

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD MARCH 22, 2005
(Rescheduled from March 8, 2005)**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on March 22, 2005, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Huf at 7:05 p.m. The following people were in attendance:

Board Members:

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

[Mrs. Lynch absent.]

CEA/Teachers:

Jennifer John
Brian Bassler
Al Catarro
Shawn Wirtshafter
Robert Mulville
Andy Mahoney
Mary Ellen Donnelly
Joanne Fabian
Jenna Strenger
William Hentz
Jessica Tomlinson

Administration:

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

Audrey Dalton
Debbie Freedman
Joy Swiniuch
Bernard Miller
Judy Hoffman
Karen DeMario
Lee Speiser
Bob Cassidy
John Fafara
Joe O'Connor

Public:

Becky MacInnes
Meg Ferry
Michael Monaghan
Patricia Tompkins

Rita Hennessey
Elizabeth Cass
Annette Baird
Elizabeth Whelan
Linda Greenberg

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Mueller commended Klinger's production of "The Secret Garden", stating that it was a wonderful, high quality production with a full pit orchestra.

Mrs. Huf stated that Mrs. Lynch was absent due to personal business.

Mrs. Jankowsky concurred with Mrs. Mueller's comments regarding "The Secret Garden". She specially thanked Tyrone Dinkins, who helped by securing a play that would be appropriate for middle school. She felt that it was delightful.

Mrs. Jankowsky also reported on the following:

- On February 26th Mr. Lasher gave several Board members a tour of the facilities.
- Mrs. Jankowsky thanked the staff at McDonald for celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday.
- On March 9-11 Tennent students competed in the 40th Annual Black & White Night.
- A committee is planning a celebration for Stackpole's 40th anniversary for 2005-2006.
- Thirty-one students achieved either first, second or third place or Honorable Mention in the Science Fair held in Bucks County. Mrs. Jankowsky commended everyone involved.

PRESENTATIONS

Fifth Grade Team from Stackpole

Pearline Greene introduced some of the teachers from Stackpole who helped with the "Big 6" program. George Fischer, the librarian from Stackpole, explained the procedure, indicating that the students each picked a First Lady to study.

Three students from Stackpole, Sarah Brog, Jill Rank and Lauren Castle, spoke about the women they studied for their project.

Mr. Fischer thanked everyone involved and indicated that the Big 6 was a wonderful program.

GOOD NEWS

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

Mrs. Jankowsky commended the Davis School second grade team for their fantastic celebration of St. Patrick's Day, with a 30-minute production of "Seamus."

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Mr. Grossi, as a community member, stated that the previous week the governor had criticized and insulted every school director. The governor suggested that school directors were misrepresenting Act 72 and that they hadn't read the Act. He was not sure the governor was aware of the seminars that school directors had attended. The governor also stated that it didn't matter what school directors think, the legislature will get their way with the Act in spite of any input that School Directors may have.

Mr. Grossi spoke about the new challenges School Board members face and indicated that the governor had passed a law and not been able to get the cooperation of the legislature to come out with a good tax reform act. He indicated that he had no problem with the issue of helping Philadelphia and those that are less fortunate to level the playing field, but he did not feel that the School Board Directors should be picked on.

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

Mr. Klenk reported on the following items:

- Three competitors from Tennent received first place prizes at a Science Fair competition held by the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science.
- Last month the Juniors took the PSSA writing test.
- Black & White Night was a great success.
- The Spring Dance was approaching.
- The Spring Musical would be a musical revue covering 50 years of Tennent musicals.

Mr. Klenk also reported on the records of the various sports teams.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Sellers reported on the following items at MBIT:

- The first place winners from the Skills USA competition would be going to the state competitions on April 4-6.
- The spring formal would take place on March 18.
- The school salon and restaurant were open for business.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

No report.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Gold reported that at its meeting on March 7th the Education Committee continued to discuss the curriculum initiative and would continue to do so.

Regarding the strategic planning process, Mrs. Jankowsky noted that the goal areas had been selected (citizenship, college career counseling and achieving academic standards), and that two of the three would qualify under the Middle States process. She assumed that achieving the academic standards would be based on the PSSA data, which Mrs. Gold confirmed. Mrs. Jankowsky asked what assessment instrument would be used to determine whether or not citizenship had been improved. Mrs. Gold explained that they did not look to see if it had improved. They looked to see how they were going to continue and how to resolve problems that arose.

Mrs. Gold indicated that as of April 18th the AFT Committee would be visiting the schools for four days.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested more information when it was available.

Dr. Masko indicated that the AFG plans would be the central topic of the Education Committee's discussion on April 4th and that information would be distributed prior to that time.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Faust reported on the following matters from the meeting held on March 14th:

- There was a presentation of all Skills USA winners.
- There was recognition of the HOSA program.
- There was a presentation from Dr. Irwin of the proposed budget.
- A presentation was made on the proposed practical environmental landscape program. They are suggesting developing a new curriculum area. The Board approved the planning process for this.
- The Little Partners Day Care program was reviewed and the tuition schedule set, as recommended by Administration.
- Act 72 was discussed.

Mr. Grossi indicated that he would like to know the scheduled increase and bonuses for Administration at Middle Bucks. He also felt the capital side of the budget needed to be dealt with.

Intermediate Unit

Mrs. Brzezinski reported as follows:

- An Act 72 forum would be held at the I.U. on March 30th. She encouraged everyone to attend.
- Regular meetings would be held on April 19th and May 18th.
- A presentation was made with the students' art.
- Ballots for the election of members to the I.U. were outstanding. She asked Board members to return them.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Faust reported that the Finance Committee had held two meetings. There were two items on the agenda for this meeting: an Agreement with Red Cross and the I.U. budget. The Finance Committee discussed the salary for the new term of the Board Secretary as well as the lift bids. They also started work on the budget, with roughly a \$7.7 million shortfall. The previous evening they reviewed the revenue side of the budget and looked at the projected fund balance and early retirements, as well as listening to new staffing requests from Administration. They decided to move \$2.4 million from the fund balance into the budget to cover capital projects, which is something that is normally done. The current projected shortfall after these adjustments was \$3 million.

Mr. Faust indicated that there was an upcoming meeting with Berkheimer to discuss taxes they collect for the District. He also indicated that we usually get District auditors on a three-year cycle. Three different responses were received for auditors for the next few years. These three auditors would be interviewed at the April 6th meeting.

Mr. Faust stated that the Committee would start looking at the long range plan on April 18th and would probably want to set up another meeting to discuss expenditures. Staffing would probably come before the Committee in either late April or early May.

Title VIII

Mr. Faust explained that for this year and possibly next year the District was receiving a special earmark for educating students on federal property (about \$500,000.) However, it did not get appropriated this year and may not get appropriated next year.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

Citizens Policy

Mrs. Baranski reported that the Committee had met on March 15th and reviewed Policy 3.1 – Drugs and Alcohol and Policy 5.12 – Planning for Instruction.

Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Mueller reported that on March 6th and 7th she attended the PSBA Legislative Council in Hershey, which was devoted almost entirely to Act 72. She felt that the most interesting part was hearing from people from other states that have referendums – they had nothing positive to say. The overwhelming amount of school districts from Lancaster are opting out. They discussed the fact that this was not tax relief, but a tax shift, and talked about the unfunded costs that would be involved in doing this. The costs will far outweigh the tax relief the District would get.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that the Superintendent's focus would change to salesperson to sell the community on why we have to get a referendum through. She suggested that we start getting this on the agenda for discussion.

Mrs. Huf stated that she felt this had been poorly written and poorly defined. We are at a great disadvantage that we still can't get a firm clarification on some of the language in the law. She felt that to have to sell a budget to the community was a real waste of time. She felt that attending the I.U. meeting on March 30th would be helpful since there would be people attending from other states who had dealt with this first-hand.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that it would not be only the Superintendent who would be involved in convincing people that what we do for their children and this community is vital to the well-being of the asset value in homes, as well as educating the children.

Mrs. Mueller felt that Board members would be donating many more hours to this also.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she felt that the governor and the legislature should go back and review this law since it was not well written and was hard to understand.

Mr. Faust indicated that it was his understanding that Mrs. Lynch had this scheduled for a Finance Committee meeting first. Mrs. Mueller requested that this be placed on the Board agenda for a Work Session.

Mr. Grossi stated that the Board needed to make a decision before there could be any long-range planning. Mrs. Huf encouraged Board members to submit their questions to Mr. Blatt so that additional information could be obtained.

Mrs. Mueller requested that this matter be placed on the Finance Committee agenda; then on the agenda for the Work Session in April.

MINUTES

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

- *Special Board Meeting – 2/7/05*

- *Regular School Board Meeting – 2/8/05*

Mrs. Baranski requested that the motion be separated.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of February 7, 2005.

Mrs. Baranski stated that she found some things in the Minutes that were not very true so she would be opposing them. Mr. Faust indicated that while he might not agree with everything that was said at the meeting, he felt the Minutes were accurate. He indicated that his concern was that this was the first time he had seen a newspaper article attached to the Minutes. Since Mrs. Jankowsky read a verbatim statement, he felt it was okay for that to be attached to the Minutes. However, since the newspaper article was not read in its entirety, Mr. Faust felt that it should not be attached to the Minutes.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that the request that the article not be included should have been made at the time she requested that it be included. She asked if Mr. Faust was saying that if a Board member wanted something included with the Minutes it would have to be read into the Minutes in its entirety.

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that no one objected at the time of the meeting when the request was made.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Gold to amend the Minutes by deleting the newspaper article.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the author of this article was someone whom Board members had recently praised.

Mr. Faust stated that he was not objecting to the article, but was objecting to it being included in the Minutes.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that there had never been an article included in the Minutes and that the article was incorrect.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to amend, 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. Jankowsky</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Gold</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Faust</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion to amend passed 5-3.

Mrs. Jankowsky commented that if the Board was changing the rules for what could be included in the Minutes, then the policy should be amended.

Mr. Grossi stated that there had been many documents included in the Minutes over the last 30 years. If there was an objection to the article being included, it should have been made at the time the request was made.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if this meant that all backup documents would have to be read word-for-word.

Mrs. Mueller stated that when you are specifying this way, you are trampling over healthy discussions and freedom of speech. This was just a reflection of what happened at that meeting.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the Board was saying that the policy had been changed so that when a Board member requests that a newspaper article be included, it must be read entirely into the Minutes.

Mrs. Huf stated that no policy was changed; they just voted to remove this article. She indicated that she would get a legal opinion if Mrs. Jankowsky would like one but for now the article was removed from the Minutes. Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she did not want a legal opinion. Mrs. Mueller stated that she hoped that we would not spend money on a legal opinion for frivolous reasons.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that he had made a written request to the Chair indicating that he could not attend the meeting because of a previous engagement. He had requested that the meeting be changed to the next night so that he could attend but that request was not honored. He requested that the Minutes of February 7th be amended to reflect this fact. Mrs. Mueller pointed out that this was reflected on page 139 of the Minutes.

The amended motion failed 3-5. (Mrs. Brzezinski, Mrs. Jankowsky, Mrs. Mueller, Mr. Grossi and Mrs. Baranski opposed.)

Dr. Sexton stated that it appeared that there were no Minutes for the February 7th meeting and asked for direction from the Board. Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that this could be a legal issue when the Minutes were audited. Mrs. Huf indicated that the Minutes should be brought back at the next meeting, without the newspaper article attached.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of February 8, 2005.

The motion passed 8-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Initial Distribution and Discussion:

Dr. Sexton explained that the policies included under Initial Distribution in the packet originally distributed for the March 8th meeting were now on this agenda for discussion.

4.5 – Cafeterias

Mrs. Jankowsky questioned if the three-hour interval between breakfast and lunch specified in Section I. A. 4. was required by law. Dr. Sexton indicated that it was his understanding that it was controlled by legislation.

Mrs. Mueller asked if the phrase “when possible” gave an out in the event of a situation such as an early dismissal. Dr. Sexton confirmed that that was the case.

Regarding the statement in item #6 of Attachment A that referred to a 5% discount for students placing \$35 on an account at one time, Mrs. Mueller questioned how families would know this. Dr. Sexton indicated that he believed it was communicated by the Food Services Department.

Mr. Vail explained that the proposal was made to do this as an incentive to parents to prepay. This is going forward as an offer in the future.

5.11 – Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs

Mrs. Jankowsky asked for an explanation of the phrase “on the advice of solicitor” indicated on the cover page of the policy. Dr. Sexton explained that this policy came through the normal cycle and that the solicitor cautioned that the only language he would add would be a statement that we would adhere to the law.

7.12 – Home Education

Dr. Sexton indicated that this policy was coming through as part of the normal cycle and that it had been reviewed by the solicitor.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that the original policy had a lot of oversight that was provided by the District to people that were home schooling their children. She asked if there was anything left of that.

Dr. Sexton responded that the District would still collect the portfolios. The solicitor felt that all of the language should be removed because he felt the law would be changing significantly.

Final Approval:

5.3 – Standardized Testing Program

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Gold to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 5.3 – Standardized Testing Program.

Dr. Sexton indicated that all previous comments from Board members had been incorporated into the policy.

The motion passed 8-0.

7.34 – Control of Blood Borne Pathogens

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Gold to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.34 – Control of Blood Borne Pathogens.

The motion passed 8-0.

7.8 – Response to Disaster and Emergency

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.8 – Response to Disaster and Emergency.

The motion passed 8-0.

FINANCIAL

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the:

- *Schedule of Bills – February 2005*
- *Investments – February 2005*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – February 2005*

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – February 2005*
- *Budgetary Transfers – March 2005*

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the Cafeteria Fund seemed pretty impressive and asked if that was actually the case. Mr. Vail stated that it was. The goal was to get the Cafeteria Fund healthy enough to replace equipment without affecting the General Fund.

The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Final Approval of Policy 3.28 – Student Health Services

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to remove this item from the table.

The motion passed 8-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Mueller that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 3.28 – Student Health Services.

The motion passed 8-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Final Approval of the WTHS FBLA Trip to the State Competition

A motion was made by Mrs. Gold and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval for William Tennent High School Future Business Leaders of America trip to Champion, Pennsylvania – April 13-15, 2005. The cost to the District is \$5,427.80.

The motion passed 8-0.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that Items 6 through 10 of New Business were actually items that should have been handled at the Work Session on March 8, 2005, which was canceled due to inclement weather. Therefore, if the Board did not have enough information, they could delay these items until the next meeting.

2. Permission to Apply for Competitive Grant – HP Technology for Teaching Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to apply for the following competitive grant for the 2005-2006 school year in the amount indicated:

<i>HP Technology for Teaching Grant</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>
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The motion passed 8-0.

3. Permission to Apply for Competitive Grant – PA Council on the Arts

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to apply for the following competitive grant for the 2005-2006 school year in the amount indicated:

*Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
Artist in Residency Program for
Leary Elementary School* *\$1,500*

The motion passed 8-0.

4. Replace Lifts Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board hereby approves the Replace Lifts Bid No. 2005-2006 be awarded to Triple “B” Equipment Inc. at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$49,750.00. This is a capital reserve fund expenditure.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she had a taxpayer call her regarding this. He was a mechanic and felt that lifts were for lazy mechanics. Mrs. Mueller questioned why the lifts were needed.

Mr. Vail responded that, practically speaking, it was not efficient for the mechanics to be lying on their backs on a dolly to work on full-size buses.

Mr. Grossi indicated that lifts were quicker and more cost-effective.

The motion passed 8-0.

4A. Concrete Removal and Installation and Electrical Work for Lift Installation

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board hereby approves the expenditure of \$10,000 for concrete removal and installation and electrical work necessary for the lift installation at the bus garage. This is a capital reserve fund expenditure.

The motion passed 8-0.

5. Emergency Generator Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board hereby approves the Emergency Generator Bid No. 2005-05 be awarded to Cummins Power Systems Inc. at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$13,300.00. This is a capital reserve fund expenditure.

Mr. Faust asked if this was coming out of this year’s capital reserve or being pre-approved for next year. Mr. Vail indicated that it would come out of the 2005-2006 budget.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked that this qualifying language be added to future motions for clarification.

The motion passed 8-0.

6. District Calendar 2005-2006

A motion was made by Mrs. Gold and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Centennial School District calendar for the 2005-2006 school year.

Mrs. Mueller was concerned that the first five snow days were tacked on to the end of the year. Dr. Sexton explained that in order to end by June 16th, they had to make a number of changes to the calendar. In order to put snow days within the year, they would have to cancel other things, such as parent/teacher conferences or holidays.

Mrs. Mueller asked if they had looked at starting before Labor Day. Dr. Sexton indicated that there were contractual implications to that.

Mr. Faust asked if we reviewed our calendar with MBIT's. Dr. Sexton did not think so.

The motion passed 8-0.

7. Conferences 2005-2006

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the conference requests for 2005-2006 in the amount of \$23,025.00.

The motion passed 8-0.

8. Appoint Board Secretary

Mr. Faust pointed out that this was a Work Session issue. The Board Secretary, by School Code, is appointed for a four-year term. The current term would expire in May. He indicated that they looked at what the other employee groups were averaging for increases and were putting this item forward to the Board recommending that they reappoint the Board Secretary with 3.5% annual increases.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board reappoints Vickie A. Detwiler as Secretary to the Board for 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 as per the following compensation schedule:

2005-2006	\$5,056	3.5%
2006-2007	\$5,233	3.5%
2007-2008	\$5,416	3.5%
2008-2009	\$5,606	3.5%

Be it further resolved that duties and responsibilities for the position of Board Secretary are as per the attached position description.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that Mrs. Detwiler has done and continues to do an absolutely outstanding job and that it was appreciated.

Mrs. Mueller was appreciative that Mrs. Detwiler was never absent.

Mrs. Brzezinski also commended Mrs. Detwiler for doing a wonderful job.

The motion passed 8-0.

9. Use of Facilities Agreement – American Red Cross, Lower Bucks County Chapter

A motion was made by Mrs. Gold and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the attached agreement with American Red Cross, Lower Bucks County Chapter in compliance with their request for a formal agreement for use of certain District buildings in the event of an emergency.

The motion passed 8-0.

10. Approval of 2005-2006 Program & Services and Instructional Materials and Research Services Budgets for Bucks County I.U.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the 2005-2006 Programs & Services and Instructional Materials and Research Services Budgets for the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 in the amount of \$1,858,800. Centennial School District's share to be \$72,668.00.

Mrs. Brzezinski indicated that there was no increase in Centennial's share for next year.

Mr. Grossi stated that he planned to vote against this because it was balanced on deficit spending. He believed this budget should be self-sufficient.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that no one mentioned to Dr. Coe that they weren't okay with this. Mr. Grossi responded that Dr. Coe understood his objection. Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she had expressed her objections as well.

The motion passed 7-1. (Mr. Grossi opposed.)

OLD BUSINESS (Continued)

Mrs. Jankowsky asked that the motion be redone for Policy 3.28 so that there would be continuity in the Minutes and so that the record would be clear.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves a motion to reconsider the question postponed at the February 8, 2005 School Board Meeting regarding final approval of Policy 3.28 – Student Health Services.

The motion passed 7-0. (Mrs. Mueller was out of the room.)

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Terminations/Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Change of Status; Homebound Tutors; Mentors; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Support Staff Substitutes; Substitute Bus Drivers and Driver Trainees; and Co-Curricular.

Mrs. Brzezinski indicated that she would abstain because she had questions about some of these items.

The motion passed 6-0-1. (Mrs. Brzezinski abstained; Mrs. Mueller was out of the room.)

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Jankowsky read the text of an e-mail letter she had sent to Mrs. Huf, which she requested be entered into the minutes verbatim, as follows:

“Re: Early Contract Negotiations, Agenda Item for March 22, 2005

“Dear Betty,

“In response to your email communication regarding delaying discussion on early contract negotiations with the Centennial Education Association until mid-April, I offer the following thoughts.

“I would concur with the reasoning of your request if several members of the board did not plan to attend the meeting on March 22, 2005. However, to my knowledge all but one member will be in attendance for the meeting.

“With Act 72 waiting in the wings to be addressed, I believe that it is in the best interest of the District to have discussion on the merit, or lack of merit, of entering into discussions with the teachers’ association for the purpose of negotiating an early contract.

“At the March 7 meeting of the Finance Committee, board members for [the] first time in fifteen months seemed to be on the same page regarding the need for a long-range fiscal plan to address the deficit spending of recent budgets.

“If the board were genuinely interested in long-range fiscal planning, the board would need to know what the labor and fringe benefits costs will be over the next several years. These two factors alone account for nearly 80% of the budget and therefore are critical variables in any planning process.

“It is my opinion that unless serious consideration is given to implementing considerable cost cutting measures in the District’s operation, the fiscal foundation of the District will be compromised, especially under Act 72. In order to work our way out of this deficit spending cycle, we will need the cooperation of the bargaining unit.

“Early contract discussions could provide an environment of cooperation to achieve these measures. I recognize that there may be other factors that would influence the decision to entertain early contract discussions and I welcome the opportunity to discuss them.

“For these reasons, I have requested that this item be placed on the agenda for the March 22, 2005 meeting.

“Respectfully,

“Joan

“Cc: CSB Members and Mr. Blatt”

Mrs. Huf stated that she was opposed to the e-mail being entered since she had not received it. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that Mrs. Huf did not have control over what a Board member could enter or not enter into the minutes.

Mrs. Baranski felt that one of Mrs. Jankowsky’s statements was incorrect in that she had e-mailed Mr. Blatt on March 15th, indicating that she would not be able to attend because she had a doctor’s appointment.

Mr. Faust stated that he also contacted Mrs. Huf, indicating that he would be lucky to make it by 7:00 due to some doctor’s appointments for his daughter, who would be having surgery the following week.

Mrs. Huf stated that that was the reason she asked that the Executive Session be canceled since there would not be a quorum or a full Board to make the discussion. She was opposed to the next discussion being held in public since she had no idea what was being discussed and it had not been shared with the Board.

Mrs. Baranski felt it was very imprudent for this to be discussed at this time since the Board had not discussed it yet. She always thought personnel and labor issues were to be discussed in Executive Session first.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that this was not a personnel issue. It was a concept of whether or not to enter into contract negotiations. Although the Sunshine Law permits the Board to discuss the possibility of contract negotiations in Executive Session, it does not require the Board to do so. She also pointed out that an Executive Session was held the previous evening after the Finance Committee meeting and there were only six Board members in attendance. Also, she felt that if there was a problem holding an Executive Session before the meeting, it could have been held after the meeting. She also felt that the purpose would be to discuss whether or not to enter into early bird discussions. Details would not have to be discussed at this time.

Mrs. Huf felt that the whole Board should be present for such discussion.

Mr. Faust pointed out that the previous evening's Executive Session was an Executive Session of the Finance Committee, not of the School Board.

Mrs. Mueller expressed concern that an Executive Session could not be held after this meeting. She did not see why the Board could not discuss in sunshine the possibility of early negotiations since there would be no specifics discussed. She felt it was appropriate to start looking at this and that the Board needed to start looking long range.

Mrs. Baranski felt that since there would be a full Board the following week, one week would not make a difference and would be more efficient.

Mrs. Gold agreed with Mrs. Baranski and did not understand the reason for the rush. She felt there were a lot of things to be discussed first. She indicated her desire to see this tabled for at least another week.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she thought Executive Sessions were for the entire Board, not just for the Finance Committee, and that an Executive Session could have been added at the end of this meeting.

Mr. Faust responded that the Finance Committee had Executive Sessions when they were working on the budget and staffing issues.

Mrs. Baranski indicated that there was another meeting on March 30th at the I.U. regarding Act 72. She felt that some questions could be answered there and then a discussion held by the full Board on March 31st at an Executive Session.

Mr. Grossi felt this was a simple question – whether or not the Board wanted to consider talking to the union about an early bird. He felt that an Executive Session was not necessary to answer this question.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

None.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Brzezinski and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary