

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD DECEMBER 10, 2002**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on December 10, 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
Joseph Faust
Eugene Grossi
Al Hertenberger
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
Jerry Locke
Harve Strouse

CEA/Teachers:

Eileen Poroszok
Mick Sander

Administration:

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

Public:

Joshua Camson
Igor Ozeryansky
Barbara Gallagher
Cyndi Mueller
Jim Stanton
Jane Strawley

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Jankowsky commended the students and staffs of all schools for their wonderful programs for American Education Week. She indicated that she and Mr. Blatt had visited every school during that week.

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that there was no Executive Session prior to this meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition for Mrs. Baranski

Mrs. Jankowsky recognized Mrs. Baranski for being among a recent group who received a PSBA Certificate of Achievement for completing four courses in the PSBA voluntary comprehensive training program. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she appreciated the time Mrs. Baranski put into this and presented her with a certificate.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Matthew Gallagher of 138 York Road, Warminster, explained to the Board that he had had some extenuating circumstances in his family recently, including two deaths in the family and a car accident involving both himself and his wife that resulted in his business having to be shut down for six months. He indicated that the school taxes he was going to pay were in the penalty period. He inquired as to whether the penalty could be waived. He stated that he had spoken to Mr. Blatt and he contacted the solicitor, who indicated that there was no exemption from this law. Mr. Gallagher indicated that he has been a community member for 23 years. He felt that there were laws to help people in many situations and felt that this could at least have been discussed before he was turned down.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that Administration had not had the opportunity to make this information available to the Board and also that Administration would need to have the solicitor's opinion before any discussion could occur.

Mr. Gallagher indicated that he was not necessarily there to request the Board to grant his request but felt the issue should be addressed if something like this would happen to someone else in the future.

Mr. Faust inquired as to whether the resident was entitled to some sort of hearing or if there was some process.

Mr. Grossi stated that generally we have very few options under the legislation.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that we would wait until more information could be obtained and then a written response would be prepared for Mr. Gallagher.

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

Josh Camson gave the Student Council report since Andrew Winslow could not be present. He reported on the following:

- November 21-23 – *“The Odd Couple”* was performed at the high school. There was a very good turnout.

- The Key Club Thanksgiving Food Drive resulted in over 3200 cans of food being collected.
- Archbishop Wood High School was defeated in the Thanksgiving Day Game.
- November 25 – The National Honor Society inducted over 50 new members.
- December 4 – PSSA All Stars Breakfast was held.
- December 4 – Financial Aid Night was held at the high school.
- December 7 – FBLA Annual Breakfast with Santa.
- December 12 – Key Club Blood Drive
- December 13 – Winter Concert and Wrestling Invitational
- December 18 – Special Education Holiday Luncheon
- December 20 – Alumni Breakfast and a Faculty Holiday Show

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Igor Ozerzyansky reported on the following activities at MBIT:

- Four bids were received for the student-built house. They will be reviewed at an Executive Council Meeting. The house is on schedule for completion by the end of the school year.
- In-House Competitions were being held in each of the program areas through the month of December. The winners of these competitions would compete in the Regional Skills USA competition.
- During January all 9th, 10th and 11th grade students would be receiving an MBIT Program of Studies booklet in the mail, along with an invitation to attend Middle Bucks' Program Planning Night on January 23rd.

GOOD NEWS

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

Mr. Hertenberger reported as follows:

- There was an Interfaith Service in Southampton at which the Madrigals performed. They did an outstanding job.
- On November 25th the Senior football players from Wood and Tennent got together at MBIT for a friendly dinner.
- There was a basketball tournament held by the Kiwanis Club on November 29-30. While there, he heard many favorable comments about the District.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Blatt indicated that he joined Mr. Hertenberger and Mrs. Jankowsky at the Southampton Business Association Luncheon. There was an official from the Association who was profuse in recognizing our youngsters for a recent Craven Hall activity that was community service oriented.

Mr. Blatt stated that our staff, students and the District had been recognized by PDE for our performance on the recent PSSA testing. As a result of our improved performance, we will receive \$126,796 as a "Maintenance of High Standards award." Mr. Blatt also commended the Board for supporting the teachers and staff.

Dr. Masko explained that in March of 1997 the Board passed a resolution that directed the development of District standards. This was a full year before the State adopted standards. He felt that the District owed the Board a debt of gratitude for their leadership and vision.

Dr. Sexton indicated that he sensed the excitement of the staff about this.

Mrs. Homel felt that this validated the efforts of many people in the District. She hoped that it was only the beginning of more good news to come.

Mr. Grossi felt that we have made progress but that there is still a long way to go. There have been some tremendously positive things but we really need to get back to where we were at one point. He felt that the Superintendent and the staff have done wonderful work to get us moving but cautioned that we are not yet where we could be.

Mrs. Jankowsky commended everyone on the work they had done and felt that this reflects a cohesive effort toward a common goal.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Huf reported that the Education Committee had met on December 2nd. Discussion centered around the role of the school counselor, technology and digital whiteboards and the new course proposals for William Tennent High School for the 2003-04 school year.

The next meeting of the Education Committee was scheduled for January 6th.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

No report.

Intermediate Unit

Mr. Locke reported that there had not been a meeting. However, there was a Farewell Dinner for the year. Also, there was an announcement about the Art Show at the I.U., which would be on display for the next few months. He encouraged everyone to stop in.

PSBA

No report.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Grossi reported that there was no meeting in November. He felt that the upcoming budget process would be a difficult one.

Title VIII

Mr. Faust indicated that the Business Office was reviewing surveys in order to prepare our application.

Federal Lands Reuse Authority

No report.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

Citizens Policy

Mrs. Baranski reported that at its last meeting the Committee reviewed the policy on charter schools. The next meeting would be on December 17th.

Legislative Liaison

Mr. Faust advised that the House and Senate had adjourned and that it appeared that there was no new tax legislation coming out in the near future.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting held on November 12, 2002.

The motion passed 9-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Final Adoption:

3.15 – Graduation

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the adoption of Policy 3.15, Graduation.

The motion passed 9-0.

4.13 – Integrated Pest Management

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the adoption of Policy 4.13, Integrated Pest Management.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Locke to table this motion until such time as the legislature addresses the issue of special education.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Faust</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Grossi</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Avery</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Strouse</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Baranski</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Locke</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Hertenberger</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>No</i>

The motion to table failed 5-4.

Mr. Faust pointed out that our policy required us to notify only those parents who requested to be notified when pesticides were being used. Mr. Faust felt that it would be easier to send notices to all parents. Therefore, he was not in favor of passing the policy in its present form.

Mrs. Baranski also felt that all parents should be notified.

Dr. Sexton stated that the draft policy the Board received was based on a draft we received from the State. He saw no problem with only notifying certain parents.

Mr. Grossi questioned whether the solicitor had been contacted about this. He felt there were certain questions that should be raised and indicated that he would like to table this until questions could be answered by the solicitor and until the legislature addresses special education.

Mr. Faust also expressed concern that this was not reviewed by the solicitor and questioned why. Dr. Sexton explained that it was because of the direction Mr. Lasher received in preparing the policy and that it was approved by PSBA's attorneys. He indicated that we are required to have this in place sometime in January.

The motion failed 2-7 (Mrs. Huf and Mrs. Jankowsky in favor; the remainder of the Board opposed.)

Mrs. Jankowsky asked Administration to review this and address the issues that were raised.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that there had been other policy templates prepared by PSBA that have cost the District money in lawsuits. He felt that parents should be notified if we were doing these kinds of things.

5.16 – English as a Second Language Program

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the adoption of Policy 5.16, English as a Second Language.

The motion passed 9-0.

FINANCIAL

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

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

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – November 2002*
- *Budgetary Transfers – December 2002*

The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Pupil Transportation Contract

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves removing from the table the Pupil Transportation Contract submitted at the November 26, 2002 meeting of the Board.

The motion passed 9-0.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that the motion had been previously moved and seconded and that discussion of the matter could now continue.

Mr. Blatt indicated that the major question was whether the payment was retroactive back to September. He stated that it was confirmed that it was retroactive back to October, which was the time the request was filed.

As there was still confusion as to whether or not the dollar amount was correct, Mr. Strouse suggested that the correct amount be verified since that matter was being handled retroactively anyway.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Avery to table this matter until the dollar amount could be verified.

The motion passed 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. WTHS Scholar's Bowl Trip

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary and final approvals for the WTHS Scholar's Bowl Trip to Half Hollow Hills Academic Competition in Dix Hills, Long Island, New York, on January 10-11, 2003. The cost to the District shall not exceed \$300.00 for van rental.

Mr. Faust questioned the backup material, which indicated that a male chaperone was in the works. It was verified that one was found.

Mr. Strouse asked if there was any way that preliminary approval for these types of requests could be made earlier. Miss Nieckoski indicated that she put this in for approval as soon as possible but just missed the date of the Board meeting. She said that in the future she could speculate as to the date of the trip in order to request approval in a more timely manner.

The motion passed 9-0.

2. 2003-04 William Tennent Program of Studies

Mr. Strouse requested that these items be split into separate resolutions.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following course for the 2003-04 William Tennent High School Program of Studies at a cost to the District from the Education Initiative Fund, as follows:

<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Cost Estimate</u>
<i>Computer Art & Design I</i>	<i>\$8,000</i>

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to amend the motion to indicate that we will have a reading initiative for certain at the high school to be implemented in September 2003 for the 2003-04 school year.

Mrs. Huf indicated that her opposition to these courses was because there is no reading initiative.

Mr. Grossi spoke about the history of reading in the District. He felt that there should be something done but did not feel that attaching it to this motion was the way to do it. He felt that block scheduling was a disservice to the students.

Mr. Strouse pointed out that we have heard about remediation and indicated that block scheduling came with the promise of remediation. He stated that he intended to vote against items 1 through 6. He did not feel that any expansion of electives was needed until something was done about reading.

Mrs. Huf stated that she felt the biggest obstacle to block scheduling was Mr. Grossi's negative comments.

Mr. Locke pointed out that he had a memo from Mr. Blatt stating that we currently have 50 staff members working on reading initiative projects and that he hoped to present a complete package for implementation in the next school year. Mr. Locke asked whether it would be possible to expedite development of six reading programs as electives.

Mr. Blatt stated that he did not feel comfortable indicating to the Board that the committees would develop six individual courses that would replace six courses on this particular list. He felt that might be misleading the Board. He didn't feel that there would be six individual courses coming out of this. He felt that there would be interventions at each level.

Mr. Faust indicated that he had concerns about reading but did not want to lose focus on the motion, which was about approving electives. He felt that sometimes we offer so many electives that we take the focus away from the core courses. He felt there were too many electives already. Mr. Hertenberger indicated that he agreed with Mr. Faust and that he had a lot of faith in the Superintendent and the Committee in what they were doing.

Dr. Masko reminded the Board that the request for the new courses was accompanied by the elimination of eleven other electives at the high school. He agreed that we could not neglect the students having trouble with reading, but also felt that we couldn't ignore the students who were meeting the reading standards.

Mrs. Baranski felt that this money should go toward reading and math rather than electives.

Mrs. Jankowsky commented that Mr. Blatt's memo provided the Board with ample information about what was being done about the reading. She felt that courses do need to be available to the students and that there had been ample discussion about these courses.

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

The motion to call the question passed 9-0.

The motion to amend failed 3-5. (Mrs. Huf, Mrs. Baranski and Mr. Hertenberger in favor; remainder opposed.)

The original motion failed 3-6. (Mr. Avery, Mr. Locke and Mrs. Jankowsky in favor; remainder opposed.)

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following course for the 2003-04 William Tennent High School Program of Studies at a cost to the District from the Education Initiative Fund, as follows:

<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Cost Estimate</u>
Digital Photo1	\$8,000

Since there was no second, the motion failed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following course for the 2003-04 William Tennent High School Program of Studies at a cost to the District from the Education Initiative Fund, as follows:

<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Cost Estimate</u>
Fiber Crafts and Construction	\$7,000

Since there was no second, the motion failed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following course for the 2003-04 William Tennent High School Program of Studies at a cost to the District from the Education Initiative Fund, as follows:

<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Cost Estimate</u>
Water Safety	\$1,000

Mr. Grossi asked if this was an elective or part of the requirements for physical education. Dr. Masko indicated that it was an elective. Mr. Grossi stated that he did not see why this couldn't be part of the physical education program. He felt he could approve it that way, but not as an elective. Dr. Masko reminded him that we already

reduced the health and physical education time and that to try to include even more into that would be difficult.

The motion failed 2-7. (Mr. Locke and Mrs. Jankowsky in favor; remainder opposed.)

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following course for the 2003-04 William Tennent High School Program of Studies at a cost to the District from the Education Initiative Fund, as follows:

<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Cost Estimate</u>
<i>Statistics H</i>	<i>\$2,500</i>

Mr. Faust asked how this tied into the existing Math program. Mrs. Homel advised that this would be suited to a Senior who had already taken the required Math courses.

Mr. Avery left the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Mrs. Jankowsky reminded the Board that there were eleven courses that had been deleted and that the Board had already turned down several of the suggested courses. She asked what the impact would be. Dr. Masko responded that the eleven courses were basically eliminated because there was not enough interest. The proposed courses would give students additional choices. As far as the eleven that were eliminated, there would not be a big effect.

The motion passed 6-2. (Mrs. Huf and Mr. Hertenberger opposed.)

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following course for the 2003-04 William Tennent High School Program of Studies at a cost to the District from the Education Initiative Fund, as follows:

<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Cost Estimate</u>
<i>Music Theory 2</i>	<i>No cost</i>

The motion failed 2-6. (Mr. Locke and Mrs. Jankowsky in favor; remainder opposed.)

Mr. Avery returned to the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following course for the 2003-04 William Tennent High School Program of Studies at a cost to the District from the Education Initiative Fund, as follows:

<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Cost Estimate</u>
<i>Integrated Engineering Processes</i>	<i>\$230,000</i>

Mr. Faust stated that this was coming through the curriculum renewal cycle. He felt it was replacing some outdated courses and would bring it more current. He indicated that he could support this motion.

Mr. Grossi indicated that they had looked closely into what was happening in the business world and that this was current and would represent a significant change. Mr. Avery felt that this was a lot of money for one course.

A roll call vote was taken on this motion, as follows:

<i>Mrs. Baranski</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Locke</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Hertenberger</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Faust</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Grossi</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Avery</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Strouse</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed 5-4.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following course for the 2003-04 William Tennent High School Program of Studies at a cost to the District from the Education Initiative Fund:

<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Cost Estimate</u>
<i>Advanced Engineering Processes</i>	<i>No cost</i>

Mr. Faust asked if a student needed to take the Integrated Engineering Processes course in order to take this one. Dr. Masko responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Faust asked if there was any merit to seeing how much enrollment we get in one course before we offer the other. Dr. Masko responded that that might put the Juniors and Seniors at a disadvantage in not being able to take both. He did not see any advantage since there was no cost for this course.

Mr. Locke stated that if we were spending money for all the equipment for the other course, he didn't see any problem approving this one. Mr. Grossi stated that these courses were not only complementary, but inter-related.

Mr. Avery noted that Music Theory 2 (at no cost) was voted down. He felt this was inconsistent with the theory of the District, so he would be opposed to approving the present motion. He felt that there were things being put forth that were not consistent and that he was disappointed in a lot of things he was hearing tonight.

The motion passed 5-4. (Mrs. Huf, Mr. Avery, Mr. Hertenberger and Mrs. Baranski opposed.)

Mrs. Jankowsky apologized to Administration because she felt the votes showed a lack of leadership. She felt the Board was sending a mixed message.

Mr. Locke stated that Mrs. Jankowsky's leadership was fine and that this had given the Board a chance to indicate some of the concerns people have. He spoke about the work being done on the reading program and indicated that he supported Mr. Blatt and his administrative group on this.

3. Permission to Accept 2002-03 Entitlement Grants

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 entitlement grants in the amounts indicated:

<i>Title I</i>	<i>\$4,677,848</i>
<i>Title II-A</i>	<i>\$ 263,591</i>
<i>Title II-D</i>	<i>\$ 17,154</i>
<i>Title V</i>	<i>\$ 24,572</i>

In response to a question by Mrs. Jankowsky, Dr. Sexton explained that the Title I grant was for \$179,000 more than the previous one, the Title II-A grant was \$65,000 more and the Title V grant (previously Title VI) was in the same amount.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Permission to Apply for 2002-03 School Year Grants

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to apply for the following 2002-03 school year grants in the amounts indicated:

<i>Community Service Grant</i>	<i>\$68,000</i>
<i>Title III Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students</i>	<i>\$22,228</i>

<i>Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth</i>	<i>\$ 1,840</i>
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<i>Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth</i>	<i>\$12,880</i>
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The motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Blatt requested the Board to review the December 6th memo regarding reading initiatives. He stated that he was a little troubled if there was something he wrote that had caused concern. He indicated that he tried to be very frank in letting the Board know his thinking and what was going on behind the scenes.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would like to speak to Mr. Blatt in private about the memo.

Mr. Blatt stated that he had tried to convey that we have to be deliberate and take the time to find the right answers. He indicated that he saw this as a strength.

Mr. Grossi felt that the memo was informative and thanked Mr. Blatt and the staff for putting it together. He stated that as far as the Chair's leadership, he voted as he did because he had problems with what he was seeing.

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; Inductee and Mentor; Substitute Support Staff; Substitute Bus Driver; Co-Curricular Additions, Changes and Deletions. (It was noted that Item 4 of Authorization to Employ should be changed to indicate "PT" rather than "FT".)

Mrs. Huf indicated that she would have to abstain from voting on Item 1 of Authorization to Employ. Mrs. Jankowsky advised that since the motion had already been made, it would either have to be split or Mrs. Huf would have to abstain on the motion as a whole. Mr. Hertenberger indicated that he would be abstaining.

The motion passed 7-0-2. (Mrs. Huf and Mr. Hertenberger abstained.)

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that she had received a letter from Mrs. Brzezinski dated 11/19/02 regarding a visit to the Administration Building.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Cyndi Mueller of 228 Gravel Hill Road, Huntingdon Valley, stated that she was very glad to hear about the memo addressing the reading program. She indicated that there were many students in

the middle school who cannot read near grade level. She was told that there was 6th and 8th grade remedial reading, but no 7th grade remedial reading. She felt that if we were going to make improvements on the scores, it would be on the low end, not the high end. She asked the Board to make sure this was taken into consideration.

Regarding Music Theory, Mrs. Mueller indicated that she was disappointed that this was not approved, particularly since it was at no cost.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she would be speaking to Board members over the holidays regarding Committee assignments.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Hertenberger and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary