

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD JUNE 8, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on June 8, 2004, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Lynch at 7:34 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

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

* Mr. Grossi arrived at 7:50 p.m.

CEA/Teachers:

Mary Ellen Donnelly
Carolyn Fisher
Joe O'Connor
Andy Mahony
Beth Campbell
Carol Monaghan

Administration:

David Blatt
Dr. Michael Masko
Jean Rollo
Dr. Thomas Sexton
Timothy Vail

Public:

Donna Marie Saul
Preyas Shah
Snehal Shah
Priyanka Shah
Ryan Peterson
Peg Healy
Joseph Ezokas
Anthony Borell
Doug Borell
Larry Hannon
Fred Brimmer
Larry Sicher
Andrea Sicher
Michael Jones
Harve Strouse

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Huf stated that she had attended the Senior Awards Ceremony the previous week and that it was a memorable night.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that she had the pleasure of attending "Music in the Park" with Klinger and that it was a wonderful event. Our students came away with top honors.

Mrs. Gold announced that she had attended the William Tennent/Warminster Hospital Internship Mentor Appreciation Day. She noted that many of those who took the program are going into the medical field.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation of the 2004 Fine Arts Festival Purchase Prize

Dr. Masko spoke about the Purchase Prize, the winner of which is selected at the Fine Arts Festival. This year's winner was Ryan Petersen, for his batik entitled "Trans Am." His artwork will be permanently displayed in Room 16. Dr. Masko spoke about Ryan, indicating that his professional plans include learning to repair motorcycles.

Ryan spoke about his art and explained the batik process. Dr. Masko congratulated Ryan and presented him with a check.

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Masko presented the Good News Report (see attached.)

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

Priyanka Shah thanked the Board for giving her the opportunity to meet with them during the year. She also thanked them for their work and the time they spend making Centennial the wonderful place that it is. She thanked them for everything they do.

Doug Borrell stated that it was a pleasure to interact with each of the Board members. He felt the Senior class was well rounded and has lots of talent. He thanked the Board for allowing the class representatives to share what was happening with Tennent and the Senior class.

Mrs. Huf pointed out that the two representatives were award winners.

Mr. Grossi arrived at the meeting at this point in the meeting (7:50 p.m.)

Mr. Blatt thanked both of the representatives for their contributions to the District and mentioned the awards that each of them had won. Mrs. Lynch presented them with gifts on behalf of the Board.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Ezokas stated that it had meant a lot to him to be here and witness what happens at the Board meetings. He appreciated what Board members do for the students and the schools.

Mr. Blatt stated that Mr. Ezokas was a joy and that his spark and his enthusiasm make him a very special young man. He spoke about his awards and indicated that he was very proud of him. Mrs. Lynch presented him with gifts on behalf of the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Blatt stated that the Senior Awards Ceremony was a terrific night and that graduation would be on June 18th. He pointed out that there was a full-page in the Bucks County Courier-Times devoted to the Earth Day Challenge throughout the county. William Tennent was recognized as the top school in our county relative to community service and the Earth Day Challenge.

Mr. Blatt indicated that other items had already been shared with the Board.

Mr. Grossi stated that he was on the Board that voted to have student representatives attend the Board meetings. At one point we gave them a space at the front table. He stated that he would like to see that again next year and that they have truly been outstanding. He suggested that we add a table to the end and have name plates for them. He felt it would be a nice gesture.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Peg Healy of 232 Colonial Drive, Warminster, stated that she heard there would no longer be cafeteria monitors at the high school. She asked if they would have a job in September.

Mr. Blatt stated that there was discussion at the high school several months ago but to his knowledge this has not come forward for final determination of elimination of these positions. There was some internal discussion about going another way. There were three positions and one was not replaced so now there are two. To his knowledge, there is no formal elimination of these positions.

Mrs. Healy stated that she wanted to know if they should look for another job.

Donna Marie Saul of 589 Lowell Road, Warminster, stated that she was very proud about the Hershey event. It was a great experience. She stated that she also had the pleasure of

attending a physics assignment at Dorney Park. The buses were about two hours late but the children were wonderful. There were many schools there and many students were not appropriately dressed, but our students were.

Mrs. Saul asked when the next Finance Committee Meeting would be held. Mr. Faust responded that the next meeting would be the following Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. in Room 16 and that it would be published.

Mrs. Saul stated that, as a community member, she felt it was vital that committee meetings be held in the Board Room where people could listen over the cable.

Mr. Clemens stated that he was sorry he missed the 6:00 meeting, but he did not know that it was being held at that time. He heard there were people at the last few meetings asking the Board to increase taxes. He asked who really wants their taxes increased? Of course, if it is necessary, it is necessary. He was pleased to read in the Intelligencer that there is no need to increase taxes, the Board just needs to learn to say no – he endorses that comment. He indicated that seniors on a fixed income cannot stand more tax increases. Over the past three years, there has been a 25% increase in school taxes. He felt this was getting out of hand and that there must be a way to contain that in the budget. He indicated that he heard the major thrust of the Budget Meeting was to increase taxes to purchase technology. He asked how many computers Centennial has for the students.

Mrs. Lynch replied that there are 3,007 computers total. Mr. Grossi pointed out that that was 2½ people per computer (including staff.)

Mr. Clemens asked if the Board felt there should be more computers so every person would have their own.

Mr. Grossi explained that there were three budget proposals, all of which called for no tax increase. The issue was whether to mortgage the future to have no tax increase or face the issue of cuts and make hard choices. He felt there was no disagreement about zero mills. As far as technology, there was a proposal that we must spend x number of dollars. Since there is a feeling that maybe we don't want to spend that much, the Finance Committee cut \$500,000. There is an ongoing dispute about how many computers to have in a classroom and similar decisions.

Mrs. Lynch quoted statistics about how many computers each school had and what the technology program was supposed to be, including the refresh program. She knew that something had to be done about the computer situation and felt sure that the Finance Committee would look at this to see what could be done.

Mr. Clemens stated that it didn't sound like there was enough to go around. He felt that enough was enough, that the tax increases have been exorbitant. He knew the Board was doing a good job but asked them to exercise restraint by not raising taxes.

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that it was not in the game plan to generate one computer per student. What was talked about from the beginning was once the technology plan was invested in, we must keep up with technology. There was a six-year program from the beginning for replacing technology. That plan was simply to replace outdated computers on a cyclical basis. We are at least three generations away in computers. There was a commitment from the beginning that if we were going to do technology, we were going to do it right.

Mr. Faust concurred with Mrs. Jankowsky about the goal. He pointed out that there was still \$330,000 in the budget for this and there are still some outstanding issues, including whether we have an adequate number of computers or whether we have too many. Some of the computers may not be fully utilized. He felt these issues needed to be looked at.

Mr. Grossi spoke about the lack of tax increases in the past and the fact that we have had an irresponsible state legislature that agreed to a retirement program that has cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars at the local level. He felt there was also some irresponsible spending by this Board on a number of issues and that we tried to do some things as far as scheduling that didn't work and would have to be corrected.

Mr. Grossi also pointed out that this Administration and the teachers over the last few years had spent \$2.7 million less than they were authorized to spend. This has been put back into curriculum materials and the needs of kids. He felt this was a credit to the Administration and the staff.

Mr. Clemens felt that the state legislature should be ashamed of themselves for mandating all of these requirements to School Boards and not funding them. He also wanted to clarify that his intention was not to criticize the Board but to ask them to contain taxes.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that it was not only our state legislators but we should give due credit to the federal legislators who have created the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and promised back in the 1970's to fund it at 40%. They are currently funding it at 15-16%.

REPORTS (Continued)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Baranski reported that the Education Committee met on May 10th and that the topic was "No Child Left Behind." The Committee approved a motion for the general concept of accreditation at the high school but needs more information before choosing which program to go with. The next meeting will be held on June 9th.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf reported that the Senior Awards Night was held on June 10th at Archbishop Wood. The next meeting of MBIT will be held on June 14th.

Intermediate Unit

Mrs. Brzezinski reported that a meeting was held on April 16th and that Board members have been receiving many papers regarding the I.U. She attended a dinner regarding accreditation. Also, she received a paper from Jack Brady regarding HB 2579 where every school district would be guaranteed 2% in basic and special education funding. She wanted to make sure this was being taken into account in our budget.

Mrs. Brzezinski also reported that there would be an evaluation of Mr. Coe. She would provide this information to Mr. Blatt to determine if we would be participating in this.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Faust stated that most of this was discussed earlier. The next Finance Committee meeting would be held on June 14th at 7:30 p.m. This would probably be the last meeting before adoption of the budget unless some other issues came up.

Title VIII

No report.

Federal Lands Reuse Authority

No report.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Operations Committee met on May 25th and discussed a policy on remote voting, which would be coming forward at this meeting. They also discussed attendance/child accounting policy, which would be coming forward at the next meeting. This policy was required by the Auditor General.

Citizens Policy

Mrs. Baranski indicated that this committee had met on May 18th and reviewed Policy 3.7 – Student Responsibility/Discipline and Policy 5.15 – Secondary School Honor Roll. These have been moved to the full Board. The committee would meet again in September.

Legislative Liaison

No report.

MINUTES

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

- *Regular School Board Meeting – April 13, 2004*
- *Work Session/Regular School Board Meeting –April 28, 2004*

The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mrs. Mueller abstained since she had been out of town.)

Mrs. Brzezinski felt that in one portion of the Minutes of April 28th, it should be noted that a community member was rude. Mrs. Jankowsky stated that it was not the Board Secretary's job to note the tone of the meeting since that would be opinion. If Mrs. Brzezinski stated that the person was rude at the time, then it might be appropriate to put it in. Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she felt it was disrespectful.

Mrs. Baranski stated that she would like answers to her question of April 28th regarding voting while the schools were open. Mr. Blatt stated that we try to avoid conflicts with voting while classes are in session. We had some extraordinary circumstances this year and decided to do it rather than extending the school year and rescheduling graduation. He indicated that we will make every effort to avoid that again in the future.

Mr. Grossi felt that although it was difficult and inconvenient, it was part of the educational experience for the students to watch people vote. He felt there was a balance.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Initial Distribution:

Mrs. Jankowsky noted the following policies for initial distribution:

- 1.5 – Board Member Attendance at Meetings
- 3.7 – Student Responsibility/Discipline
- 5.15 – Secondary School Honor Roll

Final Approval:

7.14 – Tutorial Services

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.14, Tutorial Services.

The motion passed 9-0.

7.28 – Terroristic Threats/Acts

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.28, Terroristic Threats/Acts.

The motion passed 9-0.

7.29 – Safety

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.29, Safety.

The motion passed 9-0.

Dr. Sexton clarified that the attendance document would not be brought forward as a policy but as a manual for procedures and would be listed as an item under New Business.

FINANCIAL

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

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

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – May 2004*
- *Budgetary Transfers – June 2004*

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that had asked several questions but had not received answers to them so she would be abstaining. Mr. Blatt indicated that Mr. Vail had been away for several days but they would provide the requested information.

Mr. Vail explained how the payment of bills is handled and indicated that they were working on the inquiry from Mrs. Brzezinski and are pulling the requested items.

Mr. Blatt indicated that what Mrs. Brzezinski had asked for was routine and they have always provided such information. They try to be responsive on a timely basis, but since Mr. Vail was away that was not possible this time.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that on the form that Board members can submit to ask questions about bills, there is one option to say the bill can be paid but the Board member wants information. There is another option where a Board member can ask that the bill not be paid and provide information.

Mr. Faust asked which category Mrs. Brzezinski's request fell under. Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she just wanted to know what the bills were, not that she wanted payment to be stopped.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Tot Time

Mrs. Lynch explained that the Board had made a decision on this but since then interest has increased tremendously. Seventy-nine people have signed up so far and there are more. She would like to go back and look at this. She felt the timing was crucial and asked if there was any way we could go back at the next meeting and revisit this.

Mrs. Huf asked if Mrs. Lynch was asking the Board to revisit their decision on Tot Time. Mrs. Lynch stated that she was, since there was new information.

Dr. Sexton stated that he had additional information from the Vice President of Tot Time. The original information was that of about 300 surveys sent out, only 60 people expressed interest. The new number of 79 was the latest hard data they had. They have had some interest from other parents, so there is interest out there.

Mrs. Huf asked the number of students they needed. Dr. Sexton indicated that it was 10 to 12 for each school. The numbers are deceiving because we don't know whether they would be interested in morning or afternoon and because children have not been tested yet for developmental kindergarten.

Mrs. Lynch pointed out that if parents don't know soon, they would have to go somewhere else. Mrs. Huf stated that if it was brought back, it would have to be at the next meeting.

Dr. Sexton indicated that there had not been a follow-up survey. There was a parent who said she didn't respond because there was no dollar amount indicated. That was because we were in negotiations with Tot Time. Dr. Sexton stated that he would be happy to talk to Tot Time again if it was the wish of the Board but he did not feel there was enough time to do another survey.

Mrs. Huf asked if we were receiving updates from Tot Time on a regular basis. Dr. Sexton stated that the last one he got was the previous Thursday. The information that was not known was how many children per school would be morning versus afternoon, and the transportation arrangements.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would be interested in seeing this go forward if the demand was there and if the arrangements for morning and afternoon transportation was there.

Dr. Sexton pointed out that Tot Time currently runs a kindergarten enrichment program at the Rec Center and they would accommodate as many children there as possible.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she understood the need to explore this but she felt “we are flying by the seat of our pants.” This was an Old Business item and was not on the agenda. It was within the domain of the Finance Committee, which was how the Board got it the first time. There were a lot of questions to be answered. She urged that this be put on the Finance Committee to do the homework, then it could appear on the next meeting’s Board agenda.

Mr. Grossi felt this was a slippery slope since this was an issue of services provided outside the realm of the school district. It was up to Tot Time to determine if they have enough students to do it, not the Board.

Mrs. Baranski stated that she was at the Home & School meeting at Willow Dale, where some of the parents said they didn’t understand how much this would cost so they didn’t return the survey. She asked whether more information could be sent out.

Dr. Sexton stated that it was his recollection that there was never a firm figure for rental agreed upon. That was the point of discussion. Also, we did not do the survey – Tot Time did it. They paid the cost for us to put labels on and they paid for the mailing. We could ask if they want to do another survey.

Mr. Grossi stated that we never got a number because Tot Time said there wasn’t enough interest. Now they are saying there is. He felt we shouldn’t get involved in this business. They have to say either they can do it or they can’t.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 8-23

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18 to allow student 8-23 to attend Klinger Middle School for the 2004-2005 school year. The parent(s) will provide transportation.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that Administration suggested that the Board deny this request.

The motion failed 0-9.

2. Purchase Transportation Software

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the purchase and installation of a new Student Transportation Routing Software system from Orbit Software, Inc. of Pottstown, PA per the attached supplement in an amount not to exceed \$25,600.00. Purchase and district-wide implementation to be phased over the remainder of the 2003-04 school year, and into 2004-05. Board hereby authorizes the use of 2003-04 Technology Reserve Funds to pay for the purchase.

The motion passed 9-0.

3. Permission to Accept Entitlement Grant

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 2004-05 entitlement grant in the amount indicated: Accountability Block Grant – \$331,371.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Permission to Apply for Title I Parent Involvement Mini-Grants

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to apply for the following competitive grants for the 2004-2005 school year in the amounts indicated:

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

The motion passed 9-0.

5. Permission to Apply for 2004-05 Entitlement Grants

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to apply for the following 2004-2005 entitlement mini-grants:

<i>Title I</i>	<i>\$787,247</i>
<i>Title II-A</i>	<i>258,441</i>

<i>Title II-D</i>	<i>17,500</i>
<i>Title III</i>	<i>17,340</i>
<i>Title V</i>	<i>18,959</i>
<i>Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities</i>	<i>27,625</i>

(Amounts listed for 04-05 are preliminary.)

Regarding Title II-A, Mrs. Baranski asked about the cost for new staff and how many teachers there were at each grade level. Dr. Sexton responded that there were a total of five teachers that were supported financially through this grant: three at McDonald (one in 1st grade, one in 2nd grade and one in 3rd grade); and two at Leary (one in 1st grade and one in 3rd grade.) He stated that there were certain parameters required by law. In many cases this coincides with the Title I population. We have to reduce class size to 18 or fewer students. We start out with less than 18, then end up with more. This has been beneficial in lowering class size.

In response to a question from Mrs. Brzezinski, Dr. Sexton clarified that we do stay within that amount of money.

Mr. Faust questioned why, on the backup for Title I, there was a non-public school listed that was not within the boundaries of Centennial School District. Dr. Sexton explained that that school draws from some of the Warminster geographical area that would fall within Centennial's boundaries, so we are required by law to support part of their program.

The motion passed 9-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Support Staff Substitutes; Elementary Remedial Summer School Teacher; Summer Enrichment/Motivation Teachers; and Co-Curricular.

Mrs. Mueller stated that it was with great sadness that she read that Mrs. Travis was leaving the Klinger Music Department. She felt this was a great loss to Klinger. Mrs. Travis was an excellent teacher, an excellent person and a fine musician. She appreciated all the hours and the dedication Mrs. Travis has put in over the years. She will be missed.

Mr. Faust noted the retirement of Maryanne Frisch, stating that she has been very active in District-wide committees. She is an excellent teacher and will be greatly missed and will never be truly replaced. She impacted many students.

Mr. Grossi stated that she was a special person and he would miss her.

The motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Blatt echoed the sentiments of the Board members regarding the two staff members. He felt they were wonderful people who have truly made a contribution to the children. He wished them well and felt they would be missed.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Donna Marie Saul stated that her heart was heavy when she heard the names of the two teachers who were leaving. They made an impact on the lives of both of her children.

Regarding Mrs. Brzezinski's statements about comments from the public, Mrs. Saul stated that freedom of speech is a right we have in this country. Whether we agree or disagree, people should be encouraged to voice their opinions.

Mrs. Brzezinski responded that she had no problem with people coming to the meeting or addressing the Board. She just wanted to point out that the records of the meeting did not state what she thought should be stated (i.e., that the people were rude.) She indicated that she would never stop anyone from giving their opinion.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mr. Grossi thanked the students of Leary School for their artwork.

Mr. Faust stated that he went to a track competition in Shippensburg on May 29th and 30th. Every student we sent to states medaled in both the boys' and girls' competitions.

Mrs. Mueller commented on the last track meet between Log and Klinger where there were bad thunderstorms. She commended all the staff that stayed and helped, as well as the students for their cooperation.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Huf to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary