

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD MAY 25, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on May 25, 2004, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Lynch at 7:30 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

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

(Mrs. Baranski was absent.)

CEA/Teachers/Principals:

Nancy Ring
Angie D’Orazio
Ana Brown
Mary Ellen Gilbert
Keely Mahan
Dawn Park
Wendy Collins
Eileen Poroszok

Ellen Vacchiano
Geri LaGuardia
Leanne Hopkins
Debbie Dougherty
Gloria Wetzel
Stephanie Ferraro
Kristen King

Public:

Amie Bolger
Linda Gallagher
Kerry Greene
Fred Brimmer
Larry Sicher
Dottie Grams

Eleanor Caral
Loretta Nelson
Elaine Posner
Sue Coyle
Matt Burg
Sandy Franks

Public (continued)

Debbie Weischedel
Betty Ann Weiss
Marge Merkel
Melissa Sichler
Jack Collins
Paul Blickley
Gerry Blickley
Pat Lehmann
Michelle Bangs
David Bangs, Jr.
David Bangs, Sr.
Lauren Zucker
Jack McAvoy

Robert Burnley, Jr.
Susan Kershner
Steve Brown
Brian Bassler
Joe Horvath
Pat Byrne
Carol Dowling
John Pilawski
Pat Cooney
Dawn Pilawski
Justin Byrne
Chris Costello
Dave Pilawski

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Huf announced that an award luncheon would be held at McDonald School on June 17th for their graduates. She also indicated that Board members had received an invitation to “Art on the Move”, an open house to be held at Willow Dale on May 27th.

Mrs. Jankowsky commended the staff and students at Willow Dale for their 1750’s day. It was an exceptional event.

Mrs. Mueller commented on the local jazz band concert held at the band shell in Southampton. The bands from Log, Klinger and William Tennent participated in what proved to be an outstanding event.

Mrs. Gold announced that on Thursday, May 27th, the students who participated in the hospital program would be recognized.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Outstanding Achievement Award Winners

Dr. Sexton explained the process of how the Outstanding Achievement Award Winners were chosen, having been nominated by their colleagues. Mr. Robinson assisted with the awards, which were presented by Mr. Blatt and Mrs. Lynch.

The following individuals were the recipients of the Outstanding Achievement Award:

- Beth Walker – Secretary at Leary Elementary
- Wendy Collins – Teacher at William Tennent, also nominated as Teacher of the Year
- Bob Burnley – Klinger Middle School Librarian
- Judy Greene – Kindergarten Teacher at Longstreth Elementary
- Paul Blickley – Bus Driver for Special Needs Children

William Tennent High School Boys Basketball Team

[Since the basketball team had not yet arrived, this item was deferred until later in the meeting.]

GOOD NEWS

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

Mr. Faust congratulated the members and coaches of the boys' and girls' track and field teams that qualified for the District meet the previous weekend. Some of the students would be moving on to the PIAA State Championship meet at Shippensburg University the upcoming weekend. He commented that it was interesting to watch the interaction of the coaches and athletes and noted how the upperclassmen were working with the under classmen on academics. He felt this was a credit to the coaches and administrators. He recommended parents to encourage their children to look into the District's sports, music or club programs. As the parent of a 9th grader, he publicly thanked all the coaches and teams that helped bring their Freshman members through this transitional year.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

REPORTS

None

COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

- *Education Committee – April 20, 2004*
- *Finance Committee – April 14, 2004, April 22, 2004, May 4, 2004*
- *Operations Committee – April 13, 2004*

The motion passed 8-0.

POLICIES

Discussion:

7.14 – Tutorial Services

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that minor changes had been made to the policy.

With the deletion of Section II. A., Mr. Faust asked how a parent's request for a recommendation would be handled. Dr. Sexton responded that this had been discussed with the solicitor, who suggested tutoring within the school framework. For liability reasons, we would not be in a position to recommend anyone outside of school.

Mrs. Lynch indicated that this would be moved to the June 8th agenda.

7.28 – Terroristic Threats/Acts

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this came as part of the normal cycle and that it was reviewed by the solicitor. As there was no discussion, Mrs. Lynch indicated that it would be moved to the June 8th meeting.

7.29 – Safety

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this was part of the normal cyclical review and that this policy had been reviewed by the solicitor. As there was no discussion, Mrs. Lynch indicated that this would be moved to the June 8th meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. District Goals 2004-05

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves removing from the table the motion to approve the District Goals for 2004-05 as submitted at the May 11, 2004 meeting of the Board.

Mr. Blatt read the three goals for the listening audience. Regarding Goal #3, Mr. Faust stated that he had no objection to what the goal stated and that this should be done. He did, however, question whether the hiring of a professional engineering firm should actually be considered a goal.

Mr. Blatt felt that Mr. Faust raised a valid point. He explained that this would involve setting parameters for the investigation. The high school was built in 1972 and is a good building. A proactive approach is needed to extend the life of the building. While the initiative would involve using professional firms, Mr. Blatt felt that it would require significant time from Administration that would warrant this being named as a goal.

Mr. Grossi stated that he had the same question as Mr. Faust. He indicated that he felt this needs to be done and that a number of issues should be incorporated, such as mechanical,

electrical and technology issues. A professional evaluation of the building is needed to keep the building viable.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she would be very upset if anyone told us we need a new building – we can't afford it. Mrs. Lynch did not feel that anyone was advocating a new high school.

Mr. Blatt stated that it was his hope, and Administration's hope, that building a new high school could be avoided. He hoped that would also be the feeling of the Board. He felt that our current investment needs to be protected.

Mr. Faust asked if there were adequate funds to accomplish this goal. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this came before the Operations Committee and that it had a price tag of less than \$15,000. This was forwarded to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Grossi stated that we are fortunate to have a professional engineer on staff (Mr. Lasher) who can provide many services. He was confident that Mr. Lasher knows what should be looked at; however, he felt that the scope might be larger than anticipated.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the District Goals for 2004-05. [Note: This motion was made since it was not officially moved at the May 11, 2004 meeting.]

The motion passed 8-0.

2. Board Conferences 2004-05

Mrs. Lynch stated that there had been a lot of conversation on this and that the amount for 2004-05 was the same as the amount for 2003-04.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Gold to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves removing from the table the motion to approve the Board conferences for 2004-05 in the amount of \$1,920.00 as submitted at the May 11, 2004 meeting of the Board.

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

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that in the past the Board has approved PSBA conferences and seminars and felt that maybe it would be best to delay this item.

Mr. Blatt stated that this figure represents a projection of the attendance at overnight and individual seminars for conferences. It is separated out of another larger budgeted item that reflects all of the associated costs of Board travel. The \$1,920.00 is a projection of what the Board wanted several years ago for their attendance at conferences.

Mr. Grossi stated that in 2003-04 there was a budget line that this is part of that has been approved by the Board.

Mrs. Lynch asked if this was voted on last year. Mrs. Jankowsky responded that it was not – what was approved was attendance at conferences and seminars. A dollar figure was put on those.

After discussion and questions regarding how this was handled last year, it was decided that the Board minutes and backup should be reviewed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to table this matter until clarification could be received.

The motion to table passed 8-0.

PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

William Tennent High School Boys Basketball Team

Biz Keeney stated that he was filling in at this meeting for Mr. Pacchioli, who was at volleyball. He presented Coach Dalton, the boys basketball coach, with a Colonial Championship jacket. He felt that he had done a wonderful job.

Coach Dalton spoke about the team, introducing those team members who were able to be present. He stated that he was extremely proud of the team.

Mr. Blatt commended the coaches and the team on their accomplishments, indicating that season after season the team members have conducted themselves as gentlemen. He felt that was a credit to Mr. Dalton's leadership.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 1-23

Mrs. Jankowsky explained the background of this item.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status to allow Student 1-23 to attend William Tennent High School as a tuition student from February 23, 2004 until the end of the 2003-04 school year. The parent(s) will provide transportation in the morning to William Tennent High School. In the afternoon, the student will take the bus to the student's stepmother's house at Steamboat Station, Southampton, PA.

The motion passed 7-0. (Mrs. Brzezinski was out the room at the time of the vote.)

2. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 18-18

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Gold to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status to allow Student 18-18 to attend Davis Elementary School for her

elementary school career as long as her family resides in Centennial School District. The family will provide transportation.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this had the support of Administration.

The motion passed 8-0.

3. Permission to Apply for Entitlement Grant

Mr. Faust explained the grant, as shown in the backup information.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to apply for a 2004-05 entitlement grant, Accountability Block Grant, in the amount of \$331,371.

The motion passed 8-0.

4. Agreement between Centennial School District and Bancroft Schools and Communities

Mrs. Homel explained that this involved a youngster who had been at this facility since the 2000-01 school year. There have been attempts to find a place for the youngster in Pennsylvania but we have been turned down by all of them thus far. This contract is for the 2003-04 school year and is for 24/7. This child needs intensive care for a condition that will not improve.

Mrs. Huf asked if the District receives anything back on this. Mrs. Homel responded that we pay up front and then get reimbursed by the state for 60%. We have filed paperwork with the county taking the position that the county should be responsible for the room and board and the District would be responsible for the education.

Mrs. Brzezinski asked who monitors the situation and if we could get a report. Mrs. Homel indicated that one of our social workers does this, but that we cannot get a report because of confidentiality issues. Mr. Blatt confirmed that that was correct but that we could find out from our solicitor what information could be shared.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the contract between Centennial School District and the New Jersey State Department of Education Mandated Private Schools for the Disabled "Tuition Contract" (N.J.A.C. 6A:23-4.4(a)(13) and the contract between Centennial School District and the Bancroft Schools and Communities Residential Services Contract for the 2003-04 school year at a cost of \$184,730 to the District.

Mr. Faust pointed out that this was for 2003-04, that this was being done retroactively. Mrs. Homel explained that since we have been actively trying to relocate the child into Pennsylvania, they did not want to bring this forward previously. We were also waiting to hear from the county but haven't heard from them yet, so this needs to be done now.

The motion passed 8-0.

5. Agreement between Centennial School District and Vita Education Services

Dr. Sexton explained that about three years ago we signed an Agreement with Vita, who runs the adult basic education piece of the evening school. They write the grant and the grant money goes to them. It is part of the ongoing evening school program.

Mrs. Brzezinski asked if they were committing to a long-term deal. Dr. Sexton replied that this was the same agreement we have had for the past three years. If the program is still in existence next year, we would probably have the same agreement again but we must renew it every year.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the renewal of the Agreement between Centennial School District and Vita Education Services, Inc. for 2004-05 at no cost to the District.

The motion passed 8-0.

6. Employee Fringe Benefit Rates 2004-05

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the attached fringe benefit rates with Independence Blue Cross (Keystone Point of Service and HMO) and other employee payroll deductions for the period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

The motion passed 7-0. (Mr. Grossi was out of the room at the time of the vote.)

7. Expand Cafeteria Point-of-Sale System to Middle Schools

Mr. Faust briefly explained this.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the expansion to the District's two middle schools of the new Cafeteria Point of Sale software/hardware system from QSP/Sartox, LLC of Powhatan, VA per the attached supplement in an amount not to exceed \$16,419. Purchase and district-wide implementation to be phased over the remainder of the 2003-2004 school year, and into 2004-2005 if determined necessary by Administration. The Board hereby authorizes the use of Capital Reserve Funds to pay for the initial purchase with the understanding that the Cafeteria Fund will repay the total amount expended back to the Capital Reserve Fund over a 5-year period commencing with the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

The motion passed 8-0.

8. 2004-05 Meal and Food Prices

Mr. Faust talked briefly about this item.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the cafeteria pricing for the 2004-2005 school year as recommended by Administration per attached cafeteria pricing request report dated May 21, 2004.

The motion passed 8-0.

9. 2004-05 Cafeteria Fund Budget

Mr. Faust indicated that 99% of the budget was made up of lunch prices.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the attached supplement in the amount of \$1,981,789 as the Centennial School District Cafeteria Fund Budget for fiscal year 2004-2005 as presented, and hereby authorizes the expenditures as set forth therein during the fiscal year 2004-2005.

The motion passed 8-0.

10. Prepayment of 2004-05 Keystone Premiums

Mr. Faust reviewed this item and indicated that Administration was recommending this.

Regarding item #6, Mrs. Brzezinski asked if we would prepay this since we do not receive a discount. Mr. Faust indicated that this did not apply to us since it involved Medicare.

Mrs. Brzezinski questioned item #7 since it indicated that they needed a commitment from Centennial School District no later than May 14th, which had already passed. Mr. Vail explained that this had been dealt with and they would give us until the end of May.

Mrs. Brzezinski asked for an explanation of the first sentence of #15.

Mr. Vail explained that this was a reconciliation that would be done after the first year was completed. If there was a credit due at that time, it would be applied to subsequent billings. We do our own reconciliation monthly so we would have a pretty good idea where we stand.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that Blue Cross was probably betting on interest rates going up and he felt that was probably a pretty good bet.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she was not a gambler and could not support this. She had a problem with committing a lot of money in advance when there are a lot of unknowns.

Mr. Faust pointed out that there was a 30-day investment window, so they were taking ¼% for that 30-day investment window. This was a net savings to the District of about \$50,000. He felt the gamble was pretty much in our favor and that they could invest in more things than we could since we are restricted by law as to what we can invest in. He indicated that he would be supporting this.

Mrs. Mueller asked what this would do to our cash flow situation coming into year-end. Mr. Vail stated that the reason the recommendation was for August was because by that point our real estate tax revenue will have started to come in since it will be the end of the discount period. We should be in a much better cash flow position in August than in July.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she understood Mrs. Mueller's concerns but felt that moving ahead with this would generate savings. She indicated that she would support this and felt that last year was an entirely different picture.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves pre-payment of the District's estimated annual Keystone (Blue Cross) Medical premiums for the 2004-2005 year by August 16, 2004 in return for a 2.75% credit discount on the total premiums due for the year per the terms and conditions of the attached supplement to this resolution. Estimated net savings to the District is \$50,000.00. Total estimated premium due in August 2004 is \$2,904,840.

The motion passed 7-1. (Mrs. Mueller opposed.)

11. Use of Facilities Fees 2004-05

Mr. Faust explained that this fee schedule included a 5% increase across the board and that it came through Mr. Lasher and his department. Mrs. Jankowsky felt that it would be appropriate to include that fact in the motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Facility Use Fee Schedule with a 5% increase for the 2004-05 school year per the attached supplement.

Mr. Blatt stated that in the last Friday Update he shared information that was a result of a discussion with parents regarding use of the high school stadium. They would like consideration of the high school clubs, teams and groups retaining the concession stand when we rent the facility to other entities. Mr. Blatt felt that it seemed like a reasonable proposal and that we could set up a schedule where every club, etc., that has an interest could reap the profits.

Mr. Grossi suggested that other facilities could also do this.

Mrs. Lynch asked how this was handled before. Mr. Blatt explained that if someone rented the stadium, they ran the concession stand and kept the profits. Mrs. Lynch stated that she was unequivocally, diametrically opposed to this idea.

Mr. Faust asked if this would cover all the facilities and indicated that he would like to have more time to look into this. He had concerns about causing a problem for some of the other sports groups that might be depending on this for fundraising.

Mr. Blatt stated that the information he provided was regarding the stadium. He felt that we should be taking care of Centennial students first.

Mrs. Huf indicated that she did not have a problem with Centennial students maintaining the concession stands. She felt it was a great idea.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that the stadium was built by the District and that he would have no problem with supporting this.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to amend the original motion by including the recommendation for the football stadium and requesting Administration to examine other events that would be at alternate facilities and report back to the Board.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that the funds go directly for students' needs.

Mr. Blatt stated that he felt the District was very generous with the community because they can rent our facilities for a reasonable price. Our students should have the first opportunity to man the stand.

The motion to amend passed 8-0.

Mr. Faust asked whether, since this was a Work Session, it would be wiser to table this until the Regular Meeting and include the whole package at once after the Board has all the information.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Gold to table the amended motion.

The motion to table the amended motion failed 3-5. (Mrs. Baranski, Mrs. Brzezinski, Mr. Grossi, Mrs. Huf and Mrs. Jankowsky opposed.)

Mr. Faust asked where this was being placed. Mr. Grossi indicated that it could be noted on the fee schedule. Mr. Faust pointed out that he really wasn't opposed to this but his problem was approving something without having the proper language.

Mrs. Lynch felt there could be a retaliatory measure in this, which was why she was opposed to it. She felt there needed to be communication with other schools.

The amended motion passed 6-2. (Mr. Faust and Mrs. Lynch opposed.)

12. Facility Rental Agreement – Bucks County Head Start 2004-05

Mr. Faust explained that this agreement set the rental rates for the Head Start program. In the past we have offset their rental rates so we could give an in-kind donation, allowing them to receive a higher federal grant. We have been doing the same thing for the past several years and it has been very functional for both the Head Start program and the school district.

Mrs. Brzezinski did not understand why we were doing this since we have to provide the building, make repairs and do the cleaning. Mr. Grossi pointed out that we were providing educational opportunities for children who needed it. Although this program is supposed to be supported by the federal government, it is substantially supported by the Centennial School District.

Mr. Faust agreed but stated that we are subsidizing the rental portion. The Head Start program has a much bigger budget for educating students. All we are really doing is helping them with their facility rent, not the whole program.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the attached agreement with Bucks County Head Start Agency for the 2004-2005 school year for the rental of 4 classrooms in the Johnsville Administration Building at a total annual cost of \$19,399. The Board recognizes the contribution the Head Start Program makes toward preparing students for entering the school system and therefore provides in-kind contributions in the form of reduced rates from the set fees of \$15,000 per classroom charged per the Use of Facility rate schedule.

The motion passed 8-0.

13. Classroom Furniture Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Classroom Furniture Bid No. 2004-17 to be awarded to the following responsible bidders:

<i>Virco Manufacturing</i>	<i>\$86,699.40</i>
<i>Officenter, Inc.</i>	<i>10,866.27</i>
<i>Tri-R, Inc.</i>	<i>4,256.00</i>
<i>O’Connell Associates</i>	<i><u>978.00</u></i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$24,799.67</i>

The motion passed 8-0.

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: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Support Staff Substitutes; and Summer Student Employment.

The motion passed 8-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Grossi stated that he had received three communications from people the Board interviewed. Also, a budget presentation would be made on June 8th at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Gold to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary