

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD JANUARY 10, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on January 10, 2006, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Mueller at 7:38 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Marie Brzezinski
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
Patricia Jones
Jane Schrader Lynch
Michael Monaghan
Cynthia Mueller
Harve Strouse

[Mr. Faust was absent from the meeting.]

CEA/Teachers:

Kathryn Dusen
Kelly O’Leary
Andy Mahony
Rose McKeivitt

Administration:

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

Public:

Tom Zuzelo
Liz Lena
Matthew Merin
Fran Ceneviva
Lynda Ceneviva
Christine Roviello
Cheryl Tonkinson
Chris Shapper
Sam Conti
Sina Baranski

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Mueller announced that Mr. Faust had called to say that he would be absent from the meeting due to a family matter.

Mrs. Mueller announced the School Board Committee and Liaison assignments for the year. A copy of these are attached hereto. She thanked everyone for their cooperation.

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Blatt explained that January was School Directors Recognition month in Pennsylvania and that in the weeks ahead there would be a student presentation for the Board members. He spoke about the duties and responsibilities of Board members and extended a special and sincere thank you to each Board member. Each Board member was provided with a gift bag.

Mrs. Mueller thanked Mr. Blatt on behalf of all of the Board members.

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Sexton presented the Good News Report (see attached.)

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Tom Zuzelo (a student), of 68 Hamilton Drive addressed the Board regarding the schedule change. He stated that what was upsetting to him was that some of the Board members say that they want what is best for the students and then vote against block scheduling. He cited examples of how cutting block scheduling would hurt students. He felt that the reason for the change was financial, not to improve PSSA scores. He cautioned the Board that this matter would not go away. He pointed out that there were three Board members whose terms would be up in 2007. The students would look to get a candidate on the ballot in 2007 that was in favor of block scheduling.

Mrs. Mueller advised that the students did not go unheard. Since the majority of the Board has decided on the six-period day, everyone is committed to making it the best they can offer the students.

REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

Mr. Merin reported on the following items:

- Finals will be held the week of January 23rd.
- The Senior Sweetheart finalists had been announced and tickets for the February 11th dance would be going on sale soon.
- Course selection had begun for the coming year.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Conti reported that in order to recognize the efforts of the Directors from the four sending districts, MBIT had held a dinner at Aspirations Restaurant the previous evening.

Mr. Conti also reported on the following items:

- The Skills USA competitions had been held that day and a number of students participated. The results would be announced soon.
- On January 16th various activities would be held in honor of Martin Luther King.
- Program Planning Night was scheduled for January 26th.
- The Adult Education Program would begin the week of February 6th.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Blatt indicated that he had had the pleasure of attending MBIT the previous evening. He stated that it was an outstanding evening. Three-quarters of the awards to the students from the four sending districts went to Centennial students.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested that Administration make a presentation of highlights from the Annual Data Report.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Lynch reported that Education Committee meetings would be held on January 23rd and February 6th.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf reported that a reorganization meeting had been held the previous evening and that Mr. Faust was approved to be the chairperson. She commented that they had a great dinner and that the students had done a wonderful job. Mrs. Jankowsky echoed Mrs. Huf's comments regarding the dinner.

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that in the Professional Advisory Committee meeting summary, they discussed the use of special counsel to oversee the construction project and special counsel to make sure things are done properly. They also discussed whether or not to hire a construction manager. At some point the Executive Council would be discussing this.

There was also discussion of offering physical education and health at MBIT.

Mrs. Jankowsky also reported that some students were having difficulty scheduling math at their home school, which was causing them to take it at MBIT. Centennial is one of those schools.

Regarding the Program, Policy and Personnel Committee, Mrs. Jankowsky reported that for the first time the federal government was taking at least 30% of the Perkins money that MBIT gets. This has been used to defray the cost of salaries. This leaves about a \$70,000 funding obligation at MBIT, which will increase as the years go on.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that there was also a brief presentation by the architects.

Intermediate Unit

No report.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that information provided from Mr. Blatt on December 23rd included the fact that the PSERS Board of Trustees had established a 40% increase in the contribution rate for 2006-07, which would have budgetary implications.

Mr. Strouse indicated that the next Finance Committee meeting would be on January 17th.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this Committee had not yet met. She had a discussion with Mr. Lasher, who indicated that there was a transportation issue to be addressed, so a meeting was set for January 24th.

Mrs. Jankowsky also discussed the annual building tour, which was tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 25th.

Citizens Policy

Mr. Monaghan advised that the next meeting of this committee was scheduled for January 17th.

Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Brzezinski reported that she had received a letter from Senator Michael Fitzpatrick requesting help in identifying public projects that would be most successful with federal financial assistance. Mrs. Brzezinski indicated that she would like to have this letter copied for the Board.

MINUTES

None.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Mrs. Jankowsky enumerated the following policies for initial distribution:

- 2.9 – Workers' Compensation
- 3.21 – Use of Behavior Support Techniques

- 3.3 – Clubs and Co-Curricular Activities
- 6.3 – Home & School Associations and Other Advisory Councils
- 7.12 – Home Education

Final Approval:

1.2 – Centennial School Board Meetings

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 1.2, Centennial School Board Meetings.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she did not recall the change in Section I. B. d being presented in the previous policy, nor did she recall Section II. E. 16 being in previous versions. Also, on page 1.2G under item V Mrs. Lynch asked the definition of “super majority” and what that number would be. She indicated that she would like clarification of these three items.

Mrs. Mueller clarified that the Board did give a directive on item 16 and that this would be in the Friday packet.

Mr. Strouse stated that he was not sure why the last sentence of Section I. B. 1. d was necessary. This sentence indicated that a request by a Director to include a statement on a specific issue be entered verbatim into the Minutes must be made at a public meeting and its inclusion into the Minutes shall be subject to approval by the Board. Mr. Strouse felt that part of the reason to have these statements in the Minutes was to protect the minority interest. He suggested that this sentence be stricken.

Mr. Strouse also suggested that in Section II. A. 5, the end of the sentence be changed to read “...the Board President shall be authorized to call for such meeting.”

In Section II. B. 1 and 2, Mr. Strouse felt that “Presiding Officer” should be changed to “President.”

In Section II. E. 2, Mr. Strouse felt that the sentence that had been added was redundant to what was stated earlier in that section. He suggested that that sentence be deleted.

Mr. Strouse felt that in Section II. E. 3, the phrase “speak of” should be changed to “address.”

Regarding Section II. E. 16, Mr. Strouse felt that this was a matter of law. He did not feel that it was necessary to state every item of law in policy; therefore, it should be deleted.

Mrs. Lynch disagreed with Mr. Strouse’s opinion. She felt that the School Code should be attached to this policy.

In Section V, Mr. Strouse felt that no change to the existing language was necessary.

Mrs. Brzezinski disagreed with Mr. Strouse regarding Section II. E. 16. She felt it was better to have this clarified and felt it should be in the policy.

Mrs. Mueller voiced concern over Section I. B. 1. d. She felt that this would protect the minority interests of the Board as Mr. Strouse previously stated. Dr. Sexton indicated that this change had come from the solicitor, that there was no direction from the Board or Administration to change this. He explained that it had been history in the District that if a Board member requested something be placed verbatim into the Minutes, it was done.

Mrs. Lynch felt that the first sentence of this section was broad and indicated that she would like the solicitor to develop more specific language.

Dr. Sexton explained that at the previous meeting it was requested that the solicitor review the policy, but no specific direction was given. He felt that some direction should be given to the solicitor regarding this in order to reflect the Board's wishes.

Mrs. Lynch asked for clarification as to what type of "specific issue" could be included. Mrs. Mueller stated that she wasn't sure this could be legislated.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested language to the effect of "it must be related to an agenda item or a special meeting." She felt there was a broad scope and would like some of the language to be tightened up. Mrs. Lynch felt that making it related to an agenda item would be a start.

Mrs. Mueller asked for and received consensus of the Board for the language "and its inclusion into the Minutes shall be subject to approval by the Board" to be struck.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that Section I. B. 2. d. 8 could be problematic. Mr. Strouse agreed, pointing out that committee meetings always had a lot of discussion but not everyone was recognized. He felt that inclusion of this information at the committee level was not necessary. However, at Board meetings this information had always been included.

There was concurrence of the Board that this item be deleted.

There was also concurrence on the language changes on the following (as discussed above):

- Section II. A. 5.
- Section II. B. 1.
- Section II. E. 2.
- Section II. E. 3.

On Section II. E. 16, it was decided to leave this and indicate "See Attachment B."

Regarding Section V, Mrs. Jankowsky felt that five votes were sufficient. Mr. Strouse felt that it should be six votes. Mrs. Mueller felt that this was a safeguard and should be six votes. Mrs. Lynch supported five votes. Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she could live with six votes. Mrs. Jones had no preference.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that this be left as it was for now and that it could be discussed again when the policy came back to the Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to table this motion until the meeting of January 24, 2006.

The motion to table passed 8-0.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that this would appear on the agenda under Old Business.

FINANCIAL

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

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

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – December 2005*
- *Budgetary Transfers – January 2006*

The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Students 13-8 and 4-8

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18 to allow student 13-8 and student 4-8 to complete the 2005-2006 school year at Stackpole Elementary School. The family will provide transportation.

Mr. Strouse pointed out that Administration had recommended that the Board approve this motion.

The motion passed 8-0.

Mrs. Lynch left the room at 9:00 p.m.

2. Exceptions to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 12-3

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18 Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status, for student 12-3 to attend William Tennent High School for the second semester of the 2005-2006 school year as a tuition student. The parent(s) will provide transportation.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this had the support of Administration. She also pointed out that the parents' letter requested Senior Status; however, this motion does not address that issue. This motion is for the second semester of this school year only.

Mrs. Lynch returned to the room at 9:04 p.m.

The motion passed 8-0.

3. Permission to Apply for Entitlement Grant

4. Permission to Apply for Competitive Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board:

- (3) *Approves permission to apply for an entitlement grant for the 2005-2006 school year in the amount indicated:*

School Improvement Fund Grant \$9,500

- (4) *Approves permission to apply for the following competitive grant for the 2005-2006 school year:*

Response to Intervention Pilot School Program – Leary Elementary School

Regarding Item #3, Mrs. Jankowsky commended Administration for addressing issues of math instruction at the high school. She hoped that the grant would come through. She suggested that if it did not, the Board should consider funding this out of the General Fund.

Dr. Sexton advised that the grant had been funded.

Mrs. Huf asked if there was an amount for Item #4. Dr. Sexton explained that the actual total would depend on a number of items that would be incorporated in the full application that goes to Harrisburg but we don't know exactly what that number will be. Whatever the costs would be should be covered by the grant.

Mrs. Brzezinski asked how many people would be involved. Dr. Sexton replied that it would be the entire staff of Leary.

The motion passed 8-0.

5. Facility Use Waiver Application

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

Warminster Parks & Recreation Requesting a 50% waiver of fees for use of Log College Middle School pool for all community aquatics programs from January 2006 through June 2006.

The motion passed 8-0.

6. Telecommunications/Bandwidth Services Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board hereby awards the Telecommunications/Bandwidth Services Bid No. 2006-02 to the lowest responsible bidder, Comcast, in the amount of \$6,600.00 per month and a non-recurring charge of \$10,000.00 for 100 mbps, or \$7,800.00 a month with a non-recurring charge of \$10,000.00 for gigabit service. Contract term is for five (5) years from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2011. It is recommended that this project be funded through the General Fund.

Mr. Lasher stated that this had come before the Board about a month or so ago. At that time it was recommended that the bids be rejected. They were and the project was rebid.

The motion passed 8-0.

PERSONNEL

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

The motion passed 8-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she had read somewhere that Mrs. Gold had moved away from Warminster. Mrs. Brzezinski wanted to correct that statement since Mrs. Gold had moved into a different voting district but was still in Warminster. She hoped that Mrs. Gold would be running in her new district.

Mrs. Brzezinski indicated several items that she would like additional information on regarding the Annual Data Report. She also questioned the Grade 5 PSSA Reading scores since 24% scored Below Basic. Dr. Sexton explained that what they had discovered was that students who had performed Below Basic were students with IEP's, who were given tests that might have been unfair to them. They were trying to look at these children and help them.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she did not feel that Mrs. Homel's letterhead reflected her proper title since the letterhead stated that she was Director of Secondary Education and Special Education/Special Services. She felt that it was misleading to say that she was in charge of special education. Mr. Blatt explained that the gentleman who was serving in that role this year was in an interim role so Mrs. Homel was, for all intents and purposes, overseeing a good deal of the work, so that was the title that was referenced in her letterhead.

Mrs. Huf stated that there were two sets of Minutes that had not been approved: Special Board Meeting of February 7, 2005, and Board Meeting of May 10, 2005.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that after considerable thought and after giving a request from Mrs. Mueller for feedback some consideration, she felt that the better interest of the School District would be served by rescinding her request to have the article incorporated into the Minutes. She requested that the article that she had previously requested to be included in the Minutes to be deleted from the Minutes of February 7, 2005.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to approve the Minutes of February 7, 2005, and the removal of the newspaper article.

Mrs. Lynch indicated that the newspaper article was also referenced in the body of the Minutes. Mrs. Mueller clarified that the language within Mrs. Jankowsky's verbatim statement regarding the article would also be deleted. Mrs. Jankowsky concurred.

Mrs. Lynch questioned whether those Board members who were not on the Board at the time of the February 7, 2005 meeting were eligible to vote on this matter. Mrs. Mueller indicated that she had checked into this and there was nothing to prevent them from voting.

A roll call vote was taken, as follows:

<i>Mrs. Brzezinski</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Jones</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Mrs. Lynch</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Monaghan</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Mr. Strouse</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed 5-0-3.

Mrs. Huf asked that the article read into the Minutes of May 10, 2005 be removed. Mrs. Mueller agreed to rescind any reference to her reading of the Minutes of February 7, 2005 into the Minutes of May 10, 2005, and any reference to that article in her statement.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to approve the Minutes of May 10, 2005, with deletion of the reading of the Minutes of February 7, 2005 and any reference to the newspaper article in her statement.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<i>Mrs. Brzezinski</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Jones</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Mrs. Lynch</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Monaghan</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Mr. Strouse</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed 5-0-3.

Mrs. Mueller apologized for bringing this matter up when it was not on the agenda but she felt that it was very important to preserve the integrity of the entity. This was a matter of housekeeping.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested that Mr. Blatt place on the agenda for the January 24th meeting the issue of PSBA's request regarding adoption of Standards and Code. She would like Board members to have the opportunity of discussing whether they were interested in adopting this.

Mrs. Brzezinski raised the issue of an article in the Bucks County Courier Times in reference to the Superintendent of Council Rock School District regarding Centennial opening two hours late and a child who was supposed to have been brought to McDonald School. She asked if we had worked out a system so every school district would know if we were closed on a snow day.

Mr. Blatt indicated that this had been resolved and that the issue revolved more around a neighboring school district that with Centennial.

Mrs. Lynch raised the issue of block scheduling and the fact that this was voted down twice on her part but that money was not the reason. Everything that was presented to her did not indicate that we met the goals. She felt it was inappropriate when statements were made that they had learned there were three Board members that would be on the ballot in 2007 and that they would have candidates on the ballot against them. She urged that there not be threats made of School Board members being challenged in the next election in 2007 to bring back block scheduling.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto. Mrs. Mueller pointed out some additions to the Schedule.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Strouse to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary