

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD APRIL 8, 2003**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on April 8, 2003, 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

*arrived at 8:35 p.m.

Administration:

David Blatt
Dr. Michael Masko
Jean Rollo
Dr. Thomas Sexton
Timothy Vail

CEA/Teachers/Principals:

Eileen Poroszok
Gunci Sklaiditis
Andrew Mahony
Susan Bootel
Keeley Mallon
Nicole Onfrillo
Robert Immerman
Christine Roviello
Wayne Pickering

Public:

Donna Marie Saul
Andrew Winslow
Marianne Chisesi
J. R. Meisner, III
Allison McGarrey

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Jankowsky announced that there was no Executive Session prior to this meeting. However, the Board did hold a reception to introduce Wayne Robinson, the candidate recommended by Administration to replace Lynn Rhodes as Transportation Director. They were also pleased to meet Wayne Pickering, the replacement for Dr. Belli. She thanked Mr. Pickering for keeping the school running as efficiently as Dr. Belli had.

PRESENTATIONS

Davis Elementary School Recognition

Mr. Blatt extended a sincere thank you to everyone at Davis School.

Dr. Sexton stated that it was a rare occurrence to have an extensive absence of an administrator. He recognized the people at Davis School for stepping up and doing everything necessary to keep Davis School running and delivering an outstanding program. He spoke about some of the things going on at the school and made special mention of Bob Immerman, a guidance counselor, who had been the teacher in charge. He stepped up and did a wonderful job. Also, Keeley Mallon, reading specialist, had taken on special duties. Dr. Sexton indicated that he was very proud to be associated with everyone at Davis and thanked them for their efforts.

Dr. Sexton and Mrs. Jankowsky distributed tokens of appreciation (pens and calculators) to all of the individuals present from Davis School.

Recognition of Centennial School District by Bucks County Economic Development Corp.

Mr. Blatt advised that he had received a letter the previous week from the Executive Director of the Bucks County Economic Development Corporation. He read the text of the letter, which informed him that the corporation was presenting to the District a Blue Ribbon Certificate of Recognition from *Expansion Management Magazine*, reflecting Centennial's outstanding performance. Mr. Blatt felt that this spoke very well of the School Board and staff. He presented the plaque to Mrs. Jankowsky.

Recognition of School Board Members – PSBA

Mr. Blatt stated that he had received a letter and three plaques from PSBA recognizing the contributions of three School Board members. He read the text of the letter and presented "*In Service Education Certificates*" for attending in-service opportunities to Mrs. Jankowsky, Mrs. Huf and Mrs. Baranski.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that Mr. Hertenberger would be either late or absent from this meeting due to a personal matter.

Mrs. Jankowsky announced that she had attended the Log College Middle School presentation of *"The Wizard of Oz"* the previous weekend. She congratulated the cast, crew, staff members and parents. She felt they had done a wonderful job.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

Andrew Winslow reported on the following:

- March 18 – Amnesty International sponsored a student debate about the war in Iraq. Andrew was a panel member.
- March 26 – A Warminster police officer visited and participated in “Ask a Cop”
- March 29 – Clean-up Day at Churchville Nature Center. Also Brainy Bunch Tournament.
- April 1-10 – PSSA Reading and Math tests taken by Grade 11 students.
- April 2-5 – School Musical, “The Fantastics”
- April 5 – NHS sponsored car wash to benefit American Cancer Society
- April 5 – Key Club sponsored Special Olympics
- April 7-8 – Many students were participating in FBLA State Championships in Pittsburgh.
- April 9 – Gay/Straight Alliance sponsoring Day of Silence
- April 12 – 9th and 10th grade students semi-formal dance
- First week in May – Junior Prom
- May 23 – Senior Prom

Mrs. Jankowsky announced that Mr. Winslow and Mr. Ozeryansky were the recipients of two of the three scholarship awards made by the Chamber of Commerce. She congratulated them. Mrs. Baranski congratulated the parents of these two students, stating that they had done a fine job.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Sexton presented the Good News Report (see attached.)

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

None

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Avery stated that the previous night's meeting had been postponed to May 5th. On the agenda for that meeting were the following topics: William Tennent data review; William Tennent administrative reorganization; District reading initiative with fiscal note; William Tennent internship program for the possible inclusion in the 2004-05 program of studies.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Strouse advised that they had intended to bring to the Board a resolution from the MBIT Board related to the refinancing of the Bond at MBIT; however, bond counsel advised that the resolution needed to be amended. MBIT's Executive Committee will be addressing this issue.

Intermediate Unit

Mr. Locke indicated that the I.U. had approved a renewal of an agreement with Warminster Township for re-leasing seven classrooms for January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2005, for the total amount of \$202,188.00.

The next meeting will be on April 15th.

In response to a question by Mr. Grossi, Mr. Locke confirmed that the above classrooms were used for preschool.

PSBA

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that PSBA would be conducting their annual summer workshop at the end of June in Lancaster. She asked any Board members who were interested in attending to contact the Superintendent's Office.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Grossi stated that the Finance Committee had met the previous week. They reviewed local and federal revenues. He indicated that they had no clue about the State. A meeting was scheduled for April 9th, with three items on the agenda, including: approval of minutes, Special Ed budget and staffing. He urged everyone to attend.

Title VIII

No report.

Federal Lands Reuse Authority

No report.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

No report. (Mr. Locke commented that he was looking forward to working with Mr. Robinson.)

Citizens Policy

Mrs. Baranski advised that this committee would meet on April 15th.

Legislative Liaison

Mr. Faust advised that the State House had gone back in session the previous day and that the Senate was not scheduled to resume until April 21st. He spoke about some interesting Bills that indirectly affect school districts, including a slot machine gambling bill. There has been a bill passed in the State government that would require an 18-month moratorium on expansion of legalized gambling until a gambling impact study could be completed. There is another bill which would make the legalization of slot machines at race tracks contingent upon a referendum by the county that hosted that particular race track.

Part of the special education funding in the Governor's proposal will go through the market value personal income aide ratio. This could have an adverse effect on us. It could mean an increase of \$43,000 for the District.

Mr. Faust indicated that on March 31st a majority of the Board members met at the I.U. with other school districts and legislators. One of the topics discussed was the budget. A major concern to the districts was special education funding.

Mr. Grossi stated that he suggested that the legislature should correct the mess they have created over the last ten years. He felt the retirement issue was a debacle.

Mr. Faust stated that one new resolution introduced in the House before it adjourned called for a study to determine the feasibility and cost effectiveness of placing public schools' employee benefits under the State's jurisdiction.

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 School Board Meeting – February 25, 2003*
- *Regular School Board Meeting – March 11, 2003*

The motion passed 8-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Initial Distribution:

Mr. Locke noted the following policies for initial distribution:

- 7.30 – District Records – Public
- 7.31 – Purchasing Procedures

Final Adoption:

2.15 – Employee Leave of Absence and Leave Benefit Program
7.33 – School District Fixed Asset Policy

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 2.15, Employee Leave of Absence and Leave Benefit Program and Policy 7.33, School District Fixed Asset Policy.

The motion passed 8-0.

FINANCIAL

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

- *Schedule of Bills – March 2003*
- *Investments – March 2003*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – March 2003*

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – March 2003*
- *Budgetary Transfers – April 2003*

The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

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

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 9-20 and 13-20 to attend Leary Elementary School for the remainder of 2002-03 only. The parents will provide transportation.

[Mr. Hertenberger arrived at the meeting at 8:35 p.m.]

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that Administration was in support of the exception to the policy.

The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mr. Hertenberger abstained.)

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

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 Student 14-8 to attend Longstreth Elementary School for the remainder of her elementary school career. The family will provide transportation.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if Administration supported this request. Dr. Sexton responded that they did. He explained that this was an unusual recommendation to support this since the student was only in kindergarten. Because of the extenuating circumstances learned from speaking to the child's grandparents and her therapist, Administration recommends support of this exception.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would prefer to do this on a year-to-year basis as time progresses.

Mr. Faust stated that he had a concern with the wording in that if the grandparents or the father move outside the District, this could be a problem. He suggested that residency must be maintained within the Centennial School District.

Mr. Avery agreed with Mr. Faust and also stated that, given the extenuating circumstances, he felt that we should provide continuity for the child. He felt the Board should do what it could to support this request.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Avery to amend the motion by adding the words "while the guardians are resident in the Centennial School District" at the end of the first sentence.

Mr. Grossi stated that he wanted to clarify that this would be a student from Leary who would be attending Longstreth. He indicated that he agreed with the amendment.

The motion to amend passed 9-0.

The amended motion passed 9-0.

3. Tax Assessment Appeals – Settlement

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes the District solicitor to notify the Bucks County

Board of Assessment that the amounts proposed to settle the three pending appeals outlined on the attached supplement are acceptable to the District in keeping with values agreed upon by independent District appraisers. Estimated refunds resulting from settlement of these appeals amounts to \$86,117.63 in prior year overpayments.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this item was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Grossi stated that it was deemed that these property assessments were high due to differential market values for different types of properties. The Committee felt that these were fair and equitable for the taxpayers.

Mr. Faust asked how much this would reduce the annual tax base. Mr. Vail responded that it would be about \$17,000 less annually.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Purchase of Cardiovascular Equipment

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the prior purchase of previously-owned cardiovascular machines for the WTHS conditioning center at a cost of \$4,800.00, and hereby directs that funds from the Capital Reserve Fund be transferred to reimburse the General Fund for this purchase.

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

The motion passed 9-0.

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; Support Staff Substitute; Substitute Custodians; and Co-Curricular Additions/Deletions.

Mr. Blatt introduced Wayne A. Robinson, the recommended candidate for the position of Director of Transportation. He spoke about the process used to find candidates and about Mr. Robinson's background. He stated that he felt Mr. Robinson was one of the finest people we could bring to the District.

Mr. Faust asked the reason for the delay in bringing forth for approval the first item under Authorization to Employ. Mrs. Rollo replied that this person had been working as a per diem substitute, so this was a retroactive appointment.

The motion passed 9-0.

Mrs. Jankowsky welcomed Mr. Robinson aboard.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she had received a letter dated March 27th from Mrs. Biukians, the Chairperson of the Upper Southampton Board of Supervisors. She also received an e-mail from Mr. Simek.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mr. Grossi advised that the Finance Committee had made a recommendation to amend the budget calendar and asked if it would be on the agenda for the next Work Session. Mrs. Jankowsky verified that it would.

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 8-1. (Mr. Avery opposed.) The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary