

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING  
HELD APRIL 22, 2003**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on April 22, 2003, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Jankowsky at 7:52 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

Administration:

David Blatt  
Sandy Homel  
Dr. Michael Masko  
Dr. Thomas Sexton  
Timothy Vail

CEA/Teachers/Principals:

Kelley Mallon  
Theodore Abel  
Eileen Poroszok  
Brenda Hurley  
Michelle Chiodo  
Steve Rubenstein  
Rose McKeivitt  
Carla Capriotti  
Debbie Dougherty  
Debbie Sobczak  
Lisa Stecklein

Public:

Rebecca Abel  
Judith Abel  
Tug Duffy  
Roseanne Stengel  
John Dankas  
Donna Marie Saul

**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.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that Mr. Avery would be late due to personal business. Mr. Faust had not yet arrived.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### Stackpole Elementary School “Brainy Bunch”

Dr. Sexton spoke about the Brainy Bunch Competition, indicating that the winning team was one of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes from Stackpole School. He introduced Sharon Mays, teacher of Gifted Education.

Mrs. Mays spoke about the competition and showed the trophy the team had won. She presented certificates to the team members and explained how the competition worked.

[Mr. Faust arrived at the meeting at 8:00 p.m.]

### Scenes from *The Wizard of Oz* – Log College Middle School Students

Mrs. Homel spoke about the production of *The Wizard of Oz*, stating that it was sold out both nights. Dr. Clark commented on the production, which had taken place several weeks ago. Mrs. Cockenbergl indicated that there were over 70 students onstage, with many others doing scenery, etc.

The cast then did two scenes from the play for the Board and members of the public present at the meeting.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked everyone involved in the play for their hard work and stated that she felt they had done an excellent job.

### Teacher of the Year Finalist – Ted Abel

Mrs. Homel spoke about the process involved in choosing the Teacher of the Year. She spoke about Mr. Abel, highlighting his experience and his career in Centennial.

Mrs. Jankowsky presented Mr. Abel with flowers and a certificate on behalf of Centennial School District.

[Mr. Avery arrived at the meeting at 8:20 p.m.]

### Centennial Education Foundation Presentation of Mini-Grant Awards

Dr. Sexton spoke about how the Foundation funds grants across the District. Mr. Froggatt thanked Bob Shrader and Donna Mooney for their hard work on this. He introduced the Centennial Education Foundation Board members who were present at the meeting, and presented the mini-grants to the teachers present.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked Mr. Froggatt for all of the time he devotes to the organization.

### **GOOD NEWS**

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

### **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None

### **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meetings of March 6, 2003; March 24, 2003; and April 2, 2003.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

### **POLICIES**

#### Discussion:

#### 7.03 – District Records – Public

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that this policy is required by State law.

Mr. Faust questioned Section II. C. as to whether summer hours should be stated. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this section could be adjusted appropriately. She also stated that the solicitor had reviewed the policy and that it would be moved forward for approval at the next meeting.

#### 7.31 – Purchasing Procedures

Mr. Strouse stated that it was pointed out to him that this policy was not reviewed by the solicitor. He questioned whether the Board wanted it to be.

Dr. Sexton stated that he believed the procedures as written were reviewed when the initial policy was developed and that these procedures were working appropriately.

Mr. Strouse felt that we could ask the solicitor if there have been any changes in purchasing law. Mrs. Jankowsky asked if Board members could be informed as to whether there had been any significant changes. She stated that this policy would be moved forward at the next meeting.

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

Mr. Strouse pointed out that nowhere in the policy did it indicate that parent consent was needed for a student to be excused from school. He felt this should be included. Dr. Sexton indicated that he would do so.

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that this policy was reviewed by the solicitor, and that it would be moved forward at the next meeting.

Mr. Hertenberger felt that guardians should be included also.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Preliminary Approval for Trip by Longstreth Elementary to Camp Canadensis

*A motion was made by Mr. Hertenberger and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for a trip by the fifth grade classes at Longstreth Elementary School to Camp Canadensis, September 10, 11 and 12 2003. The cost to the District is \$510.00.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

2. Facility Use Exception

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that this matter had been removed from the agenda.

3. District Goals for 2003-04

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that these goals were previously distributed by Mr. Blatt.

Mr. Grossi felt that goal (a) presupposed approval of the proposed initiative. He was not sure he supported that. He had no problem with the initiative as long as it comes out of the existing human and financial resources.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if goal (a) could be held until discussion of (b) and (c) had taken place. Mr. Strouse saw no reason not to move all three items since he felt sure there would be some type of literacy initiative.

Mr. Grossi felt that if this was approved, it did not presuppose approval of paying \$639,000. He figured that out of a \$67 million budget proposal, that percentage was

quite small for literacy and we could probably do something with the approach offered or an alternate approach through the existing resources.

Mrs. Jankowsky concurred with Mr. Strouse's observation that we can move forward and make adjustments as needed.

Mr. Hertenberger thought that in the last discussion on this topic there were some items that were still under discussion. He would like to see this item removed for now and brought back later.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that that could be done but felt that moving these goals forward did not preclude further discussion on the literacy initiative.

Mr. Locke felt that these were some of the goals the Board asked the Superintendent to address and focus on. Mr. Blatt had requested additional time to gather input from various sources, which the Board granted so that Mr. Blatt could put a comprehensive program together. He felt that the question now was the funding of the program but that the Board should respect the work that Mr. Blatt had done.

Mrs. Huf agreed with Mr. Locke and indicated that she did not wish to remove this goal. She hoped that the Board could find a way to implement a satisfactory literacy program.

Mr. Grossi cautioned some of the Board members that we have expended a lot of money over the years on programs to address the needs of those at Basic or Below Basic. He felt it might be possible to restructure what is already being done so that we can get more out of it. He indicated that he didn't have a problem with this goal because this has always been a goal of the Board. However, he was not yet satisfied that the proposal that was given was the best alternative.

Mr. Strouse commented that this is both a literacy initiative and a literacy enhancement initiative. He felt it addressed much more than literacy.

Mr. Hertenberger indicated that, after having listened to this discussion, he had decided to support this; however, he felt there were other things to be discussed.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested changing the wording of the goal to read "*a literacy initiative*" rather than "*the new literacy initiative*."

Regarding goal (b), Mr. Faust commented that the words "examination" and "evaluation" seemed very similar. Administrators set certain benchmarks for block scheduling when it was implemented. He wondered how that factored into this and if it was part of the goal.

Mr. Blatt stated that examination and evaluation are close in meaning but he felt they had a slightly different definition. He indicated that there were benchmarks established to see changes, enhancement and improvements in the program. He believed there was a sunset provision established by the Board. In his opinion, part of what he thought we should do

would be to look at the benchmarks that were established by Administration in conjunction with the Board, although he was not prepared to say exactly what all those individual benchmarks or time frames were. He saw all that as being embodied in this goal.

Mr. Faust stated that if those benchmarks were not met, block scheduling expires on sunset. He asked if Administration was prepared to have something else in place. Mr. Blatt responded that if the Board was not satisfied with the results, Administration would have to come up with alternatives. That was part of the process of evaluation and examination.

Mr. Hertenberger asked when block scheduling would expire. Mr. Blatt stated that it was his understanding that we are in the third year of implementation of block scheduling and that there was a five-year window. Mrs. Huf indicated that review was to take place after three years, but felt that "expiration" was not part of the package.

Mr. Grossi stated that there was a sunset provision and that there were only two basic goals, dealing with PSSA's and SAT's, as well as the Iowa tests.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this information will be reviewed at the May Education Committee meeting.

Mr. Grossi spoke about evaluation/examination. He felt that what should be looked at was the three goals only because that was what the committee set. He felt the whole key was improvement in student performance.

Mrs. Huf felt that block scheduling was a five-year plan, with evaluation after three years. She did not feel it would expire after three years. Mr. Hertenberger agreed. Mrs. Jankowsky felt that more information was needed as to what was intended.

Mr. Blatt felt that we should access the motion that was made by the Board when block scheduling was enacted. He also felt that evaluation should always be a part of the process in everyday operations, with the Board's involvement and knowledge. He stated that Dr. Masko had pointed out to him that we wanted block scheduling through the 2004-05 school year because we wanted two graduating classes to fully complete the model.

Mr. Strouse felt that the goal set forth here was adequate and that the Superintendent was capable of reviewing the motion and what was intended at the time. Mr. Grossi agreed. He felt the Board minutes properly laid out the goal, so we should review the record and do what was intended.

There were no questions or comments regarding goal (c).

*A motion was made by Mrs. Baranski and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the District Goals for 2003-04 as listed below:*

- a. *Successful implementation of a literacy initiative*
- b. *Examination/evaluation of the high school block schedule*
- c. *Increase District communication and further improve our relationship (partnership) with the entire school community, parents, elected officials, the business community and others in our school district.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

4. Budget Calendar for 2003-04

Mrs. Jankowsky recommended a change to the suggested language of the motion to indicate that the Board was approving “revisions” to the Budget Calendar.

Mr. Strouse stated that at the Finance Committee meeting there was some level of debate regarding changing the dates for preliminary and final adoption of the budget. He suggested that we keep the preliminary adoption date of May 13<sup>th</sup> and have the final approval at or about June 13 so that we have the latitude to move this around. He felt that if preliminary adoption was moved to May 27<sup>th</sup>, final adoption could not take place until at least June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Grossi stated that he didn’t have a problem with that. He would push the committee to recommend the budget to the Board on May 13<sup>th</sup>. He stated that they still had no clue as to what the State government was doing.

Mr. Faust felt that the problem was that we need some realistic numbers by no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> since we can’t raise taxes in July. They picked June 30<sup>th</sup> because that is the last day the budget can be approved. The way the State is going, we probably won’t have any numbers from them until the last minute. He did not see why we can’t move the preliminary up to May 13<sup>th</sup> and leave final approval at June 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Grossi agreed that that could be done. Mr. Strouse also agreed.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked that if this was done, did anything prevent us from adopting the final budget thirty days after May 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Vail responded that we could do that as long as the public was properly notified.

*A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revision of the final adoption of the budget to June 30<sup>th</sup> for the Budget Calendar.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

Mrs. Jankowsky clarified that preliminary adoption would remain at May 13<sup>th</sup>.

5. U.S. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

Mr. Faust stated that this was a compliance issue and that each lawyer has drafted his own motion. Mr. Grossi stated that they could not find any consistent language that anyone would agree on.

Mr. Faust questioned the meaning of a "hybrid entity". Mr. Strouse pointed out the memo from Mrs. Rollo, which explained this.

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the resolution attached as a supplement hereto in its entirety in compliance with the U.S. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) governing the privacy of protected employee health information and the standardization of certain health related transactions.*

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

6. Overnight Conference Requests 2003-04

Mr. Grossi felt that last year the Board had decided to put a dollar amount in the budget and then eliminate the listing. The assignment of the conferences would be decided by Administration. Mrs. Jankowsky stated that that was her recollection also. Mr. Blatt stated that that discussion was held and that he would be comfortable with that approach. Mrs. Huf stated that she also remembered that discussion.

Mr. Faust agreed that that was the conversation and that was probably the best route but he would like to see a document such as this come before the Finance Committee for budget purposes. Mr. Grossi agreed.

Mr. Blatt clarified that what the Board wanted was that Administration would be given a set dollar figure and the Board would be given backup as to what recommended conferences would be. However, Mr. Blatt would have the authority to effect changes as long as they stayed within budgetary parameters.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that the Finance Committee establish a dollar amount and come back with a motion.

7. Refunding/New Debt 1998 MBIT G.O. Bonds

Mr. Strouse stated that this had come through the Finance Committee. He explained that the MBIT Executive Council passed a resolution authorizing the refinancing of the Bond issue, which would result in about \$150,000 of savings to MBIT. However, incorporated in that resolution was the refinancing of \$3.5 million of existing debt and an additional \$500,000, which the Centennial delegation believes would be put into a capital reserve fund for use at a future time. They were advised that MBIT's Administration has decided how it should be spent. While Centennial attempted to discuss at the Executive Council

reducing the funding down to \$3.5 million, there was not a lot of discussion to be had. Based on that, Mr. Strouse recommended that the Board not approve this motion at this time. He felt we should be looking to refinance the \$3.5 million. If the Board would ratify this motion, there would be another amended motion to be discussed. His recommendation was not to approve this.

Mr. Grossi felt there were two other issues, one being that there was an attachment to this that suggested that as long as this debt was in place, there was no way to change the articles of agreement. (Mr. Strouse indicated that that was the amendment.) Mr. Grossi stated that he would support a vote of "No" on this. He also indicated that they had found out later in the evening that proposed corrections to the sewer system in the kitchen that were supposed to have been done with the reconstruction of the kitchen facilities were never done and were still needed.

Mrs. Huf asked about the vote at MBIT and also asked if the Board opposed this, did that mean we are not in support of refinancing to save \$150,000.

Mr. Strouse indicated that the original motion passed 8-1 because we believed at that time that the additional funds were going to a capital reserve fund for future use. However, there was an amendment regarding the articles of agreement brought forward because bond counsel demanded additional terms. The original approval still stands.

Mr. Faust clarified that it was the bond insurer, not bond counsel. They want a guarantee (the amendment) that there would be no changes in the articles of agreement if we would go with this refinancing.

Mrs. Jankowsky clarified that it was the recommendation of the Finance Committee not to approve this motion.

*A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Avery to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes the advance refunding of the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology 1998 General Obligation Bonds to achieve interest cost savings, approving the issuance of the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology, Refunding Series of 2003 to include \$500,000 in additional new debt, approving the filing of debt proceedings with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, and authorizing other action in connection with the sale, advance refunding of the 1998 Bonds, and issuance of the 2003 Bonds as per the attached supplement.*

Mr. Grossi stated that he urged the Board to vote "no" on this motion.

*The motion failed 0-9.*

Mr. Strouse pointed out that there was an amendment to the motion that we have just defeated that at this point we do not need to consider regarding the articles of agreement.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **PERSONNEL**

*A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves all personnel recommendations.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **OTHER**

### Consolidation of the County AVTS's

Mr. Strouse stated that as part of the efficiency study that was instituted by the Executive Council, there were various options put forward as to how money can be saved at MBIT. One of the options was to pursue a consolidation of all the AVTS bonds in Bucks County. He believed that what was intended was that we vote on whether we should pursue this. However, the resolution we received from MBIT seems to indicate something far more specific. He did not feel he was in a position to evaluate this until he reviewed this with Dr. Lees and counsel for Middle Bucks. He felt the question was whether we should look at consolidating any or all of the AVTS's in Bucks County.

Mr. Faust felt he wanted to bring to the Board's attention how much "fun" it had in dealing with three other districts and how it would be if ten more were added. While this made sense financially, he felt that politically to work with all of those other school boards, each with nine members, would be virtually impossible.

Mr. Grossi stated that he would be in favor of eliminating articles of agreement and starting over, but that was a different motion.

Mrs. Huf stated that she did not have enough information.

Mr. Strouse explained that this was for the purpose of giving the Council permission to pursue checking into this, but that was not what was in the resolution.

Mr. Grossi stated that he was not interested in making the consortium bigger.

Mr. Blatt felt that, as Mr. Faust pointed out, the political reality of something like this happening was slim to none. However, if we looked at this another way, we have three large entities that really have a great duplication of effort and services. He stated that he was very much a proponent of vocational technical education but all of the infrastructure was duplicated. If people wanted to examine this, it could be structured in a more efficient way. We could have upper, middle and lower with one director, as opposed to three. Each of the principals of the

schools could report to one director. He felt that sometimes it pays to look at things differently, although he realized there were political issues involved.

Mr. Grossi stated that there were four entities – one was very small. Of the other three, one plays by the rules and the other two don't. Centennial was the only one who doesn't have parallel programs. He agreed with Mr. Blatt that as a business this would make sense, but in reality it doesn't. He felt that unless people want to deal with problems on an intellectual basis, they are doomed to failure.

Mr. Faust felt that the issue was to have local control.

Mr. Strouse asked if we could get a sense of what the Board wanted so that we could report back to the Executive Council where we want to go with this.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the Board was interested in establishing a feasibility study on consolidating the AVTS's of Bucks County. The responses were as follows:

Mrs. Baranski	Yes
Mr. Locke	Yes
Mr. Hertenberger	Yes
Mrs. Huf	No
Mr. Faust	No
Mr. Grossi	No
Mr. Avery	No
Mr. Strouse	No
Mrs. Jankowsky	No

Mr. Strouse indicated that he would take that consensus back to the Executive Council.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mr. Hertenberger and seconded by Mr. Locke to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

---

Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary