

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING  
HELD FEBRUARY 28, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

A Work Session/Regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on February 28, 2006, 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

Administration:

David Blatt  
Victor Lasher  
Dr. Michael Masko  
Dr. Thomas Sexton

CEA/Teachers:

Andy Mahony  
Angela Sin  
Janice Farley  
Betty Kline  
Ted Abel  
Dorothy Gannon  
Paul Cozza

Public:

Frances Norten  
Kayla Littrell  
Kayla Hennessey  
Alli Diepeveen  
Jen Storer  
Rebecca Rubin  
Heather Harper  
Jim Hunter  
Judy Abel  
Marta Schaeffer  
Eric Schaeffer  
Mark Hennessy  
Gerard Littrell  
Nancy Diepeveen  
Debbie Norton  
Maureen Kilcullen  
Diane Long

Public (continued):

Ed Long  
Tiffany Wolbert  
Elizabeth Galperin  
Caitlin Kilcullen  
Alyssa Long

Megan Faust  
Ahmad Garrison  
Kelly Jensen  
Dennis Warg  
Lou Pacchioli

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Mueller announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel issues.

**PRESENTATIONS**

WTHS Key Club/Klinger Middle School Builders Club Donation to the Make a Wish Foundation

Mr. Blatt introduced Dorothy Gannon, Key Club Advisor at William Tennent High School.

Ms. Gannon explained that the Key Club from William Tennent High School and the Builders Club from Klinger Middle School had raised \$6,000 for the Make a Wish Foundation. She spoke about the people involved in the clubs and in the project.

Peggy Dominick, a representative of the Board of Directors of the Make a Wish Foundation, spoke about how thankful they were for what the children had done. She presented each of the two groups with a plaque for their generosity and support.

Recognition of Athletes

Mr. Blatt stated that over the previous weekend a number of athletes represented the District in the Pennsylvania State Indoor Track and Field Championships held at Penn State University. Mr. Blatt introduced Ted Abel, the girls' indoor track and field coach.

Mr. Abel spoke about the various competitions and their outcomes. He introduced Jim Hunter, the assistant coach, and the girls involved in the competitions.

Mr. Blatt then introduced Paul Cozza, the boys coach, and Kelly Jensen, assistant coach. He spoke about the specific accomplishments of Ahmad Garrison and James Pittenger, two of the athletes.

Mrs. Mueller thanked all of the athletes and coaches for coming so that we could honor their accomplishments.

Mr. Blatt spoke about how proud we are of our coaches and our young people. He also recognized Mr. Pacchioli for his dedication.

### **GOOD NEWS**

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

### **STUDENT REPORTS**

None.

### **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

Mrs. Mueller called for a recess of the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:14 p.m.

### **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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

- *Education Committee – November 22, 2005*
- *Education Committee – January 23, 2005*
- *Education Committee – February 6, 2006*
- *Operations Committee – September 27, 2005*
- *Operations Committee – January 24, 2006*

Mr. Monaghan stated that since he was not present for some of these meetings, he would be abstaining.

*The motion passed 7-0-2. (Mr. Monaghan and Mr. Strouse abstained.)*

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS****1. Preliminary Approval of the WTHS Future Business Leaders of America Trip**

Janice Farley explained that there would be a few changes to this trip. They had to add a third chaperone since several students were added. The price would have to reflect the room and board.

Mrs. Huf asked about the cost of sharing the bus. Mrs. Farley explained that the amount indicated on the backup was the total cost. Our portion would be prorated per student. We would be paying the total amount up front but we would be reimbursed in part by the other districts that were sharing the bus.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for William Tennent High School Future Business Leaders of America trip to the state competition in Hershey, PA, April 19-21, 2006. The cost to the District is not to exceed \$7,700.00, which may be adjusted to reflect increases in student participation, additional chaperones and reimbursement for the bus.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

**2. Approval of the Affiliation Agreement Between Centennial School District and Abington Memorial Hospital**

Mr. Faust indicated that this was the same Agreement that we had in place with Tenet HealthSystem. It was reviewed by the insurance carrier and the attorneys.

Mr. Strouse asked if there was a reason for expanding this because it would require significant transportation for the students.

Mrs. Mueller explained that Abington had expressed an interest in working with our students and they are a significant teaching hospital.

Mr. Blatt stated that there was significant discussion among the Board about expanding the program. There was a cap on the number of students that could be served by the local hospital so there was discussion on expansion. This particular Agreement was almost identical to the one with Warminster Hospital.

Mr. Strouse stated that since he had not been a participant in this, he would abstain on the motion.

Mr. Faust asked if we would be restricting this to only students who could provide their own transportation. Mr. Blatt responded that, to his knowledge, no modifications were made for students that could not provide their own transportation or whose parents could not provide transportation.

Mrs. Huf felt that Abington would provide a good program and that parents would provide transportation for the students who did not drive.

Mr. Monaghan stated that this would fall under one of the goals of the strategic plan, that of community partnership. That same item is listed under the goals that are now being reviewed.

Mrs. Mueller voiced her concern regarding the transportation issue. She did not ever remember students handling their own transportation. She pointed out that we bus them to Warminster Hospital. She felt that this issue could be problematic.

Mr. Blatt stated that he believed there would be a cost associated with transportation but he did not think it would be a prohibitive number. He felt that we probably did not have a requisite number of vehicles to meet the need at the time this was discussed. However, Mrs. Homel would be in a better position to answer some of these questions and she was unable to attend this meeting.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested, in light of the number of questions and the fact that Mrs. Homel was not present, that this matter be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Blatt stated that that was not a problem.

Mrs. Brzezinski pointed out that when the Board discussed the programs with Warminster and Ann's Choice, we wanted to transport the students for security reasons. She suggested that this should be done now for the same reason.

Mrs. Huf pointed out that the parents would probably also have to agree to this.

Mr. Faust stated that he thought this was an excellent program and he supported it. However, Centennial does not allow students to drive to MBIT unless they have a job right after school. He wondered if we would somehow be discriminating against students who could not afford their own transportation. He would like to have this looked into.

Mrs. Mueller stated that this would be looked into and discussed at the next meeting.

3. Preliminary Approval for Student 8-3 to Participate in the PA Annual Homecoming Queen Selection in Lancaster, PA

Ed Hagen, a teacher at Tennent, introduced Heather Cummings, a candidate for America's Homecoming Queen.

Erin McCracken, an Athletic Council Officer, spoke about the event and indicated that they were sponsoring sending Heather to Lancaster for the competition.

Heather Cummings spoke about how she came to be the candidate and how much she appreciated the opportunity.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval of the request of Student 8-3, (a/k/a Heather Cummings) a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at William Tennent High School, to attend the Pennsylvania Homecoming Queen Selection to be held on March 25-26, 2006 in Lancaster, PA. There is no cost to the District.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

4. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 7-6

*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, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status to allow student 7-6 to attend Longstreth Elementary School for the 2006-2007 school year as a tuition student. The parents will provide transportation.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

5. Permission to Apply for Private Competitive Grant

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

<i>Lowe's Educational Foundation</i>	<i>\$19,240</i>
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*The motion passed 9-0.*

6. Authorization of a Supplemental Lease with Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Faust explained what was involved in this issue.

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes a lease with Middle Bucks Institute of Technology and Middle Bucks Area Vocational Authority and the other participating school districts named in the Articles of Agreement. In addition, Centennial School District authorizes the President of the School Board to sign the lease and to the extent necessary to execute any ancillary documents and take all other actions necessary to carry out the renovations project.*

*A motion to amend was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky by adding the following language at the end of the motion: "Otherwise the former resolution shall be in full force and effect."*

*The motion to amend passed 9-0.*

*The amended motion passed 9-0.*

7. Early Retirement Incentive

Mr. Strouse explained that in order to mitigate the effect of the reduction in force, the Board had discussed an early retirement incentive program for the District’s professional staff. A policy was presented to the Board that he believed should be implemented to help with the programs that would be in place. The District anticipated a reduction in force, particularly at the high school, and this should help transfer some of the effect of that.

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the modifications to Policy 2.17, Retirement Incentive Program.*

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she felt this served not only to help mitigate the impact of the reduction in force but also provided some financial aspect for the community.

*The motion passed 9-0.*

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that the policy should be disseminated to members of the Centennial Education Association.

**PERSONNEL**

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves all personnel recommendations, as follows: Resignations, Retirements, Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Mentors; and Co-Curricular.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

**POLICIES**

Discussion:

3.24 – Family Trips Scheduled During School Year

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that very few changes had been made to the policy.

Mr. Monaghan pointed out that there were a few things discussed by Citizens Policy Committee that had not been included in the policy, including the addition of the “Reason for Absence” under Section I. B. and the attachment to the policy of attendance requirements and implications from the standards.

Dr. Sexton indicated that he and Mr. Monaghan had discussed this prior to the meeting but that he had no clear recollection of what had been suggested.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that this policy be pulled so that it could be reviewed further.

### 3.5 – Non-Discrimination on Basis of Disability

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this was reviewed by the solicitor and that only minor changes were made. The policy would be moved forward for final approval at the next meeting.

### 7.21 – Exemption from Instruction

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this policy was not reviewed by the solicitor and that no changes had been made. Mr. Strouse pointed out that no vote should be necessary since there were no changes.

Dr. Sexton explained that historically the Board had voted so they could keep track of when policies were reviewed. Mrs. Mueller confirmed that this would come forward at the next meeting.

## **OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she had received some information from Jack Brady at the I.U. that included information on property tax relief and the education budget. She distributed information for the Board to review.

Mr. Monaghan gave a report on the Spitz Tour, which took place on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. He visited the plant with Mr. Lasher and Mrs. Jankowsky for the purpose of observing the SCi dome. The cost of the equipment would be \$180,000 with a one-year warranty, including support from Spitz and two day on-site training for up to four people. Mr. Monaghan also reported on Starry Night Software packages available.

Mrs. Jankowsky spoke about the benefits of this and indicated that she was impressed with the machine. She felt that it would be a tremendous improvement and pointed out that one did not need to be an astronomer to operate the equipment. She hoped that the Board would fund this.

Mrs. Jankowsky also indicated that she wished to publicly apologize to Mrs. Lynch for neglecting to let her know the date and time of this trip – it was an oversight on her part.

## **REPORTS**

### MBIT

Mr. Faust reported that a meeting was held on February 15<sup>th</sup>. The following items were discussed:

- The Executive Council made recommendations to hire special counsel to review the bid documentation regarding the renovation project. There was also a recommendation on hiring a clerk of the works to oversee the project.
- Central Bucks would no longer be allowing any of its students to take Math at MBIT since they were concerned about PSSA scores.
- MBIT was requesting a pilot program for Health and Phys Ed to bring in a certified Health and P.E. teacher. This would be related to the student's chosen field and would not require a lot of extra facilities.
- There was approval of another partnership with Bucks County Community College.
- A resolution was approved regarding Supplemental Lease Agreement similar to that approved by Centennial's Board at this meeting.

Regarding the P.E. teacher, Mrs. Jankowsky questioned how many people were out there with the required type of certification.

Mrs. Jones explained that they said they didn't have time for physical education – that was why they were going to try to incorporate it into their vocational training. She felt that was a good way to do it. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that it would be embedded in the courses.

#### Finance Committee

Mr. Faust reported that the Finance Committee had met the previous evening. Dr. Coe presented the Programs and Services Budget, which would be coming forward to the Board soon. Mr. Faust felt they had a good discussion on this, addressed some investment concerns, and that they would be getting more information.

Mr. Faust also indicated that they had discussed the elementary feasibility study. Since the Finance Committee would be meeting almost weekly, they recommended that this study be moved into Operations since there were many more operations concerns that should be dealt with first. If it remained in Finance, it would be on the back burner until the budget was dealt with.

Mr. Faust stated that they did a quick overview of the budget, which showed a roughly \$9 million shortfall. They went over the new requirements for this budget. The deadline for the preliminary budget was April 20<sup>th</sup>. There would be a short Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon.

Mrs. Mueller asked if there was a consensus to move the feasibility study to Operations. There were no objections to this request.

Mrs. Mueller felt that it would make sense to put the high school study into Operations also. There was a consensus on this.

Operations Committee

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that there was a capital tour on February 25<sup>th</sup>, conducted by Mr. Lasher. Board members saw most of the items on the projects list.

Mrs. Lynch indicated that they also viewed the pool at McDonald, which was clear except for a Christmas tree.

Mrs. Brzezinski complimented Mr. Lasher on his fine work in the District. She thanked him.

Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that this committee had met for two full days, February 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, and came up with four goal areas, as follows:

- (1) Appreciating diversity
- (2) Communication
- (3) Partnerships
- (4) Achievement of the Standards

She indicated that the committee would meet again on April 6<sup>th</sup> to finalize the document and that it would go forward to the Board.

Education

Mrs. Lynch thanked Dr. Masko for his hard work on curriculum renewal. Fortunately, this went through the committee and was forwarded to the Finance Committee. She hoped that we can look to the future to find the financing to fund this.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary