

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD AUGUST 13, 2002**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on August 13, 2002, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Jankowsky at 7:45 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:

None

Administration:

David Blatt
Sandy Homel
Jean Rollo
Dr. Thomas Sexton
Timothy Vail

Public:

Ronald Ruch
Donna Marie Saul
Donna DelVecchio
Cynthia Mueller

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 the Superintendent's evaluation and consideration of a conference for the Board for a retreat.

PRESENTATIONS

None

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

No report.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

GOOD NEWS

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Blatt stated that throughout the summer he had tried to keep the Board up to date with Friday Updates and Superintendent's Reports. He indicated that everyone was busy preparing for the opening of school and that the Board had a schedule of building inspections.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

No report.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Strouse reported that the main discussion at this meeting was salaries for non-bargaining unit personnel and administrative personnel. There were several presentations, including an assessment for school improvement and a year-end summary.

Mr. Grossi noted (for the record) that he did not attend the MBIT meeting and was not responsible for the length of that meeting.

Intermediate Unit

Mr. Locke reported that there was no meeting of the I.U. in August. At the July meeting one of the main topics was how the various districts will use funds returned by the State. Most of the districts felt it prudent to reduce district debt, as opposed to other options.

PSBA

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that the PSBA State Conference would be held October 1st through 4th. She also stated that she had some information regarding a new Federal program that “No Child shall be left behind” and that PSBA was running seminars on that topic. Board members should advise the Superintendent if they were interested in attending.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

No report.

Title VIII

No report.

Federal Lands Reuse Authority

No report.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

Citizens Policy

No report.

Legislative Liaison

Mr. Faust reported that the Governor had called a special session of the Representatives to discuss property tax reform, which should be of interest to the Board.

MINUTES

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

- *School Board Meeting/Work Session – 5/28/02, 6/25/02*
- *Budget Hearing – 5/28/02*
- *Regular School Board Meeting – 6/11/02*
- *Special School Board Meeting – 6/13/02, 7/22/02*

The motion passed 9-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

None

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 – June 2002
July 2002*
- *Investments – June 2002
July 2002*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – June and July 2002*
- *Student Activity/Clearing Funds – April 1 through June 30, 2002*

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report– June 2002
July 2002*

The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Warminster Hospital Partnership

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Affiliation Agreement between Centennial School District and Tenet HealthSystem Bucks County, LLC, for the 2002/03 school year at a cost of \$25,405 to the District. The District will do this as a pilot project for one year to see if it is beneficial to Centennial and the students.

Mrs. Baranski stated that she thought we had a grant for this. Dr. Sexton advised that we did not.

Mr. Faust advised that he was originally opposed to this but now felt that he could support it as a one-year pilot.

The motion passed 9-0.

ABE/ESL/GED Program

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves removing from the table the Agreement with Volunteers in Teaching Alternatives to service the ABE/ESL/GED Program for the 2002/03 school year.

The motion passed 9-0.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that additional information had been received from Dr. Sexton. She indicated that the Board previously approved an amended agreement that included language regarding compliance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The previous paperwork had a job description attached that specified per hour salary for coordination and a per hour salary for instructional time, which information has been deleted in the current paperwork. She suggested that the Board might wish to reject the previous agreement and then make a motion to approve the current document. The Board concurred.

The Board voted on the previous motion. The motion failed 0-9.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves 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. (The agreement includes the new documentation.)

Mrs. Jankowsky clarified that the job description page did not mention salary and changed the number of hours that were provided for coordination time.

Mr. Faust stated that he believed the new changes bring this agreement in line with the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mrs. Jankowsky agreed and advised that the solicitor felt this was the appropriate way to address the issue.

The motion passed 9-0.

Capital Reserve Policy

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves removing from the table Policy 4.12, Reserve Funds.

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

Discussion on the original motion ensued. Mr. Strouse stated that he was not sure this policy serves us as a District. The Board has the right to change any of these. He felt all this policy did was to create more papers since the School Code provides for this. Therefore, he was not in favor of the policy.

Mr. Grossi stated that one of the reasons for this was that it defined the funds; therefore, he would support it.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she supported the motion but had some suggested changes. She distributed the suggested revisions to the Board, indicating that she felt the policy needed to be more global and timeless.

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Locke to table this matter until the September 24th meeting.

The motion to table passed 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 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 7-2 to attend Klinger Middle School for the 2002/03 school year. The District will continue to provide transportation.

Mr. Avery asked if Administration supported this request. Mrs. Homel stated that they did not.

The motion failed 1-8. (Mr. Avery in favor, remainder of Board opposed.)

2. 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 18-12 to attend Klinger Middle School for the 2002/03 school year. The District will continue to provide transportation.

Mr. Avery stated that he understood that Administration was not in support of this motion but that he was in support of the motion due to facts stated in the parent's letter.

Mrs. Homel clarified that Administration did not support this request.

The motion failed 1-8. (Mr. Avery in favor, remainder of Board opposed.)

3. 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 1-18 to attend Longstreth Elementary School for the 2002/03 school year. Parents will provide transportation.

Mrs. Homel indicated that Administration did support this request.

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 students 12-7

and 13-7 to continue to attend Davis Elementary School for the 2002/03 school year. The parents will provide transportation.

Mrs. Homel indicated that Administration did support this request.

The motion passed 9-0.

5. 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 students 18-18 and 19-18 to attend Longstreth Elementary School and Log College Middle School for the 2002/03 school year. The parents will provide transportation.

Mrs. Homel indicated that Administration did support this request.

The motion passed 9-0.

6. Longstreth Fifth Grade Student Trip

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants approval for the Longstreth fifth grade student trip to Camp Canadensis September 11, 12 and 13, 2002, at a cost to the District of approximately \$510 for substitute service.

The motion passed 9-0.

7. Permission to Accept Funding for Competitive Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to accept funding for the following 2002/03 school year competitive grant in the amount indicated:

<i>Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development – Community Revitalization Assistance Program</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
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Dr. Sexton advised that this was a one-time allotment of about \$5,000 to allow us to set up scholarship money for William Tennent students. It calls for each of five students to receive \$1,000.

The motion passed 9-0.

8. Permission to Apply for an Entitlement Grant for the 2002/03 School Year
9. Permission to Apply for an Ed-Flex Waiver for Stackpole Elementary School
10. Permission to Apply for Competitive Grants for the 2002/03 School Year

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

- (8) *Approves permission to apply for the following entitlement grant for the 2002/03 school year in the amount indicated: Safe & Drug Free Schools and Communities – \$24,375;*
- (9) *Approves permission to apply for an Ed-Flex Waiver for Stackpole Elementary School under the Title I 2002-2003 school year grant;*
- (10) *Approves permission to apply for the following competitive grants for the 2002/03 school year for the amounts indicated:*

<i>Read to Succeed – Leary</i>	<i>\$23,572</i>
<i>Read to Succeed – Stackpole</i>	<i>\$17,143</i>

On item 9, Mr. Faust asked what an Ed-Flex Waiver was. Dr. Sexton explained that current guidelines would exclude Stackpole School from Title I funding. Because there is some change in the guidelines if a school in the district is within a certain number of percentage points in terms of the number of students that qualify for Title I, then that school can get a one-year waiver. This would provide a Title I tutor for Stackpole.

The motion passed 9-0.

11. ASBO Conference

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants permission for Mr. Victor Lasher to attend the annual conference of the Association of School Business Officials, International, in Phoenix, Arizona from October 25 through October 29 at a cost to the District not to exceed \$1,500. Mr. Lasher will assume responsibility for the cost of transportation.

Mr. Locke stated that he felt the District should pay the cost of transportation for this trip since Mr. Lasher is a key person and this would enhance his skills. Since the District pays for the Board to go to conferences, he felt it should pay for this.

In response to a question by Mrs. Huf, Mr. Blatt explained that Mr. Lasher was assuming the cost of transportation since the Board's costs for out-of-state travel had been significantly reduced. Mr. Lasher felt it was important for him to attend the conference. Mr. Blatt explained that this was not additional money, it was money that had been budgeted.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would not be able to support this motion since the Board previously reduced out-of-state conferences.

Mrs. Jankowsky confirmed that this did not increase the budget line item.

Mr. Faust asked how Mr. Lasher's position tied into this conference. Mr. Blatt explained that there were programs that dealt with facilities, plant management, etc.

Mr. Vail stated that Mr. Lasher was a registered school official and that that designation requires continuing education credits. Attendance at these conferences provides these credits. There are a number of divisions within ASBO, one of which deals with facilities and grounds, that could be very valuable to Vic.

Mr. Avery stated that the concern about out-of-state conferences was paying transportation costs. If Mr. Lasher was willing to pay those costs, why not approve it.

Mr. Hertenberger stated that he was in favor of Mr. Lasher attending the conference and felt the District should pay all his expenses.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she believed the Board approved at least one out-of-state conference for one of our administrators. We have also established a pool of money for such conferences, for which Mr. Blatt can decide. Mr. Grossi felt that this was no different than paying for college credits and thus he would support paying for the conference and the transportation costs.

Mr. Strouse stated that he supported the motion as presented and agreed with Mr. Avery's statements.

Mrs. Huf reminded the Board that she and Mrs. Baranski paid their own expenses for New Orleans and brought back very valuable information from that trip.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that she would be supporting this because the Board had already deliberated on conferences during budget time. She felt the rules had been set and she would support this as written.

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to amend the motion to include the cost of transportation.

Mr. Faust indicated that he would have a hard time approving the amendment because we passed a significant millage increase on to the residents. The budget was built around certain numbers and this amendment would not be in line with that.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she assumed Administration was letting this come forward as written because they agreed with it. Mr. Blatt confirmed that assumption.

Mr. Grossi felt that the college credit subsidy in the budget could cover this and felt that the Board should approve it.

Mr. Faust pointed out that this conference was denied by the Board when it was removed from the budget. It did come to the Board indirectly through budget deliberations and

there were other similar ones. If the Board approved this one now, the other people could bring theirs back.

Mr. Blatt advised that this was discussed at length in the Finance Committee and that the original proposals were twice this dollar figure. The original number was below previous budgets and we cut it two-thirds more.

Mrs. Huf clarified that her opposition had nothing to do with Mr. Lasher. She felt that he does a fine job.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to call the question on the amendment.

The motion to call the question passed 9-0.

The motion to amend failed 3-6. (Mrs. Huf, Mr. Faust, Mrs. Baranski, Mr. Strouse, Mr. Grossi and Mrs. Jankowsky opposed.)

The original motion passed 8-1. (Mrs. Huf opposed.)

12. Auxiliary Pay Rates 2002/03

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves pay rates for all auxiliary positions for the 2002/03 school year as per the attached supplement.

Mr. Strouse advised that this usually goes to the Finance Committee before the Board and questioned why it hadn't. He also questioned why the rates were being changed.

Mr. Blatt indicated that he had no knowledge that this was to go to Finance first.

Mr. Vail explained that this has been a scheduled August resolution since he had been with the District, and that it had not gone before Finance. Also, secondary summer school teachers are self-sustaining. There is no cost to the District for this.

Mr. Strouse pointed out that this pay raise was out of line with other pay raises in the District.

Mr. Faust agreed with Mr. Vail but indicated that the previous year the Board tabled this and went back to Finance.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that she was prepared to approve this but in the future maybe it should go through the Finance Committee. Mr. Blatt stated that he was told the secondary summer school teachers had not had a raise in three years. Also the tutors were covered by the Title I grant.

Mr. Strouse suggested removing the secondary summer school position from the list so that the Board could approve the remainder of the list.

Mr. Grossi stated that if the raises were in line with what the rest of the District was getting, he didn't have a problem with this. Also, if the Tutors were covered under Title I, he had no problem with that either.

Mr. Faust asked why we were not increasing the elementary summer school teachers. Dr. Sexton responded that those positions are covered by a grant and that we have to keep that at the current level.

The motion passed 9-0, with the exception of the Secondary Summer School Teacher position.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Avery to approve the Secondary Summer School position, as indicated.

Mrs. Homel explained that her understanding was that these rates are reviewed every 2-3 years and that the current rate has been the same for the past three years. She felt it was time to raise it.

Mr. Strouse felt that there was not enough information to vote on this matter.

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Faust to table this motion until more information was available.

The motion passed 7-2 to table the motion until the next meeting. (Mr. Grossi and Mr. Hertenberger opposed.)

13. Furniture Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Furniture Bid No. 2003-1 to be awarded to the following bidders:

<i>Item No. 1</i>	<i>Student Station with Bookbox – 27”</i>	<i>P.E.M. Co.</i>	<i>\$ 3,948.00</i>
<i>Item No. 2</i>	<i>Student Station with Bookbox – 30”</i>	<i>P.E.M. Co.</i>	<i>5,843.04</i>
<i>Item No. 3</i>	<i>Cafeteria Table – 10 ft.</i>	<i>Nickerson Corp.</i>	<i>15,232.00</i>
<i>Item No. 4</i>	<i>Cafeteria Table – Wheelchair Accessible</i>	<i>Nickerson Corp.</i>	<i>983.00</i>
<i>Item No. 5</i>	<i>Cafeteria Table – Round</i>	<i>Nickerson Corp.</i>	<i>7,790.00</i>
			<i>\$33,796.04</i>

Items 1 & 2 (\$9,791.04) will be a general fund expenditure. Items 3, 4 and 5 (\$24,005.00) will be general obligation bond fund expenditure.

Mr. Faust questioned why this bid was so late. Mr. Vail explained that it was part of an original bid that went out in the spring. There were a couple of items that were pulled because we either didn't like the products or the pricing. These items were re-bid.

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; Authorization to Employ; Change of Status; Summer Help; Support Staff Substitutes; Title I Tutors/Reading Tutors; Co-Curricular 2002/03 School Year.

The motion passed 9-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Jankowsky referred to the list of communications attached hereto.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Ronald Ruch explained that he had made a request to allow his children to attend Log College and Longstreth and he wondered what the result was. Mr. Blatt explained that the Board cannot name individual students so they use a numbering system, but his request was approved.

Donna DelVecchio of 537 Brook Lane, Warminster, explained that she was on a committee to raise funds for a new playground for Longstreth School. She felt that the \$20,000 that was being spent to send children on a trip would be more beneficially spent to build a new playground for the 340 children that use it. Mrs. DelVecchio further explained that she was having trouble raising funds and requested help.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this had been raised at a meeting of the Finance Committee in July and that perhaps Administration could provide the Board with some additional information.

Donna Marie Saul of 589 Lowell Road, Warminster, stated that she found it interesting that the Board voted unanimously at this meeting, with almost no discussion, to approve spending \$20,000 on a pilot program, after talking to the community about how upset the Board was about tax increases, and also after having voted 4-3 against the program at the June 25th meeting.

Mrs. Jankowsky sought to clarify this issue by explaining that it had been discussed several times previously – at least at three Education Committee meetings and at two or three Board meetings.

Mrs. Saul did not feel it was proper to spend \$20,000 for 12 students when one of our schools is in need of new playground equipment.

Mrs. Jankowsky confirmed that this Board has provided money in the budget for playground equipment.

Mrs. Huf stated that she believes in career-to-work programs and that she did support this. Mr. Blatt clarified that the Board had deliberated on this matter for 12-18 months.

Mr. Faust stated that there were numerous changes in the agreement as it progressed but that he still had some reservations about it. The Superintendent felt that it should be approved as a pilot for next year. Since the majority of the Board already favored it, Mr. Faust felt the option of a pilot was better than giving it a blanket approval. That was the reason for his change in vote.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mr. Strouse stated that traditionally Board members have been assigned to Home & School Associations for the various schools. He felt that a list of meeting dates would be helpful for the Board to have.

Mr. Grossi advised that there had been changes in governmental regulations regarding playground equipment and that it is far more expensive to replace the equipment than it used to be. He felt this should be reviewed District-wide.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Avery to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary