

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING  
HELD FEBRUARY 25, 2003**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on February 25, 2003, 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:

Joe O'Connor

Administration:

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

Public:

Donna Marie Saul  
Cyndi Mueller  
Janice Farley  
Jerry Albrecht  
Bob Trucksess  
Pat Leasher

**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 labor matters.

**PRESENTATIONS**

None

**GOOD NEWS/**

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

Mr. Hertenberger announced that the Centennial Education Foundation was selling raffle tickets. They are raffling off a silver Mustang Convertible. Mr. Hertenberger encouraged everyone to support the Foundation by buying raffle tickets.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Donna Marie Saul of 589 Lowell Road, Warminster, indicated that this was the fourth time she had appeared before the Board with the same request. She asked if any progress had been made about the question of college credits being given to high school students.

Mrs. Jankowsky responded that at this time she had not received a recommendation from Administration.

Mrs. Saul asked if any information would be available by the next Education Committee meeting. Mr. Blatt stated that he had anticipated bringing a recommendation to the Work Session in March.

Mrs. Saul asked that if college courses are not available, was there any way an AP course could be taken at another local high school. She questioned whether Centennial had any agreements with other schools on this subject, or whether this had ever been done. Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she was not aware of anything like this during her time on the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS****3. Approval of WTHS FBLA Trip to Champion, PA**

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if any Board member would object to moving up Item #3 of New Business. There were no objections.

Mr. Grossi questioned whether the trip was over three school days. Mr. Albrecht responded that it was a Monday through Wednesday trip. He indicated that there were three teachers going on the trip.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the cost of \$8,445 included the cost of substitutes. Mr. Albrecht indicated that it did not. It included registration, room and board and transportation. Mrs. Jankowsky requested that in the future, it would be a good idea to break down the cost and also to provide the cost of substitutes.

Mr. Strouse questioned whether the individual cost of \$285 was in addition to the \$8,845. Mr. Albrecht responded that the individual students were not paying. He had merely divided the \$8,845 by the number of people going on the trip. Therefore, the actual cost of the trip to the individual should have been indicated on the form as zero.

Mr. Grossi asked how the students would make up the school work they missed. Mr. Albrecht stated that in the past it has been the students' responsibility to make up work, and also they must have clearance from their teachers to go on the trip.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if this trip was always on school days. Mr. Albrecht stated that this was the way it has always been scheduled. Mrs. Jankowsky noted that the hesitancy of the Board was due to the school time being missed, particularly under block scheduling.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Baranski and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for William Tennent High School Future Business Leaders of America trip to Champion, PA, April 7-9, 2003. The cost to the District is \$8,845.*

Mrs. Huf stated that she would be supporting this because she felt it was an educational experience for the students.

*The motion passed 8-1. (Mr. Grossi opposed.)*

## **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the Minutes of the Education Committee of January 6, 2003.*

*The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mrs. Huf abstained.)*

## **POLICIES**

### Discussion:

#### 3.29 – District Financial Support for Student Trips to Competitive Events

Mr. Faust pointed out that the items in Section I.C. were not in the correct order. Also, on item 5, he felt the request should be made to the Principal rather than the Superintendent. Board members were in agreement on this. Dr. Sexton indicated that he would make the changes.

Section I.A.4.b. – Mr. Avery pointed out that there had been problems with timing in the past as far as preliminary approval for a trip. He wondered if the procedure should be adjusted. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that Dr. Sexton could work on this.

Mr. Strouse questioned whether a lot of these dates were determined well in advance so a list of potential events could be brought before the Board ahead of time to advise that there might be someone going. That way the Board would be aware of the dates.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that there were some events, such as the Scholar's Bowl, where they do not know the date ahead of time.

Mr. Faust asked if preliminary approval could be eliminated altogether.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt there was sound reasoning for preliminary approval, so that people could have insurance in line, etc.

Dr. Sexton stated that the whole idea was to find out ahead of time that the Board would be willing to approve the trip, before fundraisers were held, etc.

Mr. Grossi felt that there were certain events where it was silly to ask for both preliminary and final approval. He felt that all trips did not fall into the same category and that we can't account for every possibility.

Mr. Blatt pointed out that PIAA publishes a list of different playoffs, etc. in advance. In keeping with the spirit of communication, the Board could be informed about such dates ahead of time.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that Dr. Sexton would capture the Board's feelings on this and bring it back to the Board for further review.

#### 6.4 – Charter Schools

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that there was a solicitor's opinion and that he recommended that this policy be rescinded. She indicated that this item would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

#### 7.10 – Special Transportation

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that there were no changes to this policy and indicated that it had been reviewed by the solicitor. Since there were no questions or comments, Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this policy would be moved forward for final adoption at the next meeting.

#### 7.26 – Investments

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that there were no changes to this policy and that it had not been reviewed by the solicitor.

Mr. Faust pointed out, at the end of Section I, that there is no indication of what would happen if the Board chose not to ratify the Business Manager's decision. Dr. Sexton indicated that he would fix this. Mrs. Jankowsky noted that this policy would be brought forward at the next meeting.

Permission to Develop Policy:Capital Asset Policy

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this matter had come through the Finance Committee and was part of the audit report.

Mr. Strouse indicated that in conjunction with the audit conducted at the end of the year, the auditors indicated that we should have a policy regarding capital assets. It is a traditional type of policy that exists in most businesses. Mr. Strouse recommended that this policy be developed.

There was consensus of the Board to develop this policy.

**NEW BUSINESS****1. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 2-1**

*A motion was made by Mr. Locke 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 to allow Student 2-1 to attend Davis Elementary School for the remainder of 2002-03 and also for school year 2003-04. The parents will provide transportation.*

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that Administration has concurred with this recommendation.

*The motion passed 9-0.*

**2. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Students 1-13 and 7-13**

Dr. Sexton noted that Administration supported this request.

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status to allow Students 1-13 and 7-13 to attend Longstreth Elementary School for the remainder of 2002-03. The parents will provide transportation.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

Mr. Strouse noted that the Board had approved several exceptions to this policy over the past few months. He stated that although it might look routine, these have been truly exceptional circumstances.

3. Approval of WTHS FBLA Trip to Champion, PA

[This matter was handled earlier in the meeting.]

4. Facility Use Waiver

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Facility Use Waiver of Boy Scouts of America for use of the WTHS pool on Monday, March 3, 2003, pending current proof of insurance. The group is requesting 100% waiver of fees, at a cost to the District of \$63.00.*

Mrs. Huf asked if all facilities, including bathrooms, would be open as needed for the use of the participants. Mrs. Jankowsky responded that they generally are unless the host organization requests that they not be.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that there should only be a 50% waiver of fees since only 50% of the participants were Centennial students. She stated that she realized the amount was small, but felt that there was a principle involved.

Bob Troxis of 1338 Glazer Road, Warminster, indicated that they were not sure of the exact number but estimated that 50% were Centennial students.

Mr. Strouse asked if the Boy Scout troop was based in Warminster. Mr. Troxis indicated that it was and that they were hosting a group that was based in Warminster. All the participants were from Bucks County.

Mr. Grossi stated that he respectfully disagreed with Mrs. Jankowsky. He felt that this was being hosted by a Warminster group, so he did not feel the waiver should be an issue.

Mr. Faust agreed with Mr. Grossi. He stated that sometimes Central Bucks groups host this event, so in the end we would break even.

*The motion passed 8-1. (Mrs. Jankowsky opposed.)*

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**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; Permanent Per Diem Substitute Teacher; Per Diem Substitute Teacher; Homebound Instructors; Mentors and Inductees; and Co-Curricular Additions, Changes and Deletions.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

*A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the Awards of Tenure, as listed.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Avery announced that the Education Committee would hold a meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The topics would be the Warminster Hospital internship and District reading initiatives. He felt Board members would find the information about the reading initiatives helpful.

Mr. Grossi advised that they had found it necessary to change the budget calendar because of lack of information on revenues from the State. He indicated that there would be Finance Committee meetings on March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Grossi stated that, on the issue of finances, there would be a lot said about tax reform and what the legislature is going to do. He felt we need a united message to our legislators and State government, indicating that we need to stop spending our local tax dollars and start being responsible for our own actions, such as paying for their foul-up of the retirement system. And finally, to ask that when they pass legislation (such as the pest control issue), to make sure it is clear and concise and not an open invitation for insurance companies to raise our rates and enable lawyers to make money.

Mr. Blatt asked if Board members had received an invitation to a meeting to be held at the I.U. with the local legislators on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Board members indicated that they had. Mr. Blatt stated that last year we were the only school district to have all nine Board members in attendance. He indicated that he found it be an educational session for everyone there. He assumed all Board members planned to attend.

Mrs. Jankowsky reminded Board members that they were expected to submit a statement of financial interest to the Superintendent and asked them to do so if they had not already.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary