

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD MARCH 23, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on March 23, 2004, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Grossi at 7:43 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

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

Administration:

David Blatt
Victor Lasher
Dr. Michael Masko
Robert Reed
Jean Rollo
Dr. Thomas Sexton

CEA/Teachers:

None

Public:

E. Story Biddle
Mary A. Battaglia
Liz Swatts
Harve Strouse
Lee Mueller
Chad Mueller

* Mrs. Baranski left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Grossi announced that all Board members were present except Mrs. Lynch, who had a previous business engagement.

Mrs. Huf related that she had the pleasure of visiting Leary and Log College the previous week on St. Patrick's Day. The students were great and she really enjoyed visiting. Later in the day

she received an envelope full of letters from the students thanking her for visiting. Mrs. Huf thanked the teachers and everyone who visited with her that day.

Mrs. Mueller announced that *Cinderella* would be performed at Klinger but that the school calendar was wrong. The Saturday performance would not be in the afternoon. On Friday and Saturday evenings, the performances would be at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

None

GOOD NEWS

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

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that at the 39th Annual Black & White Night the black team prevailed. It was a spectacular event.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

REPORTS

MBIT

Mrs. Huf reported that there was a meeting the previous evening for the purpose of finding a new Director since Dr. Lees is leaving. There were 11 or 12 applicants, which were narrowed down to four. These four will be interviewed several times. When it is down to the final interviews all Board members and Superintendents from the sending districts will be involved if they are interested.

Mr. Faust indicated that he would like to see at least three candidates come forward for selection.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Mrs. Gold had several questions about the contents of the minutes, including carpet replacement at McDonald. Mr. Grossi indicated that these questions should be brought up at the meeting on the 29th since this is a legitimate discussion for the Finance Committee. The item under discussion now is just to accept the minutes as properly reflecting the discussion which took place.

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

- *Finance Committee – January 20, 2004 and February 23, 2004*

- *Operations Committee – February 3, 2004*

The motion passed 8-0.

POLICIES

Discussion:

3.3 – Clubs and Co-Curricular Activities

Mrs. Brzezinski asked if the solicitor had reviewed this matter. Dr. Sexton responded that he had.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the entire section regarding WTHS Eligibility Standards for Participating in Athletics (an attachment to the policy) had been deleted, including PIAA. To some degree these were incorporated onto page 3.3C. She thought the standards were more rigorous at the high school than what PIAA requires for participation in sports.

Dr. Sexton stated that to some degree that was correct. Under IV. B.2. we do reflect not only the PIAA standards but also the school requirements. Regarding the attachment, when the Administrative Committee looked at this, they felt this was really not policy but was incorporating mostly PIAA eligibility standards and some requirements from the high school that really shouldn't be part of the policy. However, this document could certainly be part of the handbook at the high school to inform students of the PIAA requirements, as well as some of the requirements at the high school.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that while she could understand that, she felt the Board should know what the eligibility criteria were. She asked if there was a way for Board members to get a copy of the school requirements; if they could have an appendix that provides the PIAA standards.

Dr. Sexton responded that they could reference a different type of attachment that would list that type of information.

In Section IV.A.2.b., Mrs. Jankowsky questioned the statement that the principal could terminate a student if he/she is not participating in the activity. She was not sure what this meant. Dr. Sexton explained that many of the activities at the elementary level have a limited number of spots. There may be more children who want to participate. In order to be fair to those who want to play, we should make sure that those who signed up are actually there. He indicated that this language could be clarified.

In Section IV. B.2.b., Mr. Faust requested that the phrase “school requirements” be changed to “District requirements” so it is clear that the District is setting the standard rather than the individual school. He also requested that on the addendum regarding PIAA requirements we address what the District or school standards are.

3.16 – Hazing

In Section VI., Mrs. Jankowsky questioned what constitutes a non-District camp or workshop and if the Madrigals trip was a non-District sponsored event.

Dr. Sexton explained that his recollection was that this referred to different types of activities for students not just from Centennial but from across the county or Commonwealth, including activities held at colleges or universities, particularly with regard to sports. These types of camps are heavily recruited. The recommendation from the people at the secondary level was that we should also add additional language to help explain the spirit of those proceedings. Some of this came from advice from the solicitor when it was drafted in 1999.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked about trips like the swim team trip to Florida. Dr. Sexton indicated that this wouldn't apply to trips, only things like camps, although this could apply to things other than sports activities.

Mrs. Mueller asked if distribution of information was considered recruiting. Dr. Sexton stated that we can make information available but could not persuade or require our students to take part in those activities.

Mr. Blatt indicated that he would like more input from the Board.

Mr. Faust felt that if one camp was singled out over another even as far as handing out their pamphlets, this would be recruiting. Mrs. Jankowsky agreed. She felt that if we are not going to solicit or recruit, then we shouldn't be handing out literature. She would not approve distributing literature. Mrs. Huf felt she needed clarification on this.

Mr. Blatt indicated that he had not personally spoken to the solicitor on this but would like to pursue this further with him. He personally felt that it was beneficial for the students to participate in high caliber summer camps and felt that it was responsible for a coach to give out information about camps.

Mr. Faust felt that it appears that the intent is to address hazing issues. Maybe the hazing issue can be addressed without addressing the issue of camps. Mrs. Mueller felt this was a good point. She felt this almost seemed like two different things and that maybe this should be handled as a separate policy. Mr. Faust indicated that there is a policy. Mrs. Mueller asked if it addresses this issue. Dr. Sexton stated that the policy addressed information put out by outside places but not information given out by us.

Mrs. Huf suggested that maybe the last paragraph of the policy could be deleted. She does not want to hinder our students from attending camps.

Mr. Grossi felt this was in the policy to protect the District from liability by recruiting. We are not trying to hinder the students from attending camps. He felt this portion of the policy needs to be rewritten. The way we disseminate information to students should be reviewed.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt there was an issue that was raised by a previous incident that is the District's liability. She felt it would be worthwhile to go back to the solicitor for his opinion on this. She agreed with Mrs. Mueller regarding distribution of literature by the District.

Mr. Grossi agreed that the solicitor should review this again.

Mr. Strouse agreed with the points made; however, he indicated that he has seen newspaper advertisements for our coaches soliciting camps and workshops on District grounds. He wondered how that fit in since these are not District-sponsored. He also suggested that in Section III.A., maybe this should be changed to one business day rather than one school day. Dr. Sexton felt that might be a good option.

5.8 – Outside Speakers in the Instructional Program

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out the last sentence of Section I and also Section II.C.3. regarding honorariums. She questioned whether honorariums would be in the budget or if there would be separate sources of money for them. Dr. Sexton indicated that there are budget items that come under the heading of cultural enrichment programs. Also Home and School Associations donate money for this type of thing. Many times the people who come in do not charge.

Mrs. Baranski left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Facility Use Waiver Application

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this event already occurred on March 20th. The waiver is not for use of the facility but for waiver of the fees. Mr. Lasher explained that the waiver was for Warminster Symphony for nine hours at \$33 per hour, for a total of \$297. This was the earliest time this could be presented to the Board.

Story Biddle of the Warminster Symphony explained that this was a Young Artists Competition, which she had organized for the past two years. She applied to hold the competition at Bucks County Community College well in advance of the event and had the reservation. However, at the last minute, the college cancelled this. She desperately

needed a place to hold the competition so Mr. Blatt suggested that this be presented to the Board retroactively to see if they would waive the fees.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if they would be going back to Bucks County Community College. Ms. Biddle stated that they would if they could continue to do so at no cost. They try to keep the entrance fees low.

Mr. Blatt stated that he did not remember the specifics of the discussion regarding waiver of fees. He indicated that he might have misunderstood her. Ms. Biddle stated that she thought she e-mailed Mr. Blatt that maybe they could ask the Board retroactively to waive the fees.

Mrs. Huf asked how many students were involved. Ms. Biddle indicated that there were 20 but none of them were from Centennial.

Mrs. Gold asked about the registration fee. Ms. Biddle said that the registration fee was \$20 to cover printing and mailing costs.

Mrs. Mueller asked if the community college provided their facility for free. Ms. Biddle responded that they did.

Mrs. Mueller asked how much the printing and mailing costs were. Ms. Biddle explained that she didn't take care of this but that the database contains about 100 people.

Mr. Grossi stated that from a policy standpoint the Board has always asked that the information be submitted in advance. However, he understood why it was not provided in advance. The Board has also looked at the number of students involved. From his standpoint, without students in the District, he was delighted that we are able to accommodate this but to waive the fees after the event would be precedent-setting. He indicated that he could not support this. However, in the future, the Board would certainly consider a request prior to the event.

Mrs. Brzezinski asked why we were punishing them for presenting this after the fact. Maybe we should have turned them away since there was no time for the Board to approve this first. Mr. Lasher explained that they had a phone conversation where they discussed that if the waiver was not approved, they would pay the fee. Ms. Biddle agreed and asked for the procedure for next year. Dr. Sexton suggested that before there is any facility use form filled out, whoever is running an event contact him because there are money issues and regulations to be reviewed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Facility Use Waiver Application for Warminster Symphony Society for the use of WTHS auditorium and music area, March 20, 2004, to host the Young Artists Competition given annually by the Warminster Symphony Orchestra. They are requesting a 100% waiver of the custodial fees at a cost to the District of \$297.

The motion failed 0-7.

2. Tot Time Agreement

Mr. Faust explained that there was a one-year Agreement with Tot Time, which expires at the end of this school year. This Addendum is a three-year extension to the current Agreement with a slight increase in fees each year. Mrs. Jankowsky confirmed that this was reviewed by the solicitor. Since it is an extension, it is not required to be put out to bid.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Addendum to School Age Child Care Services Agreement with Tot Time (see supplement).

The motion passed 7-0.

3. Approval of 2004-05 Programs & Services and Instructional Materials and Research Services Budget for Bucks County I.U.

Mr. Faust indicated that there was a slight decrease in costs over last year. This was only related to the Programs & Services budget; there are other budgets.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the 2004-2005 Programs & Services and Instructional Materials & Research Services Budget for the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 in the amount of \$1,829,500. Centennial School District's share to be \$73,384.00.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this year Dr. Coe came to the Finance Meeting to present this and answer questions. She felt this process worked well and thanked Dr. Coe.

Mr. Grossi stated that he believed the Programs & Services budget is beyond the charge of the I.U. While there are some “okay services” provided, he felt we could live without them. He stated that the I.U. does a wonderful job on special education.

The motion passed 6-1. (Mr. Grossi opposed.)

4. Approval of Year 2 of the Reading Initiative

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Year 2 of the Centennial School District Reading Initiative (2004-05) with a fiscal note not to exceed \$213,819.

Mrs. Brzezinski asked if this money was already in the budget. Mr. Grossi indicated that this would be in the coming budget. Mr. Faust stated that it will have to be allocated in

next year's budget. Mr. Grossi pointed out that this is in addition to the money spent this year.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that this is the second phase. Mr. Grossi explained that this is a Board directive. This year's was taken out of surplus funds so the net impact will be \$400,000+.

Mrs. Huf stated that the Board voted on a reading initiative and it was over \$600,000. Since it couldn't be done in one year, the Board voted to do it over three years. Since this is the second year, she supports this.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she wished a note would have been provided in the Board's packet explaining this to new Board members. Mr. Grossi indicated that this is in the proposed budget.

Harve Strouse expressed confusion over the amount being taken out of the budget for this initiative. Mr. Grossi explained that in this year we spent approximately \$200,000; the funding stream was the fund balance, so there is no tax or revenue stream to cover that \$200,000. We plan to spend in the budget an additional \$213,000. We will continue this year's \$200,000 plus another \$200,00, so we will spend \$400,000 next year. There needs to be a revenue stream annually of \$400,000.

There was much confusion over the cost of the program. Mrs. Jankowsky explained that on June 30, 2006, the cost of this program would be \$600,000. The cost for 2003-04 will be approximately \$200,000. Next year you will be funding what we funded this year plus the high school portion of it. The total net dollars by June 30, 2006 will be \$600,000. The amount of \$600,000 will continue each year.

Mr. Grossi stated that the net cost of the program to the taxpayer would be approximately 4 mills (\$400,000+).

Mrs. Huf felt that reading is very important for our students so we should invest this money to improve their reading scores.

Mr. Grossi stated that Centennial's 5th and 8th grade reading scores for last year were the highest in the last nine years. The 11th grade scores were the lowest in the last nine years. This was according to the PSSA's. He did not feel that continuation of this program would get us the results we need. He acknowledged that the staff was working very hard and that has showed in two-thirds of the system so far that it is working. He urged that the Board reexamine this issue and look at other alternatives that have been working. He did not feel this should be moved forward at this time.

Mr. Faust acknowledged also that reading is important. He felt the Board needed to be prepared to look at where the money is coming from when programs are added.

Mrs. Huf pointed out that the Board voted to approve this over a period of three years. She questioned whether they were now indicating that they wanted to drop it. She felt there is a serious reading program in the District and that the reading initiative was made to address this. The only way to do this was over a period of three years. She believed in this reading initiative and the need for it. She felt it should be continued.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that the Board has a curriculum reserve in the amount of \$400,000 per year and that they have focused repeatedly on reading. There have been different approaches to reading. He felt the Board really needs to review this decision and look at the entire issue. The number of students at Basic or Below Basic has not changed since the 1970's although the District has spent millions of dollars. He felt more time on task is needed to deal with reading. For the first time in nine years we have seen significant improvement in the elementary and middle schools. He felt they should look at what is different although it will take a lot of work. He felt it would be beneficial to table this matter.

Mrs. Gold stated that this included only three teachers. She did not see how spending that much money for three teachers would do any good. She felt this needed to be looked at. Mr. Grossi indicated that the Board might eventually decided to go ahead with this, but he felt it should be looked at.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that the Board has been telling Administration to go ahead and develop a plan for this. They came up with a plan, this has been discussed at Education Committee meetings, at Board meetings, and now at the eleventh hour we are saying maybe we shouldn't go ahead with it. She stated that she was prepared to support this because it addresses the secondary program. She understands there are other things this Board will have to do next year, such as looking at block scheduling again and making some tough decisions. She felt this was designed to address those children not reading at grade level and that when the Board voted for this they knew the total cost. She felt this was a solid program and that maybe after this the math program could be reviewed, hopefully at a lower cost. She indicated that she was prepared to move this forward now but that if the Board wished to wait until the next meeting, they could do so.

Mr. Blatt explained that this proposal was original in one packet but was changed to be implemented over several years. He felt that it was done responsibly. He did not feel that the status quo could be accepted. He felt we are moving in the right direction in the elementary and middle levels. It was his opinion that high school performance needed to be looked at. We have a terrific staff and the technology but we need to look at the high school program. He felt there will never be enough money to do everything we would like to do but we need a School Board that is fair-minded and balanced. We must look at the needs of the children and the abilities of the community to pay for it. He felt the Board had done a great job of this.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Gold to table this motion until the April 13, 2004 Board Meeting.

The motion passed 6-1. (Mrs. Huf opposed.)

5. Approval of Technology Plan

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that this plan has been required by the State.

Bob Reed made a presentation summarizing the plan. This plan will run from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2007. In order to continue to obtain state and federal money, we must have a PDE-approved plan in place. Mr. Reed spoke about the goals and objectives of the plan. He indicated that the mechanics of the plan are mandated by the state and that this is the biggest change since the last time we did this. He explained that he was asking the Board to accept the plan, not approve the plan. He also spoke about the large group of people from the District involved in working on this.

Mr. Grossi asked why this wasn't done June 30th as it was previously. Mr. Reed explained that this must be submitted to PDE by April 30th so they can do a peer review. Ultimately it is approved by June 30th by the state but they will not guarantee that date if we don't have it into them by April 30th.

Mr. Blatt noted that Mr. Reed did not receive proper instructions from the state until late in January.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that the Finance Committee has committed \$750,000 per year for this but the plan states \$4 million. Mr. Reed explained that the \$750,000 each year was included in the \$4 million figure. They are not requesting approval of these monies. They would come back to the Board through various committees for approval of each plan.

Mr. Grossi stated that he did not intend to approve more than \$750,000, so he questioned why a figure of \$4 million was included in here. Mr. Reed felt that was a good question. Mr. Grossi felt that the procedure was nonsense.

Mr. Faust stated that they are in the process of going through the educational initiative and they were told to keep it to \$400,000. Even though we are only accepting this plan, he questioned why would we look at information or send the state information that we are going to do things that we are not going to do.

Mr. Reed explained that he was at a meeting with his counterparts around the county and it seems that the state just wants a laundry list of what we might do. That doesn't give us time to investigate things. There are a number of possible alternatives in the plan but we don't know what we will go with because we have not researched them yet. However, we will do some of these things.

Mr. Grossi stated that there is not enough time in this process and it doesn't line up with the budget process. He did not know what value this document has other than putting forth everything we could possibly consider doing.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would like to table this. She felt this needed to be reviewed in more detail and that she couldn't live with this.

Mr. Grossi asked if this would be a basis for funding. Mr. Reed did not think so. He thought there would be a letter stating that this was approved for purposes of the audit and that will be it.

Mr. Faust felt this would make the state happy and keeps our viability for grants. He suggested that while these people were gathered for the process maybe they could make a plan that actually means something.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she did not disagree with a lot of what was being said. She felt the process was overwhelming and that the bottom line might be that it is for the state's purposes. She felt that could serve as a base document for when Mr. Reed comes to Finance for justifying whatever they are requesting. She also felt it would be in the District's interests to use this for audits, etc. It can be used to design what we want to achieve on an annual basis within the limits of what there is to spend. She felt there were valid pieces of information in the plan.

Mrs. Mueller felt that the plan was very comprehensive and that it is an excellent document to work from. If this is what the state needed, a yeoman's job has been done. They are asking the Board for acceptance of this plan, not approval. She did not feel that would be committing the Board to anything.

Mr. Grossi recommended that the Board not vote on this at this meeting since they just received it. There is enough time to pass this at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Faust stated that his concern was that the Finance Committee is supposed to be doing long range planning. Maybe this information should be reformatted for the Board and Administration's use inside the District so everyone knows what our plan is in a format we can understand. Mrs. Jankowsky felt that was probably not a bad idea and that it would be appropriate to delay action on this until April 13th.

Mrs. Brzezinski voiced her concern that the Board was receiving everything late. Mr. Grossi pointed out that this was because the state decided a preliminary submission must be made on April 30th instead of June. We only received the format in January. This was not our doing; it was the state's doing.

Mr. Blatt felt that Mr. Faust's point was well taken. It might be good to develop an executive summary that is easily understood by the Board, even if it takes a couple of months to do this. He did not think the work of the 50 people involved in this should be diminished. There are 501 school districts in the state and they don't all do things as well as we do. That is one reason we are being made to jump through hoops.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that this is outside the Strategic Plan.

Regarding all of the following bids, Mr. Faust stated that these were for capital improvements. The individuals who took the tour saw most of these. When the Board is approving bids, it is pretty much casting this in stone; they can't go back and change it.

6. Bleacher Replacement Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Bleacher Replacement Bid No. 2004-05 for Klinger and Log College Middle Schools and William Tennent High School to be awarded to R. J. MacCarville Associates at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$159,000.00. This will be a capital reserve expenditure.

Mrs. Brzezinski asked if this was for all bleachers. Mr. Faust explained that it was for all bleachers at both middle schools and the motor at the high school.

The motion passed 7-0.

7. Cafeteria Table Replacement Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the purchase of replacement cafeteria tables for Longstreth Elementary School in the amount of \$29,733.00 from the State Bid Contract No. 710505. This will be a capital reserve fund expenditure.

Mrs. Huf asked if this was the last elementary school to have cafeteria tables replaced. Mr. Lasher indicated that it was.

The motion passed 7-0.

8. Door Replacement Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Door Replacement Bid No. 2004-04 for Davis, Leary, Longstreth, Stackpole, and Willow Dale Elementary Schools, Klinger and Log College Middle Schools, and William Tennent High School, to be awarded to James Doorcheck, Inc. at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$268,500.00. This will be a capital reserve expenditure.

Mrs. Huf asked if the doors were done at McDonald yet. Mr. Lasher indicated that they were almost all done but not this year.

The motion passed 7-0.

9. Emergency Generator Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Gold to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Emergency Generator Bid No. 2004-07 to be awarded to Industrial Diesel Power at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$11,967.00. This will be a capital reserve fund expenditure.

In response to a question by Mrs. Huf, Mr. Lasher indicated that this was for Leary.

The motion passed 7-0.

10. HVAC Control System Replacement Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the HVAC Control System Replacement Bid No. 2004-14 for Leary Elementary School to be awarded to Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$21,630.00. This will be a capital reserve fund expenditure.

The motion passed 7-0.

11. HVAC Replacement Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board rejects the bid of A. T. Chadwick Service for the HVAC Replacement Bid No. 2004- 06 for McDonald Elementary School and this item should be rebid.

Mrs. Huf asked why this was rejected. Mr. Lasher explained that there was one vendor and this came in much higher than expected. He believed that if we go out for rebid it will come in much lower.

The motion passed 7-0.

12. Pool Filter Replacement Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Pool Filter Replacement Bid No 2004-08 for Klinger and Log College Middle Schools to be awarded to Deep Run Aquatic Services at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$518,000.00. This will be a capital reserve expenditure.

The motion passed 7-0.

It was noted that these monies have all come from the capital reserve fund for preventive maintenance.

13. Remote Voting

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that on December 9th Mrs. Mueller raised this issue after attending the PSBA School Board Academy session on School Law where it was advocated that it would be best for School Boards to require physical presence at meetings to cast votes. On January 13th this was discussed by the Board, which sent this to the Operations Committee for review and a recommendation.

Dr. Sexton also researched this. Out of the 501 school districts that Dr. Sexton contacted, there were 17 responses. Of these 16 permitted remote voting and one did not. He also asked the solicitors for their opinions and reviewed the School Code.

There was a majority vote of the committee to move forward their recommendation that a policy be developed requiring Board members to be physically present to participate in a meeting.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she would not support the committee's recommendation, indicating that we are in the 21st century. She felt that if someone was away and wanted to vote, she saw nothing wrong with remote voting.

Mrs. Huf indicated that the only way she would support the development of this policy is if there would be a statement that it would be the decision of the Board, depending on the emergency and why the Board member must be absent. She agreed with Mrs. Brzezinski that we are in the age of communication. She thanked the Board for letting her participate in a meeting from a remote location when they were interviewing candidates for the Board. However, she would not be supporting this.

Mrs. Mueller stated that one of the things that was a guiding factor was that Board members are elected officials. In the state legislature and the House, members must be physically in their seats to cast a vote. For example, at this meeting there was a presentation by Mr. Reed which couldn't have been understood without actually seeing it. If a Board member was in a remote location, they might not have the paperwork in front of them. Out of the school districts that said they allowed this, it was for an emergency meeting of the Board, not a regularly scheduled meeting.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that there are nine Board members and everyone is very expendable. There are eight other people.

Mr. Faust indicated that he was not in support of this. He agreed that it should be permitted only in case of emergency. He would be more likely to vote for something that has some flexibility to it and that mentions specific reasons.

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that the sixteen districts that had policies had many reasons given. There were many considerations. Board members know in advance when the meetings are and can adjust their schedules. The people from PSBA are saying this is fraught with problematic areas. She agrees that this is the 21st century but must

remember that Board members are elected officials. One of the solicitors was very supportive of this; the other was very cautionary. She indicated that she would be willing to take this back to the committee allowing for emergency situations but there are other issues connected to it, such as committee meetings or liaisons.

Mr. Strouse stated, as a point of clarification, that in the two instances where remote voting was held that neither of them were regularly scheduled meetings of the Board. For him, there was a previously scheduled commitment. For Mrs. Huf there was an emergency situation.

Mr. Grossi indicated that it was his understanding from the solicitors that we really need to have a policy; the issue is what the policy says.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Gold to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the development of a policy that would require Board members to be physically present in order to participate in meetings of the Board and its committees.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to table this until the April 13th meeting.

The motion to table failed 3-4. (Mrs. Gold, Mrs. Jankowsky and Mrs. Mueller and Mr. Grossi opposed.)

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to amend the motion by indicating that the policy require Board members to be physically present in order to participate in meetings with the exception of unscheduled emergency sessions of the Board.

The motion to amend failed 3-4. (Mrs. Jankowsky, Mrs. Gold, Mrs. Mueller and Mr. Grossi opposed.)

The original motion passed 4-3. (Mr. Faust, Mrs. Brzezinski and Mrs. Mueller opposed.)

14. Consultant Agreement

Mr. Faust stated that the compensation for Mr. Schrader had not changed for a number of years. This Agreement has an increase in fees attached. Mr. Blatt indicated that the increase was for 5%, recognizing that there had not been an increase in several years.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Consultant Agreement with Robert Schrader (see supplement.)

Mrs. Huf asked if the figures were available on how much Mr. Schrader brings in every year as far as competitive monies. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that that report was given to the Finance Committee.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would like to see the data over a few years seeing how much it has improved since Dr. Schrader has been here.

Dr. Sexton quoted the following figures:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Grant Money</u>
2001-02	\$ 850,000
2002-03	1,200,00
2003-04	1,270,000

Dr. Sexton indicated that a large part of the grant money for each year was entitlement grants. Competitive grant money is quickly drying up but in spite of that our total has continued to go up. Dr. Sexton indicated that he could get more information.

Mr. Strouse pointed out that 60% of the contract is recoverable through Title I entitlement grants; the general fund is only responsible for 40%. Mrs. Huf asked for clarification of how much money would be due and where it would come from. Mr. Grossi and Dr. Sexton explained that we would pay Dr. Schrader \$63,000 yearly but 60% would come from federal money. Mrs. Huf felt that this should be stated in the Agreement; however, Mr. Faust pointed out that there was no guarantee that that money would be there next year.

Mr. Blatt pointed out that over two years ago we restructured this position, which probably saved the District well over \$50,000 in compensation alone and our performance with the grants has increased, even with the funds drying up. There is a plethora of audits we must go through and every one has been exemplary in nature.

Dr. Sexton explained that we had just gone through a Title I audit and an ESL audit. This was the first ESL audit we have ever gone through. The auditor actually asked if she could bring some representatives from other districts here to see how they should be conducting their program. He pointed out that in order to gather all of the information for all of the reports, to keep the reports flowing in a timely way, to get all of the reports submitted by the deadlines and to keep track of all that paperwork requires someone full time. He felt the job has pretty much paid for itself the way it is structured now.

Mrs. Huf asked if some of the savings were because we don't pay benefits. Mr. Blatt responded that it was.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that Title I requires that we have an administrator.

The motion passed 6-1. (Mrs. Huf opposed.)

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Faust 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; Tutors; Mentors; Per Diem Psychologists; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Elementary School Remedial Summer School Teachers; and Co-Curricular.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she was sorry to see that John Lacy was retiring – he is a wonderful person. She asked how long the summer program would be and how many children would be involved.

Dr. Sexton explained that the summer remedial program is a four-week program, for 3½ hours each day. This is funded through a grant. It costs approximately \$26,000 for salaries as well as materials used in the program. These children really profit from the extra time during the summer. The children are recommended by the teachers.

Mr. Blatt indicated that last year there were about 100 students and that 80 stayed for the whole program. We have received very positive comments.

Mr. Faust questioned the fact that the person in Item #1 under Resignations also appears under Per Diem Substitute Teachers. He wondered if this was a change in status. Mrs. Rollo explained that it was basically someone moving from being on the payroll to being a contracted service provider. This is what our psychologists are. This is someone who has decreased her hours, dropped her benefits and eliminated her regular employment.

Mr. Faust asked if we would have to fill a long-term substitute position. Mrs. Rollo responded that eventually the position would have to be filled, either with the person returning from leave or with a new person.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if we were able to get someone to replace the position of French teacher (Item #2). Mrs. Rollo indicated that the person she was substituting for was able to return part time from sick leave; therefore, the position has been filled.

Mrs. Huf left the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

Mr. Faust pointed out that it seemed that there were a lot of resignations in the modern language positions. Mr. Blatt explained that it is becoming extremely difficult to get people and to retain them.

The motion passed 6-0. (Mrs. Huf was not in the room for the vote.)

Mrs. Huf returned to the meeting at 10:53 p.m.

Mrs. Brzezinski pointed out that the Leary students had saved \$343 by sacrificing ice cream money for two weeks in February. She wondered if they should be sent a letter expressing the Board's appreciation for their efforts. Dr. Sexton explained that anyone who is recognized under

Good News is automatically sent a certificate. Mrs. Brzezinski asked if they could also be sent a note. Mr. Blatt agreed to do so.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Gold and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary