

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD SEPTEMBER 9, 2003**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on September 9, 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
Jean Rollo
Dr. Thomas Sexton
Timothy Vail

(* Mr. Avery left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.)

CEA/Teachers:

None

Public:

Cynthia Mueller
Joseph Ezokias

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Avery thanked everyone on the School Board and members of the public for the opportunity to serve on the Centennial School Board. He informed everyone that he had purchased a property in Newtown Township and would be moving so, effective immediately, would be resigning from the School Board.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked Mr. Avery for the time and expertise he brought to the Board. Mr. Grossi stated that he would miss Mr. Avery. He indicated that Mr. Avery was a graduate of

William Tennent High School and was an outstanding Board member. Mr. Grossi felt that Mr. Avery had really helped the Board when they needed help and that to find young people with Scott's mind and dedication to the education of children would be hard to replace.

Mrs. Baranski thanked Mr. Avery and stated that any time she had questions, he explained things for her. She appreciated his assistance.

Mr. Avery thanked everyone and left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she wished to publicly thank the members of the custodial staff and maintenance staff at each of the schools, as follows:

Head Custodial Staff Members:

Ray Dudeck	Stackpole School
Michael Baluk	Davis School
Craig Bisaquino	McDonald School
Keith Hill	Longstreth School
Joe Pietrzak	Willow Dale School
Frank Smith	Leary School
Walt Hartman	Log College Middle School
Matt Burg	Klinger Middle School
Ron Wolf	William Tennent High School
Joe Noll	Administration Building

Maintenance Staff:

Dave Dampman	Electrician
Jim Kash	Electrician
George Ferall	HVAC/Plumber
Wayne Hartman	Carpenter
Harry Litts	General Maintenance
Eddie Davis	Maintenance Helper

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that as she toured the buildings, she noted the wonderful work done by the staff members.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that there was a very successful Tech Ed Lab Open House on September 2nd. Although she could not attend, Mr. Hertenberger did. Mr. Hertenberger thanked the vendors who provided the equipment. He felt that the lab was very impressive and that the students would benefit from it and enjoy it. He also indicated that he was impressed with the manuals and audio that matched the information that came up on the computer screens. He felt this would be helpful for students who have difficulty reading.

Mrs. Jankowsky announced that there had been no Executive Session prior to this meeting; however, the previous day she had attended a cost containment committee meeting to discuss

vision benefits that are part of the collective bargaining agreement with the Teachers Union. This will be presented to the Finance Committee.

PRESENTATIONS

None

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

None

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Joseph Ezokias introduced himself as MBIT student representative for the year. He indicated that he was here to observe and that he would present a report in October.

GOOD NEWS

No report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

None

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the first meeting of the Education Committee would be on October 20th and that the topic would be PSSA data analysis.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Strouse reported that a meeting was held the previous evening and that most matters were routine. MBIT had a great opening, with a record number of students.

Intermediate Unit

Mr. Locke reported that the I.U. would meet on September 16th.

Mr. Hertenberger reported that he had met with Dr. Jack McGovern, the I.U. Reading Department Head. He has been working with Centennial on different programs and

assured Mr. Hertenberger that Centennial is going in the right direction and using the right techniques for the different groups. Mr. Hertenberger indicated that Jenny Foight-Cressman was present also and was instrumental in getting this off the ground. He would like to see this used on other computer programs in areas where students might be struggling.

PSBA

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the Annual Conference with PASA and the School Boards Association would take place at the end of October. She asked Board members to sign up if they were interested.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Grossi stated that the Finance Committee would meet on September 15th and October 13th. There is still no money from Harrisburg. There is a budget with a \$1.7 million shortfall. The Finance Committee will have a lot of work to do this fall. It will be a very difficult budget and the Committee will be starting early and working aggressively.

Mr. Strouse asked how much pension costs were anticipated to go up. Mr. Vail responded about 9.3%, or \$1.5 million. Mr. Hertenberger questioned why it would go up so much. Mr. Vail explained that the projection was that in order to keep the pension fund fully funded, they must gradually increase it to an employer share of 20%.

Title VIII

No report.

Federal Lands Reuse Authority

No report.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Locke stated that the Operations Committee met prior to this meeting. They reviewed a request by Mrs. Diane Roche for a review by PennDOT of hazardous conditions for high school students walking to school within one mile of the building. They are looking into the details of this request.

Citizens Policy

No report.

Legislative Liaison

No report.

MINUTES

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

- *Regular School Board Meeting – 8/12/03*

The motion passed 8-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Initial Distribution:

Mr. Locke noted the following policy for initial distribution:

- 7.31 – Purchasing Procedures

Final Adoption:

7.18 – Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status.

The motion passed 8-0.

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 – August 2003*
- *Investments – August 2003*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – August 2003*

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – August 2003*
- *Budgetary Transfers – June 2003*

Mr. Grossi questioned why the real estate taxes were in arrears. Mr. Vail explained that this related to the fact that the discount rate was extended to September 15th. Therefore, a lot of the real estate taxes will come in September. Mr. Grossi stated that this was an indirect cost of the delayed action by the legislature, since there is \$12 million that is not available for investing.

The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESSAuxiliary Pay Rates 2003-04

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that this matter had been delayed because Mr. Strouse had suggested that it go before the Finance Committee prior to coming to the Board. The Finance Committee discussed this on August 21st.

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves pay rates for all auxiliary positions for the 2003-04 school year as per the attached supplement.

Mrs. Baranski asked for the definition of a student employee. Mr. Vail explained that we have an occupational arrangement where special ed students help out in the cafeteria. This also applies to summer help used in the Facilities Department.

The motion passed 8-0.

NEW BUSINESS1. Exception to Policy 7.18 – Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18 to allow student 11-3 to attend Longstreth Elementary School for the School year 2003-04. The family shall provide transportation until they move into the District in December 2003.

Mr. Strouse stated that the information provided to the Board clearly indicated that this family may not even be living in the District at the end of the first marking period. The policy just passed by the Board indicates that a student who will not be resident in the first marking period must pay tuition. Therefore, he felt tuition should be paid for this student. He also questioned why this was being requested on September 9th when school started a week ago. He indicated that his inclination was to oppose this and have tuition be paid.

Dr. Sexton indicated that he initially received this request on August 11th but that he had to verify the information and was too late for the August meeting. This was the first opportunity to bring this before the Board. He felt that the point about tuition was valid but pointed out the letter attached, which detailed the extenuating situation in this matter. He felt that if the Board decided to charge tuition, it was their prerogative. His recommendation was that the Board approve the exception. He felt it would be in the best interests of the child because of the circumstances.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that this situation could be problematic for future Board members. She had difficulty with the possibility that this might go beyond the first marking period. In the past the policy has been enforced as written. She indicated that she would have

difficulty approving this. There have been other families who have moved in after the first marking period and have paid tuition. She felt that approving this would be inconsistent.

In response to Mr. Hertenberger's request for details, Mr. Strouse explained that the parents would be responsible for tuition from the first day of school until the date they move in if they move in after the first marking period.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the family is now living outside the District.

Mr. Strouse pointed out that Administration can grant a first marking period extension without coming to the Board. If the child has not moved in by then, the family is liable for tuition from the beginning of the school year. Mr. Strouse felt that the motion was unclear as to what the exception was. He felt that the motion was premature and that if Administration later felt that the resolution was needed, it should be presented at that time.

Mr. Grossi felt that the policy was liberal enough. He did not feel he could support an exception and that this was inconsistent. He felt the Board needed to enforce the policy.

The motion failed 1-7. (Mr. Faust in favor; remainder opposed.)

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

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18 to allow students 12-7 and 5-7 to attend Davis Elementary School for school year 2003-04 provided their parents continue to reside in the District during that period. The parents shall provide transportation.

Mr. Strouse noted that this is within the School District. It is only a matter of which school within the District they are attending. There are special circumstances attached to this.

The motion passed 8-0.

3. Agreement with Bucks County Intermediate Unit

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board agrees to pay the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 \$1,667,410 for the 2003-04 school year to provide instructional programs and services for Centennial School District special education students as indicated in the attached listing. All instructional programs and services shall be consistent with all state and federal requirements.

Mr. Faust stated that these are periodically reviewed to determine if they can be taught in-house. Dr. Sexton indicated that these were reviewed by Mrs. Fash before she left.

The motion passed 8-0.

4. Memorandum of Understanding

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Memorandum of Understanding between Centennial School District and the local police as listed in the attached supplement.

Mr. Locke stated that meetings were held with the local Police Chiefs to review this agreement line by line. It was determined that there were no conflicts.

Mrs. Huf asked if this was something new, that she did not remember doing this before. Dr. Sexton explained that this was done years ago, and that recently there has been a movement by districts in the county because some of the grants require written understandings.

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; Mentors; Curriculum Resource Team Members; Title I Tutors; Kindergarten Bus Aides; Substitute Bus Drivers; Support Staff Substitutes; Co-Curricular Additions, Changes and Deletions.

Mr. Faust questioned item #1 under Authorization to Employ, which indicates a new position in Science. He questioned whether this was accurate. Mrs. Rollo explained that this is a domino effect. There was an individual Science teacher who moved into the new Reading position; therefore, they had to replace that person in Science, so a new position was named. She indicated that there were several of these domino effects on the forms. Mr. Faust commented that this made it look like a new Science position was created.

Mr. Grossi felt that it would make sense to indicate this as a replacement. After discussion, it was decided that was how this type of situation would be worded in the future.

The motion passed 8-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Faust stated that he had received an e-mail regarding a bus situation and that he would be forwarding it to Mr. Robinson.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she had received a letter from Mr. Panzer, Chairman of the Warminster Township Board of Supervisors dated August 29, 2003 regarding the school officer program.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mrs. Jankowsky advised that we are moving along in the conveyance of the Shelmire property and that she would see that the Board members received copies of the Agreement of Sale.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary