

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER  
AND OF BOARD MEETING HELD OCTOBER 14, 2003**

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on October 14, 2003, in the Administration Building, preceded by the swearing in of a new Board member, beginning at 7:35 p.m.

**SWEARING-IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER**

Mrs. Jankowsky announced that the new Board member, Jane Schrader Lynch, would be sworn in by the Honorable Mitch Goldberg, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County.

Michael Fitzpatrick, the Chairman of the Bucks County Commissioners, stated that he wished to be here to speak on behalf of Mrs. Lynch. He spoke about what a great place Bucks County is and about how important it is to have quality people volunteer for such things as the School Board. He felt that Mrs. Lynch was a great person and congratulated her on behalf of all Bucks County citizens. He thanked her for her interest in the community.

Judge Goldberg spoke about what an honor it was to be present to swear in Mrs. Lynch and stated that every person he had spoken to had exclaimed about what a wonderful person she is. He detailed her experience and accomplishments and stated that she had been an outstanding public servant. Residents, parents and teachers alike should be incredibly honored to have her join the Board.

Mrs. Lynch's three grandchildren held the Bible as Judge Goldberg administered the oath of office to Mrs. Lynch. She then joined the rest of the Board members at the Board table.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting was called to order by Mrs. Jankowsky at 7:50 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Sina Baranski  
Joseph Faust  
Al Hertenberger  
Betty Huf  
Joan Jankowsky  
Jerry Locke  
Jane Schrader Lynch  
Harve Strouse

Administration:

David Blatt  
Sandy Homel  
Dr. Thomas Sexton  
Timothy Vail

CEA/Teachers:

Andy Mahoney

Public:

Michael Gearty  
Greg Crance  
Cynthia Mueller  
Bobbie Loftus  
Walt Clemens  
Dan Finello  
Nora Miller  
Jane Strawley

John Van Note  
Jean Ellis  
Kathleen Walsh  
Kristen Ventresca  
Rose Gold  
Joseph Zyokas

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Jankowsky welcomed Mrs. Lynch to the Board.

Mrs. Jankowsky announced that there was no Executive Session prior to this meeting. She also pointed out that she had distributed Appendix C to Board members, which should accompany the document listed under "Old Business." These pages were meant to replace what appeared in the Board members books. They contained minor changes regarding composition of the administrative force. There were no substantive changes to the document.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked Mrs. Lynch to serve as an alternate to the Education Committee and the Operations Committee, effective immediately.

Mrs. Jankowsky congratulated Tennent's King and Queen, and stated that the football team had played a good game although they did not win.

**PRESENTATIONS**

None

**GOOD NEWS**

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

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

John Van Note of 526 Fisher Lane, Warminster, introduced himself as the President of the William Tennent Marching Band Association. He invited Board members to the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Bands event on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at Claude Lodge Field. Mr. Van Note also announced that the previous weekend the band received a Superior rating at the Tamaqua band competition.

## REPORTS

### STUDENT COUNCIL

Greg Crance reported on special events at William Tennent, as follows:

- September 16 – Heads Up Drug Awareness assembly
- September 20 – Good Will soccer game with Special Olympics
- October 1 – Rob Armstrong, the “Jump Start” cartoonist came to visit
- October 3-4 – Marching Band craft fair
- October 7 – Freshman elections for student government
- October 11 – Homecoming Dance

Mr. Crance further reported on upcoming events, as follow:

- October 17 – Eagles Fun Fair
- October 18 – Celebration of Bands
- October 20 – Due date for application of Intelligencer Academic All-Star Team

The Seniors are sponsoring the fall play and have created prom theme votes. Mr. Crance also shared with the Board the status of the sports teams

Mr. Gearty mentioned that the Board would be invited to the Senior class play.

### MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Ezokas reported as follows:

- The student-built house is well underway. It is a four-bedroom Colonial-style house. The deadline for bids is November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Aspirations Restaurant will be opening on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Reservations are required.
- Eight teams from the MBIT/Drexel University partnership program participated in the Freshman Robot Engineering Competition. Four of them placed in the top 16 out of 140 teams. Congratulations to several students for their participation and work in this competition.
- The World Organization of Webmasters recognized the team of media and communications technology students for their website design. They were the first runner-up in the Web Design Contest.
- A Culinary Arts student and Senior at Tennent was awarded first place in the All-American Apple Pie Contest. She will be visiting the Culinary Institute of America, where she will have the opportunity to bake her pie for the chefs of the school.

Mr. Hertenberger noted that he had lunch at Aspirations Restaurant recently and that it was excellent.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Blatt stated it has been an outstanding school year so far. He also indicated that the number of students involved in the co-curricular program had increased.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Education Committee would not meet until October 20<sup>th</sup>. The topic would be PSSA scores and analysis of them.

### Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Strouse reported on the Executive Council meeting the previous evening, as follows:

- Dr. Lees reviewed the new population of MBIT. He asked Mr. Blatt to have enrollment figures distributed to the Board. There is a 4½% increase. A significant amount of the programs are full, and some had to turn children away.
- There is a current trend that has not been fully addressed – the special education population has gone up significantly, from 29% to 39%. They are beginning to look at this.
- Dr. Lees had his personnel review and will receive a 4% raise next year. This was approved 6-2, with two Centennial Directors opposed.
- Mr. Faust stated that the previous evening was Pat Cannon's last night as secretary to the Executive Council due to reorganization.

### Intermediate Unit

Mr. Locke reported that the special education teachers had a salary and benefits package approved. The I.U. employs about 430 teachers and other professionals. While the starting salary was raised by 4%, the average was about 3%. The teachers agreed to pay a greater percent into the benefits package. He discussed the increases for the next few years and indicated that everyone was very pleased with this.

### PSBA

Mrs. Jankowsky reminded Board members that the PASA/PSBA State Conference would begin Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, and that several Board members were planning to attend.

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

Mr. Faust reported that the meeting scheduled for the previous evening had been canceled due to a scheduling conflict. The meeting will be rescheduled soon.

### Title VIII

No report.

Federal Lands Reuse Authority

No report.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Locke reported that the committee received a request from Mrs. Roach for PennDOT to review a walking route to Tennent. The committee asked Administration to conduct a survey and analysis with the Warminster Police Department regarding accidents and the existing devices that can be used by students to cross. They have determined that the walking route at the intersection referred to by Mrs. Roach is appropriate for the high school students. A PennDOT review is not warranted at this time. Mrs. Roach has been notified of this.

Citizens Policy

Mrs. Baranski reported that this committee will meet on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Legislative Liaison

Mr. Faust stated that he had received an e-mail from PSBA indicating that there is significant information that the Governor and House and Senate are closer to a compromise. Details will be out this week or next week, with a vote coming quickly. They believed a referendum would be part of the compromise. The numbers are similar to what they have been discussing since June.

Mr. Hertenberger stated that the Courier-Times had written several articles about this recently that stated that there was \$900 million that the Governor was sitting on and had not brought forth. Mr. Hertenberger stated that he would like to see that show up really soon. He also stated that he had a conversation with the editor of the Courier-Times and challenged when they would be coming out with some information. He asked them to respond.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Jankowsky requested the Board's approval to move up New Business. There were no objections.

1. WTHS Swim Team Trip to Orlando, Florida

*A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval for William Tennent High School Swim Team Trip to Orlando, Florida, on December 26, 2003 to January 2, 2004. The cost to the District is limited to the expense of transportation to and from the airport.*

Mr. Strouse asked if this trip had received preliminary approval prior to this. Lisa Forlini indicated that it had.

*The motion passed 7-0-1. (Mrs. Lynch abstained.)*

## **MINUTES**

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

- *Regular School Board Meeting of September 9, 2003*
- *Work Session/Regular Meeting of September 23, 2003*

Mrs. Lynch stated that she felt compelled to abstain on all items this evening since these items were discussed prior to her arrival on the Board.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked, as a follow up, if the Warminster Basketball Association, which had previously appeared before the Board, has filed their paperwork. Dr. Sexton advised that he would bring that forward at the Work Session.

*The motion passed 7-0-1. (Mrs. Lynch abstained.)*

## **OPERATIONS AND POLICIES**

### Initial Distribution:

Mr. Locke noted the following policies for initial distribution:

- 3.27 – Retention
- 4.1 – Grants

### Final Adoption:

#### 7.31 – Purchasing Procedures

*A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.31 – Purchasing Procedures.*

Mrs. Jankowsky confirmed that everything that was discussed previously was addressed.

*The motion passed 7-0-1. (Mrs. Lynch abstained.)*

## **FINANCIAL**

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

- *Schedule of Bills – September 2003*

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

*and approves the:*

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – September 2003*
- *Budgetary Transfers – June 2003 and October 2003*

Mr. Faust questioned why on the Schedule of Bills it was not broken down into a weekly bill list. There was a bill that was questioned several weeks ago that they have held payment on regarding the purchase of a white board. There was a conflict of memory as to whether this was approved or not. He would like to have that particular check held until additional research is done.

Mr. Blatt stated that he believed that Mr. Vail stopped payment on that check several weeks ago. He indicated that he would follow up further to see what additional information he could provide for the Board. Mr. Vail confirmed this and stated that they had received several calls from the vendor wanting to know the status of the payment because they did supply the equipment in good faith. If the information is provided to the Board, he would like to move this forward as soon as possible, in fairness to the vendor.

Mr. Faust confirmed that he was looking for minutes of the Finance Committee to see if this was discussed.

*A motion was made by Mr. Hertenberger and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board amend the motion by removing the invoice related to the white board, i.e. check number 1019 from the Education Initiative Fund dated September 12, 2003, in the amount of \$1,512.99.*

*The motion to amend passed 7-0-1. (Mrs. Lynch abstained.)*

*The amended motion passed 7-0-1. (Mrs. Lynch abstained.)*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. Jankowsky related the background of this matter.

*A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Locke to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the terms and conditions of the Administrators' Compensation Program as listed in the attached supplement.*

*The motion passed 7-0-1. (Mrs. Lynch abstained.)*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

[This was handled earlier in the meeting.]

## **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; Tutors; Homebound Tutors; Student Work Study Program; Co-Curricular Additions, Changes and Deletions.*

Mr. Faust requested that #1 under “Change of Status” be pulled for a separate vote.

*The motion passed 7-0-1. (Mrs. Lynch abstained.)*

*A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Item #1 under “Change of Status”.*

*The motion passed 4-2-2. (Mr. Faust and Mrs. Huf opposed; Mrs. Baranski and Mrs. Lynch abstained.)*

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

### Vacancy – Assistant Secretary to the School Board

Mr. Faust indicated that he has raised the issue of there being a vacancy in this position previously and questioned whether Board members wished to fill the vacancy at this time. He indicated that he had received a memo from the solicitor stating that it is up to the Board whether or not they wish to fill the position; therefore, Mr. Faust felt that the Board should have this discussion.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the majority of the Board would like to have the position filled and, if so, it could be placed on the agenda for October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Huf stated that she believed it was an important position for the Board and that she would be opposed to not filling it. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that it would be placed on the agenda for the 28<sup>th</sup> under “New Business.”

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Mr. Hertenberger advised that the Centennial Education Foundation would be holding an art auction on November 1<sup>st</sup> and that everyone was invited to attend. Mr. Blatt stated that he had attended this for the past few years and that it was truly a night of good will. Last year over 250 people attended.

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

See Schedule attached hereto.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Locke to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary