

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on March 25, 2003, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Jankowsky at 7:38 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Sina Baranski  
Joseph Faust  
Eugene Grossi  
Al Hertenberger  
Betty Huf  
Joan Jankowsky  
Jerry Locke  
Harve Strouse

CEA/Teachers:

Brenda Hurley  
William Wallace  
Joe O'Connor

Administration:

David Blatt  
Sandy Homel  
Victor Lasher  
Dr. Michael Masko  
Timothy Vail

Public:

Lisa Forlini  
Pamela Baker  
Donna Marie Saul  
Barb Patrick  
Phillip Patrick  
Lou Patrick  
Bobbie Loftus  
Tony Simek

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Jankowsky led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. She then asked for a moment of silent reflection for our troops and their families.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Jankowsky announced that there was no Executive Session prior to this meeting. She also announced that Mr. Avery would be absent from this meeting due to a personal matter.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Mrs. Jankowsky announced that she was delighted that there were three presentations to follow that showcased students and staff members.

### Scene from *Hello Dolly!* – Klinger Middle School Students

Janice Spirk, Principal of Klinger Middle School, stated that introducing some of the talented students was one of the favorite parts of her job. She then introduced Terry Travis. Ms. Travis stated that the play was put on two weeks ago and that this evening the students would perform two selections from the play. The Board thoroughly enjoyed the performance and thanked the students for coming out.

Mrs. Jankowsky congratulated the students on a job well done. She also congratulated Ms. Travis and Mr. Bateman for their hard work.

### Spelling Bee Champion – Phillip Patrick

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that the next presentation would be Phillip Patrick, a student from Log College Middle School, who was a champion speller for the second year in a row. Mrs. Homel spoke about Phillip's accomplishments in Math and Science, but indicated that now we were honoring him for another reason.

Dr. Bucky Clark spoke about the spelling bee, in which students from 68 schools participated. The bee went twenty rounds, which was the longest ever. Dr. Clark presented Phillip with a certificate of recognition for outstanding achievement. He wished him good luck at the National Spelling Bee in Washington, and also at William Tennent next year.

Phillip's mother, Mrs. Patrick, stated that Phillip has a gift that they have tried to nurture. She stated that they appreciated all the support and opportunities Phillip has had. On behalf of the Patrick family, she thanked all of his teachers and everyone who has helped and supported him.

Mr. Blatt spoke about how bright, talented and hard-working Phillip is and that he always carries himself as a young gentleman.

### Commendation from Governmental Accounting Standards Board

Mr. Blatt stated that he was very pleased to share the text of a letter from Tom Allen of the Governmental Accounting Standards Boards (GASB). He read the letter (attached hereto) as well as the contents of a certificate awarded to the District and to Mr. Vail, which commended them for early implementation of GASB Statement 24. Pam Baker of Barbacane, Thornton & Company, the District's auditors, explained GASB Statement 24 and the process used. She indicated that of seventeen school districts they represent, only two went with the early implementation.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this was facilitated by the Finance Committee.

## **GOOD NEWS**

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

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Tony Simek of 340 Centennial Road, Warminster, addressed the Board regarding parking problems at soccer games. He indicated that this has been a problem for a number of years and distributed copies of correspondence regarding the issue. Some of the problems included parking, traffic, urinating in public and consumption of alcohol. The firemen have called the Police on many occasions because of parking situations.

Mr. Simek stated that he had spoken to Mr. Blatt in October, at which time he became aware that maybe the Board members were not aware of these problems. He felt the situation was a poor reflection on the school. He assured the Board that he and his neighbors felt that the soccer tournament was a good activity but felt that conditions have been unsafe and need to be addressed. There was also a concern about fire and medical apparatus being able to get through.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that Mr. Devitt had contacted the Warminster Police in the past to advise them of some of these issues.

Mr. Simek felt that since the activity was on the District's property, it was their responsibility to do something. He wanted to make sure that people see this as a Centennial problem, not a city problem. He felt Centennial's actions did not back up their commitment to being a good neighbor.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that her intent was to say that the District cannot enforce city ordinances.

Mr. Blatt gave a brief background of his conversations with Mr. Simek. He indicated that he had contacted the Warminster Township Manager, who indicated that she was aware of the problem and had also spoken to Mr. Simek. She indicated that she would provide township resources as needed.

Mr. Blatt indicated that he had also spoken to the Chief, who indicated that if people are not abiding by the laws, they should be responsible for their actions. He stated that they would continue to look into the matter.

Mr. Blatt also had contact with the groups that use the facility. He suggested that they make people aware that this is a neighborhood and that they should abide by the rules and respect people's property.

Mr. Simek wondered if there was any possibility of relocating the fields to where there was parking.

Mrs. Huf stated that when Mr. Simek showed her photographs and letters about this, she was upset that it had not been handled in all this time and encouraged him to come to the meeting.

Mr. Simek stated that there was a general feeling in the neighborhood that the school doesn't care about the neighbors.

Mr. Grossi stated that this is an urban area where children don't have much room to play, so we make our facilities available. In most cases they are well-supervised and we hold individual groups responsible for this. We are not in the business of providing parking spots for recreation. He felt the police, who have been very cooperative, do have an obligation to assure that people obey the law. He did not feel it was up to the Board to provide portable toilets. He felt that we try to be sensitive to the needs of the neighbors and felt that it needs to be posted where people can and cannot park. He also felt that we should speak to the Township Supervisors and the Parks & Recreation Board.

Donna Marie Saul of 589 Lowell Road, Warminster, stated that Klinger had its first annual Science Fair, with over 200 participants. Klinger also had participated in the DeVal Science Fair. Four Klinger students would be moving on to the next competition. Miss Tenaglia will be on the Judging Board next year. Mrs. Saul indicated that our high school students do not participate in this fair, but that there is a lot of money given away at the high school level. There are colleges and universities that give out money. She asked the Board to look into this.

## COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

- *Finance Committee – January 31, 2003; February 24, 2003*
- *Education Committee – February 3, 2003*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

## NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Jankowsky requested that two items of New Business be moved up.

### 3. Preliminary Approval of WTHS Swim Team Trip to Orlando, FL

Lisa Forlini was present to answer questions.

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval of William Tennent High School Swim Team Trip to Orlando, Florida, December 26, 2003 – January 2, 2004. There is no cost to the District.*

Mr. Faust questioned whether or not there would be a cost to the District for transportation. Mr. Blatt stated that it was his understanding that there would be.

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to amend the motion by adding: "The cost to the District is limited to the cost of transportation to and from the airport."*

Mr. Grossi asked that a fiscal note be attached when the matter comes before the Board for final approval.

*The motion to amend passed 8-0.*

*The amended motion passed 8-0.*

Ms. Forlini commented that the booster President had sent some letters but she also wished to thank the staff, stating that "we have one of the cleanest, most well-run facilities you will ever see." She felt that the custodial staff was always very helpful.

8. Approval of Warminster Township Deputy Tax Collector

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the appointment of Tracy Costello as Warminster Township Deputy Real Estate Tax Collector by Barbara A. Loftus, duly elected Real Estate Tax Collector. The appointment is effective March 18, 2003. This action is taken in conformance with the provisions of 72 P.S. §5511.22 permitting a tax collector to appoint a deputy.*

Mr. Strouse noted that Ms. Costello was not a resident of the District. He asked if this was an acceptable practice. Mr. Vail responded that there had been a similar situation in the past and the solicitor had confirmed that this was acceptable.

Mrs. Loftus stated that she had checked with the county – only the tax collector must be a resident. She also pointed out that it was good business practice that a tax collector have a deputy; in the event Mrs. Loftus was incapacitated, there would be someone to take over. She also indicated that she would be responsible for paying Ms. Costello.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

## **POLICIES**

### Discussion:

#### 2.15 – Employee Leave of Absence and Leave Benefit Program

Mr. Strouse asked where the format for the policy had come from. Mr. Vail replied that the boilerplate policy was provided by the auditor. We made several changes to reflect our situation.

There were no other comments or questions.

#### 7.33 – Capital Asset Policy

Mr. Strouse stated that he had raised the question of whether this policy was necessary in light of the various bargaining agreements that existed. We received an opinion letter from the solicitor advising that it was still necessary.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this policy would be brought forward at the next meeting for final approval.

#### 7.7 – Participation in Non-School Activities

Mr. Faust stated that he noticed in the last several months that we had a lot of policies due to the Office of Civil Rights making suggestions. He would like this to be reviewed by the solicitor. There was concurrence by the other Board members.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this would be reviewed by the solicitor and presented at the next meeting.

#### Mr. Grossi's "From the Mouths of Babes Policy"

Mr. Grossi stated that a directive was received recently stating that students taking PSSA's will not be permitted to use dictionaries or thesauruses in answering multiple choice questions. They also cannot use scrap paper in taking tests. One student responded to this by saying "They want us to do our best but take away the things we need to do our best." Mr. Grossi stated that maybe we should write a policy on this.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Exception to Policy 7.18 – Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Students 11-13 and 1-13

*A motion was made by Mrs. Baranski and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18 – Resident, Non-Resident*

*and Tuition Status to allow Students 11-13 and 1-13 to attend Log College Middle School for the remainder of 2002-03 only. The parents will provide transportation.*

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that one thing this exception and previous exceptions raised in her mind was whether the time line in the policy was still okay or if it needed to be changed.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

2. Approval of Bucks County I.U. Budget 2003-04

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this matter was extensively discussed at the Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Grossi advised that this budget provides consortium services to the school districts. He indicated that he did not have any problem with the way the budget was put together but did have a problem with the non-mandated programs the I.U. runs.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the District's contribution was about \$74,000, which was \$760 less than the previous year.

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the 2003-04 Programs & Services and Instructional Materials & Research Budget for the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 in the amount of \$1,848,800. Centennial School District's share to be \$74,561.00.*

*The motion passed 7-0-1. (Mr. Grossi abstained.)*

3. Preliminary Approval of WTHS Swim Team Trip to Orlando, FL

[This item was handled earlier in the meeting.]

4. PDE Mandate Waiver for Dorothy Henry Alternative School

*A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the PDE Mandate Waiver Program Application for the continued operation of the Dorothy Henry Alternative School. Said waivers seek relief from provisions of the School Code Article XIX, Section 1901C(1) and 1901C(5).*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

5. Permission to Accept Competitive Grant for 2002-03 – HIV/STD Prevention Education
6. Permission to Accept Competitive Grant for 2003-04 – Target Stores Decisions for Teens Program
7. Permission to Apply for Competitive Grants

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to resolve that the Centennial School Board:*

- (5) *Approves permission to accept a competitive grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education Mini-Grant: HIV/STD Prevention Education for the school year 2002-03 in the amount of \$969.09.*
- (6) *Approves permission to accept a competitive grant from Target Stores for the 2003-04 school year for the Decisions for Teens Program in the amount of \$2,500.00.*
- (7) *Approves permission to apply for the following competitive grants for the 2003-2008 school year:*
  - Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth – Johnsville*
  - Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth – Lakeside*
  - Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth – Delaware Valley*

Mr. Faust commented on Item #7. Apparently someone at the State had a good idea that we get approved for grants on the second and third items but then chose not to fund them. We have been approved for these grants for the past few years but never received the money because they were not funded. He felt this was unfortunate.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

8. Approval of Warminster Township Deputy Tax Collector

[This item was handled earlier in the meeting.]

9. Cabinet Replacement Bid No. 2003-08
10. Cafeteria Table Replacement Bid No. 2003-04
11. Carpet Replacement Bid No. 2003-05
12. Cooling Tower Repair Bid No. 2003-14
13. Door Replacement Bid No. 2003-06
14. Emergency Generator Replacement Bid No. 2003-16
15. Lighting Replacement Bid No. 2003-10
16. Stage Dimming System Replacement Bid No. 2003-09
17. Tennis Court Repaving Bid No. 2003-12
18. Tennis Court Resurfacing Bid No. 2003-11
19. Track Resurfacing Bid No. 2003-13

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

- (9) *Approves the Cabinet Replacement Bid No. 2003-08 for Davis Elementary School to be awarded to Reed Associates, Inc. at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$27,606.00. This will be a capital reserve expenditure.*
- (10) *Approves the Cafeteria Table Replacement Bid No. 2003-04 for Leary Elementary School to be awarded to Reed Associates at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$27,753.00. It is also recommended that this award be amended to include cafeteria tables for Davis Elementary School at a cost of \$35,650.00. This will be a capital reserve expenditure totaling \$63,403.00.*
- (11) *Approves the Carpet Replacement Bid No. 2003-05 for carpet replacement at the Administration Building, Willow Dale Elementary School, Klinger Middle School and William Tennent High School to be awarded to Independent Contract Flooring at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$40,725.00. It is also recommended that this award be amended to include the Superintendent's Office at a cost of \$2,550.00. This will be a capital reserve expenditure totaling \$43,275.00.*
- (12) *Approves the Cooling Tower Bid No. 2003-14 to be awarded to John Calvitti at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$14,896.00. This will be a capital reserve expenditure.*
- (13) *Approves the Door Replacement Bid No. 2003-06 for Davis, Leary, Longstreth, McDonald, Stackpole and Willow Dale Elementary Schools and Log College Middle School and William Tennent High School to be awarded to James Doorcheck, Inc. at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$169,880.00. This will be a capital projects fund expenditure.*
- (14) *Approves the Emergency Generator Bid No. 2003-16 to be awarded to Penn Power Systems at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$18,900.00. This will be a capital reserve fund expenditure.*
- (15) *Approves the Lighting Installation Bid No. 2003-10 for McDonald and Stackpole Elementary Schools, Log College Middle School and William Tennent High School to be awarded to USA Electric, Inc. at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$31,000.00. This will be a capital projects fund expenditure.*
- (16) *Approves the Stage Dimming System Bid No. 2003-09 for Klinger Middle School to be awarded to Tri-County Electric at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$20,000.00. This will be a capital reserve fund expenditure.*
- (17) *Approves the Tennis Court Repaving Bid No. 2003-12 to be awarded to G. Antoninni Construction at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$48,895.00. This will be a capital reserve fund expenditure.*
- (18) *Approves the Tennis Court Resurfacing Bid No. 2003-11 for the William Tennent High School to be awarded to H.A. McMaster at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$13,800.00. This will be a capital reserve fund expenditure.*
- (19) *Approves the Track Resurfacing Bid No. 2003-13 for the William Tennent High School to be awarded to H.A. McMaster at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$21,800.00. This will be a capital reserve fund expenditure.*

Mr. Grossi commented that over the past 28 years, the District had a commitment to preventive maintenance. Vic Lasher has done a super job and the Board has provided the

funds. This motion represents a continuance of that practice, which he felt was a good, sound practice.

Mr. Faust asked Mr. Lasher to explain the difference between repaving and resurfacing of the tennis courts. Mr. Lasher explained that it was a two-step process. First, they would repave with two courses of blacktop; then they must apply paint with sand mixed in.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

*A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves removing from the table Policy 7.26 – Investments, submitted at the March 11, 2003 meeting of the Board.*

*The motion to remove from the table passed 8-0.*

Discussion ensued on the original motion. Mr. Faust stated that he thought the new language clarified what was missing. Mr. Faust pointed out that he wasn't sure that the last sentence of Section I was necessary. ["Any penalties associated with this early withdrawal shall be borne by the District.] He felt this was a rule or regulation of the fund and that it did not need to be spelled out in the policy.

Mr. Vail stated that this was developed by Administration and that the reason for the last sentence was to make it clear that there may be a cost to the Board's not ratifying this after the investment was made. It was simply a disclosure.

Mr. Strouse stated that if that was the case, maybe we should not invest until after Board approval. Mr. Grossi did not agree. He stated that he leaned toward Mr. Faust's opinion that this need not be stated since it was a function of the investment, and the investment should be made as soon as the money was available.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that if such a situation comes forward, the cost of early withdrawal be noted on the motion at the time, rather than putting this in the policy. There was a consensus of the Board on this item.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that the last sentence of Section 1 would be deleted.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

## **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; Mentor and Inductee; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; and Co-Curricular Additions and Deletions.*

Mr. Faust noted that there was a new position for Building Aide. He asked if this was Special Ed related or why this was being done so late in the year.

Mrs. Homel explained that this year when changes were made in the Middle School and Mrs. Hurley was brought forward to be Lead Teacher in Gifted, she moved Dr. Gee, who is certified in English, to that part of her duties. However, we have had an unusual year with children coming forward with limited English and we need help to get through the rest of the school year.

Mr. Hertenberger asked if she expected to need this position next year. Mrs. Homel stated that she would probably need to restore Dr. Gee back to full-time and restore Mrs. Hurley's other 50%.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

Mrs. Jankowsky asked Administration to continue their practice regarding the I.U. budget process. She explained that they came to the Finance Meeting and made a presentation, which gave the Board more time to discuss this. She felt that it had worked well.

Mr. Locke stated that the I.U. approved the renewal agreement with Warminster Township for the lease on seven classrooms for \$202,000, so some money would be coming back to the District.

## **OTHER**

### Participation by Home Schoolers in Co-Curricular Activities

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she had received a note from Mr. Blatt, together with an opinion letter from the solicitor, Mr. Levin. Mr. Blatt stated that he wanted to be absolutely certain that the solicitor had input in the development of this policy. With the Board's blessing, he indicated that we would ask the solicitor for input on the policy.

Mr. Strouse commented, regarding this policy and the next item, that while Administration was asking permission to develop policies and move forward, he suggested that they take these through committee levels before bringing them back to the Board. The other Board members concurred on this.

### College Credits for High School Students

Mr. Blatt pointed out his memo of March 21<sup>st</sup>, where he shared some of the considerations he has in developing this type of policy. He felt we need to work closely with the solicitor and also need to be very deliberate about our genuine commitment to the importance of a high school experience for youngsters. He felt we need to consider, in addition to the intellectual and athletic pieces, the social side of that experience. He felt he had shared some genuine considerations and that, with the Board's blessing, we would move forward to develop a policy for review.

Mr. Faust asked, regarding this policy and the previous one, which committees they would come through, Citizens Policy or Administrative Policy.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked that Mr. Blatt see what was done in the past and let the Board know how they would be handled.

Mr. Grossi asked about the order of the procedure to be taken. Mr. Strouse suggested a draft policy be brought to the committee to give them a basis for discussion. Then it could go through the regular policy process.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that the committee should have the opportunity to vote on its support or non-support of these two items. She felt that if the Board wished to send it through committee, then they should empower the committee to make a recommendation to the Board.

After additional discussion, it was decided that the committee would make a recommendation, then this would move to the appropriate policy development stage.

Mr. Blatt stated that Administration would draft some "talking points" rather than a draft policy and would bring that to the Education Committee for input. Then it could go to Citizens Policy for refinement, then to the full Board. Mr. Blatt stated that early on we should collaborate with the solicitor. (This would be applicable to this item and the previous item.)

#### District Goals for 2003-04

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that in the past we have asked Board members and the Superintendent to submit proposed goals. Mr. Blatt has provided examples of suggestions for goal areas. If Board members had suggestions, they could bring them to the table for discussion. Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the Board would like more time to think about this. Board members indicated that they would like more time. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this would come back at the April Work Session for discussion.

#### Meetings Policy

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that at the next Work Session she would like to review the policy regarding meetings. She would like to make a suggested addition to the policy.

#### Communications

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that she had several pieces of communications to share:

- A letter from Mary Ann Kuder of Southampton regarding a transportation issue
- An e-mail from Mr. Simek regarding parking issues
- A thank-you note from the Bellis

Other

Mrs. Jankowsky announced that Finance Committee meetings would be held on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 9<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Blatt stated that he would like to share a positive experience with the Board. He was invited by the Southampton Square Club to make a presentation and join them for dinner. They asked for a brief overview of the School District, our future, etc. There were 89 gentlemen in attendance. They had much positive energy towards our School District. People have genuinely recognized the good things that are happening in the District. Much of what Mr. Blatt heard was a testament to the Board and previous Administrations.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mr. Hertenberger and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 6-2. (Mr. Grossi and Mr. Faust opposed.). The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary