

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD JANUARY 14, 2003**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on January 14, 2003, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Jankowsky at 7:34 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Scott Avery
Al Hertenberger
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
Jerry Locke
Harve Strouse

Administration:

David Blatt
Sandy Homel
Victor Lasher
Dr. Michael Masko
John Rhodes
Jean Rollo
Dr. Thomas Sexton
Timothy Vail

CEA/Teachers:

Dr. Bucky Clark
Eileen Poroszok
Janice Spirk

Melissa Kamenir
Shirley Kelly
Dennis Dettra

Public:

Vanessa Thomas
Dale Bennett
Sarah Bennett
Barbara Simpson
Richard Simpson
Ryan Simpson
Melissa Simpson
Lisa Beagle
Courtney Beagle
Joanne Cloak
Ken Cloak
McKenzie Cloak

Kathy Patton
Melissa Caso
Anthony DeBrigida
Paul Rose
Amy Rose
Nick Rose
Albert Jordan, Jr.
Albert Jordan, III
Donna Argeros
Andrea Thompson
Andrew Winslow
Igor Ozeryansky

Public (Continued):

Frank Campbell
Mary Campbell
Concetta Delana
Jeremiah Delana
Lynette Keating
Anna Keating
Jason Keating
The Niedrist Family
Ed LaGuardin
Geri LaGuardin
Eileen Kamenir
Harry Kamenir
Donna Marie Saul

Robert Gordyen, Jr.
Karen O'Brien
Carolyn Weiss
Lori Dankas
Patty Graefe
Samantha Spinosa
Liz Spinosa
Michelle Molko
Barbara Seader
Jeanne Littrell
DiAnn Byrne
Tina Duffy

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that Mr. Grossi and Mr. Faust were absent due to personal matters and that Mrs. Baranski was absent due to illness.

Mrs. Jankowsky announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting relative to personnel issues and negotiations with the Centennial Administrators Association.

PRESENTATIONS

School Board Recognition Month

Mr. Blatt announced that January was School Board Recognition Month throughout the State of Pennsylvania. He spoke about the role of School Board members. Dr. Sexton also spoke about the role of the School Board.

Students from Leary Elementary read poems they had written in response to a conflict resolution lesson. They presented a book of the poems to each Board member.

Dr. Clark introduced students from Log College, who spoke about several projects they had worked on, including a gift giving tree, the DARE Program and Red Ribbon Week. Two students read essays they had written about the DARE Program.

Mrs. Poroszok and Mr. Cattaro were present from William Tennent. Two Tennent students spoke about the William Tennent/Warminster Hospital program and thanked the Board for approving the program. They presented Board members with certificates showing their gratitude.

The students from Leary Elementary then presented Board members with gift bags.

Mrs. Homel stated that she hoped this presentation helped the Board to realize how much their hard work is appreciated.

Leary Elementary School Staff Peace Center Award

Dr. Sexton advised that several weeks ago Mr. Blatt had received a letter of appreciation from the coordinator of the Peace Center with regard to the important work being done at Leary. The letter indicated that they would like to honor the principal of Leary, Dr. Wetzel, and the support staff for implementing conflict resolution strategies. Mrs. Jankowsky and Mr. Blatt presented Dr. Wetzel and several of her staff members with the "Peacemaker Award" certificate.

Dr. Wetzel spoke about the program and the staff and thanked the Board for supporting this program.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Lynette Keating of 1391 Chinquapin Road, Southampton, requested a policy change to allow home schooled students to participate in sports programs. She indicated that there are many programs that home schooled students can participate in but she did not understand why they couldn't participate in the sports programs. She also indicated that she was aware of no policy which stated this. She also indicated that she realized there were insurance concerns, but questioned why the students couldn't be permitted to sign a release/waiver. She felt it was only fair that Centennial change with the times.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that the process was that when an issues arises, the Board asks Administration to provide it with information required to make a sound decision. With the Board's support, she indicated that she would ask Administration to provide background information on this matter and also its recommendation. Once these were received, they would contact Mrs. Keating.

Donna Marie Saul of 59 Lowell Road, Warminster, addressed the Board regarding the issue of college credits for high school students. She asked for clarification that the college courses taken by MBIT students would count as being graded in a weighted manner, such as the AP and Honors courses; therefore, they would figure into the GPA and could be used on the high school transcript. Mrs. Homel indicated that that was correct.

Mrs. Saul stated that she had been asking about high school students taking college courses for several years and that she was told that this did not figure into the GPA and that a full high school load must be taken in addition to the college course(s). She felt that if the above procedure was being used for MBIT students, then the Board should address this issue for Tennent students. She also asked if this would be done in time for next year since that was when it would be implemented at MBIT.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested that Administration research this and provide the Board with information and a recommendation.

Jason Keating of 1391 Chinquapin Road, Southampton, spoke about sports activities for home schoolers. He indicated that he had bowled on the Tennent Varsity Bowling team last year. This year he is being home schooled and was supposed to continue bowling with Tennent. However, he received a phone call indicating that he would not be permitted to do so. He stated that he would really like to bowl with Tennent.

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

Andrew Winslow reported on the following events:

- December 11-12 – The Key Club sponsored a blood drive, which had a good turnout.
- December 13 – The Winter Concert was held, which was a great event.
- December 18 – Special Education Holiday Luncheon
- December 20 – Alumni Breakfast
- December 20 – Staff put on a presentation of “The Night Before Christmas”
- January 2 – Progress Reports sent out
- January 6 – Performance by a singing group from Colgate University, an all-girl’s a cappella choir
- Course selection has begun.
- January 10 – Mentor Appreciation Day at Warminster Hospital
- January 16-18 – Tennent sponsored District Band Festival

Mr. Winslow also reported that none of the sports teams were doing well.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Igor Ozeryansky reported on the following events:

- Week of January 6 – Career Exploration at MBIT for 8th grade students.
- The 9th, 10th and 11th graders received a program planning booklet recently. Program Planning Night will be held this month.
- February 4 – Skills USA VICA Competitions in Norristown

GOOD NEWS

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

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Blatt spoke about the following items:

- On January 28th representatives of Administration and staff will provide the Board with an overview of initiatives that are underway, particularly with respect to Reading, to be followed up at a future Education Committee meeting with a presentation in greater detail.
- Today we learned from our bond financial advisor that what may have appeared to be an opportunity for some considerable savings has evaporated in the last week. He wanted to alert the Board and will keep them apprised of the recommendations of our financial advisor.
- He felt compelled to share several thoughts with the Board and the community with respect to some articles published recently. At the end of December, several newspapers published articles indicating that 106 school districts across the State may be cited for their poor performance or low participation in the PSSA tests. Unfortunately, William Tennent was mentioned for being cited for a less than 95% participation rate. These recent articles, in Mr. Blatt's opinion, did a great disservice to the School District and the community at large. To date, nothing had been received from any legislative body stating that the District would be cited for anything. Also, Centennial School District was recently recognized by the State Department of Education for improved performance on the PSSA and was awarded over \$126,000. William Tennent High School's increased performance on the test accounted for over \$50,000 of this award. The State indicated that all school districts must show a 95% participation rate. The 11th grade participation rate was 94.9% and the 11th grade math participation rate was 94.7%. The tenths below 95% meant one student who did not have PSSA results. Current regulations outline eight reasons why a student may not have results on the test. Mr. Blatt indicated that he was very disappointed that our school district was referenced in such a respect. The leadership of the District felt that the students, staff and community understand the facts surrounding these articles. The School District is genuinely committed to continued improvement. He indicated that this message would be shared on the website the following day and also with the entire staff. He indicated that he would give Board members the text of this message in Friday's report.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that it was upsetting to see Tennent listed in that article with no explanation as to why.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Avery reported that this Committee met on January 6th and that a representative of Middle States Association presented three possible protocols for future accreditation. Also the Committee approved the 2003-04 curriculum initiatives in art, mathematics and technology education.

The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for February 3rd. The topic would be an update on the Middle School program.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Strouse indicated that he was absent from the previous night's meeting, so he would defer his report to the next meeting.

Intermediate Unit

Mr. Locke indicated that the next meeting would be on January 21st.

PSBA

No report.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Strouse advised that the next meeting will be on January 21st.

Title VIII

No report.

Federal Lands Reuse Authority

No report.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

Citizens Policy

The next meeting will be on January 21st.

Legislative Liaison

No report.

MINUTES

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

- *Work Session/Regular Meeting – 11/26/02*
- *Reorganization Meeting – 12/2/02*
- *Regular School Board Meeting – 12/10/02*

Mr. Strouse indicated that he would be abstaining from voting on the November 26th minutes since he was absent from that meeting.

The motion passed 6-0. (Mr. Strouse abstained from 11/26/02 minutes.)

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Permission to Develop Policy

Mr. Locke noted that there was a request for permission to develop a policy regarding completing Senior year of high school at college.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that, rather than moving for permission to develop this policy, the Board should be provided with more information.

Mr. Avery stated that this also had ramifications for home schoolers and private school students. He felt the Board needed a good background and some idea of the ramifications.

The Board agreed that it needed more information.

Initial Distribution:

Mr. Locke noted the following policies for initial distribution:

- 2.15 – Employee Leave of Absence and Leave Benefit Program
- 6.4 – Charter Schools
- 7.15 – Possession and Use of Tobacco by Students

Final Adoption:

4.13 – Integrated Pest Management

It was decided that this item would be moved forward to the Work Session since not all Board members who had questions were present at this meeting.

Dr. Sexton pointed out that it was his understanding that a policy must be adopted by the end of this month.

FINANCIAL

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

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

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – December 2002*
- *Budgetary Transfers – January 2003*

The motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves removing from the table the Pupil Transportation Contract submitted at the December 10, 2002 meeting of the Board.

The motion to remove from the table passed 6-0.

Discussion continued on the original motion.

Mr. Strouse stated that the question was regarding the amount and that that had been addressed by Mr. Rhodes. Mr. Strouse indicated that he was now comfortable with the amount.

The motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

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

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18 to allow students 5-19 and 13-19 to attend Klinger Middle School for the remainder of the 2002-03 school year. The parent(s) will provide transportation.

Mr. Strouse noted that Administration recommended approval of this.

The motion passed 6-0.

2. Leary Elementary School Project PEACE

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Leary Elementary School Project PEACE training in State College, PA, March 14-15, 2003 at a cost for mileage not to exceed \$160.00.

The motion passed 6-0.

3. Facility Use Exception

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Facility Use Waiver Application of the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project (PAWLP) for the use of three rooms at

William Tennent High on July 28-August 8, 2003, as well as access to a computer room and printer. The group is requesting a 100% waiver of fees.

Mr. Strouse asked if this group had been granted this waiver before. Mr. Blatt answered affirmatively.

Mr. Strouse stated that it appeared that permission was being sought to have access to the computers. He wondered if there was additional risk because of this.

Kelly Mallon explained that the students in the program would not be permitted to use the computers. An aide from the high school would be the only one to use the equipment. Also, there was only a need for one computer and one printer.

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Avery to amend the motion to delete the word "room" in the first sentence.

Mr. Hertenberger asked who would be participating. Ms. Mallon said that she hoped to have 100% Tennent students but that it was being presented to others also.

Mr. Blatt stated that he felt this was a good program and that we should provide the computer capability.

The motion to amend passed 6-0.

Mr. Strouse pointed out that there was an agreement of understanding letter in the backup material but that the motion did not reference that letter. He did not feel that the Board was being asked to authorize that letter at this time.

Mr. Blatt agreed and stated that he did respond when he received this and gave tentative approval for our people to be involved in this.

Mr. Strouse advised that he had a variety of comments on the letter and that he would like there to be a clear understanding that the Board was not authorizing the signing of the letter.

Mr. Strouse stated that the sample letter of insurance seemed to be saying that West Chester University was exempt from the insurance provisions since it was a public university. Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this was separate from the motion.

Mr. Strouse felt that by approving the motion we would be assuming there is an insurance certification but there was not.

Mrs. Homel advised that there had been many phone calls about this and also the Business Office had reviewed the paperwork. West Chester University advised that this was all they could provide until the motion was approved. After that, they could provide something more official. The Business Office had indicated that that was acceptable.

A motion to amend was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger by adding the phrase "subject to the provision of adequate evidence of insurance."

The motion to amend passed 6-0.

Mr. Strouse stated that, aside from the above discussion, he felt this was a terrific program.

The amended motion passed 6-0.

4. Landscaping Maintenance Bid No. 2003-04

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Landscaping Maintenance Bid No. 2003-04 be awarded to Tri-County Landscaping at the following lowest responsible bid costs:

2003	\$60,600
2004	\$60,600
2005	\$62,115
2006	\$62,115

This will be a general fund expenditure.

The motion passed 6-0.

5. Projects for PDE Approval

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board hereby applies to the PDE (Pennsylvania Department of Education) for approval of the plans and specifications for the work described as follows:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Building(s)</u>
<i>Carpet Replacement</i>	<i>Administration Bldg., Klinger Middle School William Tennent High School, Willow Dale Elementary School</i>
<i>Door Replacement</i>	<i>Davis, Leary, Longstreth, McDonald, Stackpole, Willow Dale Elementary Schools, Klinger Middle School, Log College Middle School, William Tennent High School</i>

<i>Lighting Replacement</i>	<i>McDonald, Stackpole Elementary Schools, Log College Middle School, William Tennent High School</i>
<i>Replace cabinets in 20 classrooms</i>	<i>Davis Elementary School</i>
<i>Repair cooling tower</i>	<i>Log College Middle School</i>
<i>Resurface tennis courts</i>	<i>William Tennent High School</i>
<i>Resurface track</i>	<i>William Tennent High School</i>

The Board hereby applies to the Department of Education for approval of the plans and specifications for the work described above. The Board certifies that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, construction bid documents comply, or will comply, with applicable laws, regulations and policies, and the project will not pose a hazard to the health and safety of users. Specifications include all applicable statements set forth in the current PDE document entitled "Required Clauses for Specifications." Construction contracts will not be entered into prior to PDE approval. If the Board proceeds with this project, the lowest responsible bidder(s) will be selected. The Board also certifies that the above-described work will proceed whether or not additional on-site work that is subject to Act 34 of 1973 goes forward.

The motion passed 6-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Change of Status; Homebound Instructor; Mentors and Inductees; Title I Tutor; Permanent Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Substitute Support Staff; Substitute Bus Drivers; Co-Curricular Additions/Deletions.

Mr. Strouse stated that he was glad to see timely recommendations coming forward on the Co-Curricular items.

The motion passed 6-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she had received a letter from Mrs. Marie Brzezinski dated December 6, 2002. She also received holiday wishes from several people – these will be copied for the Board.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that we have received the solicitor's opinion regarding a matter brought forward by a member of the community, Mr. Gallagher. She requested Administration to provide a response to Mr. Gallagher.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mr. Hertenberger stated that a Big Brother/Big Sister/mentor function was held on December 13th at the Newtown Sports Club. He indicated that he was happy to see several members of the Tennent Swim Team there as mentors.

Mr. Locke spoke about the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project. He indicated that even though we have many requirements for this, this is the kind of thing we are encouraging. We are fully behind this type of project and hope it continues. The Board is just making sure all necessary details have been taken care of.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary