

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD SEPTEMBER 24, 2002**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on September 24, 2002, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Jankowsky at 7:36 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
Sandy Homel
Dr. Michael Masko
John Rhodes
Jean Rollo
Dr. Thomas Sexton

CEA/Teachers:

None

Public:

Charles Ormsby
Thomas Longitano
Chris MacDougall
Joe Dugan
Barb Fox
Michael Morrow
Fred Brimmer
Larry Sicher
Andrea Sicher

Frank McCloskey
Larry Hannon
Sarah Allhiser
Carolyn Allhiser
Michael Jones
Barbara Preedy
Joseph O'Connor
Jane Strawley
Kathleen McDonough

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Jankowsky announced that the District had received an offer to purchase Shelmire Field and that this would be a topic of discussion at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of District Bus Drivers

Mr. Blatt spoke about the transportation rodeo that was held in the spring and congratulated the four drivers who qualified for the Pennsylvania State Rodeo. He also congratulated Larry Hannon on placing second in the State competition. Mr. Hannon traveled to Chicago for the National competition and placed 10th out of 93 competitors. Mr. Blatt commended the quality professionals in the Transportation Department.

Transportation Supervisor of the Year Award

Mr. Blatt advised that Lyn Rhodes had been awarded the Montgomery/Bucks Transportation Supervisor of the Year award for the previous school year. Mrs. Jankowsky presented a plaque to Mr. Rhodes in recognition of his outstanding service. Mr. Grossi spoke about the wonderful job Mr. Rhodes has done and thanked him.

Meritorious Budget Award

Mr. Blatt stated that he wished to recognize Mr. Vail and his assistant, Linda Fanelli, for the excellent work they had done. The Association of School Business Officials International gives an award to selected entities for a high degree of preparation, development and organization of the school district budget. He recently received a plaque directed to the School Board and Mr. Vail and his staff for a meritorious budget for the 2001-02 school year. (Unfortunately, neither Mr. Vail nor Mrs. Fanelli could be present at the meeting.) Mr. Blatt and Mrs. Jankowsky also recognized members of the Finance Committee for their hard work on the budget.

GOOD NEWS

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Tom Longitano of 1029 2nd Street Pike, Southampton, inquired as to the status of the tax collection lawsuit.

Mr. Grossi responded that there was a ruling by the Judge that the District was owed \$17,000 to \$18,000, which has been appealed.

Mr. Longitano asked if there was a timetable. Mr. Grossi was not sure but indicated that the solicitor could be contacted for more information.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

- *Finance Committee – 6/10/02, 7/15/02*

The motion passed 9-0.

POLICIES

Discussion:

4.12 – Capital Reserve Funds

Mrs. Jankowsky distributed a revised version of this policy, which was generated by her and Mr. Strouse. She summarized the changes, including a change in the title of the policy to “Reserve Funds” and references to “capital” being deleted.

Mr. Grossi felt the changes were right on and commended Mr. Strouse and Mrs. Jankowsky for the rewrite of the policy.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this would be moved for final adoption at the next meeting.

4.9 – Care and Use of Equipment and Materials

Mr. Strouse suggested a minor housekeeping change. Mr. Avery indicated that the policy would be brought forward at the next meeting for final adoption.

5.6 – Use of Audio-Visual Equipment

Mr. Strouse suggested a change to the title of Attachment A to read “Audio Visual Equipment Request Form” rather than “Technology Equipment Request Form.” This change was agreed to.

Mr. Strouse questioned the reference in Section II D to “appropriate authorization.” Dr. Sexton indicated that this should mean the building administrator.

Mr. Strouse asked why Section III was being changed. Dr. Sexton stated that the intent was that the equipment should be locked up when it was being stored, i.e., when there was no one in the building to supervise it.

Mr. Avery suggested that it might be wise to revise this to read that the equipment should be secured when not in use. Dr. Sexton indicated that he would look into this.

7.22 – Hostile Environment

Dr. Sexton explained that this policy had been amended in April of 2002 and that normally it would not come forward for another two to three years. However, we received a letter from the Office of Civil Rights in May since they wished to make sure that our policies were in compliance. They recommended some changes to this policy and that was the reason it was being returned to the Board. The changes had been reviewed by the solicitor.

Mr. Avery asked if this would occur on an ongoing basis. Dr. Sexton advised that this was the first time this had happened, so he did not foresee it happening on a regular basis.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Jankowsky requested a change in the order of the agenda. There were no objections.

2. Exception to Facility Use Policy

Mrs. Huf asked if all of the insurance policies had been received as required. Mrs. Homel responded that she had spoken to each of the organizations and that they all had current insurance certificates on file.

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Exceptions to Facility Use Policy.

The motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Grossi interjected a response to Mr. Longitano's earlier question regarding the tax issue. There was a letter dated June 30th indicating that the tax collector had thirty days to appeal. The District had ten days to respond to the Brief and the Judge would probably render a verdict within thirty days. Therefore, something should be happening sometime soon.

1. Exception to Policy 7.18

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 6-3 to attend Leary Elementary School.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Avery to amend the motion to provide that the parent would provide transportation.

The motion to amend passed 9-0.

The amended motion passed 9-0.

3. Permission to Apply for Ezra Jack Keats Mini Grant

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to apply for Ezra Jack Keats Mini-Grant for Stackpole Elementary School in the amount of \$347.42.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. No Child Left Behind – Before and After School Tutorial Program

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Before and After School Tutorial Program (No Child Left Behind) at the six elementary schools to provide basic skills support to students. The cost of this program would be paid through Federal funds.

Mr. Blatt explained that this was an effort to begin to address the mandates of the “No Child Left Behind” legislation.

Dr. Sexton gave some particulars of the program, which would focus on grades 3-5. He indicated that this was being viewed as a pilot program.

The motion passed 9-0.

5. Group Term Life Insurance Carrier

Mr. Grossi gave some particulars regarding this matter.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the appointment of Aetna Group Life Insurance Company as insurance underwriter for the District’s Employee Group Term Life Insurance Coverage effective October 1, 2002, at a rate of 19 cents per \$1,000 of coverage (which includes Accidental Death and Dismemberment and Waiver of Premium coverages) for the first two years of Coverage.

The motion passed 9-0.

6. 2003-04 Budget Calendar

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the 2003-04 budget calendar.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that this was designed to accommodate meetings with citizen groups.

The motion passed 9-0.

7. Pupil Transportation Contracts for 2002-03

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Pupil Transportation Contracts for 2002-03.

Mr. Faust asked if we evaluated these as opposed to providing the transportation ourselves. Mr. Blatt indicated that he could not answer that but he would check with Mr. Rhodes.

The motion passed 9-0.

8. Assistant Superintendent's Salary 2002-03

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the salary of \$111,981, effective July 1, 2002, for Dr. Thomas W. Sexton, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education/Administrative Services for the 2002-03 school year. The Assistant Superintendent will also receive a performance bonus of \$1,500 for the 2001-02 school year.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would be opposed this item, as well as item 9, since she felt the salaries were too high.

The motion passed 7-2. (Mrs. Huf and Mrs. Baranski opposed.)

9. Superintendent's Salary 2002-03

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the salary of \$130,000, effective July 1, 2002, for David P. Blatt, Superintendent of Schools for the 2002-03 school year. The Superintendent will also receive a performance bonus of \$1,500 for the 2001-02 school year. Consistent with Mr. Blatt's contract, he is to receive an additional \$5,000 as salary in consideration of transportation expenses he incurs in the performance of his duties.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that the additional money for transportation expenses simply means that in the past there were expense reports submitted. These have been included so there would be no expenses submitted in addition to this.

Mr. Hertenberger indicated that he did not feel the \$5,000 belonged in with the salary.

Mr. Strouse explained that this had been part of the negotiation of Mr. Blatt's contract and that was how the Board voted to handle this.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would be opposing this motion for the same reason as she opposed the previous motion. She felt the salary was way too high.

Mr. Strouse stated that the \$5,000 was in lieu of reimbursement for any other expenses and that an analysis had been performed by the Business Department, which determined that this number was reasonable.

Mr. Faust indicated that he would be opposing the motion. He felt Mr. Blatt has done an excellent job but his concern was that administratively we had issued increases of 3½% and that Mr. Blatt's salary increase should be in line with what everyone else received. (Mr. Blatt's increase was about 4%.) He stated that he felt the performance bonus was a way to improve on salary and that if the Board wanted to do something more, it should have been in the performance bonus area.

Mr. Hertenberger stated that he was in favor of the motion but not how it was worded. He felt Mr. Blatt was worth the extra money.

Mr. Avery indicated his support of the motion. He felt that in order to obtain talented individuals, we must be competitive.

Mr. Locke pointed out that these items were previously discussed and were reviewed by the Finance Committee. He indicated that he would be supporting the motion and that he felt it was an equitable salary and that it represented recognition of the fine work being done by Mr. Blatt and Dr. Sexton. He stated that there have been positive comments within other school districts about the changes being made in Centennial.

Mrs. Baranski felt that Dr. Sexton and Mr. Blatt were doing a wonderful job but indicated that she would be opposing this motion due to the economy. She did not feel the District could afford this.

The motion passed 6-3. (Mrs. Huf, Mr. Faust and Mrs. Baranski opposed.)

OLD BUSINESS

None

PERSONNEL

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

The motion passed 9-0.

OTHER

Mr. Avery reported on the Operations Committee Meeting held earlier in the evening. The Committee discussed authorization for Administration to solicit bids for bus and van requests, as well as interdistrict transportation across defined boundaries. The latter item will be submitted to

the solicitor for review and comment. Another Committee meeting will be scheduled subsequent to the solicitor's review.

Mr. Faust reported that there would be several more unfunded mandates coming our way.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked Dr. Sexton and Mr. Blatt for their service rendered to the District and also for their commitment. She stated that it was appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Locke to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-1 (Mr. Grossi opposed.) The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary