

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD MARCH 9, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on March 9, 2004, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Grossi at 7:31 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Sina Baranski
Marie Brzezinski
Rose Gold
Eugene Grossi
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
Cynthia Mueller

CEA/Teachers:

None

Administration:

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

Public:

Douglas Berell
Jennifer Cannon
Jennifer Volz
Harve Strouse

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Grossi led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Grossi announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting relative to personnel matters. He indicated that Mr. Faust was absent due to illness and Mrs. Lynch was absent due to a business commitment.

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that on March 2nd students at McDonald School celebrated the 100th birthday of Dr. Seuss. She congratulated the staff, students and their parents. There was a tremendous turnout of readers.

Mrs. Jankowsky clarified that, for purposes of Policy 1.2, “residents” shall mean anyone who lives in the District or pays taxes directly to the District via Act 511, business privilege,

mercantile or occupational privilege tax. She felt the wrong impression might have been given previously.

Mrs. Jankowsky announced that on March 28th the annual safety awards banquet was held by the Transportation Department. She thanked them for inviting Board members to attend.

Mrs. Baranski reported that the William Tennent Alumni Association would be having a bowling night on April 17th from 9:00 to 12:00 at Pike Lanes in Southampton.

Mr. Blatt stated that he had received a letter that afternoon from Chuck Pettacki of Southampton regarding an incident which occurred on December 5th. It had snowed and Mr. Pettacki started shoveling his property. Two young people stopped and said they would finish shoveling for him for free. The two people were Lee Trickle and Amanda Fitzpatrick. Mr. Pettacki felt fortunate having these people in our community and at William Tennent.

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Blatt announced that he had been made aware by PSBA of an honor about to be bestowed on our School Board. The District received the highest level of participation in the PSBA awards program for in-service in 2003. Only 17 districts out of the 501 in the state qualified for this plaque this year. This represents an outstanding level of achievement. Mr. Blatt read from a letter received from PSBA, then presented Mr. Grossi with the plaque.

GOOD NEWS

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Brian Nicholas of Southampton (a student) addressed the Board regarding the cost of the Advanced Placement exams, which is \$82.00. He felt that for many students this can be a problem with all of the other costs associated with Senior year. He wondered if there was any way to offset the cost.

Mr. Grossi stated that he didn't think there was anything in the current budget for this but that it could be brought up during the budget process.

Mrs. Brzezinski pointed out that if a student passes this test, it will save him/her a lot of money on college.

Mr. Nicholas stated that he did know that but if a student takes four of these tests, it adds up to a lot of money. He indicated that some of the school districts pay all of these costs. He said that he would gather more information and come back to the Board.

Mr. Grossi explained that this question has been asked before and the Finance Committee has turned it down; however, if he would like to bring it up again, it can be looked at again.

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

Doug Berell reported on the following events:

- February thru March 12 – Preparations for Black & White Night. He spoke about the events that would occur and encouraged the Board to attend.
- February 9-14 – Various events relating to Valentine’s Day, such as a trivia quiz sponsored by the William Tennent Library; computer matchup survey by the National Honor Society; and the sale of Hershey Kisses by the Yearbook Committee to help fund the yearbook, which has been very successful.
- February 18 – Seminar at Tennent hosted by Corporal Battistini regarding pranks and crimes and how to distinguish the two.
- February 23-25 – PSSA Writing Exams
- February 23-25 – “Pennies for Patients” fundraiser to benefit Leukemia and Lymphoma Foundation.
- February 28 – Key Club sponsored and assisted in the Special Olympics Bowling Tournament. There were a lot of volunteers working on this.
- March 3 – Basket Bingo assisted by the Key Club. This raised a lot of money for the McDonald HSA.
- March 6 – High School basketball championships.
- March 8-9 – Speakers from Generation Life promoted abstinence and chastity.
- March 8 – Senior Prom tickets went on sale. The prom will be held on April 30th at Spring Mill Manor.
- March 8 –Final round of the math competition.
- March 9 – 5th contest of the Pennsylvania Math League
- March 10 – Black & White Academic Competition
- March 11 – Black & White Pool Night. Right now the record stands at 19-19.
- March 12 – Black & White concludes with Gym Night

Mr. Berell stated that a lot of this could not be done without the Board’s approval.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that it is unusual for a Board to be partisan but it seemed that there is an overwhelming number on the Board who would be on the Black team, so “Go, Black!”

Mr. Berell also reported the results of the sports teams.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

There was no MBIT student representative present.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

No report.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Baranski reported that the next meeting of the Education Committee would be on March 25th at 7:00 p.m. The topic will be the library and health and physical education renewal and the Kindergarten task force.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf reported that there was a meeting on March 8th. Awards were presented to more than forty students who won in their various competitions. The Board approved the employment of Joseph Grebb as Assistant Principal of MBIT. He will be starting around May 1st.

Mr. Grossi reported that a tentative agreement was reached with the teachers. Also there was a budget presentation, which was 8.5%. Mrs. Huf stated that Mr. Grossi was looking to get this amount down lower.

Intermediate Unit

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she had a packet of information if anyone was interested in seeing it. She also had the agenda from the last meeting if anyone was curious. She went to visit the I.U. She indicated that there were parents who had a child with a rare disease; they spoke about how well the I.U. has accommodated the child. Also, she reminded Board members to send in their votes for the I.U. Board.

PSBA

No report.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Grossi reported that the Finance Committee met on March 1st. The next meeting will be on March 29th. The budget basically has a \$6 million hole.

Title VIII

No report.

Federal Lands Reuse Authority

No report.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Operations Committee met on February 24th. They addressed two action items in addition to the minutes. The first was a request for a change of bus stop, which the committee denied. The second item was the remote voting issue and policy. This will be coming forward at the March 23rd meeting.

Mrs. Jankowsky also reported that on March 6th several Board members joined Mr. Lasher for the annual tour of the capital projects. They visited six buildings, including the Administration Building, William Tennent High School, Klinger, McDonald, Log College and Leary. They saw items that have been placed in the budget. She felt the tour was very worthwhile.

Mrs. Brzezinski commended the person who takes care of Leary and how he took care of the boiler room – it was spotless.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that Board members were able to get up on the roofs of some of the buildings.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that since 1976 the District has had a preventive maintenance program and this has prevented some of the things you see in other districts where they need to build new buildings. Our buildings are in great shape and the entire staff is to be congratulated.

Citizens Policy

Mrs. Baranski reported that the Citizens Policy Committee met on February 17th and reviewed the following policies: 3.16 – Hazing; and 5.8 – Outside Speakers in the Instructional Program. The committee will meet again on March 16th.

Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Mueller reported that the Education Secretary currently is meeting with the Senate Education Committee to study the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment. The Department of Education has revised the school violence and weapons reporting system with a new section on its website. The Department also announced that the reporting submission date has changed from July 31st to June 30th.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that Board members were receiving a lot of information about referendum. PSBA does not support this and encourages Board and community members to discuss the issue with representatives. Mrs. Mueller stressed that Board members should send a letter to local representatives about this. She felt we need to let them know, as well as the listening public.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that the referendum issue is very important. She also saw an article in the paper indicating that some legislators are considering a massive sales tax in

order to eliminate real estate taxes where they would tax goods and services that are not currently taxed. They suggested that instead of what is proposed, this might be better. They felt they would be able to eliminate property taxes entirely and increase funding for schools. She assumes that this is only based on whether the off-track racing initiative is approved.

TECHNOLOGY STEERING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that this committee had met the previous evening. The e-tech plan that we are required to develop will be coming before the Board for acceptance at the second meeting in March. The committee will meet again on March 18th. The Board will receive the plan on March 19th.

Also, each of the three standing subcommittees on the e-tech plan is meeting. She is on the Curriculum and Learning subcommittee. The others are Administration and Management and Communication & Information Access. Each subcommittee is developing goals and then action plans so that we can achieve the objectives that fit each goal. This came out in January and has to be back in April.

MINUTES

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

- *Work Session/Regular School Board Meeting – February 3, 2004*
- *Regular School Board Meeting – February 10, 2004*

Mrs. Jankowsky requested a minor revision in the February 10th minutes.

The motion passed 7-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Initial Distribution:

Mrs. Jankowsky noted the following policies for initial distribution:

- 3.3 – Clubs and Co-Curricular Activities
- 3.16 – Hazing
- 5.8 – Outside Speakers in the Instructional Program

Final Approval:

3.28 – Student Health Services

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 3.28, Student Health Services.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that the suggested revisions are included in the policy.

The motion passed 7-0.

4.10 – Video Surveillance

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 4.10, Video Surveillance.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that all suggested revisions had been incorporated into the policy.

The motion passed 7-0.

5.14 – Volunteers

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 5.14, Volunteers.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that there were no additions or revisions to this policy.

The motion passed 7-0.

7.19 – Weapons/Explosive Devices and Caustic Substances

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.19, Weapons/Explosive Devices and Caustic Substances.

Mrs. Brzezinski indicated that she would abstain on this issue. She did not believe that anyone should ever carry a weapon in the schools. She did not feel the exceptions in Section III should be included in the policy.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that the housekeeping corrections were made to the policy.

The motion passed 6-0-1 (Mrs. Brzezinski abstained.)

FINANCIAL

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Gold to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the:

- *Schedule of Bills – February 2004*
- *Investments – February 2004*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – February 2004*

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – February 2004*
- *Budgetary Transfers – March 2004*

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if there was any concern on the part of Administration regarding the revenue on the earned income tax, line 6151. The report was dated March 3rd and noted that it is a couple million dollars off. Mr. Grossi indicated that we are pretty much in line with our previous years at this point.

Regarding line 6114, payment in lieu of taxes, Mrs. Jankowsky asked if this was something that comes in at the end of the year, revenues from Ann's Choice. Mr. Grossi stated that he didn't know when that comes in.

Harve Strouse of 772 Cotler Lane stated that that comes in quarterly.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that delinquent real estate taxes were substantially below budget. Mr. Grossi felt that that would remain low throughout the end of the year but noted that the regular real estate taxes are ahead.

The motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that items 1 and 2 had the support of Administration and the family members will provide transportation for the students. The Board had already seen items 3 through 5 with preliminary approvals.

1. Exception to Policy 7.18 – Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 1-16
2. Exception to Policy 7.18 – Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 2-1
3. Final Approval for the WTHS Key Club Trip to Pittsburgh, PA
4. Final Approval for the FBLA Trip to Champion, PA
5. Final Approval for the WTHS Boys Volleyball Team Trip to the 7th Annual Maplewood Volleyball Tournament in Guysmill, PA

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board:

(1) Approves an exception to Policy 7.18 to allow student 1-16 to attend Klinger Middle School for the remainder of the 2003-04 school year. The parent(s) will provide transportation.

(2) Approves an exception to Policy 7.18 to allow student 2-1 to attend Davis Elementary School for the remainder of the 2003-04 school year. The family will provide transportation.

(3) Grants final approval for the Key Club Convention trip to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on March 26-28, 2004. The cost to the District is \$85.00 for a substitute teacher for one day.

(4) *Grants final approval for the William Tennent High School Future Business Leaders of America trip to Champion, Pennsylvania – March 29-31, 2004. The cost to the District is \$6,004.60.*

(5) *Grants final approval for the William Tennent High School Boys Volleyball Team trip to the 7th Annual Maplewood Volleyball Tournament in Guysmill, Pennsylvania, on April 16-17, 2004. There is no cost to the District.*

Mrs. Brzezinski recalled that one of these trips was very expensive, over \$6,000. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that it was the FBLA trip. Mr. Grossi explained that that is a competition that is similar to some of the athletic competitions that the Board always supports.

Mrs. Brzezinski felt this was a lot of money. She asked if there were any athletic competitions that cost that much. Mr. Grossi indicated that some of them are expensive also and that they are generally supported in the budget. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that for FBLA the cost is high because there are a lot of students who attend. Mrs. Brzezinski noted that there are 20 students participating. Mr. Blatt commented that registration alone for the students to continue in the competition is \$1,000.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that this followed policy and that this club has been very popular.

The motion passed 7-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf 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; Tutor; and Co-Curricular.

Under Authorization to Employ, Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the new position of Math/Special Ed temporary professional employee at the high school was a budgeted position. Mr. Blatt explained that it is a position covered by budgeted dollars. We had hoped not to have to need this position but it will be covered.

For the resignation of the Music position at Stackpole, Mrs. Jankowsky asked if there would be a replacement. Dr. Sexton indicated that they had been interviewing for this position and hopefully would have someone by the end of the week.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that part of this motion is an adjudication under the first item.

The motion passed 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she had attended the opening of the program at Log College on March 4th. Families broke into different workshops. She felt it was very impressive and was a beautiful presentation.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that she had the pleasure of being at Klinger the previous day for the final game of Klinger versus Log basketball. It went into double overtime and Klinger won by two points. She felt that it was heartwarming to see the enter bleachers filled and everyone cheering. It was good to see so much participation and team spirit and the support for both schools. She looks forward to seeing these students play at Tennent.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked when the second meeting in April would be. Mr. Blatt indicated that it would be on Wednesday, April 28th due to the primary election on the 27th.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Gold to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary