

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

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

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on December 9, 2003, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Lynch at 7:35 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Sina Baranski
Marie Brzezinski
Joseph Faust
Rose Gold
Eugene Grossi
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
Jane Schrader Lynch
Cynthia Mueller

Administration:

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

CEA/Teachers:

Joe O'Connor

Public:

Kevin Jones
Bonnie Zobel
Lindsay Bowler
Jenna Straight
Lauren Knecht
Brittany Twelves
Monica Taylor
Kelly Korn
Carol Jerdan
Joseph Ezokas
Yuusi Crance

Frank J. Ezokas, Jr.
Harve Strouse
Beth Straight
Diane Jamison
Marianne Chisesi
M. H. Bowler, Sr.
Michael Korn
Dan Zobel
Chris Zobel
Brenda Jones
Glen Zobel

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Lynch introduced herself as the new Board President and stated that she looks forward to working with her colleagues to make Centennial a premiere school district. She stated that she was proud of the confidence her colleagues had placed in her. She thanked Mrs. Jankowsky for her tireless work as Board President and thanked Mr. Blatt for bringing her up to date on various matters. She extended holiday wishes to everyone.

Mrs. Lynch announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting relative to a labor matter.

Mrs. Lynch advised that in the past there was a Board Parliamentarian and that she would like to reintroduce that practice. She appointed Mrs. Jankowsky to the role. She also announced the Committee assignments.

Mrs. Jankowsky congratulated the 62 new members of the National Honor Society and stated that this was the largest group of inductees that she could recall.

Mrs. Gold reported that she and Mrs. Mueller had attended the PSBA School Board Academy Fast-Track Weekend and that it was very informative. Mrs. Mueller stated that she felt better about sitting at the Board table after having attended the weekend, although there was still a lot to learn.

Mrs. Brzezinski reported that she had attended a tour of MBIT and luncheon with Mrs. Gold and Mrs. Lynch. She felt that MBIT had a beautiful facility and she was impressed with the new services. She felt that a vo-tech education was very important.

Mrs. Gold stated that she was very impressed with the day spent at MBIT and that it was enlightening.

PRESENTATIONS

WTHS Girls Volleyball Team – 2003 Colonial National Conference Champions

Mrs. Lynch announced that there would be a presentation to the WTHS Girls Volleyball Team, who had won the Suburban I League Colonial Division title. They had an undefeated record in their division.

Mrs. Homel stated that the girls were wearing their championship medallions, and that certificates and jackets would be awarded.

Lou Pacchioli stated that it was an honor for them to be present at the meeting and that it had been an exciting year. He showed a poster with newspaper clippings about the season. The following coaches were recognized: Kelly Korn, Head Coach; Brian Bassler, Assistant Coach; and Dianne Doctor, Assistant Coach.

Kelly Korn commented that the girls had worked hard and learned how to win. They rose to the challenge and she was very proud of them. She also recognized the team Manager, Kevin Jones.

The girls were presented with their certificates and jackets. Mr. Pacchioli presented Ms. Korn with her jacket and showed the trophy that the team received.

Mr. Blatt commented that these were exceptional ladies and good students. He also recognized Mr. Pacchioli for his hard work.

GOOD NEWS REPORT

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

Mr. Crance reported on the following activities at William Tennent High School:

- November 11 – Career Day Fair
- November 20-22 – School Play
- November 14 – Senior Recognition
- November 17 – Report Cards Distributed
- November 17-24 – Annual Thanksgiving Day Food Drive
- November 19 – Dedication of Library
- November 21 – Thanksgiving Luncheon at D. Henry School
- November 21 – Environmental Club Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup
- November 25 – GobbleGrams delivered
- November 26 – Walk-a-thon
- November 26 – Student Government Collection for National Children's Cancer Society
- December 1 – Student Recognition Breakfast
- December 2 – National Honor Society Induction Meeting
- December 3 – Financial Aid Night for Seniors

Mr. Crance also reported that the class officers had discussed Senior privilege and would like to push that a little more.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Ezokas stated that he would like to meet the new Board members personally. He reported that MBIT will be the host of the Skills USA District 2 competitions, hosting 300 students from ten schools throughout Bucks, Montgomery and Delaware counties. They will be competing in over 70 different competition areas. The competition will be held at MBIT on February 3rd.

On December 17th and 18th, eighth graders from Log College Middle School will be touring MBIT and all 21 programs as part of their Career Exploration activities. On January 6th, Klinger students will have the same opportunity.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Blatt stated that most of his report had already been supplied to the Board. He commented that Ron Cardinal, a sports recruiter from Lehigh Valley College, had visited Tennent recently. Mr. Cardinal told Mr. Blatt that Tennent had the classiest group of students he had met this season. Mr. Blatt felt that it was fulfilling to hear such positive comments about our students.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Baranski reported that the Education Committee had met on December 1st. The topic was an overview of the current Kindergarten program, which was very informative. The next meeting will be on January 26th. The topic will be the "No Child Left Behind" implementation in the Centennial School District.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf reported that a dinner meeting will be held on January 12th.

Mr. Faust reported that there had been a meeting of the Executive Council, where they interviewed solicitors. There will be a recommendation forthcoming for the January meeting.

Mr. Grossi stated that there would be a meeting of the Negotiating Committee on the 18th.

Intermediate Unit

No report.

PSBA

No report.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Grossi indicated that there had been a change in the third party administrator for insurance.

Title VIII

Mr. Faust reported that individual surveys went out to students several weeks ago. The Business Office is compiling a report to the Federal Government. He explained Title VIII for the benefit of the new Board members. Mrs. Brzezinski requested Mr. Blatt to provide a brief synopsis for new Board members.

Federal Lands Reuse Authority

Mr. Grossi indicated that he would check with Vic Lasher regarding this matter.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that since she was new to this committee she did not have a report.

Citizens Policy

Mrs. Baranski reported that the Citizens Policy Committee met on November 18th and discussed three policies: 3.4 – Student Trips; 3.11 – Prohibiting Discrimination in Education; and 5.4 – Volunteers.

The next meeting will be on January 20th.

Legislative Liaison

Mr. Faust reported that a lot of negotiations are going on at this time but there is still no state education budget.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the minutes of:

- *Regular School Board Meeting – 11/11/03*
- *Work Session/Regular Board Meeting – 11/25/03*
- *Reorganization Board Meeting – 12/1/03*

Mr. Faust advised that he would be abstaining from the minutes of November 25th since he was absent from that meeting due to illness.

The motion passed 9-0 as to the Minutes of 11/11/03 and 12/1/03; and 8-0-1 as to the Minutes of November 25th (Mr. Faust abstained.)

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Final Approval:

5.5 – Materials Selection

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 5.5, Materials Selection.

The motion passed 9-0.

5.13 – Use of Calculators

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 5.13, Use of Calculators.

The motion passed 9-0.

FINANCIAL

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

- *Schedule of Bills – November 2003*
- *Investments – November 2003*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – November 2003*

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – November 2003*
- *Budgetary Transfers – December 2003*

The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Policy 3.27 – Retention

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf that Policy 3.27 – Retention be removed from the table.

The motion to remove from the table passed 9-0.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that the revisions that were discussed previously have been included in the policy. She indicated that the motion was previously made and seconded at the November 11th meeting.

[The text of the motion made at the November 11, 2003 meeting is as follows: A motion was made by Mr. Locke and seconded by Mr. Hertenberger to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 3.27, Retention.]

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she would be abstaining since she was not prepared to vote.

The motion passed 8-0-1 (Mrs. Brzezinski abstained.)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Final Approval for WTHS Academic Team Trip to Scholar's Bowl

A motion was made by Mrs. Baranski and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval for the WTHS Academic Team trip to the Scholars' Bowl in Dix Hills, Long Island, New York, on January 9-10, 2004. The cost to the District is limited to the use of the school van and the cost of a rental van that is estimated to be \$500.00.

The motion passed 9-0.

2. Permission to Accept Competitive Grant Funding

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to accept the following competitive grants for the 2003-04 school year in the amounts indicated:

<i>Title I Parent Involvement Mini-Grant Davis Elementary School</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Title I Parent Involvement Mini-Grant Leary Elementary School</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Title I Parent Involvement Mini-Grant Longstreth Elementary School</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Title I Parent Involvement Mini-Grant McDonald Elementary School</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Title I Parent Involvement Mini-Grant Stackpole Elementary School</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Title I Parent Involvement Mini-Grant Willow Dale Elementary School</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>

The motion passed 9-0.

3. Permission to Accept Entitlement Grant Funding

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to accept the following 2003-04 entitlement grants in the amounts indicated:

	<u>2002-2003</u>	<u>2003-2004</u>
<i>Title I</i>	<i>\$677,848</i>	<i>\$813,083</i>
<i>Title II-A</i>	<i>\$263,591</i>	<i>\$266,591</i>
<i>Title II-D</i>	<i>\$17,154</i>	<i>\$19,137</i>
<i>Title V</i>	<i>\$24,572</i>	<i>\$25,279</i>

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Support Staff Salary/Benefit Program

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves a three-year extension, along with the attached changes, to the Support Staff Salary/Benefit Program and Personnel Practices, effective July 1, 2004.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked members of the Negotiating Committee for their fine work and also the work of the support staff representatives on the committee.

Mr. Grossi thanked the members of the committee, Mr. Strouse and Mr. Faust for doing all for the detail work, and also the support staff and the representatives.

The motion passed 9-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Authorization to Employ; Tutors; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Student Employee; and Co-Curricular Additions, Changes and Deletions.

Mr. Faust pointed out that there were positions for fall sports with an effective date of September 3rd on the list for approval. Since these seasons are already over, he questioned why these were just appearing. Mr. Blatt advised that this was in the process of being addressed.

The motion passed 9-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mrs. Lynch indicated that she had a list of Home and School meetings, which would be distributed to the Board.

Mr. Grossi stated that he would like to examine alternatives to the past Thanksgiving Day arrangement, such as a community event where we could offer breakfast to Seniors and alumni. He felt the game should be free of charge, rather than a fundraiser, and that we should reach out to Ann's Choice residents. There could possibly be a parade. Also, consideration should be given to having the game on Saturday rather than Thanksgiving Day.

Mrs. Huf indicated that she supported a lot of Mr. Grossi's ideas but felt that this should not all be free of charge and that it should be held on Thanksgiving Day. She also felt we should send Archbishop Wood a bill for the money lost that day, although that wouldn't make up for the disappointment. She agreed that alternatives should be looked at.

Mrs. Baranski stated that several parents from Council Rock South indicated to her that they might be interested in participating. The Thanksgiving Day football game is a tradition that people look forward to.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she supported most of what was being said as far as exploration of alternatives but asked Administration to provide what would be involved with considering another opponent or another time. She agreed that this should be held on Thanksgiving Day.

Mrs. Brzezinski felt that Mr. Blatt's letter to Wood should have been more forceful. She also felt that Mr. Blatt should write a letter to Hatboro-Horsham thanking them for supporting us.

Mr. Grossi agreed that the Board did need information and input as to alternatives. While he understands that funds are important, he felt that families of the athletes should not have to pay admission. He asked the Board to think out of the box on this.

Mr. Faust indicated that he supported what was being said but felt that we should be careful not to have a knee-jerk reaction because of our disappointment. We need to look at our obligations and must review everything as objectively as possible.

Mr. Blatt stated that he had provided Board members with a copy of his letter to Wood. He felt that since he represents everyone as Superintendent, he must remember his position. Although

he has personal views, he must communicate with respect, dignity and integrity. He also stated that he had not received acknowledgment of his letter. He did not appreciate the Lions and Kiwanis getting a letter the day before stating that the team would not attend the dinner. He felt that outstanding issues needed to be addressed.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she was perfectly pleased with Mr. Blatt's letter. She felt it was tactful and expressed the issues well.

Mr. Grossi stated that he supported the letter also. His comments were not a knee-jerk reaction. He thought long and hard about the issue and felt we have an absolute obligation to our students to protect their interests.

Mrs. Huf felt that if an apology was to be forthcoming, it would have already been received. She felt that Wood blew it and the matter was finished.

Mrs. Brzezinski apologized to Mr. Blatt for her comment, indicating that she did not wish to insult him. The letter was wonderful, but she felt it could have been more forceful.

On another matter, Mrs. Mueller advised that at the School Board Academy they discussed Board members' participation in meetings by speakerphone. It was indicated that boards should have a separate policy for this. She requested that the next agenda provide for discussion on this matter.

Mrs. Gold agreed with Mrs. Mueller, pointing out that there were all kinds of red flags on this issue.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary