

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD APRIL 12, 2005**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on April 12, 2005, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Lynch at 7:50 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

Administration:

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

CEA/Teachers:

Joe O'Connor
Andy Mahony
Jaimie Cameron
Donna Harkins
Rena Friedant
Shannon Fitzpatrick
Lisa Stecklein
Jane Drebes
Judy Hoffman

Public:

Kate Marshall
Karen Drew
Brynn Wehmeyer
Joe Simpson
Marianne Chisesi
Linda Greenberg

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Lynch thanked Mrs. Huf for doing a good job while she was gone.

Mrs. Gold announced that the previous weekend she had attended “Once Upon a Musical” at Tennent and that the students did a fabulous job.

Mrs. Baranski suggested that the flyers for such events be sent out a week before so that Board members could plan ahead to attend. Mrs. Brzezinski agreed. Mrs. Mueller pointed out that it was listed on the school calendar.

PRESENTATIONS

Award of Excellence for 2004-2005 School District Calendar

Mr. Blatt explained that the school calendar was evaluated by the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association and that he was pleased to present a plaque for the Excellence in Communications Award for the 2004-2005 school calendar. Mr. Blatt recognized the good job of Bob Schrader and Donna Mooney in producing the calendar. Mrs. Lynch accepted the plaque on their behalf since they were unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments.

Presentation to Timothy Vail from the PA Association of School Business Officials

Mr. Blatt stated that he was recently informed by the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials of an award to be presented to Tim Vail in a public session. Mr. Blatt explained the qualifications necessary to receive such an award and spoke about Mr. Vail’s experience and accomplishments.

Mrs. Lynch presented a plaque to Mr. Vail.

GOOD NEWS

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Linda Greenberg of 196 Hogeland Road, Southampton, stated that she represented herself as a parent and community member and indicated that her son attended Tennent. She felt there was a need for resolution regarding a class withdrawal at Tennent and indicated that she had communicated with several school administrators as well as Board members. She explained that within a few weeks into the second semester it was determined that a student had been placed in a class in which it was perceived that he was not likely to be successful, so the student, teacher and parent decided that he would be better off in a different class. A decision was made to allow the student to withdraw from the class, but no viable alternative option was offered. The student chose to audit the class with a withdrawal grade. The issue at hand was what reason would be given to explain the withdrawal. It was proposed that because he was struggling in the class, he should be marked as withdrawn for the reason of failing. She suggested that the more appropriate commentary would be a withdrawal due to incompleteness since no grades had come in at that point. Ms. Greenberg stated that she wanted it to be on the record that efforts were made

to resolve this issue prior to grades being submitted, which, according to the school calendar, would occur the next day.

Mr. Blatt stated that no decision had been made yet but that he was in the process of reviewing information and Board member comments. He indicated that a response would be forthcoming in the next day or so.

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

No report.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Blatt recognized members of the teaching staff for their good work and efforts on the students' behalf in the Science Fair and experiences for students outside the traditional classroom program. He spoke about some of the students' accomplishments and how far the Science program had come in the last few years.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that it was under the leadership of Fred Prout that these initiatives got started and took off. She expressed her appreciation.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Gold reported that the Education Committee had met on April 4th. The main topic of discussion was AFG. The team would be meeting the next week to review this and would be speaking to teachers, administrators and members of the planning team.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf reported that at the MBIT meeting students from the National Technical Honor Society were recognized. Also, the feasibility study was discussed and more information would be forthcoming.

Mr. Faust noted that one of the major points was that the Executive Council approved the budget to be sent out to the sending districts.

Mrs. Huf indicated that Central Bucks was requesting permission to store buses at the back of the building at MBIT; however, this was tabled.

Mr. Faust indicated that the summer school option was discussed. Central Bucks, Council Rock and Centennial will be participating in this program.

Mr. Grossi asked about the cost of the feasibility study. Mrs. Huf indicated that she would get that information.

Also discussed was the energy cost at the building and the cost of updating it. Mr. Grossi indicated that he thought this was all part of the study, not a separate energy study. Mr. Faust indicated that the electrical firm subcontracted the electrical work to another firm and that they would review this matter.

Mrs. Huf stated that more information would be available at the next meeting.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that clarification was needed as to what additional work would be needed in addition to the work already done in the feasibility study.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that there was a request for appraisal of the property at the front of the building that is currently being rented (the old farmhouse). This came in at \$657,000 to \$725,000.

Intermediate Unit

Mrs. Brzezinski requested that Board members review the February 25th issue of the *School Leader News* regarding SB146, which would amend the School Code with regard to academic assistance for school districts failing to meet AYP. The article indicates that PSBA generally supports SB146. However, in the March 18th issue of the *School Leader News* the association addressed two concerns about the legislation, specifically the possible dilution of the School Board's authority to appoint the members of the academic improvement team and the issue of flexibility to use resources from other intermediate units. She also felt there was a lot of grant money that the District could make use of, including upgrading buses to lessen pollution. She asked Board members to consider these issues.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Faust reported that the Finance Committee had held three meetings. They reviewed the revenue side of the budget, reviewed proposals and interviewed three auditing firms, received a presentation on the new sub finding system, and began to look at the expense side of the budget. The Committee also discussed a potential new contract with Tot Time.

Mr. Faust indicated that the next Finance Committee meeting would be held on April 18th, at which they would be looking at the long-range side of the budget.

Title VIII

No report.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

No report.

Citizens Policy

No report.

Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Mueller reported that there was a meeting at the I.U. regarding Act 72 but that she did not attend since she had already heard this at Hershey. She indicated that there was nothing new to report.

Mrs. Mueller explained that if we do get the revenue into the state and a homeowner sent in their application for exemption, they would be eligible for relief if the District opts into this. But there is much more involved. She noted that Centennial is one of the lowest in the county for what we would receive and that this would be more of a tax shift than tax relief. She felt it was important for the public to understand this. She spoke of some of the other ramifications and pointed out that you must look at the whole picture. She felt there were more downs than ups.

Mrs. Lynch noted that there would be a meeting in May to discuss this.

Mrs. Huf wanted to clarify that if the District opted in and increased earned income taxes by 1/10 of 1%, this money would stay in the District and could only be used for property tax relief. Mr. Grossi noted that there was a good article in the Courier regarding this.

Mr. Faust indicated that PSBA had developed what the ratio would have been for the last 7-8 years. Mr. Vail had started to develop some information for the Finance Committee indicating what this would have done for the District during that period. This information would be available soon.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that she would like to have this information in a Friday packet as soon as it is available so that the Board would have time to review it before any meeting was held.

Mr. Grossi stated that he would like to know how many years our special education costs increased by less than 10%. He also would like information on the other exceptions, such as health care costs, retirement, etc., and would like the comparison for each budget year.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she would like to see the dollar amount for the increase in special education, as well as the increases in transportation, healthcare per year and retirement. The purpose for this was because they were fixed costs that the Board had no control over.

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 Work Session/Regular School Board Meeting of February 22, 2005.

The motion passed 9-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Initial Distribution:

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

- 3.3 – Clubs and Co-Curricular Activities
- 4.3 – Playground/Physical Equipment/Athletic Equipment
- 5.12 – Planning for Instruction

Final Approval:

Dr. Sexton stated that all changes had been made per the Board's discussion on all three policies that followed.

4.5 – Cafeterias

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Gold to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 4.5 – Cafeterias.

The motion passed 9-0.

5.11 – Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 5.11 – Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs.

The motion passed 9-0.

7.12 – Home Education

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.12 – Home Education.

The motion passed 9-0.

FINANCIAL

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

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

and approves the:

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

The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes – Special Board Meeting of February 7, 2005

Mrs. Lynch pointed out the memo from Dr. Sexton included in the Board's packet as backup, which explained what occurred at the March 22, 2005 meeting in connection with the February 7th Minutes.

Mrs. Huf recapped what was discussed at the previous meeting.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Minutes of the Special Board meeting of February 7, 2005.

Mrs. Brzezinski wondered why the newspaper article could not be disposed of.

Dr. Sexton indicated that the Minutes were brought back as they were at the last meeting. If there was to be any change, it must be voted on by the Board.

Mrs. Mueller commented that the Minutes as they stood clearly reflected that evening's meeting and that Mrs. Jankowsky had requested that the article be entered into those Minutes. No one objected at the time of her request. Mrs. Mueller indicated that she had no objection to the Minutes as they stood because they clearly reflected what happened at that meeting.

Mr. Grossi stated that he understood that some people might be upset at the newspaper article but that it had been the right of any Board member to request something to be included in the

Minutes. He urged the Board to approve this and move on since the Board had more important matters to deal with.

Mrs. Huf indicated that she would be opposed to approving the Minutes with the article attached. She did not remember this ever being done before. She felt the Minutes speak for themselves without the article.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she believed that her request was in complete compliance with the policy, which states that the Minutes are not meant to be transcripts, however a Director may request that a statement on a specific issue be entered verbatim into the Minutes. This request must be made at the public meeting at the time of the remarks. She believed that she had complied with those aspects of the policy. She agreed with Mr. Grossi with the hope that the Board would move on from this issue.

Mr. Faust stated that he did not believe that a newspaper article was a statement made verbatim under the provisions of the policy. He believed that a Director's statement would be a verbatim statement. Since this newspaper article was not read into the record, he did not believe it was a statement to be copied verbatim.

The motion failed 3-6. (Mrs. Baranski, Mrs. Brzezinski, Mr. Faust, Mrs. Gold, Mrs. Huf, and Mrs. Lynch opposed.)

Mrs. Jankowsky questioned that since a newspaper article was not allowed to be put into the Minutes verbatim how this would apply to other items, such as contracts, etc., that are not read into the Minutes. She felt there were many other issues that needed to be clarified if that was the case.

Mrs. Brzezinski felt that the difference was that there was backup available to the Board at the time of a vote. Board members might not have a newspaper article.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to approve the Minutes of the meeting of February 7, 2005 without the article from the Public Spirit.

Mr. Grossi felt strongly that there was a request that he would honor with any Board member. He felt that if the Board was going to vote on this, then the article should be read into the Minutes – then it would be qualified.

Mrs. Lynch felt it was immature to keep voting on this time after time.

Mr. Grossi felt it was a point of order that the Board could not vote on this matter again at this meeting. Dr. Sexton indicated that the closest language he could find in the policy talked about postponing consideration of a question to the next meeting or a later date, which may be specified or unspecified. The matter may not be reconsidered at the same meeting.

Due to the above, Mrs. Huf and Mrs. Brzezinski withdrew the motion and second, respectively.

NEW BUSINESS1. Adjudication – Student 4-2

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Gold to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the Adjudication pertaining to Student 4-2. The School District Administration is directed to take the action necessary to effectuate the Adjudication and to properly serve the Adjudication on Student 4-2.

Mrs. Brzezinski, Mr. Grossi and Mrs. Huf each stated that although they were not present at the hearing, they had read the transcript and were prepared to vote.

The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mrs. Lynch abstained.)

2. Preliminary Approval for Student Science Fair Trip

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for the William Tennent High School Science Fair students trip to State College, PA, on May 15-17, 2005. The cost of the trip is estimated to be \$680.00.

Mr. Faust thanked Administration for addressing his concern.

The motion passed 9-0.

3. Approve On-Line Substitute Placement System

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Grossi to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves attached proposal to retain Frontline Placement Technologies of Malvern, PA to provide online services associated with the District's substitute placement system (AESOP) effective immediately. The retention of Placement Technologies is expressly approved with the understanding that the District's existing SubFinder system will be phased out over the remainder of the 2004-2005 school year at an annual operating savings of \$2,997.

Attached pricing reflects a \$2,000 Set-up and Implementation Fee to be paid in 2004-2005 and an estimated annual expense not to exceed \$6,175 per year commencing with the 2005-2006 school year. Price is subject to reduction by the vendor if additional Bucks County districts join the consortium of BCIU districts signing on for the service.

Mr. Vail explained that there would be a 5% prepayment discount if it was decided that we wish to do so. If the setup and implementation were successful, he saw no reason not to do so.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Amend Support Staff Compensation Plan

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Gold to resolve that the Centennial School Board amends the Support Staff Salary/Benefit Program and Personnel Practices Plan 2004-2007 to replace the existing employee classification of “Cafeteria Managers Class A-Middle School” with the new classification of “Cafeteria Managers Class A-Middle Schools/Multiple Buildings Elementary.” Compensation would remain as per the existing classification as outlined in the salary matrix attached to the Plan as Exhibit A.

The motion passed 8-0. (Mrs. Lynch was out of the room.)

5. Permission to Apply for a Competitive Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Gold 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:

Target Stores Community Giving Program Grant \$2,715.00

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she was at a meeting of the Area Agency on Aging, which indicated that there are a lot of pharmaceutical companies giving grants. She would like for the District to go out for these.

The motion passed 8-0. (Mrs. Lynch was out of the room.)

6. Facility Use Waiver

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board hereby approves the Facility Use Waiver Application for the following:

*Warminster Symphony Orchestra Sunday use of William Tennent’s auditorium on
May 8, 2005. There is no cost to the District.*

The motion passed 8-0. (Mrs. Lynch was out of the room.)

7. Delinquent Tax Collection Fees

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the attached resolution approving certain Delinquent Tax Collection Fees imposed by the District’s tax collection agency, Berkheimer Tax Administrator, in compliance with PA Act 192 of 2004.

The motion passed 8-0. (Mrs. Lynch was out of the room.)

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Mentor; Homebound Tutor; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; and Co-Curricular.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted the number of fine teachers who were leaving for early retirement. She stated that she was happy for them and wished them well but was sad for the children of the District. These people really contributed tremendous amounts of skill and caring to the children of the community.

Mr. Faust echoed Mrs. Jankowsky's comments. He felt it was definitely a tremendous loss to the District but that it was also an opportunity for the District. He was sad for the students who would not have the experience of being taught by these teachers.

Mrs. Mueller agreed with Mrs. Jankowsky and Mr. Faust. She pointed out that there were over 20 retirements at the high school and that we were losing such experienced people in such key departments. She hoped that because of this, we should try to get the most experienced people (even though they would be at the higher end of the pay scale) because there would be a serious void in certain curriculum areas.

Mr. Blatt indicated that a balance needed to be found between entry level and people that have tried and true experience. He spoke about some of the recruiting efforts that had been made to date and were continuing. He indicated that there had already been some interviews conducted.

Mrs. Huf stated that she agreed with the comments previously made. She calculated that there were about 1,100 years of teaching experience in the 40+ teachers who were retiring.

Mrs. Baranski wished the best to all of the retirees and hoped that they enjoyed their retirement.

Mr. Grossi felt that the talent we were losing was amazing but pointed out that there was a lot of young talent in the District so he felt we would adjust. He wished the retirees the best of luck and thanked them all.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she had personally spoken to a lot of teachers who went to school here and felt that we have a lot of young talent. She thanked the retirees for everything.

Mrs. Gold stated that there were many fine teachers just coming out of school who were doing an excellent job and felt they should be given a chance.

The motion passed 9-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Linda Greenberg of 196 Hogeland Road, Southampton, asked if the community had access to the names of the people who were leaving. Mr. Faust responded that it was now public information.

Ms. Greenberg stated that it was her understanding that many of the faculty were not prepared to teach AP classes. She encouraged that this be examined since it was extremely important since these students were the best and the brightest. She was concerned about how the District had been providing for the AP students.

Mr. Blatt indicated that he would not necessarily agree that the students who take the AP classes were the best and the brightest since taking these classes is an individual decision that the students and their families make. He did not feel that the conclusions people draw about AP students were always fair. What he did feel was true was that the District was losing a lot of good people and that a lot of them had been teaching AP classes. He indicated that he was confident that good people would be found within our ranks and that new people could step up to the challenge.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that at the February 22nd meeting she had asked that a timetable for the feasibility study be placed on the agenda. At that time, it was indicated that it would be on the agenda in April. She wanted clarification that it would be coming up. Mrs. Lynch indicated that it would.

Mrs. Mueller reminded the Board that she had also brought up looking into having more than one entrance/exit for Tennent. She hoped that this would also get addressed as part of the feasibility study.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she attended the March 31st PSBA seminar on Act 72 and that if Board members would like copies of the information distributed, it could be provided.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that several months ago she had asked that the cost of televising Board meetings be looked into. She indicated that she would like that information to be distributed and that it be placed on the agenda for the next Board Meeting.

Mr. Grossi reminded the Board that one item of unfinished business from the last meeting was the matter of early bird negotiations with teachers.

Mrs. Huf stated that she had indicated that she would like to have this discussed at an Executive Session first.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that the question was whether or not the Board wanted to enter into discussions with the union.

Mrs. Lynch did not see why this could not be brought up and asked Mr. Faust to find out how the union felt; then it could be put on the agenda.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the question was whether the Board wanted to authorize this. The labor committee needed authorization from the Board. She indicated that she would support meeting with the union and finding out if they were interested.

Mrs. Mueller stated that it was a simple yes or no question – the Board was not getting into details. Mrs. Huf stated that she was never aware that it was just a yes or no issue. She thought the Board would be discussing specifics. She indicated that she would not have a problem with authorizing this if that was what the Board wanted.

Mrs. Brzezinski left the meeting at 9:53 p.m.

It was agreed that the labor committee would pursue this question with the union.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Gold to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary