

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD FEBRUARY 22, 2005**

CALL TO ORDER

A Work Session/Regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on February 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
Joseph Faust
Rose Gold
Eugene Grossi
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
Jane Schrader Lynch
Cynthia Mueller

CEA/Teachers:

Donna Dunar
Tom Mokes
Karen Adams
Joe O'Connor
Mary Ellen Donnelly
Janice Farley

Administration:

David Blatt
Sandy Homel
Victor Lasher
Dr. Michael Masko
Jean Rollo
Dr. Thomas Sexton

Public:

Debbie Burns
Ellie Tarnoviski
Richard Tarnoviski
Robert Coates
Maureen Coates
Walter Gaunt
Lenora Gaunt
Mary Godfrey
Bill Godfrey
Donna Mei Krantz
Eileen Evangelista
Andrew New
Bob Kozlowski
Mark Kull
Tom Ernst
Dawn Pilawski
Lee Speiser

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Lynch indicated that the announcements would be made later in the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of William Tennent High School Championship Football Team

Mr. Pacchioli spoke about his pride in the William Tennent High School football team. He then introduced Mr. Keeney.

Mr. Keeney presented Mr. Pacchioli with the Suburban One League Trophy and spoke about the players and coaches representing the District with dignity and pride. He felt everyone should be proud of our young people, both on and off the field.

Mr. Keeney and Mr. Pacchioli introduced the individual players and presented them with awards.

Mr. Grossi commented that the players were a reflection of the coaching they had received. He felt the coaching was outstanding.

Acceptance of Grant from Peace Center

Mrs. Homel explained that the District had recently applied to the Peace Center for a grant for the high school. Instead of receiving a portion of the grant as hoped, we received the entire amount of the grant.

Dr. Dunar introduced Mrs. Debbie Burns, a worker at the Peace Center and mother of two boys who will soon attend school within the Centennial School District.

Mr. Blatt indicated that last spring he had stated that he would like better relationships with the students at the high school. He spoke about the grant process.

Mrs. Burns explained that the grant was to implement a plan to improve safety in the schools. While the District had applied for \$2,500, they received \$10,000. Some of the things they planned to do with the grant money were to implement a “Safe School and Security Tool Kit”, hold a community forum, do a needs assessment, facilitate a community forum on needs assessment, participate in Bucks County Peace Week and support a peer mediation program. Mrs. Burns indicated that Central Bucks and Centennial School Districts were the only ones in the state to receive this grant.

Mrs. Mueller thanked Dr. Dunar and Mrs. Burns for all of their efforts.

Mr. Blatt stated that we giving kids the tools they need to deal with conflict is an important component of education. He also thanked the two women for their great work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Faust reported that he and Mrs. Lynch had had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the CEA, which they would brief the Board on at a later date.

Mrs. Gold reported that the AFT Committee had met that afternoon. They had narrowed things down to three, as follows: citizenship, career and college counseling; and achieving academic standards.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she was appointing Mr. Grossi to the Finance Committee, which would meet on February 28th at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Grossi stated that Mrs. Lynch and he had agreed that there is a difficult budget coming up and that they would need to look at all different ideas.

Mrs. Baranski reported that she had attended a dance at Log College and that the many students who were there were well behaved.

GOOD NEWS

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

Mrs. Homel also reported that Centennial would be hosting the county music festival on the upcoming weekend.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

REPORTS

Mrs. Jankowsky reported, as an information item, that the Cost Containment Committee received information about a name change for the prescription drug provider.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Gold to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting of December 6, 2004.

The motion passed 9-0.

POLICIES

Discussion:

5.3 – Standardized Testing Program

Dr. Sexton explained that there were significant changes in this policy to reflect changes in the tests used.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that the first sentence of the policy statement should be updated to read as follows: “The Centennial School District recognizes the need for a standardized testing program that complies with state and federal laws.” Mrs. Lynch concurred.

Mr. Faust felt that the Section I.D. of the policy should be retained. Dr. Sexton indicated that it could be put back in as item B under the new Section I.

7.34 – Control of Blood-Borne Pathogens

Dr. Sexton stated that this was a new policy. There were previous discussions about communicable disease. The solicitor had indicated that we should have a stand-alone policy regarding blood-borne pathogens. A letter from Mr. Garton was included in the backup indicating that he still felt this was necessary.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked whether this was included in an in-service program for any employees who would be caring for children with these types of diseases. Dr. Sexton stated that we would ask our own nursing staff to help with this and bring someone in from the county if needed.

Mr. Faust indicated that under OSHA there was a mandated annual in-service of one hour that is required regarding blood-borne pathogens.

Mr. Faust pointed out that the policy states that latex or vinyl gloves are to be worn in certain circumstances; however, it should state “universal precautions”, which means anywhere that the bodily fluid could make contact should be protected, such as by the use of safety glasses, etc. He suggested that the policy should be changed to reflect this language. Dr. Sexton indicated that he would do so.

7.8 – Response to Disaster and Emergency

Dr. Sexton indicated that there was a Crisis Response Plan that was referred to in this policy but that was not included as an attachment since it was too large. However, each building has a copy of the plan, as well as a crisis response team.

Mr. Faust wondered whether the policy should state that the Crisis Response Plan should be reviewed periodically by the appropriate person or committee.

Dr. Sexton explained that they had spent the past eight months reviewing the plan page by page and that there was a lot of input. Mr. Faust stated that he would like to see this put on a cycle. Dr. Sexton indicated that he would do so.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that the plan be reviewed either on a certain cyclical basis or as needed.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that there was an article in the paper regarding the situation in the District and that the reporter mentioned that there was only one representative for Ivyland. Mrs. Brzezinski indicated that this was a misquote since there were three Board members who represented Ivyland.

Mrs. Brzezinski also stated that she would appreciate if everyone would read the Log College newspaper. There was an article in it by a student who would be an intern in London.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Preliminary and Final Approval of the WTHS Key Club Trip to Hershey, PA

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary and final approval for the WTHS Key Club Convention trip to Hershey, PA on March 4-6, 2005. The cost to the District is for transportation provided by the District and \$852.00 for chaperones' expenses.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the backup indicated that the Key Club was unable to provide the transportation cost. Also, she questioned why there were three chaperones for nine students.

Karen Adams, the Key Club advisor, explained that there was a communication glitch regarding the cost. She and Mrs. Martin were the Key Club Advisors. Mr. Martin is a male chaperone because there will be four males going on the trip. The Kiwanis usually supplements members' dues and part of the trip. However, since there were many more members this year than normal, the Kiwanis supplemented more dues, so there was less for the trip.

The motion passed 8-0. (Mrs. Baranski was out of the room at the time of the vote.)

2. Preliminary Approval of the WTHS FBLA Trip to Champion, PA

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for the WTHS Future Business Leaders of America trip to Champion, PA on April 13-15, 2005. The cost to the District is \$5,938.48. An exception to Board Policy 3.29, District Financial Support for Student Trips to Competitive Events, which provides for a maximum of \$5,000, is requested.

Mrs. Jankowsky reminded the Board that when it creates exceptions, it is hard to close that door.

Mrs. Huf questioned whether the District usually picked up this cost. The advisor responded that it did and explained that there were 16 students and two advisors going on the trip. Part of the cost would be reimbursed because we would be sharing a bus with other school districts. Also, two of the students that we thought were going are not going. The new figure would be approximately \$4,728.

Discussion ensued as to whether this trip should be supplemented. Mr. Faust stated that is the price was under \$5,000 and no exception was needed, then he did not have a problem with this. Mrs. Mueller indicated that she had no problem with supporting this since it was under the \$5,000. Mrs. Jankowsky agreed.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested Administration that when information changed from the backup provided to the Board, that they be provided with updated information.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Grossi to amend the motion by deleting the second sentence and replacing it with the following: "The cost to the District will not exceed \$5,000."

The motion to amend passed 9-0.

The amended motion passed 9-0.

3. Approval of the Agreement between Delaware Valley High School and the District

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Program Placement Agreement between Delaware Valley High School and the Centennial School District for one year from the date of approval at a cost to the District per term of \$6,572.70 per seat and a \$1,000.00 Special Education Payment for each special education student.

In response to a question by Mr. Faust, it was clarified that this had been reviewed by the solicitor.

Mrs. Mueller asked if there were other alternatives looked at, or if this was the only option. Mrs. Homel responded that this added to the options that we already had since there were already contracts with other providers. This will provide our students with more options.

Mrs. Jankowsky questioned the phrase "per term." It was pointed out that in the Agreement the word "term" was defined as one school year.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked whether the cost for a special education student would be \$6,572.70 plus \$1,000.00. Mrs. Homel confirmed that it would.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she thought the motion should state “per year” rather than “per term.”

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Permission to Accept Competitive Grant for 2004-2005

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants permission to accept a competitive grant for the 2004-2005 school year in the amount indicated: “Be Safe and Sound” Violence Prevention Mini-Grant in the amount of \$10,000.

The motion passed 9-0.

5. Permission to Apply for Competitive Grant for 2005-2006

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board apply for a competitive grant for the 2005-2006 school year in the amount indicated: Pennsylvania Council on the Arts in the amount of \$1,510.00.

The motion passed 9-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following personnel recommendations: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Mentors; Title I Tutors; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; and Co-Curricular; and accepts Award of Tenure.

Mrs. Brzezinski indicated that there was someone from her neighborhood on the list and she wasn't sure what to do. Mrs. Lynch stated that she could abstain if she felt it necessary.

Mr. Faust questioned granting a sabbatical that dated back almost a month. He thought this should have been done ahead of time. Mrs. Rollo explained that this was a sabbatical for restoration of health so it was not subject to the normal guidelines regarding notice.

The motion passed 9-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mrs. Mueller asked for the status on the timetable for the feasibility study, as to when it would be coming before the Board as an agenda item. Mrs. Lynch replied that she would like everyone to think this over in March and have it put on the agenda in April, if that was acceptable to the Board. Mrs. Mueller expressed her concern about the roof since that was one of the capital expenditures that would be under discussion for the budget.

Mr. Faust explained that whatever timetable is chosen, they needed to look at how to afford this. They have to obtain numbers for the bond issue, etc. before he would be comfortable putting this before the Board. He felt there was some other background work that must be done besides the feasibility plan so that information could be put before the Board at the same time. He felt they needed to speak to Mr. Vail and the financial consultants to see how long it would take them to put this information together.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt this should go to the Finance Committee to generate some numbers. Mr. Faust indicated that they could discuss this at Finance and bring it back to the Board.

Mrs. Lynch indicated that she would like to know how much money had been put into the high school over the years.

Mr. Grossi felt that there needed to be a long-term (5-year) review plan.

Mrs. Brzezinski felt that we should find out from the Pennsylvania Department of Education how many children we would be getting in the future, rather than relying on the architect's numbers.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she was also bringing this up because of the suggestion of opening another exit/entrance. This matter was also addressed by the architects under options 2 and 3.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she did not understand the big rush on this since it had been that way for years.

[Mrs. Brzezinski left the meeting at this point.]

Mrs. Huf stated that at this point none of the three options caught her interest. She would like to see in priority order what needed to be done for the safety of the kids.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she hoped that there wouldn't have to be an accident before this was made a priority.

Mrs. Gold indicated that she would like to see more information and discuss this matter in April.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that there have been systemic changes that have impacted on the transportation at all levels, including more parents picking up their children and more students driving. He felt this did need to be discussed and should be part of a long-term plan.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that a couple of the issues pointed out indicated to her that there should be action taken on this, whether or not the Board approves any of the options presented. She did feel that the Board needed to address the issue of traffic circulation at the high school. She also felt the roof needed to be considered.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Gold to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. [Mrs. Brzezinski had left the meeting.] The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary