

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD JANUARY 13, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on January 13, 2004, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Lynch at 7:35 p.m., at which time the roll was called. The following people were in 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
Timothy Vail

CEA/Teachers:

Andy Mahony

Public:

Ryan Kulp
Curtis Beardsell
Chris Chiarolanza
Marla Chiarolanza
Patricia Suszko
Linda Bothwell

Tim Stanfield
Yuuji Crance
Biz Keeny
Harve Strouse
Al Hertenberger

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Lynch announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting relative to personnel matters.

Mrs. Lynch made the following Township appointments:

Ivyland	Mrs. Huf
Southampton	Mr. Grossi
Warminster	Mrs. Lynch

Letters have been sent from Administration to the Townships advising them of these appointments.

Mrs. Lynch made the following Home and School Association appointments:

Davisville	Mr. Grossi
Leary	Mr. Faust
Longstreth	Mrs. Brzezinski
McDonald	Mrs. Huf
Stackpole	Mrs. Jankowsky
Willowdale	Mrs. Baranski
Klinger	Mrs. Mueller
Tennent	Mrs. Gold
Log College	Mrs. Lynch

A list of meeting dates will be forwarded to the Board members.

PRESENTATIONS

School Board Recognition Month

Mr. Blatt stated that each year in January school districts across the country recognize School Board members for the many hours they spend serving their communities. They need to be knowledgeable about many complicated issues and make difficult decisions. The contribution of time and effort in this district is extraordinary. Mr. Blatt extended a special and sincere thank you to all Board members and stated that the fruit basket they were each receiving was a small token of appreciation.

Recognition of Sports Teams

Mr. Blatt advised that three of the District's sports teams had been recognized by the Suburban I League for their Sportsmanship Award: WTHS Football Team, Girls' Cross Country Team and Field Hockey Team.

Mrs. Homel stated that representatives from these teams were present, as well as their coaches.

Lou Pacchioli stated that they were proud of this award. It is a testament to the young people and their coaches. He introduced the Field Hockey team, indicating that they are the Colonial Division Sportsmanship winners for the second year in a row. The coaches, Liz Stanfield and Sunshine Cilenzi, then spoke about what a great season they had.

Mr. Pacchioli introduced the Women's Cross Country Colonial Division winners and indicated that they have doubled the number of girls they have running this year and will have more next year.

Craig Shapiro stated that it was a great honor to be coaching this team and that he felt it was important that the girls have a good time.

Mr. Pacchioli then introduced the Football team and spoke about what a great group of young people they were, with a great coach. Coach Keeney stated that he took a lot of pride in this award and explained that it is voted on by the coaches in the league. He indicated that he had been asked to speak in Atlantic City in March regarding Tennent's football team. He was very proud of this honor.

Mr. Pacchioli thanked the Board for honoring the teams at this meeting. He also thanked the Board for their hard work and presented each of them with a cap in appreciation of their efforts.

Mr. Blatt explained that Coach Keeney will be present at the conference in Atlantic City and will be in the company of professional coaches, as well as college coaches.

GOOD NEWS

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

Mr. Crance reported on the following events:

- December 12 – Winter Concert at Tennent
- December 13 – Breakfast with Santa; Key Club Winter Ball
- December 16 – Thespian Club Induction
- December 17 – Graduation Project Presentation by Megan McCloud
- December 17 – Class Ring orders accepted
- December 23 – Alumni Breakfast; Faculty Holiday Show
- January 5 – Madrigals performed at Doylestown Court House
- January 9 – Marching Band Holiday Party
- January 12 – Tops at Tennent and Super Staff Breakfast

Mr. Crance also reported on upcoming events, as follows:

- January 13 – Senior Prom meeting
- January 14 – Contest of the Pennsylvania Math League
- January 22-27 – Final Exams
- January 29 – Second Semester begins
- February 23 – Senior Social

Mr. Crance also reported on the records of the various sports teams.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Blatt indicated that this had already been covered in his weekly report to the Board.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Baranski reported that the next meeting of the Education Committee would be on January 26th at 7:00 p.m.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf reported that a meeting had been held the previous evening. At the Executive Session prior to the general meeting, there was discussion on negotiations on the new contract and also a recommendation for a new solicitor.

The following items were approved/accepted:

- A motion to employ a temporary replacement Assistant Principal, Mr. Richard Frank. He will be there for at least sixty days.
- A bid to accept the cost for the student-built house at \$69,450. The cost to build the house was approximately \$59,000.
- The resignation of the past solicitor.
- Appointment of a new solicitor.
- Nomination of a committee for the slate of officers for this year.

Mr. Grossi indicated that the Board opposed the state mediators contract, so it is now back to negotiations.

Mrs. Huf stated that after the meeting they attended the joint school boards dinner at Aspirations.

Intermediate Unit

Mrs. Brzezinski reported that there would be a meeting of the I.U. on January 20th. She was scheduled to go on a tour with Mr. Coe on January 12th but had to cancel due to illness. This will be rescheduled. The next meeting of the I.U. will include discussions of budget revisions and the homeless.

PSBA

No report.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Faust reported that the Finance Committee meeting would be held on Tuesday, January 20th, due to the Martin Luther King holiday on Monday. They will start to look at next year's budget, beginning with capital projects.

Title VIII

No report.

Federal Lands Reuse Authority

No report.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Operations Committee met on January 8th. They reviewed capital projects, requests regarding the walking zone and the cable system upgrade. They also approved bus bids; there will be a motion for the buses at this meeting under New Business.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she was proud of the committee for moving forward on the cable system improvements, which are greatly needed.

Citizens Policy

Mrs. Baranski stated that the next meeting of the Citizens Policy Committee would be on January 20th at 7:00 p.m. Policies 3.8 – Clubs and Co-Curricular Activities and 3.28 – Student Health Services will be reviewed.

Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Mueller reported that the impasse between the state legislature and the Rendell administration on state education funding ended in late December. The legislature finally adopted a spending plan for 2003-04. In Centennial's case, it appears that the District

will receive the standard hold harmless increase of 2% in basic subsidy funding, which is less than what was budgeted. The special education appropriation appears to be \$37,800 more than budgeted. Overall, this is a net increase for the two subsidies of \$9,700. On December 30 we received approximately \$4.3 million in basic education subsidy, which was owed to the District for August, October and December. As part of that payment we received almost \$11,000 in interest.

Mrs. Mueller reported that a first draft revision of Chapter 49 came out; that is the State Board of Education's Committee reviewing guidelines for certification of professional personnel.

Mrs. Mueller also pointed out that we lost one of our local lawmakers, Roy Cornell, and that a special election will be held to fill this vacancy in the House. She extended sympathy to Mr. Cornell's family and friends.

Mr. Grossi commented that we received a less than inflationary increase in subsidy. We received no tax relief and no additional funding for public education, although we did receive a 10% increase in taxes.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if Administration had received information regarding the process of applying for block grants. Mr. Blatt stated that this was received. The state has earmarked certain dollars using a formula that will be available to school districts. By April 10th, school districts can petition for their specific amount of money. In the Friday Update there will be additional information on the block grant program.

Dr. Masko explained that we have a window of thirty days to submit our application. This will be for the 2004-05 school year. They have not defined whether it will be for new or existing programs.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that the Operations Committee will meet on January 27th prior to the Board Meeting.

Mrs. Lynch asked if the Board would want a state representative to come to address the Board or if they would rather have Administration deal with this. Mrs. Jankowsky felt this would be premature at this time. Mrs. Mueller noted that at the Legislative Leadership Conference on February 9th, they will try to seat us at dinner with our area legislators.

Mr. Grossi stated that block grants tend to dry up. Also, he would not mind voicing our concerns to the legislators although the I.U. does something like that annually.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of December 9, 2003.

The motion passed 9-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Initial Distribution

Mrs. Jankowsky noted the following policies for initial distribution:

- 2.22 – Evaluation and Rating of Administrators
- 3.4 – Student Trips
- 3.11 – Prohibiting Discrimination in Education
- 5.16 – English as a Second Language Program

Permission to Develop Policy:

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that at the last meeting Mrs. Mueller requested that a policy be developed regarding Board member participation in meetings from remote locations.

Mrs. Mueller stated that during one of the sessions at the Pennsylvania School Board Academy a question was posed about who had used speakerphone participation at Board meetings. Centennial was the only District there who had done so. They strongly suggested that we should have a policy about this. PSBA does not have a policy regarding this. Mrs. Mueller stated that she had done some research on the subject and has found that there are some districts who do have such a policy, but that the School Code may not permit this. There are concerns regarding the Sunshine Act. Mrs. Mueller read from an April 2002 article by the School Board Secretary's President regarding this issue. She felt that it would be in the best interests of the District to have a policy to prevent speakerphone participation in the future.

Mrs. Huf stated that in the two instances that she was familiar with, we consulted with our solicitor, who indicated that as long as there was a consensus of the Board, this could be permitted. She fully supports developing a policy but is not sure whether this should be forbidden or not.

Mr. Grossi felt that it would be a good idea to develop a policy. We should continue to collect data, then decide what the policy should say. Mrs. Gold stated that PSBA felt that it was very important that we have a policy on this.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that generally policies that deal with the Board are developed by a committee of the Board rather than by Administration. Mr. Grossi felt this should be done and that it should go on the Operations and Policies Committee. Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that the Chair consider deferring this to the Operations Committee, who could research this and make a recommendation.

Mr. Faust stated that he supported the formation of a policy, but not necessarily a policy that recommends one way or the other. He would like this to be researched first, then the Board could consider a third option where we don't close the door the whole way. Speakerphone participation could be allowed for emergency situations.

Mrs. Lynch believed that the consensus of the Board was to send this matter to the Operations Committee to research and develop a policy.

Harve Strouse of 772 Cotler Lane, Warminster, stated that prior to using speakerphones the Board asked for a written opinion from the solicitor. Mr. Garton recommended that we create a policy for use of speakerphones. The evening this was done, the Board agreed on speakerphone use. Mr. Strouse felt that a policy should be developed but felt that the Board did follow procedure at the time in connection with the Sunshine Act.

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

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – December 2003*
- *Budgetary Transfers – January 2004*

Mr. Grossi commented that we received almost \$11,000 to cover a \$65,000 shortfall in interest earned.

The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appointment to Citizens' Policy Committee

A motion was made by Mrs. Baranski and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints Mr. William M. Gardner to a three-year term on the Centennial School District Citizens' Policy Committee. Such term shall begin effective January 20, 2004 and end June 30, 2007.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked Mr. Gardner for stepping forward to volunteer for this.

The motion passed 9-0.

2. Permission to Accept Competitive Grant Funding

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

<i>Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth Community Service Grant</i>	<i>\$28,998</i>
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The motion passed 9-0.

3. Bus Bids

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the transportation bids to be awarded to the following vendors:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>BID DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>BID NO.</u>	<u>TOTAL BID AMOUNT</u>
<i>Rohrer Bus Sales</i>	<i>24-Passenger Bus (2)</i>	<i>2004-02</i>	<i>\$ 83,340.00</i>
<i>Rohrer Bus Sales</i>	<i>65-Passenger Conventional Buses (4)</i>	<i>2004-03</i>	<i><u>245,960.00</u></i>
<i>Total Net Expense</i>			<i>\$328,300.00</i>

Funds to be appropriated from the 2004-05 General Fund Budget.

This compares to a total General Fund Expenditure in 2003-04 of \$314,630.00.

The motion passed 9-0.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the low bid on one of these was rejected because the bid did not meet the specifications.

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: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Change of Status; Tutors; Mentor; and Co-Curricular.

The motion passed 9-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Huf stated that she received correspondence from Terry Baranski of Pelham Road, Warminster.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

None.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto. Mr. Faust noted that the Finance Committee Meeting would be at 6:30 p.m. on January 20th, not 7:00.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Gold to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary