back in to teach their classes after having received this news.
- Children were being pulled out of class for tutorials on the PSSA's, including those who scored Advanced. These students felt this was a waste of time, especially since the test would not be taken for two years.
- High School block scheduling – there were some children who took all their Math, English, etc. in the first half of the year and took only electives (“fluff”) in the second half. That meant they would go for 9 months without any core subjects.

Mr. Blatt explained that the staff members were pulled out for a 1:00 meeting. In education it is always a challenge to try to find time with the staff. They were trying to find a balance and hoped to keep to a minimum their time away from the students.

Regarding notification of teachers, Mr. Blatt advised that they had been requested by the teachers to personally inform them as soon as they had some idea of what was happening. Therefore, one day was picked to do this so they would all receive information on the same day.

Regarding scheduling, Mrs. Homel stated that if as Mrs. Mueller indicated was the case, then she would like to know who the student was so she could determine how this happened. She advised that she would check into it.

Regarding 6<sup>th</sup> grade tutorials, Mrs. Homel stated that all through school we should be addressing the PSSA's, whether or not students were taking them that particular year. It was part of the preparation.

Mr. Grossi advised that there was a budget calendar and that the Finance Committee was right on schedule. Regarding the PSSA's, Mr. Grossi stated that he has been told that our curriculum follows them very well. With regard to block scheduling, he indicated that they were following this and if the results were not good, it would be changed.

Donna Marie Saul of 589 Lowell Road, Warminster, addressed the Board about several issues, as follows:

- PSSA tutorials – She felt that teaching to the test was absurd and that to take time out of the day for tutorials when the children were already proficient was not a good use of time.
- She felt that if the middle school changes had not been pushed through so quickly, the teachers might not have had to be pulled out of class to discuss the changes.
- 18-book requirement – She stated that she had seen no policy about this, that there was no documentation.
- Regarding Phys Ed makeups at the high school, she felt that having the makeup should be all physical activity, not part writing exercises.
- The Principal's Newsletter had a heading that stated something about gifted education; however, what was listed was the required English courses. The article made it sound like we have a great program; however, this is something that was prescribed by law. She felt that this was another way to make gifted children look like elitists and they are not.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked Administration to provide some information on these issues.

## **GOOD NEWS**

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

## **PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Jankowsky requested that Personnel issues be moved up. The Board had no objection.

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Change of Status; Homebound; Substitute Custodian; Substitute Safe School Officers; and Support Staff Substitutes.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **MINUTES**

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

- *Finance Committee – 12/17/01*
- *Education Committee -- 1/7/02*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **POLICIES**

### Discussion:

#### 3.5 – Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Handicap

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that this policy had been reviewed by the solicitor. Since there were no comments, she requested Administration to move this forward for the next meeting.

#### 3.18 – Student Indebtedness

Section II. A. 2. – Mr. Faust stated that “parent” could also be legal guardian. He indicated that we usually put a footnote to that effect. There was consensus that this be done.

#### 3.20 – WTHS Driving and Parking

Mr. Faust stated that when the solicitor reviewed one of the previous policies, it seemed that he had a problem with the word “handicap” and changed it to “disability.” In this policy the word “handicapped” was used in two places. He felt that if the solicitor felt this was appropriate for the previous policy, it would be appropriate for this one.

Mr. Strouse stated that in the first instance (Section I. C.), the reference was to a parking space. The State refers to parking spaces as “handicapped”, so this would be appropriate. In Section II. B. 1., the reference is to students, so “disabled” should be used.

Mrs. Jankowsky questioned the reference to “business” days in Section V. She suggested that “school” days be used.

Mr. Avery questioned whether “school” days meant days when students are in the building and “business” days would mean when Administration is working but students are off. Dr. Sexton felt that was the case, so “business” days would be the proper term to use in this case.

Mr. Strouse pointed out that since this section related to payment of a parking citation, someone could get a citation on the last day of school and not pay it until September if they had three “school days” to do so.

Mrs. Jankowsky agreed that it should remain “business days”.

#### 7.22 – Discrimination

Mr. Faust pointed out that the last page of the policy cites Policy 3.5 but does not state the proper name of the policy.

Mr. Strouse indicated that the name of this policy was changed to “Hostile Environment” but that language is not used anywhere in the policy. He felt that seemed strange.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the policy had been reviewed by the solicitor. Dr. Sexton explained that the term “hostile environment” was chosen because they could not reach agreement on any term that addressed every situation so they agreed on “hostile environment.”

Mr. Strouse suggested that the term could be used in the policy statement. There was concurrence by the Board to do so.

In Section III. B., Mrs. Jankowsky questioned what the procedure would be if the Superintendent was the person against whom allegations were being made. Mr. Faust pointed out that that situation was covered under Section IV. A.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that all of the above policies would come forward at the next meeting for final approval.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Exception to Board Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 1-23
2. Exception to Board Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Students 10-13 and 10-13

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

- (1) *An exception to policy 7.18 to allow student 1-23 to remain at Willow Dale Elementary School until the end of the 2001/02 school year. Parent provides transportation.*
- (2) *An exception to policy 7.18 to allow students 10-13 and 10-13 to remain at Willow Dale Elementary School until the end of the 2001/02 school year. Parent provides transportation.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

3. Preliminary Approval for Trip by WTHS FBLA Club to the State Competition in Champion, Pennsylvania

Carolyn Fisher stated that this had been a great year for the club, that they had the most winners ever. She indicated that it was her last year with FBLA and thanked the Board for always giving her what she needed for the club.

Mrs. Huf pointed out that there were 27 students and only 2 chaperones for this trip. She wondered if two chaperones were enough. Mrs. Fisher explained that she had had trouble finding more chaperones.

Mr. Faust advised that this was a policy issue and that it would probably take an exception from the Board because the policy called for one chaperone for every ten students.

Mr. Strouse felt it would be best if Mrs. Fisher could find a third chaperone. If she could not, then she could come back to the Board for an exception.

*A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for the WTHS Future Business Leaders of America trip to Champion, Pennsylvania on April 8-10, 2002. The cost to the District will not exceed \$7,500.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

Mr. Blatt commented on Mrs. Fisher's hard work and level of dedication to the students. He also spoke about Jerry Albrecht and the great job that he was doing.

4. Release and Settlement Agreement for Student 10-23
5. Release and Settlement Agreement for Student 22-18

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

- (4) *The Release and Settlement Agreement for student 10-23.*
- (5) *The Release and Settlement Agreement for student 22-18.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

6. Permission to Accept Funding

Mr. Faust questioned why the Safe & Drug Free Schools grant amount had decreased. Dr. Sexton explained that it was because the money available had decreased this year.

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to accept funding for the 2001/02 school year for the following grants:*

<i>Title I</i>	<i>\$498,331</i>
<i>Title II</i>	<i>26,627</i>
<i>Title VI</i>	<i>24,116</i>
<i>Class Size Reduction</i>	<i>171,681</i>
<i>Safe &amp; Drug Free</i>	<i>25,706</i>
<i>Read to Succeed, Stackpole</i>	<i>28,572</i>
<i>Read to Succeed, Leary</i>	<i>39,387</i>
<i>Bureau of Special Ed</i>	<i>7,500</i>
<i>Mini Grant "Longstreth Learners"</i>	
<i>Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth</i>	<i>42,320</i>

*The motion passed 9-0.*

7. State Seals on High School Diplomas

*A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board states its opposition to state seals on high school diplomas (see attachment).*

Mrs. Huf stated that she felt that requiring the seals was treading on the local school districts; therefore, she strongly supported this motion.

Mr. Grossi felt that the seals were unnecessary. He also felt we needed to copy the Senate majority and minority leaders and the same in the House of Representatives since they were the people responsible for the setting the agendas for the House and the Senate.

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to add to #3 of the resolution that copies of the resolution also be forwarded to the Senate majority and minority leaders and the same in the House of Representatives.*

Mr. Faust stated that he felt the Speaker of the House should also be added. Mr. Grossi agreed. Mrs. Jankowsky clarified that what was meant was the leadership of both parties in both houses, in addition to the people listed in the resolution.

Mr. Hertenberger felt that there should be a lobbying leader from all the school districts.

Mr. Blatt advised that he had monthly meetings in Doylestown with all the Superintendents. He indicated that he could serve as the clearinghouse in working with them on this matter. There was consensus of the Board that he do this.

*The amendment passed 9-0.*

Mr. Faust brought forth the point that he was not sure the Board was opposed to the actual PSSA tests. Under Item 1 of the resolution (second page), he felt that the wording might not be accurate where it stated, “which relate to the PSSA tests, ...”

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that perhaps the wording should be changed. After a short discussion, it was decided that the wording be changed by deleting the words, “the PSSA tests.”

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she felt some information should be provided on the website regarding this matter. She requested that Administration do this.

Mr. Avery commented on item 3 under the “Whereas” clauses on the first page stating that this would “require Pennsylvania School Districts to ‘teach to the test.’” He felt that this language should not be included since he felt that we were teaching to the standards and that the test is testing the students on the standards.

*A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Grossi to amend the motion by removing the language “teach to the test.”*

Dr. Sexton suggested that the sentence end after the phrase “School Board”, thereby reading as follows: “The imposition of the single test ignores the curriculum carefully developed by the administrators, teachers, community and School Board.” Mr. Grossi and Mr. Avery agreed.

*A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Grossi to amend the motion by removing the words “PSSA test” in item one of the resolution (page 2).*

Mr. Locke suggested that we add “to state its opposition to State seals on high school diplomas” at the top of the resolution at the end of the capitalized section.

*The motion to amend by removing the words “PSSA test” in item one of the resolution (page 2) passed 8-0-1. (Mrs. Baranski abstained.)*

*The motion to amend by removing the language “teach to the test” passed 9-0.*

*A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to amend the motion by adding “TO STATE ITS OPPOSITION TO STATE SEALS ON WILLIAM TENNENT HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS” at the top of the resolution at the end of the capitalized section.*

Mr. Strouse indicated that he would prefer to leave it as it was. Mr. Grossi felt that we should state this at the top of the resolution because that was all a lot of the people would read.

*The motion to amend by adding additional wording at the top of the resolution passed 6-3 (Mr. Faust, Mr. Strouse and Mrs. Huf opposed.)*

*The amended motion passed 9-0.*

**OTHER**

None

**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 9:33 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary