

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD SEPTEMBER 14, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on September 14, 2004, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Lynch at 7:44 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Sina Baranski
Marie Brzezinski
Joseph Faust
Rose Gold (arrived at 8:15 p.m.)
Eugene Grossi
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
Jane Schrader Lynch
Cynthia Mueller

Administration:

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

CEA/Teachers:

Cheryl Ray-Wolf
Sharon Mays
Kelly O'Leary
Andy Mahony
Susan Bootel
Christine Roviello
Jennifer Davis
Rose McKeVitt

Public:

Chris Shepper
Gary Hutton
Marianne Chisesi

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Lynch announced that she had become a grandmother the previous day. She also announced that Mrs. Gold would be late for the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

William Tennent High School 50th Anniversary Celebration Update

Chick Donnelly updated the Board on the 50th anniversary celebration of William Tennent High School. He stated that it was nice to have a budget provided and that they would also be having some fundraisers. He thanked the many volunteers, and also the press.

Mr. Donnelly explained that the first event would occur on Saturday, September 18th, for anyone who had been on the School Board or worked at Tennent, and that there would be an open house for the public.

Mr. Donnelly thanked Susan Curtis from Banner Com for donating banners, Ron Shuman for printing and Al Hertenberger for commemorative items. He indicated that on October 15th everyone was invited to the Hall of Fame football game, including fall coaches or players or anyone who was involved with fall football.

Mr. Donnelly indicated that they hoped that this would be not only a commemorative event but a starting point for the alumni to become more actively involved. He thanked Mr. Blatt for his support.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she felt Mr. Donnelly was doing a marvelous job.

GOOD NEWS

No report.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

No report.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Blatt stated that the opening of school was outstanding due to the hard work of the custodial staff, the maintenance staff, and the supervisory and administrative staffs. He felt the buildings looked terrific.

Mr. Blatt stated that the number of children in the high school co-curricular activities was impressive, and that it was higher than it had ever been.

Mr. Blatt felt that Mr. Donnelly and his staff and unpaid volunteers were doing a wonderful job of planning the 50th anniversary celebration. He felt this brings pride to our school, and that the benefits would be seen for years to come.

Dr. Sexton concurred with Mr. Blatt's comments. He felt the schools and the staff were very well prepared.

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the county superintendents, through the I.U. were trying to organize a county-wide board meeting regarding Act 72. She felt this was a terrific idea and that it would be valuable information for our communities to have. She asked if Mr. Blatt or Mr. Vail could put together a town meeting for Upper Southampton and Warminster in order to bring the people up to speed on what this new law means to homeowners. From what she has heard, the people in the community do not have a clear idea of what this will mean to them. She also felt that a mailing should be sent on October 15th regarding the Homestead Exemption. That would be a good way to announce when the meeting would be.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she was working on something that would be televised and that cable TV was another way to do this. She indicated that she would take Mrs. Jankowsky's suggestion into consideration and that there was a lot of confusion about this issue.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that having this on cable was terrific but felt that there was nothing like having it in person.

Mr. Blatt asked Board members to pencil in the date of October 19th for the I.U. meeting. The plan was to have a focus session and inform the boards from the sending districts about the Act, then have them interact with each other. He stated that if it was the will of the Board, he would work with Mr. Vail to put something together as far as a meeting with the community.

Mr. Grossi encouraged any effort to educate people about this. He felt this was a disservice to public education, to private education, to homeowners and to taxpayers, as well as to students. He was disappointed in the effort by the Governor and the leadership of the House and Senate, as well as by PSBA and PSEA.

Mrs. Huf stated that she had attended the meeting done by PSBA and that lots of information was provided but she still had lots of questions. She thought the October 19th meeting was important and hoped that the focus then would be different than it was at the I.U.

Mr. Faust indicated that this topic was scheduled for the next Finance meeting and that it has major implications.

Mr. Blatt stated that as an educator and a superintendent and a citizen, he thought the greatest disservice of this law was that it had created an unfair expectation in that it leads the citizens to believe that the Board has certain powers or discretion that it does not have.

Mrs. Baranski pointed out that the Board was being asked to commit and Board members don't know what they are committing to.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that there were time lines written into the law. The other critical issue was that they must make \$900 million from gambling before anything can happen. She felt that the more that could be done to educate the community, the better.

Mr. Faust pointed out that while tax relief was two to five years down the road, the income tax has to begin in 2005.

Mrs. Gold arrived at the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Baranski reported that the Education Committee would meet on October 14th.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf reported that there was an MBIT meeting the previous evening. She highlighted the following points:

- School opened well, with 947 students.
- There was a report on students who got certified in a Net Prep program.
- The October 19th meeting was discussed. MBIT is confused on where they stand with Act 72.
- Permission was given to make changes in the Health Occupations and Science area and Cosmetology for almost \$12,000.
- The revised organizational chart was approved.
- The adult evening school program was approved.
- The substitute staff listing was approved.
- Approval was given to have sealed bids go out on the student-built house.
- Approval was given on textbooks for the year.

Mr. Faust added that approval was given for Dr. Irwin's sick days.

Mr. Grossi stated that the only objection he had to the expansion was that the project was planned without a fiscal note. Mr. Faust indicated that they said they will cut the reserve fund and bring the reserve fund back to be amended. Mr. Grossi felt that the project was worthwhile but it was bad practice not to have a fiscal note attached to the proposal.

Mr. Faust explained that the Professional Advisory Council was looking at taking an MBIT computer course that isn't offered in the districts and offering it in the high schools. He felt this was a good idea.

Intermediate Unit

No report.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Faust indicated that a meeting would be held on September 20th, with Act 72 as the major topic. Mr. Grossi indicated that he would not be able to attend the meeting.

Title VIII

No report. However, Mr. Faust indicated that they would start sending out forms for people who live or work on federal property.

Federal Lands Reuse Authority

Mrs. Lynch requested that this item be removed from the agenda.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the first meeting of the Operations Committee had been held earlier this day. The following items were discussed:

- Three requests for exceptions to the busing policy.
- Update on feasibility study at the high school.
- The concept of air conditioning at the elementary school buildings.
- An update on the new software system in the Transportation Department, which sounds like it has been a big success.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that the next meeting of this committee would be on September 27th.

Citizens Policy

Mrs. Baranski stated that this committee would be meeting on September 21st.

Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Mueller indicated that Act 72 had already been discussed in detail earlier in this meeting and that she concurred with what was discussed.

MINUTES

None.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Initial Distribution:

Mrs. Jankowsky noted the following policies for initial distribution:

- 2.15 – Employee Leave of Absence and Leave Benefit Program
- 2.26 – Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that Policy 2.15 be revised by the solicitor. Mrs. Lynch agreed. Mrs. Jankowsky requested that the opinion be obtained prior to the next meeting.

Mrs. Huf stated that at the MBIT meeting the previous evening they discussed several new policies, including communicable diseases. She would like these to be reviewed to see if they are in line with ours.

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 – August 2004*
- *Investments – August 2004*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – August 2004*

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – August 2004*

The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Student Desk Quotation

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Student Desk Quotation for the William Tennent High School to Tanner School Furniture for the low quote amount of \$47.20 per desk for a total award of \$4,248.00.

The motion passed 9-0.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Grossi indicated that he had a request that Item #10 under Resignations be removed

Mrs. Rollo pointed out a change to #19 under Authorization to Employ, changing the start date to 9/17/04.

Mrs. Baranski requested that #18 under Authorization to Employ be pulled.

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Change of Status; Title I Tutors; Curriculum Resource Team Members; Centennial Academy; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Per Diem Administrative Assistance; Substitute Custodians; Support Staff Substitutes; Kindergarten Bus Aides; Substitute Drivers and Driver Trainees; and Co-Curricular.

Under Authorizations to Employ, Mr. Faust asked if the new positions were budgeted. Mrs. Rollo explained that two are being funded under IDEA, one is a new position being there is an IEP requiring it, and one is a new position being of increased enrollment. Mr. Faust also questioned item #12 which indicated "to be determined" as the starting date. Mrs. Rollo explained that that individual is coming from another school district and they are holding him to his contract unless a replacement is found. Hopefully, it will be within a week or two.

The motion passed 9-0 (with the exception of the items removed as stated above.)

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to approve item #18 of Authorization to Employ.

Mrs. Baranski stated that she could not, in good conscience, support this.

The motion passed 7-0. (Mrs. Baranski and Mrs. Lynch opposed.)

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Mueller stated that the Board had received a communication from a Klinger parent regarding the PTO and the committee for search process regarding the policy of the interviews for the Principal at Klinger. She wondered what the status was since she was receiving a lot of questions about this matter.

Mr. Blatt explained that he and Mrs. Rollo were very much engaged in this. The posting period ended on Friday, September 10th. There were approximately 44 expressions of interest. Mrs. Rollo has initially reviewed the resumes and on Monday, September 20th there will be a meeting to paper screen the 44 individuals to determine who will be interviewed. They will identify an interviewing team, which will include Administration, the Board and parents. They will do everything they can to fast track this but not to the point of compromising getting the very best person we can.

Mr. Grossi felt this issue should be discussed in an open forum. We knew in August that they would not be principal for the opening of school. He understood that there would be a substitute or interim person; however, after that five Board members changed their minds, which was not

authorized. He felt that would be alright except that it was not communicated and there was no public input. He felt that by not keeping everyone fully informed. When there is an at-risk issue that is not fully communicated, Board members are put at risk personally because there is a question of whether you are covered by the E&O insurance. He resented having his, or anyone's, personal assets being put at risk by that action.

Mrs. Lynch stated that the District was involved in a lawsuit which she could not discuss because it involved a personnel issue.

Mr. Grossi stated that he was not addressing that issue. What he was addressing was the imbalance of services given to students in zone 1 and a portion of zone 2. The students at Klinger did not have the same level of supervision, even though the staff and Administration did a commendable job covering this. It was not the same as having a principal.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she was concerned that the legal opinion has been ignored. She also asked for clarification of the policy with regard to the selection process, which is 2.1 3b., that under B. 2(b) indicates that a school Board representative should be part of the interview process. She wanted to make sure it says that if the vacancy is a principalship one school Board representative from the school community, one school community parent and another interested school Board member as an observer. She felt that she was in a unique situation that she is a school Board member who is a member of that community as well as a parent. She requested that she be part of that screening committee.

Mrs. Lynch stated that Mr. Faust was the person who would be handling that team. Mrs. Mueller asked if he would be the observer since he was not part of the Klinger community. Mrs. Huf pointed out that Warminster does send to Klinger. Mrs. Mueller reiterated that she wanted to be par of the committee and not as an observer.

Mrs. Jankowsky clarified that the policy states that it has to be from the Klinger community and Mrs. Huf was correct that there were some students from Warminster there but they were from Region 2. If a Board member from Region 2 were available, then it would be appropriate and we would be in compliance with the policy. She believed that Mr. Faust resided in Region 3, so either Region 1 or 2 could send a representative as a Board member. She felt it made sense to have Mrs. Mueller do this since she was a Board member and has a child at Klinger.

Mrs. Gold stated that she represented Region 2 and she would be happy to volunteer.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she was personally saddened by the fact that we have allowed Klinger to go this long without adequate administrative supervision. In light of the solicitor's opinion and Mr. Blatt's opinion, there were other candidates that would have met those criteria. To place the responsibility of opening of the building and the start of school on a single administrator was irresponsible on the part of the Board.

Mrs. Lynch commented that she was saddened also but that they were handling the problem. She stated that we didn't create the problem. Mrs. Jankowsky felt that we had the ability to correct the problem.

Mrs. Huf stated that she received an e-mail from a Klinger parent asking about lunches. She passed this on to Mr. Blatt and he gave her information to respond to her, which she would forward to the sender of the e-mail.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mrs. Lynch stated that her neighbor's child was attending Tennent and his Geometry book was falling apart. Mr. Grossi reminded her that the Board cut the funding to take care of these kinds of materials. Mrs. Lynch stated that the date of the book was 2002.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Gold and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary