

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
HELD JUNE 11, 2002**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on June 11, 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  
Eugene Grossi  
Al Hertenberger  
Betty Huf  
Joan Jankowsky  
Jerry Locke  
Harve Strouse

CEA/Teachers:

None

Administration:

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

Public:

Kathy Mendly  
Gilbert Torres  
Paul Midzak  
Joe Harrington  
Donna Marie Saul

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that Mr. Faust was not feeling well and would probably not be attending this meeting.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked the people at Anne's Choice, and particularly John Erickson, for inviting us to join them for the groundbreaking ceremony held that day. It was lovely.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

None

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None

## **REPORTS**

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

Paul Midzak stated that this would be his final School Board Meeting as Senior Class President. He reported as follows:

- On May 31<sup>st</sup> the Annual Raga for AIDS was held, which raised over \$1,000 for the Pediatric AIDS Foundation.
- Senior Awards Night was held on June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Final Exams were being taken this week.

Paul also stated that it had been an honor to represent the Class of 2002.

Mr. Strouse stated that it had been the Board's pleasure to hear Paul's reports. He thanked Paul for his demonstrations of social responsibility and leadership and wished him well at Temple.

### **MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Gil Torres reported that MBIT graduation was held the previous Tuesday. He also indicated that the student-built house was finished and that it had been a fun project.

Mrs. Huf thanked Gil for representing Centennial and MBIT so well.

Mr. Blatt and Mrs. Jankowsky presented Paul Midzak and Gil Torres with gifts on behalf of the District in appreciation for their efforts.

### **GOOD NEWS**

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

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Blatt commended Paul Midzak and Gil Torres and stated that they were two fine young people.

Mr. Blatt stated that he continued to hear positive comments regarding the School Board and their desire to take the budget presentation on the road. It was recognized by the community as an outreach and an effort to be open.

Mr. Blatt also noted that the average school district carries a debt balance of \$8,695 per student but that Centennial carries only \$1,478 per student.

Mr. Grossi felt that a lot of credit went to Administration and to Vic Lasher and his staff for the way they maintain the facilities. Mr. Hertenberger also commended Mr. Lasher and his crew.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

No report.

### Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf reported as follows:

- There was an enrollment report of 909 applicants, with an additional 12 adults that would be paying to attend MBIT.
- Six classes were at capacity.
- There will be 43% of students with IEP's.
- The issue of salary increases for non-bargaining personnel was tabled.
- The issue of a base formula percentage increase of 3.5% for administrative staff was tabled.
- There will be more information on the reorganization for September 2002 after evaluation of the programs has been completed.
- The July meeting was canceled; the next meeting would be in August.

### Intermediate Unit

Mr. Locke welcomed Pat Valentine to the meeting.

Mr. Locke reported on the I.U. meeting as follows:

- There were presentations on Better Hearing & Speech Month.
- There were reports on programs and services offered at the I.U.
- There was a report on Special Education enrollment. In Bucks County, the total school enrollment increased by 11.2%, with an increase of 27.7% of students with disabilities. The greatest increase was in autism.

### PSBA

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that she had received information from PSBA indicating that they had initiated a public outreach campaign to promote the positive value of public education and increase awareness of local School Boards. They have asked for a contact person. Mrs. Jankowsky advised that she would pass this information on to Mr. Blatt.

## **FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Mr. Grossi reported that this Committee had met the previous evening. They received insurance information, indicating that it was \$127,000 less than what we had been told. However, liability and automobile insurance have increased 50% over last year.

Mr. Grossi also reported that in the current version of the budget the tax increase was about one mill less than in the previous version.

Mrs. Huf asked the Board to take another look at this, that she would like them to consider taking money from the fund balance to reduce the tax increase by another four mills.

Mrs. Baranski indicated that she would accept a 15 mill increase.

### Title VIII

No report.

### Federal Lands Reuse Authority

No report.

## **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

No report.

### Citizens Policy

No report.

### Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that if Board members had ideas for submissions to the legislative platform, there were guidelines included in their packets.

## **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 – 4/23/02*
- *Regular School Board Meeting – 5/14/02*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

## OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

### Final Adoption:

#### 2.19 – Sabbatical Leave

*A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 2.19, Sabbatical Leave.*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

#### 3.2 – School Sponsored Student Publications

*A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 3.2, School Sponsored Student Publications.*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

#### 3.8 – Exclusion

*A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 3.8, Exclusion.*

Mr. Strouse pointed out that the policy needed to have an implementation date indicated on the cover sheet and also that the reason for review was “Recommended by Administrator”, not “Cycle.”

Mr. Strouse also recommended that Section III. C. 6. be deleted since it was, in his opinion, far too broad. Mr. Avery agreed and felt that this provision was covered under Item 7 in the same section. Mrs. Jankowsky supported this as written, as did Mr. Grossi and Mr. Hertenberger.

Mr. Avery felt that disrespectful behavior could be interpreted differently by different people and, therefore, felt the provision was too broad.

Mrs. Huf questioned how often a situation such as this has arisen. Mr. Blatt advised that this year there hadn't been many instances that would have been covered under item 6. Most of the situations could probably have been referenced under one of the other sections. Mrs. Huf then questioned the reason for leaving it in.

Mr. Blatt felt that there was a genuine concern for judgment and oversight, which he felt was legitimate. He felt that there were enough checks and balances that would preclude abuse of this. Dr. Sexton clarified that teachers report the behavior that might lead to suspension but the suspensions are decided on by the building administrators.

Mrs. Baranski felt that the provision was too broad and that it should be made clear as to what constitutes disrespectful behavior.

*A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Avery to remove Section III. C. 6 from the policy.*

Mr. Hertenberger felt that removing this provision would take the ability away from teachers to maintain peace and quiet. He wanted the provision to remain. Mr. Avery stated that he found it hard to believe that Administration could not operate without this provision. Mr. Strouse agreed.

Kathy Mendly of 975 Woodland Drive felt that having the provision in black and white was good because it emphasized respect.

*The motion to amend failed 3-5. (Mr. Faust, Mr. Grossi, Mr. Hertenberger, Mrs. Huf, Mrs. Jankowsky and Mr. Locke opposed.)*

*The original motion passed 5-3. (Mr. Avery, Mrs. Baranski and Mr. Strouse opposed.)*

#### 4.7 – Payroll

*A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 4.7, Payroll.*

Mr. Strouse stated that Section III. B. and C. referred to contracts but we do not have contracts with those groups. Mr. Vail clarified that the agreements with these groups were called “compensation plans.” Therefore, it was decided to strike the word “contract” in these two sections and replaced it with “compensation plan.”

*The motion passed 8-0.*

#### 4.12 – Capital Reserve

*A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the adoption of Policy 4.12, Reserve Funds.*

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that in Section II. A., the second and third sentences attempt to put a current situation into policy form. She felt we should have a policy that is global and timeless. Also, she suggested that this go into effect for the 2003/04 budget.

In Section II. B., Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the Finance Committee had discussed not including transportation equipment.

*A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to table this item until the June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

*The motion to table until June 25<sup>th</sup> passed 8-0.*

#### 7.5 – Staff Development

*A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.5, Staff Development.*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

### **FINANCIAL**

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

- *Schedule of Bills – May 2002*
- *Investments – May 2002*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – May 2002*

*and approves the:*

- *Treasurer’s Report/Fund Profiles – May 2002*
- *Budgetary Transfers – June 2002*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### ABE/ESL/GED Services

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that the requested material still had not been received; therefore, she would like to further delay action on this matter until June 25<sup>th</sup>.

*A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board extends the motion to table the matter of ABE/ESL/GED Services until the June 25, 2002 Board Meeting.*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### 1. Student Trip to Raleigh, North Carolina

*A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary and final approval for Krystal Woods, William Tennent High School student, and Rebecca MacInnes, coach, to attend the Tack National June 13-15, 2002, in Raleigh, North Carolina. The cost to the District shall not exceed \$950.*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

2. MBIT Graduation Waiver

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to resolve that the Centennial School Board continues to approve the exemption of one credit of physical education (.5 credit, .5 credit) for senior students enrolled at Middle Bucks Institute of Technology in order to meet the graduation requirements for the 2001/02 school year.*

Mr. Grossi pointed out that this waiver was required because of the scheduling.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

3. Student Performance Standards

*A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Student Performance Standards in Mathematics and Reading/Writing/Speaking/Listening for Grades 1-11.*

Mr. Avery commented that there was a great deal of excellent work done by Dr. Masko and his staff on this. He thanked them.

Mrs. Huf also thanked Dr. Masko. She felt that his work was truly exemplary.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that Dr. Masko had also facilitated the standards submitted about a week ago and that a report would be forthcoming in August or September.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

4. WTHS Staffing

*A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the hiring of two (2) additional teachers at William Tennent High School at a cost not to exceed \$102,400.*

Mr. Strouse pointed out that this would be out of next year's budget and was provided for in the contingency.

Mr. Grossi commented that this would result in an increase in staff at the high school by 24, basically because of block scheduling.

Mrs. Huf requested Administration to provide figures on block scheduling. Mrs. Jankowsky asked that this information be provided to the full Board.

*Mr. Strouse felt that the motion should be restated to indicate that this would be four half-time teachers. Mr. Avery and Mr. Locke, as the mover and seconder of the motion, agreed to this change.*

*The motion passed 7-1. (Mrs. Baranski opposed.)*

7. Milk Bid

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Milk Bid No. 2002-32 to be awarded to Rosenberger's Dairies for the lowest responsible bid amounts as follows:*

<u>½ Pint Container</u>	<u>Price</u>
<i>Fat Free White</i>	<i>.1564</i>
<i>1% Low Fat White</i>	<i>.1626</i>
<i>2% Reduced Fat White</i>	<i>.1693</i>
<i>Whole White</i>	<i>.1785</i>
<i>1% Low Fat Choc./Strawberry</i>	<i>.1683</i>

*The motion passed 8-0.*

6. Classroom Furniture Bid

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Classroom Furniture Bid No. 2002-31, to be awarded to the following bidders:*

<i>Item No. 1</i>	<i>Chairs, Sled Based, Stacking</i>	<i>Virco Manufacturing</i>	<i>\$ 2,277.88</i>
<i>Item No. 2</i>	<i>Chairs, 4-Legged, Stacking</i>	<i>Virco Manufacturing</i>	<i>7,278.70</i>
<i>Item No. 3</i>	<i>Student Stations, No Book Rack</i>	<i>Tanner School Furniture</i>	<i>8,422.00</i>
<i>Item No. 4</i>	<i>Student Station with Book Rack</i>	<i>Reject</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Item No. 5</i>	<i>Steel Folding Chairs</i>	<i>Virco Manufacturing</i>	<i>197.00</i>
<i>Item No. 6</i>	<i>Chair Caddy</i>	<i>Virco Manufacturing</i>	<i>434.00</i>
<i>Item No. 7</i>	<i>48" Computer Table</i>	<i>School Specialty</i>	<i>733.50</i>
<i>Item No. 8</i>	<i>Cafeteria Tables</i>	<i>Roberts and Meck</i>	<i><u>1,016.90</u></i>
			<i>\$20,360.18</i>

*Mrs. Jankowsky commended Mr. Rhodes and his staff for putting forth the bid packets.*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

5. Bread and Rolls Bid

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Centennial School District to participate in the*

*Suburban Schools Food Service Purchasing Co-Op Bread & Rolls Bid No. 2002-33, to be awarded as follows:*

*Stroehmann Bakeries Inc.*

*Group A All items with commodities*  
*Group B Items 11, 12, 14, 15 with commodities*

*Morabito Baking Company*

*Group A None*  
*Group B Items 8, 9, 10, 13 with commodities*  
*Item 16 without commodities*

*The approximate total value of this award as it pertains to Centennial School District is \$32,000.*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

**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; Authorization to Employ; Change of Status; Secondary Summer School Teachers; Summer School Safety Officer; Homebound Tutor; and Substitute Bus Driver.*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that the Board had received Mrs. Watts' survey regarding middle school changes. She also received a letter from Mrs. Burg regarding the Marching Band trip, copies of which would be distributed to the Board.

**ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Donna Marie Saul of 529 Lowell Road, Warminster, indicated that at one of the Education Committee meetings, in a discussion about the reorganization of the administration at the high school, Mr. Blatt had mentioned that the ratio of students to guidance counselors was 420:1. She felt that this was a lot of students for one counselor and that the students needed more connection with their guidance counselors. She called several local school districts and found that their ballpark figures were approximately 300:1. The National School Guidance Counselors recommendation is 180 students per counselor. She felt that there needs to be more support for the students in the area of guidance.

Janet Marinoff of 51 Fern Road, Southampton, stated that a lot of work has been put into the middle school changes. She had several questions, as follows:

- Will a presentation be made to the parents of middle school children to understand what the changes are and how schedules will be different?
- Regarding goals, there were a lot of questions about the reasons for the change. Have any goals been established?
- Regarding transition into new schedule – Will any provisions be made to allow 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to take Family & Consumer Science?

Mr. Blatt responded that individual meetings have been held at the various buildings and there was a recent orientation meeting. He stated that transition teams have been put in place with a representative group for each school. He also advised that he had recently shared with the Board the goals for next year. Also, they have endeavored to put together a newsletter (Middle School Update), which addresses some of the parents' concerns. They would like to do updates to this throughout the year. There will also be team publications to the parents and the community, as well as the Principal's Newsletter.

Dr. Masko indicated that two in-service days were scheduled for the following week and that one of those days was devoted to the middle school curriculum and instruction. Many of the teachers will be meeting over the summer at workshops to prepare for September.

Regarding the Family & Consumer Science course, Dr. Masko indicated that the students in transition would not have these courses; however, some redundancy was noted with the health classes, so he felt they would be getting the essential learning.

Mr. Blatt advised that there were several initiatives undertaken. About two weeks ago, a professor from Lehigh University made a presentation to the team.

Mrs. Marinoff stated that there had been a 5<sup>th</sup> grade orientation but she continued to hear that parents would like to have a public presentation about the new schedule so that some of their questions could be answered. Regarding the goals, Mrs. Marinoff asked if they would be set forth in the publication that would be coming out.

Mr. Blatt responded that he did not think so, but only because of timing. The goals had just arrived at the Board level. However, they could be shared.

Mrs. Marinoff suggested that there be a special provision made to transition the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders into the program so that they would not miss the units.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

Mrs. Huf advised that the yearbook was out and was very nice, especially the picture of the Board. She congratulated the Class of 2002 and stated that we have had a great bunch of Seniors.

Mr. Grossi commented that earlier in the evening the Board said goodbye to two student representatives. He indicated that he would appreciate an update on any of the previous representatives. Mr. Hertenberger felt that the two students representatives set a high standard for the upcoming ones.

### **SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

See Schedule attached hereto.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary