

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
HELD JUNE 14, 2005**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on June 14, 2005, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Lynch at 7:40 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  
Victor Lasher  
Dr. Michael Masko  
Jean Rollo  
Dr. Thomas Sexton  
Timothy Vail

[Mr. Faust and Mrs. Gold were absent.]

CEA/Teachers:

Public:

There was no sign-in sheet available from the meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Lynch announced the Board had agreed to do the Presentations portion of this meeting prior to holding the Budget Hearing. She also announced that Mr. Faust was absent from the meeting due to a death in his family and that Mrs. Gold was attending a graduation.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### Recognition of Fire Arts Festival Purchase Prize Winner – Leah LaGuardia

Dr. Masko spoke about the Fine Arts Festival and presented a check to the winner of the Purchase Prize, Leah LaGuardia, for her artwork entitled “Pots and Pans.” The artwork will be on permanent display in Room 16.

### Recognition of WTHS Boys’ Volleyball Team

Mr. Blatt introduced Lou Pacchioli, the Athletic Director, who introduced the coach of the Boys’ Volleyball Team. Mr. Pacchioli stated that he was impressed with the athletes this year and felt that they did a great job. He spoke about the team and the season, indicating that he was proud of them. He presented team members with plaques.

### Recognition of WTHS Girls’ Softball Team

Mr. Pacchioli introduced Desiree McKenzie, coach of the Girls’ Softball Team. Ms. McKenzie spoke about the season and the fact that the team finished third in the league. She introduced the team and the assistant coaches.

Mr. Blatt spoke about the fact that Ms. McKenzie had just been recognized as the Bucks County Softball Coach of the Year. Mr. Pacchioli stated that this was really an honor.

### Recognition of WTHS 4x100 Girls’ Relay Team

Mr. Pacchioli introduced Ted Abel, coach of the Girls’ Track Team. Mr. Abel stated that this team was among the best he has had the pleasure of coaching. He spoke about the team’s record and indicated that they placed third in the state championships. He introduced the team and presented each team member with a plaque.

Mr. Pacchioli then introduced Miss Spence, who spoke about a fundraiser being sponsored by the Girls’ Track Team for Ali Rule, one of their members who was injured in Florida. They are selling awareness bracelets to help defray her expenses.

Mr. Blatt spoke about the respect he has for Mr. Abel as a teacher, a coach and a human being.

### Recognition of Vietnam Veterans of America Volunteers at WTHS

Mr. Blatt spoke about the Vietnam Veterans and introduced Ed Austin. Mr. Austin spoke about Robert H. Smith, a student who died in Vietnam, and the importance of teaching students about this. He spoke about three gentlemen who help with this by speaking to the students. He then introduced Skip Schultz, Chairman of the Education Committee of the Vietnam Veterans Committee. Mr. Schultz introduced Ken Rose and Bill Severins, who also spoke briefly about some of the activities they are involved in.

Mr. Blatt presented the three gentlemen with certificates for their work. The three gentlemen, in turn, presented a certificate to Mr. Austin for his efforts.

Mrs. Lynch commended the parents, students and coaches for their hard work.

Mrs. Lynch called for a recess at 8:20 p.m. for the purpose of holding the Budget Hearing Meeting.

This meeting resumed at 8:54 p.m.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)**

Mrs. Mueller reported that she had attended the Senior Awards Night. She felt that it was wonderful to watch so many students achieve some of the highest awards. She wished the Class of 2005 well and thanked the staff and administrators.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she had the pleasure of going to the Philadelphia Zoo with the 7<sup>th</sup> graders from Klingler, as well as attending Field Day, which was very successful. She felt everyone involved should be commended.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that there were an overwhelming amount of awards given out at the Senior Awards ceremony. She commended Dan Klenk, the Valedictorian. Mrs. Jankowsky also stated that she felt the retirement reception was a very nice event, and commended everyone who worked on it.

Mrs. Huf felt that the retirement celebration was wonderful and felt that so many years of commitment by the teachers was amazing. She thanked them. She asked Mr. Blatt if there was a figure available on the amount of scholarships being awarded to Tennent students. Mr. Blatt indicated that there were several ways to calculate this. Some scholarships are awarded based on need – those we might not be able to calculate. However, the amount of scholarships is very high.

Mrs. Huf stated that she had received a copy of “Willow Dale Tales,” which she felt was fascinating. She thanked the staff and students for sharing this. Mrs. Brzezinski also commented on this and read an item from one of the first graders.

Mrs. Brzezinski commended Mrs. Pierantozzi from Longstreth, stating that she would be missed. She also spoke about Robert Stremme being a wonderful teacher.

Mrs. Lynch reported that she had attended Colonial Day at Willow Dale, which was marvelous. She also indicated that the retirement dinner was attended by several Board members.

### **GOOD NEWS**

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

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None

## **REPORTS**

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

Dan Klenk reported on the following items:

- May 25-26 – Tennent Tournament to benefit cancer research
- June 6 – Mr. Tennent Contest
- June 29 – Rage for AIDS
- June 18 – Benefit for Ali Rule
- June 14 – Senior Picnic, Yearbook Distribution and Graduation Rehearsal
- June 18 – Graduation

Mrs. Lynch presented Mr. Klenk with a gift and wished him good luck in the future.

### **MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Mr. Sellers reported on the following items at MBIT:

- The results of the HOSA and Skills USA competitions
- June 16 – Last day of school
- June 7 – Annual Goodbye Senior Ceremony

Mrs. Lynch presented a gift to Mr. Sellers and wished him good luck in the future.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked Mr. Sellers his future plans. Mr. Sellers indicated that he would be attending the Pennsylvania College of Technology, which was affiliated with Penn State. He would be studying Business Construction and Technology for two years.

Mr. Blatt stated that one of the most fulfilling parts of any educator's life was interacting with the students. He indicated that he had come to know both of the student reps and felt that they were two of the finest young men he had ever been privileged to meet. He thanked them for everything they had contributed.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

None.

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Mueller reported that the Committee had met on June 6<sup>th</sup> and had presentations with regard to AFG. There had been a Committee meeting with regard to changes to block

scheduling and there was a presentation on that subject. This will come before the full Board on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf reported on the following matters from the meeting held the previous evening:

- Palley Simon was reappointed as insurance broker.
- Agreement was approved with Penn State and MBIT.
- The July Executive Meeting was cancelled.
- A lease waiver was approved for 100 computers at \$2,735 per month. The vendor is to be selected.
- Agreement with Waste Management was approved for three years.

Mrs. Jankowsky discussed administrative raises, indicating that the mechanism for compensation was never codified. This process has begun. Dr. Irwin has come up with a new method for how to compensate support staff. This was approved and will be placed in the policy manual.

Information about courses, teachers and enrollment was also discussed, with the highest enrollment being in Math. Mrs. Jankowsky felt that there was something wrong with the students electing to take Math at MBIT when they should be focusing on the trade or technology they are in. She indicated that she would like information on how many Centennial students take Math as an elective there.

Mr. Blatt felt that was a valid point and that this had been in existence for many years. There has been discussion about this in the past. We have no students in that area.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that it was her understanding years ago that the children were not getting sufficient Math for the program they were taking there. Mrs. Jankowsky responded that what they are teaching now are elementary type subjects. She felt that it was a shame to take that much time away from a student who was there to learn a trade.

Mrs. Baranski believed that it had something to do with the timing of the buses. The children were losing classes to travel time so MBIT offered Math because the students were missing it at some of the schools.

Mr. Grossi felt that this should be dealt with at the local level.

Mrs. Jankowsky was pleased that none of Centennial's students were involved in this. She indicated that the enrollment as of June 1<sup>st</sup> was 931 for the upcoming school year.

Mr. Grossi pointed out that there was a teaching assistant in some of the classrooms who was supposed to also help with Math in these programs.

### Intermediate Unit

Mrs. Brzezinski indicated that she had a huge report that was mailed to her, which she would present at the next meeting. She distributed a notice about the I.U.'s "Homeless Children's Initiative". She stated that it was a pleasure to be at the I.U. and thanked the Board for appointing her.

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

Mr. Grossi reported that a meeting had been held the previous week and that a Budget Hearing was held this evening. The Committee continues to work on the budget and would have a final session the following week.

### Title VIII

There was no report; however, Mrs. Jankowsky asked if anyone had any idea of the timeline on the base closing. Mr. Grossi indicated that the Executive Branch would make a decision some time in the fall.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked at what point we could foresee losing the amount of money we get from them. Mr. Grossi stated that we were advised that traditionally the military would start to scale down the personnel assigned to the base. He assumed that the same would happen in this case. The base closing would take about two to three years and there would be a gradual decline in student enrollment over time.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that the architect doing the feasibility study should be made aware of this.

Mrs. Huf indicated that she heard that an answer was expected within the next 60 days. She wondered if the families in the housing would be displaced if the base should close. Mr. Grossi replied that they would not. Mrs. Huf questioned if the responsibility of educating the children who are transferred would fall on Centennial. Mr. Grossi stated that it would not.

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Huf reported that there was a brief meeting regarding a transportation issue. On the recommendation of the transportation officer, the Committee was not able to take care of the request. Mrs. Huf indicated that there would probably not be another meeting before the end of the school year.

### Citizens Policy

No report.

### Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Mueller reported that there were two bills that seemed to be on the fast track (by the end of the month.) The previous week the Senate Education Committee had approved Senate Bill 361, which would require home schooled students to participate in extra-curricular activities. This will be moving to the full Senate. As drafted, the Bill does not require home schooled students to meet the requirements for participation as set forth by a school district. Also, the term “extracurricular activities” is not specifically defined in the Bill. Even if the Bill passes the Senate and is not considered in the House, the language under this Bill could be inserted into the Omnibus School Code Bill that accompanies the state budget. PSBA is encouraging everyone to call their legislators to urge them to vote no on this Bill.

Also, the House Republican Policy Committee conducted a hearing regarding the installment payment of property taxes, which was prompted by Senate Bill 709. PSBA believes that such a plan could result in a disruption of a district’s cash flow and increased administrative costs. PSBA recommends that the installment option should only be available to those on a limited or fixed income.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that the above items would be addressed at PSBA’s lobby day in Harrisburg on June 21<sup>st</sup> and that she had information regarding this if anyone wished to attend. She urged anyone who was able to do so.

Mr. Blatt indicated that at present Centennial’s position was opposite HB361. He asked if this was something the Board would like a letter sent to local legislators about. This was agreed to by Board members.

Mrs. Jankowsky was not sure that she was opposed to the home schooled students participating; however, she felt there should not be a double standard on the eligibility criteria.

## **MINUTES**

Mrs. Huf requested that the Minutes be voted on separately. This was agreed to.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Minutes of the Work Session/Regular Board Meeting of April 26, 2005.*

*The motion passed 7-0.*

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of May 10, 2005.*

Mrs. Huf stated that she would be opposing these Minutes because the article was attached and was read into the Minutes by Mrs. Mueller.

Mrs. Baranski indicated that she would be opposing these Minutes because she felt the February 7, 2005 Minutes were unfair and biased.

*The motion failed 3-4. (Mrs. Huf, Mrs. Brzezinski, Mrs. Baranski and Mrs. Lynch opposed.)*

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Minutes of the Work Session/Regular Board Meeting of May 24, 2005.*

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she could not vote on these Minutes since she was absent from that meeting.

*The motion passed 6-0-1. (Mrs. Brzezinski abstained.)*

Mrs. Lynch left the room at 9:58 p.m., after requesting that Mrs. Huf chair the meeting in her absence.

## **OPERATIONS AND POLICIES**

### Final Approval:

Dr. Sexton indicated that the only one of the policies that had been changed was Policy 7.13, to which a housekeeping change was made.

#### 3.1 – Drug/Alcohol

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 3.1, Drug/Alcohol.*

*The motion passed 6-0.*

#### 3.3 – Clubs and Co-Curricular Activities

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 3.3 – Clubs and Co-Curricular Activities.*

*The motion passed 6-0.*

#### 7.13 – Student Activity Fund

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.13 – Student Activity Fund.*

*The motion passed 6-0.*

7.17 – Immigrant/Non-Immigrant Students

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.17 – Immigrant/Non-Immigrant Students.*

*The motion passed 6-0.*

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the four above motions had been moved by Mrs. Huf, who was the acting chair. Since the policy precludes this, she suggested that the motions be moved again.

Mrs. Lynch returned to the room at 10:00 p.m.

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the four policies listed above.*

*The motion passed 7-0.*

**FINANCIAL**

*A motion was made by Mr. Grossi and seconded by Mrs. Baranski to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the:*

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

*and approves the:*

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – May 2005*
- *Budgetary Transfers – June 2005*

Mrs. Brzezinski questioned items on the yellow sheets, noting that there were balances left in these funds. She asked if they would be carried forward. Mr. Vail indicated that they would.

*The motion passed 7-0.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

Tabled Item – Minutes – Regular School Board Meeting – April 12, 2005

Mrs. Lynch pointed out that there was a note in the backup from Mrs. Detwiler regarding the April 12<sup>th</sup> Minutes.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves removing from the table the approval of the Minutes from the Regular School Board Meeting of April 12, 2005, submitted at the May 10, 2005 meeting of the Board.*

*The motion to remove from the table passed 7-0.*

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to approve the April 12, 2005 Board Meeting Minutes.*

*The motion passed 7-0.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Huf requested that Items 1 through 8 be moved together. Mrs. Jankowsky requested that Item 7 be pulled. Mrs. Baranski requested that Item 4 be pulled.

1. Exception to Policy 7.18 – Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Students 2-13 and 10-13
2. Appoint Treasurer for 2005-2006
3. 2005-2006 Insurance Rates
5. Facility Rental Agreement – Bucks County Head Start, 2005-2006
6. Extend Early Retirement Incentive Deadline
8. LED Display Sign Board

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

- (1) *Approves an exception to Policy 7.18 to allow student 2-13 and student 10-13 to attend Davis Elementary School for the 2005-2006 school year as tuition students. The family will provide transportation.*
- (2) *Appoints Stanley Allen as District Treasurer for the fiscal year 2005-2006 at an annual stipend of \$1,500. Further approves the renewal of the Public Officials Bond for the Treasurer in the face amount of \$20,000 for fiscal year 2005-2006.*
- (3) *Approves the 2005-2006 District Insurance Premiums as per the attached supplement.*
- (5) *Approves the attached agreement with Bucks County Head Start Agency for the 2005-2006 school year for the rental of four classrooms in the Johnsville Administration Building at a total annual cost of \$20,078. Board recognizes the contribution the Head Start Program makes toward preparing students for entering the school system and therefore provides in-kind contributions in the form of reduced rates from the set fees of \$15,000 per classroom charged per the Use of Facility rate schedule.*
- (6) *Approves the extension of the early retirement incentive per Policy 2.17 adopted December 14, 2004 from the initial deadline date of March 15, 2005 to June 21, 2005.*
- (8) *Approves the Log College Middle School LED Display Sign Bid No. 2005-12 and awards same to Grid Sign Systems at the lowest responsible bid amount of \$20,100.00. This will be a Log College Student Government Account expense.*

Regarding Item #8, Mrs. Brzezinski asked where the sign would be located. Mr. Lasher indicated that it would replace the old sign and would be programmed from a computer inside the building.

Mrs. Lynch commented that the students raised the money for this sign. Mrs. Jankowsky commended the children for their efforts.

Regarding Item #1, Mrs. Mueller asked if Administration could give guidance as to why they were endorsing this since she did not see any backup showing that there were special circumstances.

Dr. Sexton responded that it was simply a feeling on the part of the family that this is where they want the children to stay. Our policy allows for this if the Board approves, but it would have to be on a tuition basis.

Mrs. Mueller was concerned that this was setting a precedent. Dr. Sexton indicated that it had no impact on staffing; if it did, then we would have to look at it differently.

Mrs. Huf asked if any previous exceptions had been made like this. Dr. Sexton replied that since he had been with the District (since 1988), there were probably about a half dozen or more similar requests.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that this request was probably the highest compliment that anyone could give a school district. She indicated that the requests were always with the backdrop that they would not affect staffing. If so, then in the past the Board had not approved these requests.

Mrs. Mueller asked if the tuition truly covered the cost of the child going to that school. Dr. Sexton believed that it was actually broken down by the state as to what each school district should charge.

Mr. Vail concurred that there was an individual calculation for each school district.

*The motion passed 7-0.*

Mr. Grossi left the room at 10:25 p.m.

4. Contract WTHS Cafeteria Consulting Services

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves retaining Singer Equipment Company to provide WTHS Cafeteria consulting services as specified in the attached supplement. Cost for services not to exceed \$3,500 payable from 2005-2006 Cafeteria Fund budget.*

Mrs. Baranski expressed concern about the fees and also about what it would cost for us to terminate this. She felt this should be reviewed more thoroughly and indicated that she would be opposing the motion.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she had similar questions but wouldn't have a problem with approving this motion. By paying \$3,500 we are free to award food service packages to anyone except Singer. Mr. Vail concurred.

*The motion passed 5-1. (Mrs. Baranski opposed.)*

7. Waiver of Title I Set-Aside Requirement

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Waiver of the Title I Set-Aside Requirement as listed in the attached Federal (Ed-Flex) Waiver Program Application.*

Mr. Grossi returned to the room at 10:28 p.m.

Mrs. Brzezinski asked for an explanation of this item.

Dr. Sexton explained that since we are in the School District Improvement Phase, we were told we would have to set aside 10% of our Title I budget, which is about \$69,000. Since this happened mid-year, it was a problem because this was not set aside in the budget. If we subtracted \$69,000 from the funding stream, we would probably have run out of money to pay the tutors before the end of the school year. We learned that there was the possibility of waiving this requirement because Centennial has always budgeted for staff development. This formalizes a process we have already started with PDE. We did not need to make the set-aside.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the money would have come from the General Fund if we didn't go for this. Dr. Sexton indicated that that would have been one possibility. Other possibilities would have been canceling programs or obtaining grants.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked Mr. Schrader for dealing with this.

Dr. Sexton stated that the set-aside requirement was actually a two-year requirement so Administration would be coming back to the Board with a waiver request for 2005-2006.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the private schools were required to comply with NCLB. Dr. Sexton responded that it was only the public schools.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that it seemed that this indicated that we are focusing on Reading and Math. Dr. Sexton replied that the bulk of the focus was on Reading but there is a strong Math component as well. The model we were given for the application was to focus more on Reading. Our program does both. He indicated that we do have more students receiving Reading instruction than Math instruction.

Mrs. Brzezinski left the room at 10:41 p.m.

*The motion passed 6-0.*

## **PERSONNEL**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Change of Status; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Support Staff Substitutes; Substitute Driver and Trainee; and Co-Curricular.*

*The motion passed 6-0.*

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

### Policy 1.2 – Centennial School Board Meetings

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that the Board consider this as initial distribution of this policy and have discussion at the next meeting. This was agreed to.

Mrs. Baranski stated that she and Mr. Faust had attended Senior Awards Night and that it was great.

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

See Schedule attached hereto.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-1. (Mr. Grossi opposed.) The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

---

Vickie A. Detwiler, Board Secretary