

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD NOVEMBER 25, 2003**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on November 25, 2003, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Jankowsky at 7:47 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Sina Baranski
Eugene Grossi
Al Hertenberger
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
Jerry Locke
Jane Schrader Lynch
Harve Strouse

CEA/Teachers:

Andy Mahony

Administration:

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

Public:

Ed Goden
Rose Gold
Cynthia Mueller

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Jankowsky announced that Mr. Ed Goden, President of the PSBA, was present at the meeting and would be making a presentation to Mrs. Huf.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that Mr. Faust was absent from this meeting due to health matters.

Mrs. Jankowsky announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting relative to labor matters and legal matters regarding recovery of lost revenues due to cancellation of the Thanksgiving football game.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she and several other Board members had been able to visit many of the schools the previous week for American Education Week. She thanked the staff, students and parents at the schools.

Mr. Blatt thanked Board members, particularly Mrs. Jankowsky, Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Mueller and Mrs. Gold, for taking the time to visit the schools. The staff was appreciative of this. Mr. Blatt stated that it was a pleasure for him to accompany Board members on these visits and that it was a fantastic week.

Mrs. Huf congratulated the cast of the play the previous week, indicating that she totally enjoyed it.

Mrs. Huf stated that she was very disappointed with Archbishop Wood's cancellation of the Thanksgiving Day football game. She was incredulous that they would just break their contract, informing us at the last minute. She felt that they broke a lot of rules and that there was a financial loss, as well as a lack of commitment and a loss of the feeling of community. They did not show good sportsmanship. She considers this a forfeit and felt that Tennent should retain the trophy.

Mr. Grossi stated that he was deeply embarrassed about the message that certain people have sent to students. There were commitments made; he felt this sent a message that commitments are not important. We have an obligation as adults to lead by example. He felt this was not a good example and was unacceptable. He felt that part of this game was about money for certain groups and suggested that if this game continues in the future, no admission should be charged and that the game not be used as a fundraiser, but rather a community event. He felt that we should take the necessary steps to assure that this does not happen again. He felt we should explore doing something with Council Rock.

Mr. Locke felt that what the adults at Archbishop Wood have done to the community was morally disgraceful.

Mrs. Huf asked if Wood pays for the use of Tennent's fields. Mr. Lasher responded that they pay the going rate for the facility use, but they keep the gate receipts.

PRESENTATIONS

Special Presentation to Mrs. Betty Huf

Mr. Ed Goden, President of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, spoke about Mrs. Huf and her active participation in PSBA's workshops. He felt that she puts her heart and soul into her Board work. He presented Mrs. Huf with a certificate for ten years of service as a School Board member. He felt that because of her and others like her, there have been many successes and public schools have achieved.

Mr. Goden also thanked Mr. Hertenberger and Mr. Locke for their service to the I.U., and congratulated Mr. Strouse for his work on the School Board. He recognized Mrs. Lynch as a

new Board member and wished her well. He also recognized Mrs. Jankowsky for her 16½ years on Centennial's Board.

Mr. Goden stated that Centennial School District has a right to be proud, that it is a good District, with a good Superintendent.

GOOD NEWS

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Marie Brzezinski, an incoming Board member, spoke regarding the Tennent/Wood football game. She indicated that she was on the Board in the past when they voted on the football games and that the reason it was begun was for the sake of camaraderie. She suggested that we should invite neighboring school districts to participate in a game with us. She suggested that Mr. Blatt write to the students on behalf of the Board, indicating how bad the Board feels about what happened.

Mr. Blatt responded that a letter went out to the football players and that the Board will be receiving a copy. A letter is also being sent to the band students and cheerleaders.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that this was an appropriate matter for the reorganized Board to discuss.

REPORTS

MBIT

Mr. Strouse reported that at the last meeting he had neglected to mention that the Nominating Committee presented nominations for Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary at MBIT. They were Dave Wetzel, Chairman; Gene Grossi, Assistant Chairman; and Diane Eiler, Secretary.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

- *Education Committee – October 20, 2003; November 3, 2003*
- *Finance Committee – September 15, 2003; September 23, 2003*

The motion passed 8-0.

POLICIES

Discussion:

5.13 – Use of Calculators

Mr. Strouse noted that the provision requiring students at the high school to provide calculators “at their own expense” was deleted. He asked if it would be the District’s responsibility to provide them.

Dr. Sexton explained that the intent was not to encumber the District with the expense but to take out the understanding that the student would have to pay for the calculators themselves, when normally the parents pay for them.

Mr. Strouse suggested that language be added that clarifies this intent so that it is clear that the District is not providing the calculators.

Dr. Sexton indicated that this will be amended and the policy brought back for Board approval.

5.5 – Materials Selection

Since there was no discussion on this policy, Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that it would be moved forward at the next regular Board Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Permission to Bid Buses

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves removing from the table the permission to bid buses.

The motion to remove from the table passed 8-0.

Mrs. Jankowsky reminded the Board that the motion was previously moved and seconded at the November 11th meeting of the Board. [The text of the original motion is as follows: *A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes the solicitation of bids for the purchase of four 65-passenger school buses and two 24-passenger school buses. Funds to be appropriated from the 2004-05 General Fund Budget upon award.*]

Mr. Grossi stated that the Finance Committee had reviewed this item. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that it also went through the Operations Committee and was forwarded by them to the full Board. Mr. Locke indicated that the buses to be replaced are the oldest buses, which have the most damage and the most mileage.

The motion passed 8-0.

Mr. Strouse pointed out that the Board had previously tabled Policy 3.27 and asked whether Administration was still working on this. Dr. Sexton indicated that they were.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Intensive Reading Courses

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that the students who are performing at Basic or Below Basic in Reading are the ones who would be affected by this.

Mr. Hertenberger asked when the parents are notified that their children will have to go into an intensive reading program. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this was addressed at the Education Committee meeting. There was a letter being generated that would go out to parents regarding this. Mr. Blatt explained that there is a letter that has been drafted, which is being reviewed by himself, Dr. Masko and Mrs. Homel.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this is a Board-mandated initiative. There is a fiscal note of about \$122,000 that will pay for the salaries of the two teachers needed for this.

Mrs. Huf asked how far in advance the parent would receive a notification letter of the student's failure so that maybe they could do something at home to help. Mr. Blatt indicated that there would be many, many months of notices. Mrs. Jankowsky explained that the term "failure" was not appropriate since the issue is that they are not performing at an appropriate level.

Mrs. Lynch questioned the fiscal note because when the committee discussed this, she thought the price tag was over \$200,000. Mr. Grossi explained that the first part of this was funded from the budget for the current year. Next year, we will have to come up with that money plus \$122,000. He felt that these were necessary expenditures.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that there was also discussion about the implications of these requirements on students and on graduation.

A motion was made by Mrs. Baranski and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the inclusion of two (2) Intensive Reading courses in the William Tennent High School 2004-05 Program of Studies:

Intensive Reading (.5 credit – one semester)

Intensive Reading (1.0 credit – two semesters)

Fiscal Note: \$122,546 salaries and benefits for 2 teachers (Reading Specialists with Masters Degree)

The motion passed 8-0.

2. Health/Physical Education Courses

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this matter was extensively discussed at the Education Committee Meeting. There is no fiscal note associated with this because it is funded by the Educational Initiative Reserve Fund.

A motion was made by Mrs. Baranski and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following three (3) elective courses for inclusion in the William Tennent High School 2004-05 Program of Studies:

*Health and Safety in the Workplace (.5 credit)
Community Sports and Leadership (.5 credit)
Lifeguarding and Water Safety Instructor (.5 credit)*

Mr. Grossi stated that he felt the proposals were well developed. He suggested that the electives be limited until the students meet their potential in all basic skill areas. He felt that these should be offered as part of the regular physical education curriculum.

Mrs. Jankowsky reminded Board members that this came through the curriculum renewal process.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Grossi</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Lynch</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Strouse</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Hertenberger</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Locke</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Baranski</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed 5-3.

3. Fee for Psychiatric Evaluations

Mr. Blatt stated that he recognized that this came before the Board at a late date. The doctor who provides these services has served the District for at least ten years and he approached us back in the spring asking for an increase in his fees. For several reasons that request did not come forward in an appropriate manner. In the fall, the doctor approached Dr. Sexton about this and was told that this had not moved forward.

In light of our need, the doctor's long-standing service to the District, together with his level of competency, and because of an error on the part of the District, Mr. Blatt approved that this come forward through this venue. He realized that it would have been

more appropriate for it to come through the Education Committee, but asked that this be considered.

Dr. Sexton did some research with Mr. Vail and found that several years ago our fees for psychiatric services were approximately \$17,500. Last year we spend about \$15,000. For this school year, we have budgeted \$16,800, and have spent \$800 to date.

Mr. Locke stated that he thought it would be crazy to turn this down. Mrs. Huf stated that if this had come through the Finance Committee prior to the start of the school year, it would have been more favorable; coming at the last minute like this, she would not be able to support it.

Mr. Grossi felt that it should have come before the Finance Committee. He felt that observing the process was important. If the information was received prior to the budget process and it didn't come through because of an error, we could take this back to committee. If that is a problem with the doctor, maybe an interim number could be approved. He felt the committee should have an opportunity to review this.

Mrs. Baranski indicated that she would like the committee to review this also.

Mr. Blatt agreed that the process should be followed because it leads to good decisions. He felt it was important to bring this to the Board since it was through no fault of the doctor. We are not up against an ultimatum. This could be done in January.

Mrs. Lynch thanked Mr. Blatt for explaining this situation. Mr. Strouse agreed that this should go to the committee. Possibly they could make a new rate retroactive.

Mrs. Huf indicated her understanding that the conversations started last spring, but the letter from the doctor that the Board was provided with was dated October 28th, which was after the start of the school year.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that this be deferred to the Finance Committee; then their recommendation would come before the Board.

4. Vendor Guidelines for Tax Shelter Annuities
5. Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement
6. Appointment of Third Party Administrator to Keystone Health Plan East Point of Service

Mr. Grossi stated that #4 covered bids for services for the employees. Mr. Strouse pointed out that the Board had requested a change on this, which has been made.

Mr. Grossi indicated that #5 is an updated version of the agreement for vendors. Item #6 approves Colonial Healthcare as third party administrator for Keystone Health Plan. These three items have all been reviewed by the Finance Committee.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that Item #6 goes through the Cost Containment Committee, which is housed in the CEA. They did approve the recommendation of Colonial as third party administrator.

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

- (4) Approves the Vendor Guidelines for Authorization of Tax Shelter Annuity Offerings to Centennial Employees attached as a supplement hereto;*
- (5) Approves the updated version of the Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement for vendors offering tax sheltered annuity products to Centennial School District employees as drafted by the solicitor. Administration is directed to have all existing vendors sign the new agreement per the Vendor Guidelines for Authorization of Tax Shelter Annuity Offerings to Centennial Employees.*
- (6) Approves the appointment of Colonial Healthcare, Inc. of King of Prussia, PA as Third Party Administrator to the Keystone Health Plan East Point of Service (KPOS) participants in keeping with existing employee agreements providing for gap insurance to coordinate benefits between KPOS 10A and the District's former self-insured CHA medical coverage. Appointment is effective February 1, 2004, as per the terms and conditions outlined in the attached supplement. Administration is further directed to notify First Benefit Services, Inc. that their services as TPA will be terminated effective January 31, 2004, as per the terms and conditions of the District's existing agreement.*

The motion passed 8-0.

7. Telecommunications/Internet Services Bid

Mr. Lasher explained that the bid for these services is coming out to comply with E-rate requirements. The current contract for these services expires on June 30, 2004.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that there seemed to be some inconsistencies about whether bids go through committee or not. She asked Administration, as well as the Board, to explore the issue of putting bids through that process. She felt it would serve the Board well.

Mr. Lasher stated that the bids he has done have never gone through committee. He would view that as extremely burdensome, especially for the projects that have to be done in the summer. He would have to start too early for those projects.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that the discussion be held in another venue.

Mr. Grossi explained that what has been done is that basic guidelines have been set in the budget. This would fall under those guidelines. The only reason it would go back to committee would be because it is an item for the upcoming budget that has not been previously approved or is not an ongoing cost. These kinds of items are continuing and

are in the budget. Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that this would be against the 2004-05 budget.

Mr. Strouse indicated that in this particular case, it would one Board approving something for a future Board.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked Administration to look into this issue and suggested that it be discussed by the Finance Committee. She asked what the timeline is on this matter. Mr. Lasher stated that the application must be done in January, at the latest. Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that this be moved now but that the Board look at this matter for the future.

Mr. Grossi did not feel that this needed to go through the Finance Committee, but suggested that the Committee discuss this.

Mrs. Baranski felt that Mr. Lasher has made good choices and that she felt comfortable going ahead. Mr. Hertenberger agreed and recommended going forward with the bid.

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Telecommunications/Internet Services Bid No. 2004-01 to be awarded for a 5-year period beginning July 1, 2004, to the following two vendors at the lowest responsible bid amounts:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Approximate 2004-05 Cost</u>
<i>Peco TelCove</i>	<i>Telephone Service (local and long distance)</i>	<i>\$38,100</i>
<i>Comcast Business Communications</i>	<i>Internet Services</i>	<i>\$21,600</i>

The entire total should be eligible for E-rate funding, which would result in a 40% (\$23,880) savings.

The motion passed 8-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Tutors; and Substitute Bus Driver, with the exception of Item #2 under Authorization to Employ.

The motion passed 8-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Item #2 under Authorization to Employ.

Mr. Strouse stated that he would oppose this motion because he felt the rate being paid was more than necessary.

The motion passed 6-2. (Mr. Strouse and Mrs. Huf opposed.)

COMMUNICATIONS

None

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mrs. Baranski stated that she went to Willow Dale for grandparents' day and that she was very impressed with the teachers. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she saw William Tennent at the Hatboro Parade and that they looked very good.

Mr. Locke stated that since this would be his last full meeting, he would like to offer his appreciation for the opportunity of working with other members of the Board. He acknowledged their knowledge, guidance and dedication and stated that he wanted to do something to recognize that. In the name of the "Have a Heart Foundation", he presented the Board with a plastic replica of a heart, which was filled with Hershey's chocolate kisses. He explained that anytime a member of the Board speaks too long and must be stopped, one of the chocolate kisses could be thrown at them. He also provided a supply of Hershey's Hugs and Kisses.

On a more serious note, Mr. Strouse asked about the status of the appeal by Mr. Kerrins, the Southampton Township tax collector, against whom the District prevailed in a lawsuit years ago. Mr. Blatt advised that Mr. Kerrins' appeal was still pending. He recently discussed this item with the solicitor, who indicated that this is still in the hands of the Appellate Court. He will keep the Board informed as to the status.

Mrs. Jankowsky wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary