

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
HELD JANUARY 11, 2005**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on January 22, 2005, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Lynch at 7:35 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Sina Baranski  
Marie Brzezinski  
Eugene Grossi  
Betty Huf  
Joan Jankowsky  
Jane Schrader Lynch  
Cynthia Mueller

Administration:

David Blatt  
Sandy Homel  
Dr. Michael Masko  
Jean Rollo  
Timothy Vail

CEA/Teachers:

Andy Mahony  
Susan Stackhouse  
Betty Kline  
Megan Schumann  
Dana McGratton  
Cheryl Tonkinson  
Beth Campbell

Public:

Maizk Raczak  
Sandy Raczak  
Sharon Williams  
Bobbie Loftus  
Jane Strawley  
Dan Klenk  
Adam Sellers  
Leigh Lieberman

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Lynch announced that the order of the Agenda would be changed slightly to allow for the Reading presentation to take place first.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### Running and Reading Program

Mr. Blatt introduced Pearline Greene, the Principal of Stackpole School. Mrs. Greene stated that she was proud of Stackpole's programs. She introduced Jackie Daino, part of the Instructional Support Team, and Jamie Cameron, a Kindergarten teacher at Stackpole.

Ms. Daino spoke about the "Run, Read and Rock-a-thon" program, in which 15 students participated for the fall session. This was an opportunity for students of all ability levels to grow in reading and athletic ability. Some of the children who participated in the program then made a presentation to the Board.

Ms. Daino thanked Ms. Cameron, who volunteered to help out in the morning program.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)**

Mrs. Lynch thanked last year's committee chairpersons for helping Centennial move forward, and announced the new committee chairpersons for the upcoming year. She also indicated that the HSA liaisons would be the same for the upcoming year.

Mrs. Mueller declined serving on the Finance Committee.

## **PRESENTATIONS (Continued)**

### School Board Recognition Month

Mr. Blatt spoke about School Board Directors' month, which is held every year in January, and spoke about the time and effort it takes to be a School Board member.

Mrs. Lynch thanked everyone for their years of service on the Board.

## **GOOD NEWS**

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

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Leigh Lieberman of 396 Byron Road, Warminster, addressed the Board regarding some troubling trends in connection with block scheduling. She indicated that SAT scores fell 21% in the past year, which was much below the national average. The PSSA scores were doing the same thing. She addressed the issue of Math and how much time on task was needed, and pointed out how the scores declined drastically when the schedule was changed. She requested that the Board implement her proposals.

Mr. Grossi stated that the results were clearly in, but that this was a political issue. He felt that a disservice was being done to the kids.

Ms. Lieberman pointed out that the students in the elementary and secondary schools were doing a very good job but that the high school students need 180 days of Math in order to succeed.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that these matters were discussed at the Education Committee meeting, and that hopefully some of Ms. Lieberman's ideas would be incorporated into the program. She also pointed out that the PSSA data was mainly what the state goes by, rather than the SATs.

## **REPORTS**

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

Mr. Klenk reported on the Marching Band's upcoming trip to Florida; that the Math team would be participating in the Bucks County Math League; and that the Key Club was collecting items and donations for tsunami victims in the Philippines. He also gave the records for the sports teams.

### **MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Mr. Sellers reported that MBIT had an audit; program planning night would be held on January 27<sup>th</sup>; the Skills USA competition would be coming up soon; and the adult education programs would be starting on February 7<sup>th</sup>. He also reported that the salon and restaurant were open by appointment.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Blatt reported that the student-built modular home had been sold. Mr. Seller indicated that it was sold for \$86,000. (It had cost about \$68,000 to build.)

Mr. Blatt announced that the District was actively involved in a relief project to aid tsunami victims. *Save the Children* was selected as the recipient of the funds collected due to their proven integrity and the fact that 90% of the money would go directly to the children in need.

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf reported on the meeting held the previous evening. There was a discussion of the audit report and an expansion to the daycare program. A motion passed to accept \$87,000 for the student-built house.

Mrs. Huf also reported that there was a meeting of the Program, Policy & Personnel Committee, which reviewed apprenticeships, discussed the Drexel partnership, and Policy 702 (regarding accepting gifts or in-kind acts.)

Mrs. Jankowsky added that a data report was distributed on student enrollment, showing that Centennial had the highest percentage of students. There was also interesting information about retention rates. Mrs. Jankowsky felt that it might be good to see if our numbers match this.

Mrs. Jankowsky had raised the question about how Act 72 would impact the budget. It seemed that the chairperson did not see a problem because he thought everyone was opting out. However, if we opt in, we will need to get the budget done sooner.

Mrs. Jankowsky also explained that there was a house on the grounds at MBIT, which has been a rental property. The issue was raised about getting an appraisal on the property, and the possibility of selling it to generate revenue for MBIT. Mr. Grossi pointed out that it was a historic house.

Regarding the early childhood daycare program, Mr. Grossi indicated that the discussion was to expand the program to compete with the public sector, but that there were a lot of issues that needed to be dealt with.

Mr. Grossi indicated that Drexel was reluctant to continue their program. Mrs. Huf stated that this program was being discussed with Penn State. Mr. Grossi reported that MBIT was looking at an academy of fine arts, and that a committee had already been formed. However, the superintendents are not in favor of this program and it would take kids directly from our arts programs in Centennial. He also questioned what was happening with the \$30 million expansion program.

Mrs. Huf replied that this was just a feasibility study and that they were not moving anywhere in the \$30 million range. Regarding the fine arts, the discussion was that they did not want to pull from the sending districts but were more interested in the lighting, set design, electrical, etc. areas.

Mrs. Mueller voiced her concern over the discussion that districts were not opting into Act 72. Mrs. Huf felt that that was a personal comment, not a fact that any sending district has made a decision. There has been no official announcement by any of the sending districts. Mrs. Lynch pointed out that districts have until May to decide.

#### Intermediate Unit

Mrs. Brzezinski reported that a meeting would be held on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Lynch called for a break in the meeting at 8:53 p.m. The meeting resumed at 9:07 p.m.

## **FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Huf reported that the next meeting would be held on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Title VIII

No report.

## **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Huf stated that since she had just become the new chairperson of this committee, she did not have a date set for the next meeting.

### Citizens Policy

No report.

### Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Mueller pointed out two items of information included in the January 7<sup>th</sup> edition of *School Leader News* regarding legislation put into place by the Governor. Act 183 deals with grants to schools for telecommunications. She indicated the window for this would be closing within weeks and asked whether the District was looking to go this route.

Mr. Vail responded that he and Mr. Lasher had discussed this but no decision had been made. It appeared that the e-rate would be funded again next year and should be comparable to the \$80,000 we got this year.

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that the Board had recently approved an acceptable use policy for the children's use of the Internet. She questioned whether Act 197, the state Child Internet Protection Act, had been taken into consideration at that time. If not, our policy should be reviewed again since there is a deadline of May 29<sup>th</sup> for compliance with provisions of the Act.

## **MINUTES**

None.

## **OPERATIONS AND POLICIES**

### Initial Distribution:

Mrs. Jankowsky enumerated the policies for initial distribution, as follows:

- 3.13 – Suspected Child Abuse
- 3.19 – Homebound Instruction
- 3.28 – Student Health Services

- 5.2 – School Libraries
- 6.1 – Community/School Fund Raising

### Final Approval:

#### 2.24 – Communicable Disease in the Workplace

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 2.24, Communicable Disease in the Workplace.*

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she was confused by the opinion rendered by the solicitor, which indicated that he had not reviewed this policy, but that he recommended that the policies be separated. She was not sure what other policy he was talking about and was not prepared to vote on this until there was some clarification.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to table the motion.

*The motion passed 7-0.*

### **FINANCIAL**

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

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

*and approves the:*

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – December 2004*
- *Budgetary Transfers – January 2005*

Mr. Grossi pointed out that the earned income tax did not appear to be on target and asked what the future projection was. Mr. Vail responded that they budgeted \$3.75 million for the last 3-4 years but they have always fallen just short of that collection goal. He felt that we should be at or about that level as we close the books on 2004-2005.

Mr. Grossi also questioned the delinquent EIT taxes, which seemed to be lacking. Mr. Vail explained that we were only really through the first quarter of the year as far as collections.

*The motion passed 7-0.*

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. Brzezinski spoke about the Longstreth School newsletter, which she requested be distributed to the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Real Estate Tax Collector Compensation

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes the following compensation to the District’s tax collectors. This compensation shall be subject to adherence to the procedures set forth in Exhibit “A” which is attached to this resolution.*

	<u>2006-2007</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>
Warminster Township	\$22,625	\$23,417	\$24,237	\$25,085
Southampton Township	16,322	16,893	17,484	18,096
Ivyland Borough	1,532	1,585	1,641	1,698

*If the Tax Collector does not accept the procedures as set forth in Exhibit “A”, then the compensation to be paid to the Tax Collector shall be as follows:*

	<u>2006-2007</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>
Warminster Township	\$11,313	\$11,709	\$12,119	\$12,543
Southampton Township	8,161	8,447	8,742	9,048
Ivyland Borough	766	793	821	849

*Failure to comply with all legally mandated items shall result in suspension of compensation.*

*Interim tax bills produced and mailed by the tax collector during the current fiscal year shall be compensated at the rate of \$2.75 per bill payable with final annual payment in June.*

*Be it further resolved that the above compensation shall be due and payable on an annual basis as follows:*

- 10% at the end of July*
- 40% at the end of August*
- 30% at the end of October*
- 10% at the end of February*
- 10% at the end of June*

*Mrs. Jankowsky recommended that the sentence “Interim tax bills . . . during the current fiscal year . . .” be changed to read “Interim tax bills . . . during the above fiscal years . . .” Mrs. Huf and Mrs. Brzezinski, as the mover and seconder of the motion, agreed to this change.*

Mrs. Baranski indicated that she thought the compensation for February was 10% following receipt of notice from the county that liens have been properly filed, or the end

of February, whatever comes first. Mr. Vail indicated that that was the language in the existing resolution but he did not put it in this resolution because of the change in the distribution of the percentage and it was not discussed by the Finance Committee. He indicated that it could be added if the Board wished. Mrs. Huf requested that this be added because that was what Mrs. Loftus understood and if it is left as is, it would tie up her compensation.

*It was acceptable by Mrs. Huf and Mrs. Brzezinski, as the mover and seconder of the motion, to amend the motion as follows. The phrase "10% at the end of February" would be replaced by the phrase "10% following receipt of notice from the county that liens have been properly filed, or the end of February, whatever comes first."*

Mrs. Mueller asked what the percentage of increase was for our Administration. Mr. Blatt indicated that it was 3.5%. Mrs. Mueller stated that it troubled her that due to budget concerns we held our staff to a 3.5% increase but raised this over 5%. She indicated that she could not support such an increase.

Mrs. Lynch stated that last year the tax collector's compensation was 1% and the teachers was 3.5%, so there was a little balancing to make this fair. She indicated that there had been major discussion on this.

Mr. Grossi stated that part of the reason for the 1% was that we provided a bunch of services for the tax collectors that should have been a 5-6% savings in their costs.

Mrs. Huf pointed out that the Finance Committee was in support of this so she would support this motion with the suggested amendments.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she would be abstaining because she would be seeking the office of tax collector of Upper Southampton Township.

*A roll call vote was taken, as follows:*

<i>Mrs. Brzezinski</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Grossi</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Baranski</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Mrs. Lynch</i>	<i>Yes</i>

*The motion failed 4-2-1.*

Mrs. Lynch indicated that this would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

2. Bus Bids

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the 2005-2006 transportation vehicle bids to be awarded as follows:*

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Bid Description</u>	<u>Bid No.</u>	<u>Total Bid Amount</u>
Rohrer Bus Sales	65-Passenger Conventional Buses (3)	2005-03	\$188,850.00
	24-Passenger Bus (2)	2005-04	Reject
		<i>Total Net Expense</i>	\$188,850.00

*Funds to be appropriated from the 2005-2006 General Fund Budget.*

*This compares to a total General Fund Expenditure in 2004-2005 of \$328,300.00.*

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that the Board was good at doing things on a cycle so everything doesn't hit in one budget. She was concerned about what this would do to subsequent budgets and to maintenance. She wondered if the Board was being shortsighted.

Mr. Vail explained that the recommendation was that for one year only the normal replacement of four conventional buses and two vans be suspended in favor of going with three conventional buses. This was in recognition of the upcoming budget concerns for 2005-2006 and is with the caveat that for 2006-2007 and henceforth, the regular cycle would be returned to.

Mrs. Mueller asked if that would throw everything off since the cycle was pretty tight. Mr. Vail responded that it was a 12 to 13 year cycle.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she had the same concerns. She did not know they this came through Operations and Finance and was approved, then was changed here at the last minute. She understood there were concerns about the budget but knew that this would resurface next year. The cycle of replacing has served the District well over the years. She felt this was being penny wise and pound foolish.

Mr. Blatt stated that all of the points proffered were fair and that this was an item that was looked at long and hard and was discussed internally before this recommendation was made. He felt it was absolutely essential that the replacement scheduled be returned to.

Mrs. Huf indicated that this was done once or twice before to save money. She saw this as an effort by the Transportation Department to help out.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that when this was done in the past, we returned to the cycle but we did stretch everything so we eliminated things. This plan does not eliminate anything; it puts it into a different budget year. While he appreciated the effort in addressing the problem, he was concerned that we are not looking long term.

Mrs. Baranski felt that it would not hurt to do this for one year.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she recalled that we extended the length of time for replacement – instead of doing it every 11 years, we are doing it every 12 to 13 years. She saw this as deferring this matter until next year when the issue would have to be dealt with again. She felt it was important to get back to the schedule next year.

Mrs. Huf pointed out that this was a voluntary effort by the Transportation Department and that she would abide by their decision.

**Vote 4-3 (Mrs. Jankowsky, Mrs. Mueller and Mr. Grossi opposed.) Mr. Blatt would have to check on whether a majority is needed or more.)**

3. Sealed Truck Bid

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board hereby approves the sale of a 1991 Chevy K3500 4x4 truck in the amount of \$4,510.00 to Richard Linke.*

*The motion passed 7-0.*

4. Middle School Attendance Aide

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the elimination of the position of Middle School Attendance Aide and assigns those duties to the Guidance Secretary with a classification of Guidance Secretary – Middle School Class II at a savings to the District of \$10,565.02.*

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this came through when the Board was having discussions about the Director of Special Education, and was a cost-savings matter.

*The motion passed 7-0.*

## **PERSONNEL**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf 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; Mentors; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; and Support Staff Substitutes.*

*The motion passed 7-0.*

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

Mrs. Mueller thanked Administration for the music teacher at Klinger and reported that the musical is on for this year even though the teacher was obtained late.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she would appreciate if the Board could get cost and feasibility information on televising the Board meetings.

Mrs. Brzezinski thanked Martin Marotta for his excellent coverage of the Board meetings.

Mrs. Huf stated that she had received phone calls and e-mails about a letter that went out regarding some Centennial taxpayers that did not received their bills and wanted the penalties to be forgotten. She was sorry if anyone was offended by this letter.

Mrs. Lynch indicated that she hoped this could be looked at again since there were only 12 letters that went out. She felt the taxpayers should be given a chance to come to the Finance Committee to discuss this, and that this was not the way to treat people.

## **SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

See Schedule attached hereto.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Baranski adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

---

Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary