

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD MARCH 12, 2002**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on March 12, 2002, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Jankowsky at 7:33 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:

Dr. Bucky Clark

Administration:

David Blatt
Sandy Homel
Dr. Michael Masko
Jean Rollo

Public:

Barb Patrick
Lou Patrick
Billy Patrick

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Jankowsky reminded Board members that financial interest statements were due to the District offices and that the I.U. voting forms were also due.

Mrs. Jankowsky spoke about the following items:

- She received a letter from the President of the Central Bucks School Board, as well as one from the Allentown School District, regarding the budgetary impact of a pension increase. She indicated that copies of these letters would be distributed to Board members and that this matter would appear on the agenda for the next meeting.

- She and Mr. Blatt had visited McDonald School for “Diversity Day” and also for Dr. Seuss’s birthday. She stated that the programs were very enjoyable and worthwhile and thanked everyone from McDonald School for treating them well.
- She attended the Klinger performance of “Guys and Dolls”, which was very enjoyable. Everyone involved did a wonderful job.
- She thanked Mr. Lasher for the ½ day capital tour, which took place on a Saturday.
- She and Mr. Blatt received a very warm welcome from the staff and students at the Dorothy Henry School when they visited recently.

Mr. Grossi spoke about an article that had appeared in *The Courier* regarding the pension issue. He felt that the State could have come up with a better plan for increasing retirement benefits without bankrupting all the school districts.

PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Jankowsky spoke about Phillip Patrick of Log College, who won the 12th Annual Regional Spelling Bee. Phillip will advance to the National Spelling Bee in Washington in May. Mrs. Jankowsky and Mr. Blatt presented Phillip with a certificate and the congratulations of the District. Brenda Hurley commented that Phillip was very dedicated and worked very hard to prepare for the competition. Dr. Clark congratulated Phillip on his achievement.

Barbara Patrick, Phillip’s mother, stated that Phillip does have a gift and that he has been given many opportunities and extra challenges at Centennial. She thanked everyone.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Debbie Coonelly of 1014 Hilltop Road, Southampton, addressed the Board regarding teaching changes in the Music Department. She advised that her daughter was the President of the Madrigal Singers. Mrs. Coonelly stated that everyone was extremely disappointed that they would be losing Mr. Dinkins. They felt he had brought them together as they hadn’t been for a long time. She stated that if there was anything that could be done to keep him in the District, it would mean a lot.

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

Paul Midzak reported as follows:

- The Senior Class was sponsoring Rage for AIDS, the Mr. Tennent Competition and a school musical, “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.” The musical would be held April 18-20 and they were hoping to get many senior citizens to attend.
- Spring sports are starting.
- He was very proud of the swimming, basketball and track teams.
- One of our Juniors is currently leading in the Pennsylvania Math League Competition.
- Black & White Night competitions would be this week.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Gil Torres reported as follows:

- There were three bids received on the student-built house and a bid of \$65,000 was approved.
- 18 students from the Cosmetology class would be teaming up with a local “MOMS” group (“Mothers Offering Mothers Support”). They would be offering a “hair-a-thon” on March 18th to benefit the MOMS club charities.
- Aspirations Restaurant is open for lunch on Wednesday and Thursday. Reservations are required.
- Students in the Early Child Care program will be working with community members to plan an end-of-year preschool show, “A Tribute to America.”
- Computer and Information Technology students are rebuilding donated computers, which will be awarded to deserving students.

GOOD NEWS

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

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Blatt stated that he had no report since every of substance had already been covered.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Huf advised that the Education Committee had met on March 4th, at which the following topics were addressed:

- Mr. Grossi presented data based on his longitudinal study of area PSSA scores.
- Resolutions were approved for the 2002 distribution of computers to elementary, middle and high schools.
- Information was discussed regarding the virtual high school program and the International Baccalaureate Middle Schools program.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 8th. The topics will be the strategic plan update and Centennial School District student performance standards for grades 1 through 11.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Strouse commented that Mr. Torres had given a very nice report. He advised that the Executive Council of MBIT had met the previous evening. The topics included:

- Submission of RP’s to architects for determination as to whether or not MBIT should moved forward on a comprehensive basis.
- Report by Mr. Grossi regarding the budget concerns.

Mr. Grossi explained that the most recent revision to the proposed MBIT budget reduced the increase from \$1 million to about \$800,000. Mr. Grossi presented a general outline of a long-range reorganization plan that he felt was very workable for MBIT. The plan would yield a savings to Centennial of \$620,000 over the current proposed levels, as well as a savings to other districts.

Mr. Grossi advised that there would be a meeting on March 14th to begin a review on the budget on a line-by-line basis.

Mr. Strouse reported that there was recognition at the meeting of the four winners from MBIT at the VICA competition.

Intermediate Unit

Mr. Locke advised that the committee had met and discussed various plans for coordinating a meeting between the School Board members and the Bucks County Legislative Delegation. The meeting is scheduled for April 2nd.

PSBA

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that PSBA's course #3, "Effective Meetings" would be the following evening. She indicated that she, Mr. Blatt and Mrs. Huf would be attending and that so far the courses had been very worthwhile.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Grossi advised that a meeting was scheduled for March 18th and that the committee would be getting into budget discussions in earnest, starting with the revenues. He indicated that the budget process would accelerate from this point forward.

Title VIII

No report.

Federal Lands Reuse Authority

Mr. Grossi advised that the transfer of the West side would be coming soon and that there would be revenue when that occurs.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

Citizens Policy

No report.

Legislative Liaison

Mr. Faust indicated that the April 2nd would be a big meeting as far as legislative issues. The school districts are concerned that the legislature has not passed on any savings to the districts but keep coming up with mandates that require the districts to spend more cash.

Mr. Locke left the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

MINUTES

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

- *Regular School Board Meeting – 2/12/02*
- *Work/Regular School Board Meeting – 2/26/02*

The motion passed 8-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Initial Review:

Mr. Avery enumerated the following polices for initial review:

- 2.4 – Housekeeping
- 2.10 – Supervising and Evaluating Professional Performance
- 2.16 – Service Staff Education/Training Cost Subsidy
- 4.7 – Payroll
- 5.10 – Copyright Compliance
- 7.3 – Emergency School Closing/Early Dismissal

Final Adoption:

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that she had a request from a Board member to pull Policy 7.22 – Discrimination since there were some changes made to the policy but the revised policy was not included in the Board's packet. The policy will be included in the agenda for the next Work Session if the Board agreed. There was a consensus of the Board to do so.

Mr. Locke returned to the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

3.5 – Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Handicap

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 3.5 – Non- Discrimination on the Basis of Handicap.

The motion passed 9-0.

3.18 – Student Indebtedness

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 3.18 – Student Indebtedness.

Mr. Faust referred to the Work Session Minutes of January 11th regarding the policies. He stated that he would like to confirm that the revisions set forth in those minutes had been made to the policies.

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Avery to table this motion until the next Work Session.

The motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Strouse stated that he would like to see this motion appear on the agenda for the work Session of march 26th, under Old Business.

3.20 – William Tennent High School Driving and Parking

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 3.20 – William Tennent High School Driving and Parking.

Mr. Faust pointed out that that there were about five or six paragraphs in the minutes relating to this policy. He felt that this should also be tabled.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Strouse to table this motion until the Work Session of March 26th.

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 – February 2002*
- *Investments – February 2002*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – February 2002*

and approves the:

- *Treasurer’s Report/Fund Profiles – February 2002*
- *Budgetary Transfers – March 2002*

The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS1. FBLA Trip to Champion, Pennsylvania

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval for William Tennent High School Future Business Leaders of America trip to Champion, Pennsylvania on April 8-10, 2002. Cost to the District is \$8,100.

Mr. Strouse thanked Mrs. Fisher and Mr. Albrecht for finding a third chaperone for this trip so that we are in compliance with the policy.

The motion passed 9-0.

2 & 3. Exceptions to Board Policy 7.18 – Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status

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

- (2) An exception to Policy 7.18 to allow student 13-6 to attend Kindergarten at Longstreth Elementary School for the 2002/03 school year. Tuition will be required. Parents will provide transportation.*
- (3) An exception to Policy 7.18 to allow student 6-1 to remain at Stackpole Elementary School for the 2001/02 school year. Parents will provide transportation.*

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Exception to Board Policy 7.18 – Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18 to allow student 1-7 to remain at Stackpole Elementary School for the 2001/02 school year. Parents will provide transportation.

Mr. Strouse pointed out that this exception involved a student moving out of the District. He asked if arrangements had been made for tuition. Mr. Blatt responded that he would check into this.

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Faust to table this motion until the March 26th meeting pending an answer to the tuition inquiry.

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

5. Appoint District Depository

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints Commerce bank as Centennial School District Depository for all District accounts for the period July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2005, as per the terms and conditions of their proposal (attached) submitted February 15, 2002.

Mr. Grossi advised that a series of RFP's were sent out and that this was the most beneficial to the District.

The motion passed 9-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items:

- *Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence*
- *Homebound Tutor*
- *Title I Tutor*
- *Support Staff Substitutes*
- *Substitute Bus Driver*
- *Co-Curricular Additions, Changes and Deletions*

The motion passed 9-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Jankowsky referred to the following communications:

- February 25th letter from the Good Schools PA organization regarding an Interfaith Prayer Vigil on Centennial Road near William Tennent High School.
- March 2nd letter regarding the Centennial music program.
- March 8th letter providing an apology and reminder of the interfaith prayer vigil on March 13th.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested Mr. Blatt to copy these letters to the Board.

Mrs. Huf questioned how the prayer vigil came about.

Mr. Blatt explained that representatives of Good Schools PA set this up without District input. He was not exactly sure where this would be held, although a representative of the Centennial Police had spoken with the organization. Apparently they satisfied the police that they would not be on the road. Mr. Blatt indicated that he had shared his concerns with the organization.

Mrs. Huf stated that since this was not a school-sponsored event, she would not attend.

Mr. Strouse noted that it was his understanding that the District has not granted permission for the group to use district property. Mrs. Jankowsky confirmed that.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mr. Blatt addressed the issue of the basketball team. He stated that although the wins and losses on the court were certainly important, also important was the way our youngsters performed throughout the season. He indicated that he had many comments about how well they represented William Tennent High School. He stated that he was very proud to share this.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mrs. Huf to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary