

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

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

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on November 23, 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

[*Mr. Faust arrived at the meeting at 10:35 p.m.]

CEA/Teachers:

Scott Bregman
Joe O'Connor
Mary Ellen Donnelly
Joe LoVecchio
Marie Belcher
Lisa Panzer

Administration:

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

Public:

Al Hertenberger
Janet Marinoff
Debbie Witzel
John Van Note
Pam Beardsell
Elizabeth Brown
Susanne Carter
Terry Baranski
Cathy Johnston
Geri Badler
Jim Metzger
Steve Sweder
Amy Campbell
Franz Lichtner
Jessica Magaziner
Sonny Loesch

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.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Kids Voting Volunteers

Mrs. Lynch spoke about the Kids Voting Program that had taken place on election day and spoke about Lisa Panzer and Ed Austen, who were in charge of the program at the schools. She mentioned the many sites where voting was held and thanked the many people who had helped.

Lisa Panzer distributed certificates to the volunteers who were present at the meeting.

Mr. Blatt spoke about what an outstanding success this program was in the District.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

Mrs. Gold reported that she had had the privilege of attending a breakfast at Ann's Choice that was given by the Boy Scouts to honor Mr. Blatt. She felt that it was a wonderful morning. She and Mrs. Huf also attended the Open House at MBIT, which had a wonderful turnout.

Mrs. Gold announced that a town meeting had been held the previous evening for the purpose of explaining Act 72.

Mrs. Huf congratulated the cast of *Seventeenth Summer* and the staff involved in the production. She indicated that it was an excellent play.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked the staff, students, parents and grandparents for their support of American Education Week.

Mrs. Jankowsky read the text of a voice mail message that was received by Mr. Blatt from Mr. Rob Fisher, Assistant Principal of Student Activities and Athletics at Coatesville High School. The text of the message was contained in a memo from Mr. Blatt to the Board, as follows:

“Congratulations to both your football team and entire traveling party that attended the football game last Friday. I have been doing this for quite a while and involved in education for a long time and just wanted you to know that the entire group that represented your school on Friday evening shows very high character. Most particular, your head coach [was] an outstanding gentleman both before the game and in defeat after the game. You are to be commended for the effort of your football team and staff as well as all of your traveling party for representing your school in an exceptional manner.

Please accept this commendation from Coatesville High School and I wish you well in the future.”

Mrs. Jankowsky commented on the Annual Data Report received in the Board’s last packet. She felt this was a wonderful piece of information, particularly regarding NCLB. Dr. Sexton stated that this would be placed on the website.

Mr. Grossi commented that Lou Pacchioli was a large part of the success of the sports program and wished him well in his recent surgery.

Mrs. Lynch commented on what a wonderful job the Tennent Marching Band did in the Hatboro Christmas Parade.

Mr. Blatt stated that he was saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Harry Quinn, former Superintendent of Centennial School District, indicating that his advocacy for children was very well recognized. A memorial service would be held on December 11th.

Mrs. Lynch asked if the District would be doing anything for Dr. Quinn. Mr. Blatt felt that any number of people would come forward with scholarships, which we would be happy to work with. He indicated that he would keep the Board apprised.

PRESENTATIONS (continued)

Future Centennial Readers Program

Dr. Sexton spoke about the program he referred to as “Babes, Books and Bibs,” indicating that one of the District’s objectives was to continually improve reading achievement of our students. He felt this program helped to do that by encouraging a love of reading in the home among family members. Jenny Foight-Cressman, the lead teacher for Reading and Language Arts, came up with this program and worked with Bob Schrader to come up with sources for funding.

Jenny Foight-Cressman thanked Bob Schrader for his efforts in this project. She indicated that one of the things they were doing was looking at forming partnerships with local preschools.

She explained how the program worked and that it involved a kit of literacy materials to be shared with families of new babies. This program started with a grant from Dollar General Stores.

Mr. Grossi encouraged contacting the local preschools to participate in this worthwhile program.

Mr. Blatt stated that Ms. Foight-Cressman and Mr. Schrader were filled with creative ideas and came up with the funding source. He felt that they were two wonderful people.

Dr. Sexton stated that if there were any other businesses listening that would like to contribute to this effort, to please contact us.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Al Hertenberger of 307 Maple Avenue, Southampton, stated that he had been involved in the Reading program for 40 years and was still involved. He was interested in asking the Board to put the Reading program in the budget. He spoke about PSSA scores and felt that progress was being made. He felt we need to move ahead into the high school level.

Mr. Hertenberger addressed the public regarding a student in the mechanical automotive program who was dyslexic. He asked that anyone who had experience in this field that might be interested in helping this student for two or three hours per week, to contact him.

GOOD NEWS

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

REPORTS

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Operations Committee had met earlier in the evening; however, there was no quorum, so the meeting would be rescheduled. There was a request for busing from people in the Davis School area, for which additional information was needed.

Mrs. Baranski reported that the Education Committee met on November 4th and discussed the block scheduling evaluation. Also discussed were changes to the William Tennent Program of Studies, No Child Left Behind and the Affiliation Agreement with Erickson Retirement System (Ann's Choice.) The next meeting of this committee would be on December 6th, with more discussion on block scheduling.

Mrs. Brzezinski reported that there was a meeting at the I.U. on November 16th. The Sertoma International Club is sponsoring a special hearing aid to our children in the I.U. It is a new device for children. Mrs. Brzezinski also indicated that she had information on Act 89 if anyone was interested. She indicated that she would be going to San Diego on behalf of the I.U.

Mrs. Baranski reported that the Citizens Policy committee held a short meeting on November 16th and that there would be items coming forward at the January meeting for initial distribution.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

- *Education Committee – October 4, 2004*
- *Finance Committee – September 20 2004; October 25, 2004*
- *Operations Committee – October 12, 2004*

Mr. Blatt reminded Board members that there was an Addendum to the Minutes provided this evening.

The motion passed 8-0.

POLICIES

Discussion:

1.5 – Electronic Participation at Non-Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this was a new policy and that it was suggested by Board members who had attended the School Board Academy.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested one change to Section I. B. She felt that the last sentence should be changed to read as follows: *“The Board President shall direct administrators to make preliminary preparations for electronic participation by remote participant(s). Electronic participation shall be contingent on the following factors:”*

Mrs. Lynch indicated that she did not like the process because a Board member would have to sit and wait for Board approval at the time of the meeting. She suggested that the policy go back to committee.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that one of the reasons for this is that the Board would need assurance that the technology was working properly and everyone could be heard, including Board members, members of the public attending the meeting and people listening on the cable.

Mrs. Huf suggested that if a Board member knew they would be out of town for a meeting, a vote could be taken prior to the night of the meeting. She would like the Board President to be responsible for the decision.

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that the policy was to cover emergency situations where a Board member might not know ahead of time that they must be absent.

Mrs. Jankowsky and Mrs. Huf indicated concerns if there was no quorum. Mrs. Gold asked, if the Board President must know two days in advance, whether the Board President could poll the Board for their opinion. Mrs. Jankowsky felt that was not a bad idea as far as getting a consensus but that there would still have to be a vote at the public meeting.

2.17 – Retirement Incentive Program

Mrs. Mueller asked if the policy dealt with active employees; she felt the policy was not clear on that. Mr. Grossi stated that that was his comment also.

Mr. Grossi felt that Section III should be amended to add the phrase *“currently full-time employee not on leave.”*

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that if the object was to reduce costs by encouraging people to retire, there should be a dollar savings, so this should apply to people currently receiving a paycheck from the District.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that this had a two-step approach, which was discussed previously. Mrs. Jankowsky recalled that this came through the Finance Committee without a recommendation. The options provided were for medical insurance or, in the alternative, \$50 for each unused sick leave day. Mr. Grossi clarified that the vote in the Finance Committee was to move this forward to the Board for further discussion without a recommendation. They felt it should be discussed by the full Board.

Mrs. Huf asked if it had been the practice in the past to give retirees a \$5,000 lump sum payment in addition to anything else. Mr. Grossi indicated that last time they gave medical coverage. This payment was for the purpose of attracting more people to retire.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that a vote was not being taken at this time; this was here for discussion.

Mr. Grossi indicated that the other changes were boilerplate.

Mrs. Huf stated that she was not in agreement with the additional \$5,000 payment.

Mrs. Baranski asked what the average age of retirement was in the District. Mr. Grossi responded that it was between 55 and 60.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that the real decision was whether Part B should be included. Mrs. Gold stated that she was against the \$5,000 payment also.

For clarification, Mr. Blatt commented that it was important to understand that the \$5,000 would only be offered if a minimum of 35 people took the incentive. That number would have to be compared to the savings to the District.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that Sections A and B did not account for exactly 35 members, so one of the sections should be adjusted appropriately.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she was against the \$5,000 because medical benefits are tremendous. She didn't think the \$5,000 was an incentive.

Mrs. Baranski indicated that she wanted more time to think about this. She was not sure about the \$5,000 and wanted to think about the unused sick days.

Mr. Grossi stated that this policy would come forward as is in December for a vote, with the additional language suggested. He suggested that alternative language be prepared with Section B removed in the event Board members decided they did not want that.

3.23 – Solicitation

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this policy was not reviewed by the solicitor and was to be effective immediately. Since there was no discussion, it would be moved forward for approval at the next meeting.

3.26 – Student Attendance

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this policy was reviewed by the solicitor and was to be effective immediately. Many of the changes in language were suggested by the solicitor.

There was a short discussion about the change in title from District Magistrate to District Justice.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this policy would be moved forward to a vote at the next meeting.

4.14 – Transportation

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this was a new policy that came from the Operations Committee. The policy was reviewed by the solicitor.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that it was never established in our policy that our distances are one-half mile less than required by the Code. He felt this should be added because there was additional expense involved in this. He thought that this should have Board approval from an auditing perspective.

On the statement page, Mrs. Jankowsky felt that the phrase “as required by law” should be deleted since school districts are not required by law to provide transportation.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Preliminary Approval for WTHS Marching Band Trip to Florida

Mrs. Jankowsky questioned the cost of the trip for individuals. Mr. LoVecchio explained that the cost was \$960, including an adjustment for chaperones.

Mrs. Mueller asked if the students must meet a certain grade level to go on this trip. Mr. LoVecchio indicated that they did not, that participation in the trip was basically with parental permission. Mrs. Mueller stated her concern with that for this trip and also for the sports teams. Mr. LoVecchio indicated that he was not aware of any policy about this for non-athletic groups.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would like to think that students were encouraged to keep their studies up and would trust the parents' judgment on whether the child was up to missing school.

Mr. LoVecchio pointed out that when children participate, their grades are normally higher. Mrs. Jankowsky agreed. She thought that this was discussed when the District went to block scheduling and that the Board did not opt to develop a policy at that time.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for the William Tennent High School Marching Band trip to Orlando and Daytona, Florida – February 9-13, 2005. The cost to the District is \$8,000.00 for substitute teachers.

The motion passed 8-0.

2. Permission to Accept Grant Funding for Longstreth Home and School Association

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants permission to accept the grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development in Harrisburg in the amount of \$10,000 for the Longstreth Home and School Association.

Mrs. Lynch stated that the money would be used for the Longstreth playground.

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that the HSA fronted \$3,000 to get this started. She hoped they would be reimbursed through this grant. Dr. Sexton indicated that they would and that the Department had approved this.

The motion passed 8-0.

3. Facility Use Waiver

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that this was for Sunday use and that the organization was paying all the fees for the custodial staff.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Gold to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Facility Use Waiver Application of Warminster Baseball Association for Sunday use of WTHS auxiliary gym on January 9 through March 13, 2005. There is no cost to the District.

The motion passed 8-0.

4. Permission to Accept Entitlement Grant

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants permission to accept the following entitlement grant for the 2004-2005 school year in the amount indicated: Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities - \$26,646.

The motion passed 8-0.

5. Permission to Accept Private Competitive Grant

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants permission to accept the following 2004-2005 private competitive grant in the amount indicated: Gifts in Kind International Adobe Software - \$2,496.

The motion passed 8-0.

6. Approval of Employment Agreement between the District and Dr. Thomas W. Sexton

A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Employment Agreement between the District and Dr. Thomas W. Sexton.

Mr. Grossi explained that some of the solicitor's recommendations were added, and the benefits were listed.

Mrs. Brzezinski questioned where the agreement stated that when Mr. Blatt was not here, Dr. Sexton would replace him. Mrs. Jankowsky responded that she did not think it said that and that this was discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Blatt had indicated that if he was not there, Dr. Sexton would be in charge – that was a given since there is only one Assistant Superintendent.

Mrs. Huf stated that this was not the first agreement between the District and Dr. Sexton. She felt it was a good agreement and that it was a given that the Assistant Superintendent would fill in for the Superintendent. She did not feel that had to be stated in the contract.

Mr. Grossi stated that this was properly housed in the organizational policy and that this type of thing was not normally housed in a contract.

Mr. Blatt indicated that this was a given, that there had never been any kind of problem with this. He thought there was a legal basis for this.

Mrs. Brzezinski agreed to Mrs. Jankowsky's suggestion that a copy of the position description and/or organizational chart be provided for clarification purposes.

Dr. Sexton read a passage from Section 10 of the School Code, which also clarified this matter.

The motion passed 7-0-1. (Mrs. Brzezinski abstained.)

7. William Tennent High School Improvement Plan

A motion was made by Mrs. Baranski and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the William Tennent High School Improvement Plan as required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 at a cost of \$10,000 to be paid from IDEA funds.

Mr. Grossi felt that the Board needed to stay focused on the fact that the initial cost was \$10,000 but that there would be additional costs.

The motion passed 8-0.

8. Centennial School District Improvement Plan

A motion was made by Mrs. Baranski and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Centennial School District Improvement Plan as required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 at a cost to the District not to exceed \$237,000.

Dr. Masko explained that the \$237,000 included \$223,000 for salaries for Reading teachers and \$14,000 for Curriculum Resource Team members from Special Education. The \$223,000 in Item #9 (following) is included in Item #8. It is not an additional \$223,000.

The motion passed 8-0.

9. Changes to the William Tennent High School Program of Studies for 2005-2006

A motion was made by Mrs. Baranski and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following changes to the William Tennent High School Program of Studies for 2005-2006:

Additions:

- Marketing and Project Manager*
- Television and Technology Production*
- Career Work Experience*
- Chorale, Madrigal Singers, Orchestra and Wind Ensemble honors options*
- Reading*
- Intensive Reading*
- Psychology AP*
- Comparative Religions*
- Mathematics Test Prep*

Reading Test Prep
SAT Prep
Deletions: College Note Taking
Test Prep
French 2H
German 2H
Spanish 2H
Level 3, 4 and AP World Language courses with insufficient prior year enrollment in 2004-2005

The cost to the District will not exceed \$223,000 in new salaries for three reading teachers. Materials for new courses will be included in Education Fund Initiatives.

The motion passed 8-0.

10. Warminster Township – Request for Tax Refund

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the request by Warminster Township to refund school district real estate taxes on Parcel #49-009-002-003 for tax years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 in the amount of \$4,770.21. Appeal for refund is based on the Township’s realization that they owned the property since November 1999 but not had appealed for or been granted tax exempt status for the above tax years.

Mr. Grossi stated that this motion was a little deceiving since Warminster Township never paid any taxes on this property – the owner paid the taxes. Mr. Grossi indicated that the backup material was wrong. He also explained that the District was not permitted by law to grant retroactive refunds on public property. He indicated that the law was very clear on that. The District can, however, grant an exemption for the upcoming year. We have a solicitor’s opinion supporting this. Mr. Grossi urged that the Board vote against this motion.

The motion failed 0-8.

Mrs. Lynch left the room at 9:35 p.m.

11. Point-of-Sale System – Elementary Level Purchase

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the expansion to the District’s six elementary 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 \$25,987. Purchase and district-wide implementation to be phased over the remainder of the months of January and February 2005. 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.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that the system had worked well so far, and that we were moving forward as planned.

The motion passed 7-0.

12. Permission to Bid Vehicles – 2005-2006

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes the solicitation of bids for the purchase of four 65-passenger school buses and two 24-passenger school buses. Funds to be appropriated from the 2005-2006 General Fund Budget upon award.

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that this had come through the Operations and Finance Committees as part of the normal replacement schedule for transportation vehicles.

Mrs. Lynch returned to the room at 9:37 p.m.

Mr. Blatt indicated that the current transportation operation was very efficient and lean. If the District were to begin to explore any type of significant alteration to the transportation pattern and if it was the Board's desire to service any additional requests, it might need to address the issue of adding buses. He wanted the Board to be alerted to this.

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; Authorization to Employ Curriculum Resource Team Members; Mentors; Title I Tutors; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Substitute Driver and Driver Trainees; and Co-Curricular.

The motion passed 8-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she had received e-mails from the Klenks regarding block scheduling and two e-mails from Mrs. Lieberman regarding the AP Calculus decline.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMSThanksgiving Day Football Game between Archbishop Wood and William Tennent High Schools

Pam Beardsell of 978 Hilltop Road, Warminster, stated that her comments were representative of her two children, who were current graduates of Tennent. Her son was a Senior last year and was disappointed when the game was cancelled. The game was always a very special experience for the football team. Mrs. Beardsell felt that Wood was completely irresponsible in canceling the game, that it was disruptive and self-serving. Many of the boys' football careers were prematurely ended. She indicated that as far as she knew, Wood had made no apology, and it would be her preference that this game never be played again. However, she realized that we must move on, but she would at least like Wood to apologize for their actions.

Mrs. Lynch indicated that she had requested that this item be placed on the agenda. She felt this was the time to pursue the game. She felt Centennial should forgive and forget in order to see if we could bring back this Thanksgiving tradition.

Mrs. Huf stated that no one could have been more upset than she when she found out the game was cancelled. She indicated that she attended a meeting at Wood because she was requested to. She felt that if the Board needed a letter with an apology, they could request that. She questioned whether we wanted to "hold our football players hostage because we can't forgive and forget," and indicated that the people asking her to get the game back were the football players. She thought that in showing our good sportsmanship, maybe we could look at this again and get the community spirit back.

Mr. Grossi stated that he was more than a little disturbed that this discussion was taking place at this time since the great accomplishments of the Marching Band, cheerleaders and football players had not yet been acknowledged. He felt they should be honored before this matter was addressed. He also pointed out that he had not seen any written request from the administration of Wood regarding this matter and felt that such should be received before this was addressed.

Mrs. Huf stated that she had no intention of disrespecting any member of the current year's football team, or other athletes or musicians, and that she was fully in support of recognizing their accomplishments. However, at the same time, she wanted to encourage the Board to form a committee to see if there was any way to meet and discuss bringing the game back.

Mrs. Baranski felt that a lot of people would like this tradition to continue but that we should make sure that a contract is signed.

Mrs. Brzezinski suggested playing a game with a team from another school district. Mr. Grossi pointed out that this had been discussed previously. Mrs. Lynch stated that it would probably take a year to get this game back if they wanted to play another team.

Mrs. Gold agreed with Mrs. Huf's feeling that we could honor the current athletes and musicians but still move on with this matter. She thought one had nothing to do with the other.

Al Hertenberger of 307 Maple Avenue, Southampton, gave the history of the Tennent/Wood game, and acknowledged that everyone was disappointed with what happened last year. He indicated that as far as he knew, Wood was playing a championship game, so it was possible that either Wood or Tennent could be in the same situation this year as Wood was in last year. He indicated that the Kiwanis would gladly sponsor the game and hold the dinner, and encouraged the Board to discuss with Wood what would happen if either team were involved in a championship game.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she was very much in favor of the game.

Mrs. Huf explained that we were at this point because she responded as a community member, and that this was about the kids.

Mr. Blatt agreed that this was about the kids, and that these were adult problems and adult issues. He felt that adults created the current set of circumstances, and that Mrs. Beardsell captured a lot of the sentiment of the youngsters. He felt that his role was unusual and sometimes very difficult, in that if he did not stick up for our kids, our staff, and our community, who would? He granted that Board members would, but they are elected officials. He indicated that he honored forgiveness and turning the other cheek, and that we have done that. We have reached out multiple times in both written and verbal form, but were rebuked.

Mrs. Lynch asked that we continue trying.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would like a committee of the Board to be formed and to have contact made with Wood.

Mrs. Gold stated that she was appalled at some of the articles in the newspapers, that they were a disgrace and that some of the things reported were wrong.

Mrs. Jankowsky confirmed the statements made by Mr. Blatt. She stated that there were several initiatives to iron out the situation when it was happening and that we tried our best. She wondered whether other families experienced conflict between holiday get-togethers and the football game. She indicated that she had no problem with the concept of an apology from Wood but was not aware of any contact made by Wood to request reinstatement of the game. She also did not understand why Board members were getting into the business of setting the athletes' schedule, and questioned why Administration wasn't handling this. She felt the Board was going astray.

At this point in the meeting, Mrs. Brzezinski announced that she was leaving. (10:10 p.m.)

Mrs. Mueller explained that what she had learned at the School Board Academy was that a School Board sets policy. She felt that the Superintendent had gone out of his way to get the situation resolved and felt that this belonged with Administration to take care of. She also indicated that the game sometimes made it difficult for families and asked if the tradition was deep-rooted for those participating. She felt that an apology would be wonderful for everyone

involved. She felt that this was not a matter for the Board to handle, but for the Athletic Department.

Mrs. Huf pointed out that before the end of the last school year she had requested Mr. Blatt to do a survey about this, but that had not happened. She stated that she continued to receive calls about this and that was why she was attempting to respond. She indicated that she would still like to have a survey regarding interest.

Mrs. Gold stated that she could understand that people might feel that it was not the business of the Board. Mrs. Huf and Mrs. Lynch went to the meeting as community members, not as Board members. She felt that sometimes things have to start somewhere.

Mary Godfrey of Citation Lane stated that she has a Junior on the football team and indicated that she could speak for the team. They would want nothing more than to play Wood on Thanksgiving. She understood that this was not the proper time to discuss this but would like to know when it would be discussed. She felt the wishes of the students should come first.

Mr. Grossi stated that there were some serious issues that must hit the light of day with all parties available.

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On another issue, Mrs. Mueller stated that she had questions regarding the reinstatement of the Director of Special Education and Special Services and would like more information.

Mrs. Lynch asked about Mr. Dalton. Mr. Blatt explained that Mr. Dalton was a consultant that was hired and was used on certain special education cases, but these two issues were separate and apart. He did not feel that the consultant would have to be kept if a Director were hired.

Mrs. Lynch read from Mr. Blatt's memo to the Board that the cost to reinstate the position for the remainder of the year would be approximately \$80,000.

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that Mr. Blatt noted in his memo that this was the single area where the District has the greatest legal exposure. Not having someone to oversee our special education could cost a lot more down the road. She felt that if Administration was asking for this reinstatement, the Board should discuss it.

At a question from Mrs. Lynch regarding personnel, Mr. Blatt explained that in the past there was a Director of Special Education/Special Services and two supervisors, one for elementary and one for secondary special education. Now there was one person, Mr. Lyons. Another person was in the employment pipeline but not yet on board. Mr. Blatt stated that for the better part of a year, the District had been operating exceedingly shorthanded. He reminded the Board about another individual who had a terrible accident in their family, so their services were not available. He indicated that other information was provided to give the Board more background to help the Board to make a decision.

Mrs. Gold questioned the \$80,000 salary. She felt that seemed high. Mr. Blatt explained that if the individual had been here for the year, they would have made approximately \$110,000. This salary is what is commanded countywide. This would work out to approximately \$80,000 for the remainder of the year.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she needed more details about personnel in that department, that she was confused. Mr. Blatt felt that the information she was requesting was contained in his memo.

[Mrs. Huf thanked the 50th Anniversary team at William Tennent for the gifts given to Board members (t-shirts and mugs.)]

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that special education students make up 20% of the student population (about 1200 students) and that we need someone to head up this department. She felt this should be put on the agenda.

Mrs. Huf left the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Mr. Grossi felt that it was pretty clear that more help was needed, although he applauded Administration's attempt to cover this department and effect cost savings. He felt this was an important matter, that the kids needed services and this must be addressed.

Mrs. Lynch stated that the position was cut out of the budget and that this was talked about after the Finance Committee had completed the budget. Although she felt no one was trying to slight special education, she indicated that she needed more information, including the cost savings, which were in the neighborhood of \$147,000.

Mr. Faust arrived at the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested moving this matter forward to the next meeting so that the information requested could be provided. She felt this was at least the second memo from Mr. Blatt requesting this position.

Mr. Faust clarified that this was discussed in Finance several months ago, but that it was always on the Executive Session agenda, not on the Finance Committee's agenda.

Mr. Grossi stated that if the Superintendent was telling us this wasn't working, we should listen.

Mrs. Lynch again requested more information.

Mr. Blatt stated that every Superintendent hopes for a relationship with a Board that is based on trust and respect. He pointed out that the Board had the right to expect the Superintendent to do the right thing every day and to effect savings every chance he could. He also felt that a Superintendent had the right to expect the Board to give consideration to his requests. He stated that he did not want this position for himself, but for the children. He took the responsibility for not putting this in the budget last year, and he was wrong. Some money was saved but he felt at this point that the position needed to be reinstated. He pointed out that everyone in the District

was doing more with less. But he felt this request was falling on deaf ears and was disappointed that the Board could not trust his judgment. This was for 20% of the student population.

Mrs. Lynch again asked how much the position would cost next year. Mr. Grossi stated that it would be \$110,000 plus \$13,000 in benefits, for a total of \$123,000.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she would like this to be moved forward so that the requested information could be obtained. She recognized and took responsibility for not recommending reinstatement of the Director last spring. At that time, she felt we could save money, continue to deliver services and meet our responsibilities. She felt the correct thing to do now was to reinstate the position and she supported Mr. Blatt's request. She felt that Special Education was first on the list of areas where the Board needed to listen to the Superintendent.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she brought this up because she felt it was extremely important. She hoped that everyone heard Mr. Blatt's words and his frustration. She begged the Board to look into this and felt they needed to have long-range vision on this matter.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Gold and seconded by Mrs. Lynch to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary