

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
HELD MAY 13, 2003**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on May 13, 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

Administration:

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

CEA/Teachers/Principals:

Eileen Poroszok  
Joseph O'Connor  
Jerry Albrecht  
Joanne Forrest  
Mary Ellen Donnelly  
Shirley Kelly  
Dean Roberts

Public:

Joanne Felix  
Maria Carafa  
Kristin Felix  
Michele Mielziner  
Susie Boyle  
Susan Allen  
Dennis Allen

Kelly Allen  
Jess Felix  
Igor Ozeryansky  
Andrew Winslow  
Sue Christian  
Dennis Christian  
Jeff Christian

Public (continued)

Tom Christian  
Debbi Potter  
Bill Shallcross  
Mary Shallcross  
Donna Marie Saul  
Cyndi Mueller  
Brian Sassano  
Pamela Lee  
Hiral Amin

Ali Ambrose  
A. J. Ambrose, Jr.  
Frank W. Ambrose  
Lori Ambrose  
Jenn Jankowski  
Katie Donnelly  
Amanda Lenar  
Heather Stephenson  
Bernie O'Neill

**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 personnel matters.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Presentation of Community Service Citation

State Representative Bernie O'Neill was present to present a citation from the Speaker of the House to William Tennent students who participated in the Salvation Army Holiday Stocking Project. He recognized the teachers, Joe O'Connor, Dean Roberts and Shirley Kelly, and named the students who participated in the project, Pam Lee, Katie Donnelly, Jenn Jankowski, Tim Gardocki, Hiral Amin and Amanda Lenar. He also presented a letter of congratulations to Heather Stephenson, who was chosen as one of the top teen volunteers in Bucks County for the year.

Voice of Democracy Essay Contest

Mr. Crandley, Past Commander of the VFW, recognized the efforts of the Warminster VFW Post 6493 for their involvement in an essay contest for the students in 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades. He introduced the following winners:

- Log College: Jessica Felix  
Kelly Allen
- Klinger: Ali Ambrose  
Jacob Gallagher (couldn't attend meeting)
- Tennent: Thomas Christian

The contest winners read their essays. Mr. Crandley indicated that the winners would be presented with plaques and savings bonds at awards ceremonies to be held at the individual schools.

Mr. Crandley stated that in order for the program to be successful, they need the cooperation of the schools and the teachers. He recognized the following teachers for their participation and presented them with Certificates of Appreciation:

Klinger	Joanne Forrest
Log College	Michele Meilziner
	Suzanne Boyle
Tennent	Edward Austin

He also introduced Clara McCartney, the President of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

## COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

## REPORTS

### STUDENT COUNCIL

Andrew Winslow reported on the following activities:

- April 25 – Dr. Matthew Portnoy Presentation; SADD Lock-in
- April 28-May 2 – Fine Arts Festival
- May 3 – Junior Prom; District Track Meet
- May 13 & 14 – Key Club Blood Drive
- May 14 – Spring Concert
- May 16-19 – Marching Band Trip to Cleveland
- May 19 – Chorale's Last Concert
- May 21 – Student Elections for Grades 9 and 10; Assembly about DUI
- May 22 – Madrigals Farewell Concert
- May 23 – Senior Prom
- May 27 – Student Elections, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade
- May 30 – Klinger students to visit high school; Mr. Tennent Competition
- June 4 – Senior Awards Night
- June 10 – Yearbook Distribution
- June 12 – Log College students visit high school
- June 16, 17, 18 – Final Exams; Graduation practice; Cap & Gown distribution
- June 19 – ½ day for students
- June 20 – ½ day for students; Graduation

## **MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Igor Ozeryansky reported as follows:

- Students in the Health Occupations and Health Sciences courses recently competed in the HOSA State Competitions. MBIT did very well, with 12 students qualifying for the Nationals in Atlanta in June, including four students from Tennent.
- On May 29<sup>th</sup> MBIT will host its Annual Portfolio Showcase and new student orientation.
- On June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Senior Awards Recognition Ceremony will be held.
- During the weeks of July 14<sup>th</sup> and July 21<sup>st</sup>, MBIT will host Summer Career Exploration courses for students who have completed 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades.

## **GOOD NEWS**

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

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

No report.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Avery reported that the committee had met the previous week and discussed intern programs and PSSA data. This was the last meeting for the school year.

### Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Strouse reported on the Executive Council meeting of May 12<sup>th</sup> as follows:

- Recognition of students, as previously reported by Mr. Ozeryansky. There was a multitude of winners from MBIT.
- Brief review of potential reorganization of MBIT. No further action was taken at this time. They are waiting for the Professional Advisory Council to decide whether they approve the proposal.
- Reviewed the budget proposal, as presented. Voted and approved the budget.

Mr. Grossi explained that the budget that was passed calls for a General Fund expenditure of \$6,350,000. The anticipated expenditure for this year is \$5.8 million. This is a 9.5% increase. At the end of this year, there is an anticipated balance in the Capital Reserve Fund of \$50,000. There will be a contribution of \$150,000 from this year's budget. The plan is to spend all \$200,000 next year. There is also a provision to spend approximately \$92,000 (\$70,000 from the balance of the Adult Ed and \$22,000 from the Production account [sale of the house, etc.]). This would equal \$842,000 increase in spending this year, or a 14.5% increase.

Mr. Grossi indicated that they were told that Centennial is irrelevant and that they are going ahead with the refinancing. There is probably a position worth \$70,000 in the budget that will not be filled.

Mr. Strouse stated that with regard to the Bond issue, we were advised that the other three sending districts have approved a resolution, which we believe included additional funding of \$500,000; however, counsel has advised that the Bond insurer will not issue anything in excess of the original principal amount.

Mr. Grossi stated that by delaying the action, by this Board not approving this, we did two things. We imposed \$500,000 of fiscal responsibility on that Board and we prevented \$40,000 of additional Bond premiums. The return that was targeted at \$150,000 should probably be in the neighborhood of \$180,000.

Mr. Grossi explained that to get more money on the bond issue, the approval of all four Districts is needed. Since Centennial rejected it, they did not get the votes needed. The attorney felt that Centennial's vote was irrelevant and that the vote of the Board related to this was unnecessary. There was discussion that the boards did not all receive the same resolution to vote on. Therefore, if there is a claim, that leaves the Executive Council and the joint boards at risk. However, the attorney stated that all claims need to be defended by his insurance, not ours. There was a great deal of confusion on this matter.

#### Intermediate Unit

Mr. Locke reported that the next meeting of the I.U. would be on May 21<sup>st</sup>. They will review tobacco control projects and State early intervention programs.

#### PSBA

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that she was unable to attend the recent Region 11 Dinner meeting, but that Mrs. Huf, Mr. Faust and Mrs. Baranski did attend.

Mr. Faust commented that discussion was held regarding the "No Child Left Behind" program, PSBA's new campaign to inform the public about our successes, and an update on the budget information.

#### **FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Mr. Grossi stated that at the last meeting a preliminary budget was passed but that this is not a finished document. He indicated that they had received a document from Senator Greenleaf, which indicated that the best we will probably do is \$227,000. The committee will be working to tighten up the budget further.

### Title VIII

Mr. Faust reported that the Federal Government has asked us to verify some numbers that we sent for appraisals. Mr. Vail is working on this.

#### Federal Lands Reuse Authority

No report.

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### Citizens Policy

Mrs. Baranski reported that this committee had met on April 15<sup>th</sup> and reviewed Policies 3.9 and 3.10. The next meeting will be on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### Legislative Liaison

Mr. Faust reported that the State has passed a budget. The governor exercised a line item veto on all of the educational items. Mr. Faust felt that there would probably be no definitive information until late June or July.

Mr. Faust indicated that there were several other Bills being considered and that he would provide information for the Friday Update.

### **MINUTES**

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

- *Work Session/Regular Board Meeting – March 25, 2003*
- *Regular School Board Meeting – April 8, 2003*
- *Work Session/Regular Board Meeting – April 22, 2003*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

### **OPERATIONS AND POLICIES**

#### Initial Distribution:

Mr. Locke noted the following policies for initial distribution:

- 3.6 Student Records
- 3.9 Corporal Punishment/Physical Discipline

- 3.10 – Contacts with Law Enforcement Agencies

Final Approval:

7.30 – District Records – Public

7.7 – Participation in Non-School Activities

*A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.30, District Records – Public and Policy 7.7, Participation in Non-School Activities.*

Mr. Faust pointed out that there had been some minor revisions requested to Policy 7.30, but the Board did not receive a copy of the revised policy. He wanted to make sure that the Board was voting on the revised policy. Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that this matter be held until the next meeting. Mrs. Baranski indicated that both policies had revisions.

*A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Strouse to table both policies until the May 27<sup>th</sup> Work Session so that the Board would have time to review the revised policies.*

*The motion to table passed 9-0.*

**FINANCIAL**

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

- *Schedule of Bills – April 2003*
- *Investments – April 2003*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – April 2003*
- *Student Activity/Clearing Funds – January 1 through March 31, 2003*

*and approves the:*

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

*The motion passed 9-0.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. WTHS FBLA Trip to National Competition in Dallas, Texas

*A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary and final approval for the William Tennent*

*High School Future Business Leaders of America trip to the national competition in Dallas, Texas, on June 22-28, 2003. The cost to the District shall be \$2,710.00.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

2. WTHS Marching Band Trip to Cleveland, Ohio

*A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval to the amended itinerary for William Tennent High School Marching Band trip to Cleveland and Sandusky, Ohio, May 16-19, 2003. The cost to the District is \$340.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

3. Adopt Preliminary 2003-2004 General Fund Budget

Mr. Grossi pointed out that the Board should vote on Item #4 prior to this item.

4. Create Technology Reserve Fund

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the creation of a reserve fund under the terms and conditions of 53 P.S. §1431 of the PA School Code to be known as the Centennial School District Technology Reserve Fund as a resource for financing future Board approved technology programs commencing in 2003-04 and beyond. Fund is to be set up as an interest-bearing account and funds therein invested as appropriate under the terms and conditions of the District's Investment Policy (Policy 7.26). Board shall revisit the financial status of this fund annually at budget time (or as necessary) and determine future deposits/expenditures from this fund as necessary and required.*

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

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

3. Adopt Preliminary 2003-2004 General Fund Budget

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the preliminary General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2003-04 in the amount of \$65,683,998, as presented, and hereby authorizes the advertising of said preliminary budget as required by the School Code. Final adoption of the budget is tentatively scheduled for June 30, 2003.*

Mr. Grossi stated that the original budget recommended 12½ new positions totaling \$635,000, but this figure has been reduced to \$65,942 in the budget.

Mr. Grossi also stated that a 12 mill tax increase was incorporated in the preliminary budget, basically to cover the increased share and future estimates for increased costs in the State retirement fund. Also, \$25,000 is set aside for the personnel contingency account for a police officer shared with the Township. There is a Fund Balance forward of \$1.5 million.

Mr. Strouse commented that Mr. Vail was put through a lot of stress over this year's budget and that there has been a lot of discussion but not a lot of direction. He thought Mr. Vail had done a commendable job of putting this together.

Mr. Faust pointed out that the preliminary budget calls for a 12 mill tax increase, but if the State manages to pass an educational funding bill, we can hopefully reduce this millage. Also, the committee will review other expenditures to see what can be reduced. He indicated that they would do their best to get this even lower but felt they had to look at providing a quality education for the children. He felt we are heavily burdened by State and Federal mandates with no funding associated with them, so they all get passed on to the local taxpayers.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that from the cost side, there has been a great deal of work by Administration. There have been a lot of budget lines that have been significantly reduced. He pointed out that we still have no idea what the State will do, but that the recommendation is to raise taxes by 12 mills.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would be opposing this since she was not happy with the 12 mill increase.

Mr. Locke thanked Mr. Blatt, Dr. Masko and Dr. Sexton for the fine work they did on the literacy program, which was put together at the request of the Board. He hoped that it would have some impact. Mrs. Jankowsky concurred with these comments, pointing out that the first year of implementation has been covered at no additional cost.

*The motion passed 6-2-1. (Mrs. Huf and Mrs. Baranski opposed; Mr. Hertenberger abstained.)*

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that at this time there were no dollars from the State for any educational line item.

Mr. Blatt stated that the District's consultant for Federal programs and grants was looking for sources of alternative funding but that there has been very little information forthcoming relative to available funding.

## **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: Authorization to Employ; Elementary*

*Remedial Summer School Teachers; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Support Staff Substitute; and Substitute Bus Drivers.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she had a copy of an e-mail to the art and music staff from Mrs. Donnelly thanking everyone for a wonderful Fine Arts Festival.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

Mr. Faust reported that the Act 48 Committee had met on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Act 48 was a Bill that set in-service credits needed for teachers to retain certification. The plan was for three years. Our plan is basically expiring in September and a new plan must be sent to the PDE by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Part of the plan will have to come before the Board for approval before it can be sent to PDE.

Mr. Faust further explained that the law states how the committee should be made up. He indicated that the Board would need to take action, so they need the names of proposed committee members so that the committee can be appointed in order to take action over the summer. He felt that most of the committee members were willing to be reappointed, but that there had been several retirements. He requested that this matter be placed on the Work Session agenda for May or June.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she would discuss this matter with Mr. Blatt the following day.

## **SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

See Schedule attached hereto.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mr. Avery and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary