

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD JUNE 22, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on June 22, 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:

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

CEA/Teachers:

Cliff Bowen

Administration:

David Blatt
Sandy Homel
Victor Lasher
Jean Rollo
Timothy Vail

Public:

Walt Clemens
Bobbie Loftus
Gary Matyuk
Gina Matyuk
Liz Watts
Carol Monaghan
Donna Marie Saul
Harve Strouse

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Lynch announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting relative to a legal matter.

Mrs. Jankowsky commended Mrs. Rollo and her assistants, Joann Cookman and Dianne Henwood, for the lovely retirement and recognition reception held the previous week to honor

retirees and recognize Centennial employees that have made a significant contribution to the District.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked the parents and staff members who sent e-mails to Mr. Blatt regarding the work and performance of Mr. Yates and Mr. Mumin at Klinger Middle School. She recognized the contribution they have made to the District and thanked them for their hard work.

Mrs. Lynch stated she, Mrs. Huf, Mrs. Gold, Mrs. Brzezinski and Mrs. Jankowsky attended the retirement dinner, which was really wonderful. She also indicated her joy in attending the recent graduation ceremonies. Mr. Blatt echoed these sentiments.

Mrs. Jankowsky also recognized Dr. Bucky Clark for his fine piano playing at the retirement reception.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Log College Girls Undefeated Softball Team

Mr. Blatt stated that the Log College Girls Softball team was the first undefeated softball team in Log College's history. He felt that good things happen because people work hard and are dedicated. He spoke about the team's statistics, then introduced Kevin Rosini, the team coach. Mr. Rosini spoke about the season and thanked Mr. Bowen, the Athletic Director at Log College, and also thanked Dr. Clark. He stated that the support the team gets from Log College is amazing.

Recognition of Bus Drivers in the Regional Competition

Mr. Blatt stated that it was a pleasure to recognize the fine people in the Transportation Department. He spoke about the bus drivers who participated in the regional competition, indicating that they took 2nd place team honors. The six drivers from Centennial are eligible to compete in the state competition.

GOOD NEWS REPORT

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Donna Marie Saul of 589 Lowell Road, Warminster, stated that the budget presentation gave the impression that the \$329,000 that is part of the budget was for a general refresh program when in actuality it is only part of the program to keep the business technology current. She felt the lack of funding of the general refresh program in the amount of an additional \$500,000 was a travesty. A comprehensive budget proposal was presented to the Board by Mrs. Jankowsky, which would have followed through on long-term technology plans, keeping the \$500,000 in for the technology budget without raising taxes. She wondered what could be the motivation of six Warminster Board members to vote against this when the needs of our students would have been

addressed, as cited by long-term technology planning, educators in the District, administrative staff, students and parents. She cited statements by Mrs. Brzezinski and Mrs. Gold in the voter's guide in support of computers.

Mrs. Saul also addressed the non-funding recommendation that would be made at this meeting for an internal coordinator for the accreditation process at the high school. She indicated that the non-funding was supported by two members of the Education Committee, Mrs. Baranski and Mrs. Gold. She felt this line item could essentially be paid for if the Tennent celebration and Board seminars were removed. This would have been done if Mrs. Jankowsky's recommendations were approved.

Mrs. Saul stated that she felt a lack of respect for the right of freedom of speech by some Board members. She also stated her opinion that the fiscal irresponsibility of this budget would take its toll on taxpayers next year with a shortfall of millions of dollars, which was pointed out by Mr. Vail at the last Finance Committee meeting.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that as far as she was concerned, having the very best did not mean we need to have 3,000 computers. Her statement in support of computers in the voter's guide was true and she still felt that way.

Walter Clemens of 115 North York Road, Warminster, stated that he was taken aback by Mrs. Saul's comments. He felt that candidates running for office always say they are fiscally conservative and will practice fiscal restraint if elected. He saw this Board practicing fiscal restraint. He congratulated the Board for meeting their budgetary restraints while still not passing on a tax increase to the residents. He felt the Board was doing a fine job. He also felt we do not need \$400 bicycles and we do not need the latest computers.

Regarding the \$400 bicycles, Mrs. Mueller stated that the money was still spent. All that was done was to change the curriculum of the Phys. Ed. Department. There was no money saved. At the Education Committee meeting it was decided that bicycles were not the appropriate things for a lifelong skill and it was changed to something else as an alternative; but the money wasn't saved.

REPORTS

Mrs. Huf stated that there was a recent emergency meeting of MBIT to appoint the new Director, Dr. Michael Irwin, who would be taking over for Dr. Lees.

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Teacher Induction Plan Steering Committee met in June and would generate a report that would come forward in the fall.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Education Committee – May 10, 2004
Finance Committee – May 17, 2004; May 24, 2004
Operations Committee – April 28, 2004

The motion passed 9-0.

POLICIES

Discussion:

1.5 – Board Member Attendance at Meetings

Mrs. Jankowsky gave a brief history of the policy, indicating that this had been reviewed by the solicitor.

Mr. Faust stated that he could not support this policy since remote voting has been done in the past for emergency situations. He continues to support the idea of remote voting in certain extreme cases. He agreed that there should be a policy to make things clear but could not support an outright ban.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would not be supporting this. It offended her to only see one version on this agenda since there were other versions prepared. She felt it should be at the discretion of the Board President to determine if an emergency situation warrants remote voting. She indicated that she would be opposing this as it was written because it did not allow the Board President to ask other members of the Board if they would agree to have a Board member participate from a remote location.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she would be opposing this for the same reason.

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that this topic came up at a seminar she attended, indicating that this is a slippery slope. They recommended that we have a policy. She pointed out that this is all based on the Milk Board decision. One of the solicitors thought it was alright; the other did not. She brought this forward to make sure that we have a policy. Since she has been on the Board there have been several presentations where it would have been difficult to vote without benefit of seeing the presentation in person.

Mrs. Baranski stated that she would be opposing this motion because she was not comfortable with the way it was written.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she would also be opposing this motion. She was at the same meeting as Mrs. Mueller. There was not accord as to whether or not there should be a policy. Our solicitor has stated that it is his opinion that any member of the Board can participate in a meeting by speakerphone as long as it is sufficient, i.e., that the Board member can hear and be heard. The statute allows for participation. If we want a policy, we can have one. She indicated that she would not support a policy that does not allow us to use this vehicle.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that this was a Work Session. She felt that every committee was responsible to the direction of the Board. The direction of the Board on March 23rd was to develop a policy that required a Board member to be present at a meeting to participate. There was a consensus that a policy be developed. She suggested that another draft be brought forward in September, providing for remote voting in certain emergency situations. She felt that it was the consensus of the Board that a policy was needed – it was just a matter of what the policy says. She indicated that she would bring forward another draft in August or September.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she would appreciate if it would be in September since she would not be present at the August meeting. Mrs. Mueller indicated that she also would not be at the August meeting.

3.7 – Student Responsibility/Discipline

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this was an existing policy, to which revisions had been made. This was reviewed by the solicitor. Most of the changes were made for clarification and consistency in language. Since there were no questions or comments, she indicated that this would be moved forward at the next meeting.

5.15 – Secondary School Honor Roll

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this policy was not reviewed by the solicitor and that the changes were being recommended by Administration. The purpose was to increase rigor for the students to achieve three different honor roll statuses: Distinguished Honor Roll, First Honor Roll and Second Honor Roll.

Lengthy discussion ensued on this item.

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that there were students doing work that is one or two grades above them. She would like it to be spelled out which grades get put into the mix. She questioned whether it was the total average of all classes or just the core subjects. She felt the policy was very ambiguous.

Mrs. Homel explained that this included all the grades on the report card. A student in a regular class and one in the highest level math class were considered the same. The students in a regular math class might be working as hard as the students in the higher levels. Classes and grades in middle schools are not weighted.

Mrs. Mueller felt that students should not be penalized for working above their grade level. Mrs. Homel explained that everyone's report card would be held in the same light, no matter which classes they are in. If they are taking the highest level math class, it is because it is believed they can handle it.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she would not support this because if a student is doing well in all their core subjects but maybe are not doing as well in an art class, which is extremely

subjective, that could prevent them from making Distinguished Honors even though they had A's in all other subjects. Mr. Grossi felt that doing away with weighted grades would solve the problem.

Mr. Faust asked for confirmation that the weighted grades at the high school do not affect the honor roll policy. Mrs. Homel indicated that that was correct. Mr. Faust felt that if a student has the required average, they should qualify for the honor roll regardless of how many grades were below.

Mrs. Huf stated that she liked this policy and felt that if a student wanted to be on the Honor Roll, they would work hard to get there. She felt this was fair the way it was written.

Mrs. Jankowsky wondered why Administration was asking for increased rigor, whether our criteria was too low, and if we had more students on the honor roll than other districts. She felt that if the purpose was simply to increase rigor, she would need more justification.

Mrs. Homel explained that they were not necessarily looking at the number of students. They have heard from our students that this has come to mean nothing because the criteria are too low. The students feel that anyone can make this. The change comes basically from feedback from the students. As a possible solution, Mrs. Homel suggested that there might be some merit to breaking out the middle school criteria that differs from the high school criteria.

Mrs. Baranski felt that she could live with this policy. She felt it would help the students to reach higher. Mrs. Gold felt this was the way to go; that it would give the students something to strive for.

Mrs. Lynch agreed with Mrs. Jankowsky. She felt there was not enough information and that more backup was needed. Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that if we want this in place for September, we need to be prepared to do this in August. She asked if that was enough time.

Mrs. Homel indicated that they could work with that; this could be put in the newsletters and at the open house. Mrs. Jankowsky clarified that Administration would come back to the Board in August with more information.

Mr. Faust stated that he agreed that the Distinguished Honor Roll should be very tight. He suggested that the 95 average be kept, but with no grade less than 90.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that she had no problem with the other honor rolls, but requested that with Distinguished Honor Roll no grade go below 90 and that the total average is at least 95. That way there would be no B's for a distinguished student.

OLD BUSINESSAffiliation Agreement with Tenet Health System

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 Affiliation Agreement between the District and Tenet Health System submitted as Old Business at the May 11, 2004 meeting of the Board. [Original Motion, submitted February 24, 2004, by Mrs. Baranski and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Affiliation Agreement between Centennial School District and Tenet Health System Bucks County, LLC for the 2003-04 and 2004-05 school years at a cost to the District of \$25,156.60 and \$30,320.77, respectively.]

Mrs. Lynch asked if anyone needed additional information. No one indicated that they did.

A roll call vote was taken, as follows:

Mr. Faust	No
Mrs. Jankowsky	Yes
Mrs. Gold	Yes
Mrs. Huf	Yes
Mr. Grossi	Yes
Mrs. Brzezinski	Yes
Mrs. Mueller	No
Mrs. Baranski	No
Mrs. Lynch	No

The motion passed 5-4.

NEW BUSINESS1. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board Approves an exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status to allow Student 16-3 to attend Davis Elementary School for the 2004-2005 school year. The parent will provide transportation.

The motion passed 9-0.

2. Facility Use Waiver – Davisville Baptist Church

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Facility Use Waiver Application of the Davisville Baptist Church for Sunday use of William Tennent's auditorium from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on December 19, 2004. There is no cost to the District.

The motion passed 9-0.

3. Facility Use Waiver – Warminster Symphony Orchestra

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Facility Use Waiver Application of Warminster Symphony Orchestra for Sunday use of William Tennent's auditorium on September 26, 2004, October 3, 2004, November 28, 2004, March 13, 2005 and May 15, 2005. There is no cost to the District.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Attendance/Child Accounting Procedure Manual

Mrs. Jankowsky asked Mr. Vail to provide an explanation of this item. Mr. Vail indicated that the State Auditor General's team recommended in December 2003 that we memorialize existing procedures that are followed day to day for attendance and list some of the related policies. This is a procedure manual that is designed to guide the staff in the realm of student attendance and membership.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that this came through the Operations Committee with a 3-0 vote to recommend approval to the full Board.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Attendance/Child Accounting Procedures Manual (see supplement), as drafted by Administration in compliance with recommendation of the Pennsylvania Office of the Auditor General to represent a written version of the procedures followed by District personnel in complying with all state laws and District policy in the area of student attendance and child accounting.

The motion passed 9-0.

5. Final Adoption – 2004-05 Budget

Mr. Faust explained that this was the final adoption of the budget, in the amount of \$68,013,267. He explained the process and indicated that all of the requirements of the law were met. The Finance Committee was bringing this forward on a 2-1 vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2004-05 in the amount of \$68,013,267 as presented per the attached supplement, and hereby authorizes the expenditures as set forth therein during the Fiscal Year 2004-05.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested that the following statement be included in the minutes verbatim:

“One would think that voting for the adoption of a zero tax increase for a school district budget is indeed a “no brainer”. What would possibly motivate a board member to vote against a budget that does NOT raise real estate taxes on the homes of my friends, neighbors and the folks that own our local businesses.

“Let me try to succinctly layout the reasons for my doing just that, that is, to vote against the adoption of this budget for the 2004-05 school year.

“Budget documents, in my opinion, are more than page after page of numbers where the total amount of revenue must equal the total amount of expenditures. Budgets tell the story of the board's leadership for the district. A budget provides insight into the board's vision for the future of the District; it states the board's commitment to its students, employees and residents; and, lastly, it reflects the board's prudent management of our community's most important asset, the system of schools that educate our children. A budget does all of this without a single written paragraph in the entire document. All you need to do to find the board's leadership is to look for the vision, the commitment, and the responsible management of the District's assets reflected in the numbers of this 500+ page document.

“Unfortunately for the Centennial community, this budget reflects a vision that is shortsighted; this budget reneges on promises to our students and our employees; and this budget provides asset management that is neither prudent nor responsible.

“Specifically, this budget process incorporated no long range planning to deal with the projected \$7.5 to \$8.5 million-dollar deficit that will confront us at this time next year. With full knowledge of the budgetary impact of the recently enacted resolution by the County Commissioners regarding the assessment ratio as well as the probable passage by the state legislature of a referendum for approval of all future school district budgets, this board developed a budget that leaves us ill prepared to address the deficit next year and may cause a fiscal and educational crisis of significant proportions. Further, it weakens the District's position in possible discussions with our represented staff.

“Secondly, by cutting the computer refresh plan, eliminating the reading initiative, and not funding the educational initiatives and technology reserve funds, this budget breaks our promise to our students housed in the District's Mission Statement. By renegeing on promises made to our Support Staff and other non-represented staff members, this budget injures, perhaps beyond repair, the good will, trust and respect that are needed between any effective organization and its employees.

“And finally, this budget provides no money for the continued systematic maintenance of our buildings and nor for the systematic attention to the review of curriculum. At a time when state mandates and federal laws such as No Child Left Behind and the Individuals with Disabilities Act demand more and more of a local school district's resources, we will have less and less resources available to meet our compliance obligations under the law.

“For these reasons alone, I will be voting against the adoption of this budget for the 2004-2005 school year. This concludes my remarks.”

Mr. Grossi spoke about his many years serving the three communities. He felt that in all that time matters were dealt with openly and without mean-spiritedness. Although there may have been problems, they were worked out. He felt that at this time there was a brew of untruths, deception, lack of candor and ill will. He spoke about the three zero tax increase proposals, as follows:

The first plan, which he called the “Warminster Plan,” he felt was a plan “conceived, orchestrated and assembled without Sunshine,” since there were obviously meetings, communications and agreements that occurred among the six members of the Board outside this venue that did not include any representatives from Region 1.

The second plan, which he called the “Jankowsky Plan,” was a compromise budget, which he didn’t like either. However, it was discussed in Sunshine.

The third plan, the “Grossi Plan,” proposed a long-range solution to the problem and would have yielded two years of zero tax increases.

Mr. Grossi felt that what was said about Region 1 representatives was not true. The community was told that there is no tax increase in the current year in this proposal. What has not been told is that at least three Board members had predicted deficits ranging from \$7.7 million to \$9 million next year. He felt this was not being candid, it was being deceptive, and was not the way to conduct the people’s business.

Mr. Grossi also spoke about the fact that members of the Finance Committee knew that there was an agreement with secretaries and other representative staff. He felt their “convenient loss of memory” was dishonest and not the way to do the people’s business.

Elimination of the safety officer had more to do with the battle between political subdivisions than the needs of kids. Mr. Grossi felt that this political influence has no place in public education and is not the way to do the public’s business. Jobs are threatened because one or more Warminster establishment dislikes an individual. This is not the way to do the public’s business. Meetings are scheduled to meet the needs of one group of citizens while inconveniencing others. This is not the way to do the people’s business.

Mr. Grossi also spoke about Board members not receiving their e-mail, Board members being verbally attacked for raising a point of order, and a Board member being publicly ridiculed for providing an alternative to the Warminster caucus agreement. He felt none of this was the way to do the people’s business.

Mr. Grossi indicated that when legitimate proposals that are potentially unpopular are made and leadership of this Board engages in personal attacks, that is no way to do the people’s business.

He felt that the damage wrought by this ill-conceived, amateurish budget would have to be fixed someday. This is not a Warminster/Southampton battle. The perverse view fostered by some is only an attempt to hide their own lack of ability. Budgets send a message of trust. He reminded that if you can't trust the messenger, you can't trust the message.

Mr. Faust stated that some of the misconceptions were starting by some of his fellow Board members. Regarding the funding issue for curriculum renewal, Administration had basically asked for \$400,000 per year. There is \$400,000; there is just no pre-funding of the following school year. As far as staffing, the only promise made to support staff was that their issues would be addressed during the budget process. Mr. Grossi was correct in the fact that there were numerous Executive Sessions where they tried to put together a compromise. As the budget process evolved and the deficits were known, it was decided that this was not affordable. The promise of discussing this during the budget process was met. It was thoroughly discussed and Administration had input. This did live up to the promise that this would be discussed during the budget process. He felt it was interesting that during all of the discussions regarding this, which were held at open meetings, no representatives of that group showed up to discuss their point of view. He agreed that there were mistruths and lack of candor, but was not sure which side it was coming from.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she concurred with everything Mrs. Jankowsky said and the majority of what Mr. Grossi said, except that she wanted to make some clarifications to the taxpayers of the whole School District as to why she would not support this budget. We are currently using over \$3 million of the fund balance just to pay operating expenses this year. Now knowing that our hands are tied for a 10% increase because of what has happened with Bucks County by law concerned her. That 10% represents \$3.5 million. So we are already looking at \$3 million to \$4 million in operating expenses next year. For special education we are looking at at least \$1 million. Contractually, with salary and benefits, we are at \$1.5 million. We have a difference of verbiage with the education initiative. She would hate to go into debt to buy textbooks. Being a member of the Education Committee and knowing that the curriculum is coming forth this coming year and the following year and not putting money in there for that is a major disservice to the whole taxpaying community. You are giving them false hope with a zero mill increase this year. What will have to happen is that programs will have to be cut, which will go right to the heart of what we are here to do – provide the best we can for our children.

Regarding technology, Mrs. Mueller stated that our computers are not running well and the software will not run on them. We have invested over \$7 million in technology. If we do not take the initiative on a refresh program, there is no long-range planning. This will cause more of a problem next year and in future years. We will essentially be starting over in technology and the \$7 million will have been wasted. It is not a matter of how many computers we have, but the quality of what we have and what they can be used for. In the business world, three years is the amount of time the computers are functional; we are at six years already. She hoped that the Board could look and listen

with open minds to what was presented by Mrs. Jankowsky as a compromise and still attained a zero budget.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that the Education Committee had agreed to the AFG process and we could easily have taken this out of the fund balance as a one-time item. This is no better than a mandate that the federal government and the state mandates us to do, then doesn't fund. If we can't fund a little over \$15,000 for a one-time cost out of a fund balance to make a meaningful process out of the accreditation for the high school, we are mandating them to do something but not giving them the funds to do it in the most efficient manner. We are already behind the schedule in the process. When a motion is made, she would like to make amendment to the final budget to put some of these things in.

Mrs. Mueller stated that the secretaries in the elementary schools do more out of their job descriptions on a daily basis that probably anyone in the District. She was concerned that this was cut so easily out of the budget because it was not something that was agreed to in writing. She felt this should be rethought. Overall she was very disappointed in the budget process.

Mrs. Mueller was opposed to the zero tax increase because our taxpayers will get hit next year and our children and our programs will suffer.

Mrs. Huf asked that her comments be recorded verbatim, as follows:

“I'm not going to get into what he said she did, he said she said, he did, she did. I am in support of this budget. We worked very hard to bring that almost \$5 million shortage. I don't feel that I've left my kids down. I don't feel like I've left...I don't have any qualms about it. I don't feel like I've left my kids down or my community down. I feel...I'm very well assured that after this budget is passed that the Finance Committee will start looking, won't wait until January or February for next year's budget, but we will start looking for ways to put back into the budget next year some of the things that we cut out. Do I think it's a doom and gloom? No, I'm not going there. I don't like the negativity that that infers. I just wanted to say that we worked very hard and that I will be supporting the budget as presented.”

Mrs. Mueller clarified that she did not want to be “doom and gloom.” She felt the numbers spoke volumes.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she never participated in any private meeting for the budget. The only meetings were with everybody. She felt the computers should be checked and replaced in a good manner and suggested that some of them could be rented so we could be up to date. She felt we could find more money to save. She asked when some cuts would be made so everyone could afford to educate their children. Also, she was sorry about the police officer in the high school losing her job but she felt there were enough people in the high school to take care of business.

Mrs. Baranski felt that the Board needed to find a better way to stay within the budget. The kids are first in our minds. She did not understand the division on the Board and felt that all they could was their best. She felt that enrollment was getting lower each year. She wondered when the Board was going to stop wasting money and make some cuts. She felt the staff raise of 3½% was good since these are tough times. We have to think about cutting back.

Mrs. Gold stated that whatever meetings were being talked about, she was never included. She knew the Finance Committee worked very hard on this budget; they did their best and are looking out for the children. Next year, the Board would have to look hard. She indicated that she supported the budget the way it was.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she was proud of this budget. Although there might be things that could be changed, the world was not coming to an end because Centennial was not having a tax increase. Some of the things that were said were for the press but were not factual. She felt they all worked hard. They all have different philosophies. There was 57 mills' tax increase in three years – the taxpayers deserve a break. She didn't think not having an increase would destroy the children's education.

Mr. Grossi felt that if we were going to have a long-range solution to all the issues raised about funding public education, there needs to be a long-range plan. This budget does not have a long-range plan – it has no plan. Taxes have gone up in the last three years. He felt this could be blamed on many things but the fact of the matter was that of the last 25 years, there were 14 years with no tax increases. This has been a district dedicated to careful long-range planning. He spoke about schools and other properties that we no longer have. He stated that he could not wait until the budget was passed and this was over with – that it was ridiculous.

Mrs. Jankowsky raised two points of housekeeping. (1) It was alleged earlier that perhaps some Board members prodded members of support staff to write a letter. She wanted to note that she did not prod any member of support staff to write a letter. (2) If, in fact, she was wrong that we don't need a significant tax increase next year, that programs don't need to be cut in order to meet the budget deficit, she would gladly apologize to this Board and to the community.

Al Hertenberger of 307 Maple Avenue, Southampton, addressed the Board. He felt that Mrs. Brzezinski was correct in asking about computers because it involved a lot of money. He was concerned about next year and the long-range plan. Regarding the accreditation and the staff, he indicated that he was part of those discussions, as a Board member, and that the Board gave their trust and honor that they would be taken care of. Now he finds that that is not happening. He felt that showed a disrespect for the things he voted on. He felt the safety officer was needed and that it would cost more with that person not being there. As for the \$400,000 for planning the next initiative, he would not want to be in Mr. Blatt's position because they are looking at an unknown. He felt the community has not been hammered with increases year after year. He would be ashamed

if he was doing the presentation. He felt there was no rationale for what the Board put on the table, except that they want a zero increase.

Mr. Grossi clarified the fact that he never spoke to or prodded any member of support staff or anyone to write letters. He has never operated that way.

Mrs. Huf asked to call the question. Mrs. Lynch asked if she would wait since Mrs. Mueller wanted to comment.

Mrs. Mueller stated that it was obvious after all the discussion that what she had hoped was that AFG would be put back in, as well as a few other things that did not make a major impact on this budget. She could see there was a definite consensus that this would move forward so she would not belabor the point to put the amendments that she wanted back into the budget because they would not fly. She also stated that she was just looking at numbers, it was not doom and gloom and she would be the first person to admit if she made a mistake in misleading the public about what will happen in the future.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Gold to call the question, with a roll call vote.

A roll call vote was held, as follows (on the matter of calling the question):

<i>Mr. Faust</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Gold</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Baranski</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Brzezinski</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Grossi</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Lynch</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion to call the question passed 9-0.

Mr. Faust requested a roll call vote, which was as follows (on the original motion):

<i>Mr. Faust</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Gold</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Gold</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Baranski</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Brzezinski</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Lynch</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed 6-3.

Mrs. Lynch called for a break in the meeting at 9:47 p.m. The meeting resumed at 10:00 p.m.

6. WTHS Middle States Accreditation

A motion was made by Mrs. Baranski and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Accreditation for Growth as the Middle States accreditation protocol for William Tennent High School. The total fiscal note is not to exceed \$17,000. The Board supports the concept of an internal teacher-coordinator of the Accreditation for Growth process, but will not provide a funding stream for the internal coordinator.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that the committee had no problem with the concept of the internal coordinator but could not find the money. That did not precluding them finding the money and she hoped that they could. To make this a worthwhile process, she felt an internal coordinator was needed.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she felt it would be more beneficial also if there was an internal coordinator. She asked Administration to advise whether or not it was possible to accomplish this. She realized that the Board had not provided the funding stream but would appreciate knowing as soon as it was possible if the dollars could be found and, if not, then what would happen.

The motion passed 7-2. (Mr. Faust and Mr. Grossi opposed.)

7. 2004-05 Insurance Rates

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the 2004-2005 District Insurance Premiums as per the attached supplement.

Mrs. Mueller asked if the backup was the information she requested at the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Faust indicated that it was.

Mrs. Mueller explained that she had questioned what would happen if there was mold or something in the buildings that causes a sick building syndrome. The backup information indicated that insurance for that was available at one time but no longer is. Our current insurance would cover that if there is a covered peril, such as a leaking pipe. However, if the roof leaks, we are not covered.

Mrs. Lynch asked if other school districts in the surrounding areas have this type of mold coverage. Mr. Vail responded that they do not because it is not being written at this time. The majority of districts are covered through the PSBA policy, which excludes mold coverage.

Mrs. Mueller asked what kind of liability we could be looking at and indicated that she wanted to make sure Board members were aware of this.

Mr. Grossi felt that we might want to do some research on this. He knew Bensalem had had a problem with this. Mrs. Mueller felt that we might want to self-insure for this. Mrs. Jankowsky suggested referring this to the Finance Committee to look into. Mr. Faust indicated that they would put this on the agenda for their August meeting.

Mrs. Huf felt that this should be looked at but did not think the vote should be held up on the current motion.

The motion passed 9-0.

8. Close 2003-04 Financial Books/Authorize Audit

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes the Administration to close the 2003-2004 Centennial School District books as of June 30, 2004, incorporating all accruals therein; that all bills that arrive and are due by June 30, 2004 are approved for payment provided Administration reviews the bills and is satisfied the same are just and proper obligations of the school district, and provided said expenditures are within the budget; that the transfer of budget amounts necessary for the processing of budgeted expenditures are approved subject to review and ratification by the Board in September, 2004; and that the School District auditors be directed to proceed with conducting the necessary audit for the close of the Fiscal Year 2003-2004.

The motion passed 9-0.

9. Appoint Treasurer

Mr. Faust indicated that the motion would be changed from what appeared in the Board's books. As the Board discussed briefly after Mr. Strouse's interview, both names would be put up and the Board members would vote for which one they wanted; they would also be approving a bond for the successful candidate.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints either Mr. Stan Allen or Mr. Harve Strouse, as determined by the Board, as District Treasurer for the fiscal year 2004-2005 at an annual stipend of \$1,500. Further approves the renewal of the Public Officials Bond for the Treasurer in the face amount of \$20,000 for fiscal year 2004-2005. The Board also authorizes the use of the existing check signature facsimile plate for all District bank accounts until such time as signatures can be secured and a new plate ordered and received.

Mrs. Mueller stated that because of what she read in the paper she wanted to make a matter of public record that when she received the e-mail in March from Mrs. Lynch that

was sent to Board members, this has absolutely nothing to do with the budget but everything to do with the fact that the Board does things in sunshine. There is no regulation about e-mails. She was very concerned. She indicated that she knows Mr. Strouse better than Mr. Allen but was very well aware of Mr. Allen's record with the community and his outstanding performance when he was on the Board. She felt that because of what she received, the system was corrupted for her. She felt it was a huge disservice to Mr. Allen because if she voted for him it would be seen as doing a political favor. She also stated that she meant no offense to Mr. Strouse by any of this.

Mrs. Huf stated that her vote would be her vote. She attached no significance to that e-mail and it has nothing to do with her vote.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she was not going to go into this e-mail because it was slipped to the papers. She sent this on March 29th and reminded the Board that it was just a suggestion and that it was sent innocently. She indicated that would not discuss the e-mails she got back.

Mrs. Brzezinski pointed out that she does not receive e-mails because she will not give her e-mail address out to the School Board or PSBA. She also does not read the articles in the paper regarding Centennial because she wants to keep her mind open and clear.

Mr. Faust stated that he would vote whatever his conscience tells him. Knowing both of these individuals, he did not think the School District could go wrong. They both have CPA backgrounds and are both former Board members. He felt the District was lucky to have two well-qualified candidates for this position. He was sorry to be in the position of having to choose.

Mrs. Gold stated that no matter what e-mails she receives or what she reads in the paper, she is her own person. She votes what she feels is right.

A roll call vote was taken, as follows:

<i>Mrs. Baranski</i>	<i>Stan Allen</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>Harve Strouse</i>
<i>Mrs. Brzezinski</i>	<i>Stan Allen</i>
<i>Mr. Grossi</i>	<i>Harve Strouse</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Stan Allen</i>
<i>Mrs. Gold</i>	<i>Stan Allen</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>Harve Strouse</i>
<i>Mr. Faust</i>	<i>Harve Strouse</i>
<i>Mrs. Lynch</i>	<i>Stan Allen</i>

The motion passed 5-4 in favor of Stan Allen.

10. Tot Time Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an increase in the use of space at the elementary schools by Tot Time Child Development Centers, Inc. This is an adjustment to the current Agreement with Tot Time and reflects additional rental fees in the amount of \$433.00 per half day session per building per month.

Mrs. Mueller stated that at the Finance Committee meeting she brought up that she wanted to make sure that the verbiage made it very clear that it was \$433.00 per month per half-day session; however, this does not state that.

Mr. Faust stated that while the Tot Time letter might be a little unclear, the motion was very clear and that was the rate the Board was setting and approving.

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; Change of Status; Elementary Remedial Summer School Teachers; Homebound Tutor; Summer School: WTHS; Summer Enrichment Motivation Teachers; Co-Curricular; and Acceptances of Award of Tenure.

The motion passed 9-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Huf stated that she had received correspondence from the American Legion thanking the marching band and members of the Board for participating in the parade.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she had received a letter in late May from Jim and Pam Beardsell of Warminster regarding Archbishop Wood's use of the Tennent football field and concession stand.

Mrs. Jankowsky also received a letter from Carol Ann Jerden of Hatboro regarding discussions and negotiations between the Board and Centennial support staff.

Mrs. Brzezinski received a letter from the I.U. regarding reconsideration of the evaluation of the Director of the I.U. She indicated that she would give the paperwork to Mr. Blatt.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mrs. Brzezinski thanked Vice Principal Mumin of the middle school for all the help he has been. She asked if the Board would send him something in appreciation for his hard work.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt this was a nice idea. She indicated that the past Board practice has been a fruit basket for acknowledging contributions by staff members above and beyond. She felt this should also be done for Mr. Yates.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary