

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
HELD DECEMBER 13, 2005**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on December 13, 2005, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Mueller at 7:35 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Marie Brzezinski  
Joseph Faust  
Betty Huf  
Joan Jankowsky  
Patricia Jones  
Jane Schrader Lynch  
Michael Monaghan  
Cynthia Mueller

Harve Strouse [appointed during the course of this meeting]

CEA/Teachers:

Donna Harkins  
George Fischer  
Karen Rader  
Joe O'Connor

Administration:

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

Public:

Tom Zuzelo  
Max Kramer  
Ed Kramer  
Andy Pollouk  
Matthew Merin  
Samuel Conti  
Judith Hengst  
Tom Reinboth  
Bob Ferraro  
Leigh Lieberman  
Barb Patrick

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

## **APPOINTMENT OF NEW BOARD MEMBER**

Mrs. Mueller explained that interviews had been conducted for the open Board member position in Region II. Five interviews were scheduled, however, one candidate dropped out due to work commitments. The remaining candidates were Andrew Pollouk, Robert Ferraro, Jr., Harve Strouse, and Leigh Lieberman. These four candidates had been interviewed by the Board, but no deliberations had taken place. Mrs. Mueller further explained that there must be five votes for one candidate to win. If there were not five votes for one candidate, they could drop the lowest one and take another vote. She pointed out that if the Board could not elect a candidate for this position, then one would be appointed by the Court. She stated that she would prefer for the Board to elect someone.

Mrs. Lynch questioned whether this was the same process that was used previously when they had to get the Court to appoint someone. Mr. Faust recalled that in that instance there was a 4-4 deadlock and there was nothing in the District's policy or in the Code covering this.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that she was pulling this from other boards she had been on.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this was a valid option for when there are many candidates. She felt it was a good way to proceed.

There was a consensus of the Board that this would be the procedure.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Jones to nominate Harve Strouse as School Board Director.*

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf (no second) to nominate Dr. Pollouk as School Board Director.*

Mrs. Mueller questioned whether a second was necessary. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that it was not needed.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch (no second) to nominate Leigh Lieberman as School Board Director.*

*A motion was made by Mr. Monaghan (no second) to nominate Robert Ferraro, Jr. as School Board Director.*

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked the individual candidates, stating that the District was lucky that there were so many good candidates.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that it was wonderful to have so many people willing to serve.

*A roll call vote was taken as follows:*

<i>Mrs. Brzezinski</i>	<i>Mr. Strouse</i>
<i>Mr. Faust</i>	<i>Mr. Strouse</i>

<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Dr. Pollouk</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>Mr. Strouse</i>
<i>Mrs. Jones</i>	<i>Mr. Strouse</i>
<i>Mrs. Lynch</i>	<i>Mr. Strouse</i>
<i>Mrs. Monaghan</i>	<i>Mr. Strouse</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>Mr. Strouse</i>

*Mr. Strouse was elected School Board Director by a vote of 7-1.*

Mrs. Lynch welcomed Mr. Strouse and asked the other three candidates to continue to participate in the District and to come to the meetings.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the appointment of Harve Strouse to the Centennial School Board to fill the position in Region II vacated by the resignation of Rose Gold. This appointment is effective December 13, 2005 (starting immediately after swearing in) through December 3, 2007.*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

Mrs. Mueller administered the oath of office to Mr. Strouse and congratulated him. Mr. Strouse thanked everyone.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **GOOD NEWS**

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

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

## **REPORTS**

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

Mr. Merin reported on the following items:

- November 18 – Culmination of Amanda Keith’s (a Senior) graduation project.
- December 3 – Breakfast with Santa.

- December 23 – Tutorial regarding body language.

Mr. Merin also explained that currently the Future Educators of America were doing holiday projects and that the Third Annual Winter Ball was upcoming.

### **MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Mr. Conti reported on the following items at MBIT:

- January is National School Directors Month. MBIT would honor Directors from the four sending districts with a dinner at Aspirations Restaurant on January 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Log College students would be touring MBIT during the current week. Students from Klinger would do so at a later date.
- January 5 & 6 – Blood Drive.
- January 19 – Program Planning Night.
- The student-built house was well underway.

Mr. Conti also reported that the salon was open to the public on Fridays by appointment and that Aspirations Restaurant was open on Wednesdays and Thursdays by reservation.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Blatt stated that the two student representatives were quality young men, who were well spoken and well dressed. Since Mr. Merin was an amateur film maker, Mr. Blatt suggested that maybe at some point during the year he could present one of his films at a Board meeting.

Mr. Blatt indicated that he had an opportunity to visit MBIT and tour the student-built home. He felt that the talents of the young people were remarkable. He also commended the staff members and the skilled volunteers who work with the students.

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Brzezinski reported that the Education Committee had met on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Discussion centered on No Child Left Behind. The Committee also discussed student transience, which stood at about 10% per year.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that the January meeting was cancelled and that the next meeting would be on February 6<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting there would be an update on the transition to a six-period schedule and discussion of curriculum renewal plans in several subject areas.

### Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf indicated that the next meeting would be held on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Intermediate Unit

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that no meeting would be held in December. She indicated that she had received a review from the Auditor General for the year ended June 30, 2004, which she passed on to Mr. Strouse for review.

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

Mr. Faust stated that the Committee had revisited permission to solicit bids for transportation vehicles, which would appear on the Board agenda. They began the process of looking at the elementary school feasibility study.

Mr. Faust indicated that the next meeting had not yet been scheduled.

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that she had not appointed committee members yet since there was an open spot on the Board. She indicated that she would have this by the end of the week.

### Citizens Policy

Dr. Sexton indicated that a meeting would be held on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that a Senator had offered special legislation regarding property tax reform (SB30). She felt that it was important to find out the status and what we could do. This involves increasing funding and relief from specific mandates, as well as looking at underwriting special education and a number of other issues. Mrs. Jankowsky requested Mr. Blatt to find out what PSBA would like us to do with regard to this legislation.

## **MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Minutes of the:*

- *Regular School Board Meeting – November 9, 2005*
- *Work Session/Regular Board Meeting – November 22, 2005*

Mr. Monaghan indicated that he was present at both of the meetings but was not on the Board at the time. He asked if he was eligible to vote for these or if he should abstain. Mrs. Mueller recommended that he abstain.

Two minor revisions were requested to the Minutes.

*The motion passed 6-0-3. (Mr. Monaghan, Mr. Strouse and Mr. Faust abstained.)*

## **OPERATIONS AND POLICIES**

### Final Approval:

#### 1.2 – Centennial School Board Meetings

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that Administration had made the changes discussed by the Board at its previous meeting regarding the agendas for the Work Sessions and Regular Meetings. However, Mrs. Jankowsky now felt that the Reports by the Student Council and MBIT representatives should be moved up, possibly right after the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Sexton suggested that they could be put under Presentations. This was agreed to.

Mrs. Jankowsky also suggested that Community Comments should precede Committee Minutes. This was also agreed to by the Board.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that on the Regular Meeting Agenda, Minutes should be at the beginning of the Agenda, preceding Old Business. The Board concurred with this item.

Under Item III Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that the word “Resident” remain in the title since it is in the body of the language. She also felt that under Item IV “Non-Resident” should be defined. There was agreement on this.

Mrs. Huf questioned why the second sentence of #13 on page 1.2E was deleted. Mrs. Jankowsky explained that she had requested that this be removed because it didn’t make sense and that it was covered under #16. Mrs. Huf asked if this affected the decision if a Board member could vote by phone. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that that was a whole separate issue.

Mr. Faust asked if the policy should come back at a future meeting since a number of changes had been requested. There was consensus of the Board to do this.

Mrs. Lynch questioned where item #16 came from. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that it was item 508 of the School Code. Mrs. Lynch asked that that item be included in the policy. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that it could be attached to the policy. Mrs. Jankowsky further indicated that some items require six votes and suggested that that could also be attached to the policy.

Mr. Monaghan stated that he had attended a Fast Track course over the past weekend, which provided some pertinent information. He indicated that he would supply that information to Board members. He explained that, according to PSBA, even a member that pays state taxes is able to speak at a Board meeting since the School Board is an agent of the state. He felt that this should be looked into before any policies were finalized.

Mr. Monaghan also raised the issue of remote voting and the fact that PSBA does not believe it to be acceptable. He felt this matter should also be reviewed.

Mrs. Mueller explained that this had been looked at and a policy brought forward; however, the motion failed. There is no policy with regard to remote voting.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she felt who was considered a taxpayer and who wasn't was unenforceable. If someone wanted to speak at a public meeting, there was no way for the Board to know if they were a taxpayer or not. She suggested that the word "taxpayer" not be used.

Mrs. Brzezinski felt that the word "resident" was good since you could not ask someone for their taxes but you could ask for their address.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that it would be good to look at the Sunshine Law and see how it defines our obligations under the law.

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to table this item until the first meeting in January.*

*The motion to table passed 9-0.*

Mr. Blatt agreed that the motion should be tabled. He felt that Item IV needed some clarification.

#### 2.12 – Personnel Records

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 2.12 – Personnel Records.*

*The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mr. Strouse abstained.)*

#### 4.6 – Building Maintenance and Repair

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 4.6 – Building Maintenance and Repair.*

*The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mr. Strouse abstained.)*

### **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 – November 2005*

- *Investments – November 2005*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – November 2005*

*and approves the:*

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer’s Report – November 2005*
- *Budgetary Transfers – December 2005*

*The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mr. Strouse abstained.)*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Preliminary and Final Approval of the WTHS Academic Team Trip to Scholars’ Bowl**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary and final approval for the WTHS Academic Team trip to the Scholars’ Bowl in Dix Hills, Long Island, New York, on January 6-7, 2006. The cost to the District is \$500.00 for the use of a District school bus.*

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if Administration knew in advance when this was scheduled. Mrs. Homel responded that they first became aware of this just prior to the Thanksgiving holidays. Also, when they receive notice, they need to get confirmation that they have been accepted. They have consistently received late notice for this competition.

Mr. Strouse asked if preliminary approval could be requested even before knowing whether we have been accepted. Mrs. Homel replied that they couldn’t in this case because they didn’t know until almost Thanksgiving.

Mr. Blatt felt that the points raised were valid but that this was a perennial situation. The Board could approve a motion pending additional information.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that this system was instituted to protect students’ funds so if there was anything Administration could do, it would be appreciated. Mr. Blatt stated that they would see what could be done.

*The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mr. Strouse abstained.)*

Mr. Strouse stated that he was abstaining from all votes because he had not seen any of the information prior to the meeting so he was not in a position to make informed decisions.

2. Appointments to Citizens' Policy Committee

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints Mrs. Sina Baranski and Mrs. Janet Amato to a three-year term on the Centennial School District Citizens' Policy Committee. Such term shall begin effective January 1, 2006 and end June 30, 2009.*

Mr. Faust questioned whether there were a certain number of people that served on this committee. Dr. Sexton explained that there were nine members according to policy. Our dilemma was that we don't have a lot of people volunteering for this committee. Currently there are several people staying on to continue the process even though their terms expired.

*The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mr. Strouse abstained.)*

3. Permission to Apply for Private Competitive Grants

*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 private competitive grants for the 2006-2007 school year in the amounts indicated:*

<i>2006 Youth Garden Grant</i>	
<i>Leary Elementary School</i>	<i>\$500</i>
<i>2006 Youth Garden Grant</i>	
<i>Longstreth Elementary School</i>	<i>\$500</i>

*The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mr. Strouse abstained.)*

4. Permission to Bid Vehicles

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes the solicitation of bids for the purchase of four (4) 65-passenger school buses, two (2) 24-passenger school buses, one (1) 48-passenger school bus, and one (1) 24-passenger wheelchair vehicle. Funds to be appropriated from the 2006-2007 General Fund Budget upon award.*

Mrs. Lynch pointed out that although safety was a major concern, this was way over budget.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that it would be advisable to put in the motion that the total projected cost was \$468,000.00.

Mrs. Brzezinski asked what would happen if not everyone voted to pass the budget after these motions had been approved.

Mr. Faust explained that this motion was for the purpose of granting permission to bid but that these could be rejected at the time of award. If the budget would fail totally, there would be no money. However, that line item would be encumbered because the District would be under contract.

Mr. Strouse stated that this was the time of year that these types of bids must go out since this was when the manufacturers were starting their process.

Mr. Faust clarified that bid awards were often done before a budget was approved.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to amend the original motion to include the projected cost of \$468,000.00.*

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

*The amended motion passed 7-0-2. (Mrs. Lynch and Mr. Strouse abstained.)*

## 5. Facility Use Waivers

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>A. Warminster Soccer Club</i>              | <i>Sunday use of William Tennent's gym on March 19, 2006. There is no cost to the District.</i>   |
| <i>B. Warminster Baseball Association</i>     | <i>Sunday use of William Tennent's gym on January 21, 28, 2006 and February 4, 2006. The cost for custodians will be shared with the Warminster Basketball Association. Warminster Basketball will pay the full facility fee and be reimbursed by Warminster Baseball for their share of the fee. There is no cost to the District.</i> |
| <i>C. WTHS Boys and Girls Soccer Boosters</i> | <i>Sunday use of William Tennent's gym on January 15, 2006. Requesting 100% waiver of custodial fees for Saturday, January 14 and Sunday, January 15, 2006 at a cost to the District of \$870.00.</i>   |
| <i>D. William Tennent Cheerleading</i>        | <i>Sunday use of William Tennent's gym on February 12, 2006. Requesting 100% waiver of custodial fees at a cost to the District of \$253.75.</i>  |

*E. OLGC Swim Club*

*Requesting a 50% waiver of fees for use of Klinger Middle School Pool from October 2005 to February 2006 at a cost to the District of \$428.40.*

Mr. Faust questioned why, on item D, we would waive fees for a co-curricular group of the high school. On item E, he pointed out that the application indicated that a waiver was never granted before. He questioned if that was because it wasn't requested or because the Board didn't grant the request.

Mr. Blatt indicated that he would have to check into the cheerleading issue but felt that it appeared to be some type of fundraiser for the cheerleader banquet.

Regarding the OLGC request, Mr. Blatt believed that they had used the facility in the past and had paid the full fee. This was a recent request that 50% be waived.

Mr. Faust requested that item E be pulled for a separate vote.

*The motion passed 8-0-1 with respect to items A through D. (Mr. Strouse abstained.)*

Discussion continued regarding item E. Mrs. Brzezinski asked if it was unusual to waive a fee. Mr. Lasher indicated that 50% of the fee is waived for Centennial Aquatics and also for Warminster Parks & Rec.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt it was appropriate to award the waiver, especially since there was such a large percentage from Centennial. She felt it would not be right to do it for some organizations and not for others.

*The motion passed 8-0-1 with respect to item E. (Mr. Strouse abstained.)*

**PERSONNEL**

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

*The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mr. Strouse abstained.)*

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Tom Reinboth of 784 Boxwood Drive, Warminster, suggested development of policies of School Board members in order to streamline the process.

**BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

Mrs. Mueller asked Mr. Monaghan if there was anything he would like to share regarding the Fast Track Weekend he had attended.

Mr. Monaghan described the four courses he had taken. He spoke about communication starting at the bottom, with members of the public and all of the staff, including secretaries, bus drivers, custodians, etc. He indicated that he would make the course materials available.

Mr. Blatt stated that he had never been aware of PSBA indicating that communication should come from the rank and file up to the Board. He felt that that flew in the face of good management and good operations. He stated that if anyone was worried about Administration or the Superintendent being a screen or not trusting the actions or behavior of the Superintendent, then a quick solution was to get a new Superintendent. He did not feel that he should “chase his tail” because one person out of 1,100 had a particular individual issue. He did not feel that was good management. He felt that if PSBA was putting that information out, maybe he would have that discussion with PSBA.

Mr. Monaghan felt that it was meant more to listen to other areas instead of just listening in one direction – to listen to everyone and to try involve them in the discussion in the community.

Mr. Blatt stated that he felt that was good because communication should happen every hour of every day and that the Superintendent and Administration should be open, accessible and candid in providing information regularly. He also pointed out that he had known of many cases where trouble was caused by pursuing an individual issue. He felt a balance should be kept.

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

See Schedule attached hereto. (The January 2<sup>nd</sup> Education Committee meeting was cancelled.)

**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary