

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD OCTOBER 22, 2002**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on October 22, 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
Jean Rollo
Dr. Thomas Sexton

CEA/Teachers:

Joe O'Conor

Public:

Tim U'Selis
Debbie Oswald

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Huf offered sympathy to the Travis family, who lost two sons the previous weekend.

Mrs. Huf indicated that she had attended the Cavalcade of Bands the previous weekend and that it was excellent.

PRESENTATIONS

None

GOOD NEWS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that at the Finance Committee Meeting the previous evening there was an Executive Session at which the Board discussed a legal opinion from the solicitor on the Shelmire track and a personnel matter relative to the reorganization of the Technology Department.

Mrs. Jankowsky also reported that there had been an Executive Session earlier in the evening regarding a personnel matter.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Strouse pointed out a minor revision that needed to be made to the minutes.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting of May 6, 2002.

The motion passed 9-0.

POLICIES

Discussion:

2.5 – Prohibiting Discrimination in Employment

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that this policy had been reviewed by the solicitor and included suggestions recommended by the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education.

Mr. Faust questioned if Section IV. A. was in conflict with Section III. H., which indicated that “The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.”

Dr. Sexton explained that it was the intent that the Superintendent would receive the report and forward it to the Board for decision.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this policy would be moved forward for approval at the next meeting.

3.25 – Distribution of Written Materials from Outside Individuals or Groups, and From “Limited Open Forum Student Groups”, to Students

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this policy had been reviewed by the solicitor.

Mr. Faust questioned the meaning of “non-controversial” in Section I. B. Dr. Sexton explained that most of this language was based on a Judge’s decision and was written by a solicitor.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this policy would come forward at the next meeting for the Board’s approval.

5.1 – Homework

Mr. Strouse stated that he felt Section C. 4. should indicate “when a student has been absent.” He felt that eliminating that reference defeated the purpose.

Mrs. Baranski explained that the feeling of the Citizens Policy Committee was that there were different reasons why a student might not get a homework assignment. They might not be absent from school, but just from the room.

Dr. Sexton indicated that this policy was before the Board last spring and that the original language of item 4 had come from the Citizens Policy Committee but the Board wanted the language clarified. The Committee reviewed the entire policy and felt item 4 was not inclusive enough.

Mrs. Jankowsky polled the Board as to their intent, as follows:

Mrs. Huf	Leave as is
Mr. Faust	Change per Mr. Strouse’s suggestion
Mr. Avery	Leave as is
Mr. Grossi	Leave as is
Mrs. Baranski	Leave as is
Mr. Locke	Leave as is
Mr. Hertenberger	Leave as is
Mr. Strouse	Change per Mr. Strouse’s suggestion
Mrs. Jankowsky	Leave as is

Mr. Strouse commented on Section A. 5. and Section D. 4. regarding assessment of homework. He indicated that previous discussions indicated that homework was to be practice, not an assessment tool. He stated that he would like to have this reviewed again.

Mrs. Baranski stated that the idea was not to grade the student but to see how many children grasped the idea of what was taught. Dr. Sexton confirmed this, indicating that homework was viewed as independent practice.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the use of the term “assessment” versus “review” and the meaning of the word “assessment.”

Mr. Grossi stated that he felt Sections C.5. and D.4. should be left as they were (“assessment”).

Mrs. Jankowsky polled the Board as to their wishes, as follow:

Mrs. Baranski	Leave as is
Mr. Locke	Leave as is
Mr. Hertenberger	Leave as is
Mrs. Huf	Leave as is
Mr. Avery	Change to “review and check”
Mr. Grossi	Leave as is
Mr. Faust	Change to “review and check”
Mr. Strouse	Change to “review and check”
Mrs. Jankowsky	Leave as is

Mr. Faust asked if Administration had reviewed the Suggested Daily Time Guidelines. Dr. Sexton stated that Administration had reviewed this, then it was reviewed by Citizens Policy.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this policy would be brought forward at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. William Tennent High School Marching Band Trip

Mr. Grossi asked if any school time would be missed on this trip. Mr. LoVecchio indicated that Friday and Monday would be missed.

Mr. Grossi stated that, educationally speaking, that meant the students would be missing four days or 180 minutes of instructional time per subject area.

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for the William Tennent High School Marching Band Trip to Niagara Falls and Toronto, Canada – May 16-19, 2003. There is no cost to the District.

Mr. Grossi asked what the procedure was if there was a student who was not meeting standards.

Mr. Blatt stated that from his experience, if it was a non-disciplinary matter, and a student was failing or grossly missing an academic standard, he felt the student should have had

intervention and might not participate in the trip. He thought he had seen documentation from previous years indicating that this had happened.

Mr. LoVecchio stated that the band policy was that a student must be in good academic standing to go on a trip.

Mr. Grossi stated that when block scheduling was reviewed, it was indicated that we should avoid trips where students would miss more than one day. He felt that a promise was made to that effect, which was now being broken. He resented being put in the position of having to vote against this trip.

Mr. Faust questioned the reason for inclusion of security guards at the hotel. Mr. LoVecchio explained that it was to protect the children, as well as to make sure that they were not leaving the building when they were not supposed to.

Mrs. Huf stated that she felt the trip had educational value.

Mr. Locke asked if it was mandatory that students be in good academic standing. Mr. LoVecchio explained that it was up to the parents to assure this.

Mr. Blatt felt that it was possible that we could formalize this but he felt that staff members also had a responsibility.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that there was a policy that dealt with eligibility for co-curricular activities and that perhaps that could be reviewed for future use in cases such as this. She felt that as far as this trip was concerned, Mr. LoVecchio was aware of the Board's wishes as to student performance.

Mr. Grossi felt sure there were other band competitions in other places that would not require the loss of two instructional days. He reiterated his feeling that the promise was not kept and felt the Board needed to draw the line.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Locke to call the question.

The motion to call the question passed 9-0.

The original motion passed 7-2 (Mr. Grossi and Mr. Strouse opposed.)

2. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status

Dr. Sexton explained the background of this request.

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 Students 1-13 and 13-13 to attend Davis Elementary School. Transportation will be provided by the parents.

The motion passed 9-0.

3. Student Assessment Recommendations

Mrs. Huf advised that this item had come forward from the Education Committee.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Student Assessment Recommendations of Curriculum Council (attachment). Grade 10 students will complete a final administration of the IOWA Test of Educational Development in the spring of 2003, in order to complete the data set for the William Tennent High School Accreditation for Growth.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Additional Pupil Transportation Contracts for 2002-03

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

The motion passed 9-0.

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 DISCUSSION ITEMS

School Board Retreat

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she would like feedback from Board members about this. The Board members generally felt that the retreat was good.

Other Items

- Mr. Grossi advised that the interest rates were such that there is a bond issue that we might want to refinance. He indicated that this would be discussed at the next meeting and that he would have a proposal for the Board.
- Mr. Grossi advised that we had an offer from Upper Southampton Township to purchase a piece of ground in Southampton. Our attorney has strongly recommended that we get an appraisal of the property. That will be brought forward to the Board.
- Mr. Grossi indicated that there was discussion on a reorganization of the Business Office. He would like to discuss authorizing Administration to advertise for the position of Data Processing/Webmaster. This would be an outgrowth of the reorganization. He indicated that they would like to get resumes from potential candidates as soon as possible. Mrs. Jankowsky asked if there was any opposition from the Board to advertising the position. There was none.
- Mr. Hertenberger stated that in the past he had questioned the computers and the inventory and how this was handled. He received a letter from Mr. Blatt indicating that over the summer an outside firm had inventoried the equipment and affixed a bar code to each item. Mr. Hertenberger indicated that he appreciated this and felt more comfortable now.
- Mr. Blatt advised that he wanted to share some thoughts with the Board. He indicated that he fully supported this particular band trip and that it was a very aggressive itinerary. However, he did feel that some of the points Mr. Grossi made did cross his mind and he did not feel they should be dismissed. He felt that we face many dilemmas in balancing the educational program and that with block scheduling we do need to look at lost time.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-1 (Mr. Grossi opposed.) The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary