

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD APRIL 23, 2002**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on April 23, 2002, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Jankowsky at 7:38 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
Barbara Fash
Sandy Homel
Dr. Thomas Sexton
Timothy Vail

CEA/Teachers:

Chick Donnelly
Heather Stek

Public:

Brian Bassler
Brent Bellinger
Chris Bellinger
Steve Brown
Chad Carmeans
Maggie Cirino
R. Coleman
Glenn Dolton
Mike Donnelly
Mick Donovan
Ryan Donovan
Sue Donovan
Paul Dudley
Bob Evans
Karen Evans
Steve Evans

Lisa Forlini
Sue Kershner
Stephen Kraus
Terry Kraus
Jeremy Lopez
Matt McCarney
Shawn McMullen
Mark Miller
Matt Monk
Julie Palumbo
Andrew Presner
Troy Roberson
Brian Sammler
Michele Sammler
Wayne Sammler
John Sarge

Public:

Dave Schreiner
David Schreiner
Ant Silver
Nena Smith
John Stay
Beth Straight

Jenna Straight
Jeremy Straight
Jane Strawley
Jacki Tinari
Brian Williams
Ron Williams

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 relative to litigation the District is involved in and an update on the negotiations process.

Mrs. Jankowsky also made the following announcements:

- April 24th was Administrative Professionals Day across the nation. She thanked all of the administrative professionals in the District for their hard work.
- She visited Stackpole School the previous week when they honored Troy Vincent of the Eagles. It was a wonderful celebration.
- She attended the Read to Succeed brunch at Stackpole.
- She attended the ceremony of Leary’s 4th grade honoring Senator Greenleaf.
- The previous Thursday, Crystal Woods, the State champion in the discus throw, was honored.

PRESENTATIONS

Members of the Cast of “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum”

Mrs. Poroszok spoke about the William Tennent High School performance of “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.” Some of the cast attended this meeting and performed several selections from the play.

Recognition of WTHS Athletic Program and Winter Athletes

Mr. Pacchioli presented certificates to the following athletic teams:

- Boys Winter Track Team – John Goldsworthy, Head Coach
- Girls Winter Track Team – Bernie Miller, Coach
- Swimming – Lisa and Jamie Forlini, Coaches
- Diving – Maggie Cerino, Coach
- Boys Basketball – Glenn Dolton, Coach

Mrs. Jankowsky presented the Boys Basketball team with their championship jackets.

Ray Coleman spoke about David Blatt and his integrity. He was happy to see him back in education where he belongs. He also spoke about the Suburban One League and the Sportsmanship Award. He presented a plaque to Mrs. Jankowsky for the William Tennent High School Winter Sports teams.

Mr. Blatt thanked Mr. Coleman for his kind comments. He spoke about the efforts of Mr. Coleman on behalf of the students and thanked him. He also spoke about the coaches and students and their achievements.

High School Administrative Team Reorganization Plan

Mr. Blatt advised that the High School Administrative Team would like for the Reorganization Plan to be implemented in the next school year. There would be no cost for implementation. Mr. Blatt indicated that he had worked in this type of setting before and that it works.

Mrs. Poroszok explained that the goal was to address the concerns already pinpointed in the past, including the failure rate among Freshmen and the discipline problems with Freshmen. She felt that this seemed like a good plan to make the academic plan for students stronger than before.

Mr. Grossi stated that he felt this would be a huge step forward.

GOOD NEWS

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

- *Finance Committee – 2/25/02, 3/18/02, 3/25/02, 4/4/02*
- *Education Committee – 3/4/02*

The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mrs. Huf abstained.)

POLICIES

Discussion:

3.24 – Family Trips Scheduled During the School Year

Mr. Faust questioned why Section II C was being deleted. He felt there could be a case where it might be beneficial for a student to go on a family trip of longer than five days. Dr. Sexton advised that the administrative committee felt that a trip of longer than five days would be against the benefit of the student academically.

Mr. Faust stated that he would not be able to support this without providing room for an exception. Mr. Strouse agreed that there might be a case where an exception is warranted.

Mr. Avery asked whether a student/parent would have to come before the Board if they wanted an exception. Dr. Sexton indicated that they would but the recommendation of Administration would be not to grant an exception.

Mrs. Huf suggested that perhaps a sentence could be included for extenuating circumstances.

Mr. Grossi stated that he could not support a policy what won't allow exceptions. He did not feel that the parents should have to come before the Board. Mr. Blatt felt that it might be beneficial to have the exception provision.

Mrs. Jankowsky was concerned that we might be sending a double message since the Board expresses concern about absenteeism and then considers absences of longer than five days.

Mr. Hertenberger felt that Administration should handle exceptions. Mr. Faust suggested that the provision could be worded so that the Superintendent's decision was final so the matter could not come before the Board.

There was additional discussion regarding whether Section II A meant one trip or more than one trip. Dr. Sexton indicated that this provision was meant to cover one or more trips, for a maximum of five days.

After discussion, Mrs. Jankowsky summarized the Board's feeling that there was need for an exceptions process for a trip of more than five days. Section III C already covered the appeal process. Also, clarification was needed regarding the number of trips.

4.8 – Disposal of Surplus Furniture, Supplies, Books & Equipment

It was Mr. Grossi's opinion that a sale should be held periodically to dispose of surplus items, with the proceeds going to the Education Association.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that if the Business Administrator was mentioned on the statement page, he should be mentioned within the text of the policy in order to maintain consistency.

5.1 – Homework

Mr. Faust questioned Section C.5. regarding review and checking of homework assignments. Dr. Sexton advised that this came out of the Citizens Policy Committee and that there were several different interpretations of “review.” Therefore, it was decided that “check” should be added.

Regarding Section C.4., Mr. Avery questioned whether an indication should be made as to “excused” or “unexcused” absences. Dr. Sexton advised that this item had also come out of Citizens Policy and that it was assumed that the absence would be because of illness or another excused absence.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that this go back to the Citizens Policy Committee for discussion.

7.1 – Adult Education

Pat Gillan, the Director of the Adult Education Program, explained that there were two parts to the Adult Education Program, as follows:

- recreational/personal growth programs
- ESL/ABE/GED programs, which come out of Federal/State monies

This policy refers only to the recreational/growth portion. The other items are usually handled under the Federal Grant Program.

It was decided to delay this policy until there was a vote on Item #8 under New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

8. ABE/ESL/GED Services

Mrs. Jankowsky summarized the proposed motion, which would provide permission to allow Volunteers In Teaching Alternatives (VITA) to service the ABE/ESL/GED Program for the 2002/03 school year at no cost to the District.

Mr. Gillan explained this in greater detail and indicated that the District would realize a savings by doing it this way.

Mr. Faust asked if this was reviewed by the solicitor since ABE was covered under the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Mr. Gillan indicated that VITA would honor whatever was in the contract. Mr. Faust stated that he would prefer having the solicitor's opinion. Mrs. Jankowsky felt that was a valid point. It was decided to move this item to the May meeting so that the solicitor's opinion could be obtained.

1. WTHS Marching Band Trip to Niagara Falls and Toronto, Canada, May 14-18, 2003

Mr. Strouse indicated that this trip would necessitate pulling students out of school for two school days before the finals. Mr. Grossi pointed out that under block scheduling, two days equals four instructional days. He felt that because of the lost time and the cost for substitutes, he was not inclined to vote for this.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that this be moved to the May meeting so that Administration could give its recommendations about how they would like to handle this.

Mr. Hertenberger did not see a problem with this trip since there was discussion earlier in the meeting about giving students five days off for a family trip. Mr. Grossi pointed out that this would necessitate three substitutes and that a lot of students would be impacted by this (i.e., the students who were not going on the trip.)

Mr. Avery felt there was limited educational benefit to the trip and that maybe more educational items could be added.

Mr. Faust was inclined to approve the trip since it was part of the co-curricular program and we have allowed athletes to attend championships, etc. It would be the ultimate decision of the parents as to whether a student could go or not.

Mr. Strouse noted that the performance was not until Saturday, so why was the trip leaving on Wednesday night?

Mr. Blatt suggested that this matter be taken back to Administration for more research. Maybe some of the concerns could be addressed. There was consensus of the Board to do this.

2. WTHS Key Club Trip to Doylestown, PA, June 1-2, 2002

Mr. Faust asked if this was a mixed-gender trip.

Heather Stek, the Key Club Advisor, stated that she did not yet know which students would be going. This trip was for a 24-hour relay and there would be two female advisors attending.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that normally the Board requests a male and female chaperone for an overnight trip. Ms. Stek stated that the students would probably not be sleeping, that there would be no motel or camping involved.

There was discussion about whether this should be considered an overnight trip or not. There was a suggestion that a male chaperone be found for the trip.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for WTHS Key Club trip to Doylestown, PA, for the Relay for Life, June 1-2, 2002 at no cost to the District.

In response to a question by Mr. Faust as to whether the Board would be asked for final approval or if that was included here, Mrs. Jankowsky advised that there would be two meetings in May at which the Board could address final approval. This would be preliminary approval only.

The motion passed 9-0.

3. WTHS Math League Trip to University Park, PA, May 31-June 1, 2002

John Casella spoke about the trip and the competition. Mrs. Huf pointed out that there was one male chaperone for both male and female students. Mr. Casella indicated that there would be other chaperones, that they would be staying in a dormitory.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for WTHS Math League trip to Penn State University, University Park, PA, May 31-June 1, 2002. The cost to the District is \$1,185.

Mr. Grossi stated that he assumed that the transportation carrier would provide appropriate evidence of insurance. Mrs. Homel assured that this would be done.

The motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Strouse commended Administration on the new form for trip requests. He felt it provided a lot of information in a concise format.

4. PDE Mandate Waiver – Dorothy Henry Alternative School

Mrs. Homel explained that there would be more paperwork this year because the requirements had changed. She explained this in more detail.

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Mandate Waiver Program Applications for the continued operation of the Dorothy Henry Alternative School. Said waivers seek relief from provisions of the School Code Article XIX, Section 1901 C (1) and 1901 C (5).

The motion passed 9-0.

5. Permission to Apply for Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to apply for Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth Grant in the amount of \$55,200.

The motion passed 9-0.

6. Youth Services of Bucks County, Inc. Contract

Mr. Strouse questioned how much the per diem rate had changed. Mrs. Fash advised that Youth Services had agreed not to increase the rate for next year.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves contract agreement between Youth Services of Bucks County, Inc. and the Centennial School District for the 2002/03 school year at the per diem rate of \$57.50 per student, to a maximum of \$239,760.

The motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Grossi left the meeting at 10:17 p.m.

7. Bethanna, Inc. Contract

Mr. Strouse questioned the per diem rate. Mrs. Fash explained that there was a \$10 per day increase. These are 1306 students so we recover the money unless they are Centennial students.

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Special Education Services agreement between Bethanna, Inc. and the Centennial School District for the 2002/03 school year at the per diem rate of \$119.50 per student.

The motion passed 8-0.

8. ABE/ESL/GED Services

This matter was postponed until additional information is obtained. (See above.)

9. Conference Requests for 2002/03

Mrs. Huf stated that she would be opposing this motion since there were too many out-of-state conference requests. She indicated that she and Mrs. Baranski had just returned from New Orleans, where they paid their own way, and that trip did not cost as much as the ones listed here.

Mr. Grossi returned to the meeting at 10:23 p.m.

Mrs. Baranski agreed for the reason stated by Mrs. Huf and also because she did not feel that out-of-state travel was necessary. Mr. Strouse agreed.

Mr. Blatt pointed out that the list seemed consistent with previous years.

Mr. Avery asked if the Pennsylvania conferences could be separated.

Mr. Blatt advised that the Federal ones were paid from Federal monies so there would be no cost to the District.

Mr. Faust asked about the legislative conference for the Board since it did not appear on the list. Mrs. Jankowsky felt that type of conference should be included.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she saw value in having administrators attend these conferences but suggested that instead of sending two people, maybe only one should go. Mr. Avery agreed that the administrative conferences were valuable.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that it might be best to delay this matter until the May meeting.

Mrs. Huf indicated that she found the experience gained at a national conference just as valuable as the Pennsylvania conferences.

10. District Calendar for 2002/03

Mrs. Huf asked how this fit with MBIT's calendar. Mr. Blatt responded that discussion was ongoing about MBIT's calendar. Mr. Faust commented that in the past MBIT had waited for the districts to approve their calendars before finalizing theirs.

A motion was made by Mr. Hertenberger and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the District calendar for the 2002/03 school year. That calendar provides for 181 days of instruction for students, 8 professional development days and 2 parent conference days.

The motion passed 9-0.

11. High School Administrative Team Reorganization Plan

Mr. Strouse pointed out that a request was made for new job descriptions for the deans and that the Board had not yet received those.

Mr. Grossi stated that although he appreciated the Superintendent coming to the Board with this matter, and although he supported it, he did not feel that this matter needed to be approved by the Board. He felt that all the Board needed to approve was appointing the deans as 10-month assistant principals.

Mr. Faust stated that he agreed with everything in concept but could not support at this time having two deans becoming assistant principals at the 9th grade level when we have the need for additional counselors.

Mr. Hertenberger felt having two assistant principals “manage” the new students coming in would pay off up the line.

Mr. Blatt explained that one of their responsibilities would be to help with the transition from 8th to 9th grade but that would not be their only responsibility. Mr. Faust suggested having a sunset provision on this so that results could be determined.

Mrs. Baranski stated that she thought this would be a good opportunity for the teachers and administrators to recognize every child, so that no one would get lost.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she felt Mr. Strouse’s point about job descriptions being generated was valid. She asked if they could be ready for the May meeting. Mr. Blatt indicated that they were already underway. Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that this matter be held until the May meeting.

Mr. Blatt asked the Board to put their stamp of approval on this tonight, maybe with the issue of job descriptions being separated.

Mr. Strouse applauded the effort to move this as quickly as possible but felt that the Board had the obligation to approve the job descriptions before the process moved forward, since they were a critical piece.

Mr. Grossi stated that he had no problem moving this forward pending receipt of the job descriptions. Mr. Locke and Mr. Avery agreed. Mr. Hertenberger stated that he had confidence in the Superintendent. He felt the vote should be taken, knowing that Mr. Blatt would produce the information requested.

Mr. Faust felt that the Board was getting away from the Work Session point of view. Work Sessions were intended as a time for Board members to address questions and concerns and that if there were any, the matter should wait until the Regular Board Meeting.

Mr. Grossi stated that if the Superintendent felt it was significant to do this at this time, the Board should listen and respect that. He felt the matter should be moved forward.

After additional discussion about the job descriptions, Mr. Blatt asked that the minutes clearly reflect that there was not a problem with the model. The motion would be held until the next meeting when job descriptions would be provided. Mr. Grossi confirmed that there was agreement of Board members on the reorganization, pending receipt and approval of the job descriptions.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the reorganization of the William Tennent High School administrative team as proposed by the Superintendent, at no additional cost to the District.

Mr. Strouse stated that he felt the motion was premature since the Board had not yet been provided with adequate information and job descriptions. Mr. Avery stated that, based on the concerns and discussions held here, he would be abstaining from the vote.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to amend the motion to add the words “pending the Board being provided with the job descriptions.”

Mr. Faust voiced his concern that we would not get a unanimous vote by doing it this way, whereas if the vote was postponed, it would probably be unanimous.

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

The motion to table the amendment failed 4-5. (Mr. Grossi, Mrs. Huf, Mrs. Baranski, Mr. Locke and Mr. Hertenberger opposed.)

Mr. Blatt further explained that what he was requesting was an expression of support for the model because of the work that had been done and the positive energy in the District. The changes would be at no additional cost and people were ready to move on this. Mrs. Jankowsky felt that the Board could publicly declare its support of the reorganization but only needed the paperwork.

Mr. Grossi felt that the amendment was unnecessary at this point. Mr. Avery indicated that he didn't feel that anyone was against the change but that this was merely a procedural matter.

Mr. Faust stated that he was the first one to question this as far as the number of principals in the 9th grade. He indicated that he does wholly support the model and that when the job descriptions were in place, he would support the model.

The motion to amend failed 0-5-4. (Mrs. Baranski, Mrs. Huf, Mr. Avery and Mr. Grossi abstained; remaining Board members opposed.)

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

The motion to table passed 6-0-2-1. (Mrs. Huf and Mr. Hertenberger abstained; Mr. Grossi had no opinion.)

12. Appointment of District Auditor

Mr. Faust explained the details of this matter.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the appointment of Barbacane Thornton to serve as Centennial School District auditor for all District accounts for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2002, June 30, 2003 and June 30, 2004, at a total cost for the three-year contract of \$50,400.

The motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Avery left the meeting at 11:22 p.m.

13. Amendment of 2002/03 Budget Calendar

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board amends the 2002/03 Budget Calendar adopted September 25, 2001, to change the date of preliminary budget adoption from April 23, 2002, to May 14, 2002, and final budget adoption from May 28, 2002 to June 13, 2002.

The motion passed 8-0.

14. Discussion of Resolution for Full State Funding for Retirement

Mrs. Jankowsky requested that, in light of recent legislation, this item not be considered at this meeting pending the Governor's signing a Bill. This matter will be carried forward to the next meeting if needed.

Mr. Avery returned to the meeting at 11:26 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Remove from Table: Exceptions to Policy 7.18 – Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Students 16-19 and 19-19

Dr. Sexton advised that he had been in touch with the father of these children, who indicated that they are now residing in the school zone so there was no need for this motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Avery to remove this motion from the table.

The motion to remove from the table passed 9-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to withdraw the original motion.

The motion to withdraw passed 9-0.

2. Remove from Table: Programs and Services and Instructional Materials and Research Budget for I.U. #22 for 2002/03

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Strouse to remove this motion from the table.

The motion to remove from the table passed 9-0.

Discussion then ensued regarding the original motion. Mr. Grossi felt that the information provided was not complete. He wanted to see an outline of the various fund balances. He indicated that the budget included a 5.6% retirement computation, which he felt was artificially inflated. He stated that this needed to be addressed.

The original motion failed 1-7-1. (Mrs. Jankowsky in favor; Mrs. Baranski abstained; remainder of Board opposed.)

3. Remove from Table: Child Care Agreement

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

The motion to remove from the table passed 9-0.

Mr. Faust pointed out that Mr. Garton stated that the coverage was appropriate but that we don't know what the coverage is.

Dr. Sexton explained that the "Medical Expense Limit (Excluding Students)" of \$25,000 applies to the staff of Kids Care. The "General Aggregate Limit" of \$1,000,000 applies to student injuries.

Mr. Hertenberger felt that he would like to see Mr. Garton's answer in writing. Dr. Sexton explained this again. Mr. Grossi felt that this was a function of the Workmen's Compensation Law. It was decided that a written explanation would not be requested.

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

4. Remove from Table: Policy 3.20 – WTHS Driving and Parking

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Grossi to remove this motion from the table.

The motion to remove from the table passed 9-0.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the changes in the policy met the concerns of the Board members. Board members indicated that they did.

The original motion passed 9-0.

5. Remove from Table: Policy 4.7 – Payroll

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Grossi to remove this motion from the table.

The motion to remove from the table passed 9-0.

Discussion on the motion ensued.

Mr. Strouse indicated that he would like to delete the changes in Section III and leave Section II as it stands. Mr. Faust indicated that he supported the suggested change of removing the strike-throughs in Sections A-D.

Mr. Grossi asked why the proposal was being made to delete “alternate Fridays.” Mr. Vail explained that that was not how we pay, that there are some deviations, such as at the start of the school year and at the Christmas holidays.

After additional discussion, Mr. Avery stated that he felt the policy should reflect what was currently being done. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that in that case it would be appropriate to table this again and send it back to Administration.

Mr. Avery felt that the Board should defeat this motion since it requested language previously from Administration and did not get it.

The motion failed 9-0.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this would go back to Administration.

PERSONNEL

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

The motion passed 9-0.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Hertenberger requested everyone to purchase tickets from the Centennial Education Foundation for a Jeep Wrangler to be raffled off.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested policy development on the capital reserve fund/sinking funds, to include transportation, technology and education.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that she had a request from a parent to change the graduation date and that she had asked Mr. Blatt to make a recommendation to the full Board.

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 11:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary