

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD APRIL 11, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on April 11, 2006, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Mueller at 7:50 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Joseph Faust
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
Patricia Jones
Jane Schrader Lynch
Michael Monaghan
Cynthia Mueller
Harve Strouse

Administration:

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

[Mrs. Brzezinski was absent from the meeting.]

CEA/Teachers:

Theodore Abel
Nicole Podell
Elizabeth Sweeney
Rena Friedant
Donna Harkins
Al Catarro

Public:

Marianne Chisesi

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Mueller apologized for the late start to the meeting, indicating that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting relative to personnel issues.

Mrs. Mueller also noted that Mrs. Brzezinski was not in attendance at this meeting.

Mrs. Mueller reported that Al Hertenberger had been proclaimed Citizen of the Year from Southampton. She stated that the Board was very pleased and proud of Mr. Hertenberger.

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Blatt explained that the Bucks County High School Poet Laureate Contest had been held recently and that two of our students, Zachary Russo and Annamarie Di Raddo, were finalists.

Ted Abel spoke about the contest, indicating that well over 100 students had entered.

GOOD NEWS

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

STUDENT REPORTS

Tommy Cardon reported on the following items at Tennent:

- “*Once Upon a Mattress*” was performed the past weekend.
- Voting for Mr. Tennent was kicked off.
- On April 30th the March of Dimes *Walk America* would be held.
- April is National Poetry Month.
- The Senior Walls for Fine Arts were being put together.
- MBIT was raising money for the Mississippi relief fund.
- The SADD Lock-in would be held on April 28th.
- The Key Club’s spaghetti dinner was coming up soon.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Affiliation Agreement with Abington Memorial Hospital

Mr. Blatt stated that some research had been done on this issue and that there was some information in the Board’s packet regarding this.

Mr. Strouse questioned the second item on the memo from Mrs. Homel and whether Centennial would be the first school district to have an agreement with the hospital. He asked if the other schools handled this as an extracurricular activity.

Mrs. Homel clarified that Centennial would be the first to have an agreement with the hospital and indicated that the other schools did not call this an extracurricular activity, although it was an after school activity.

Mr. Blatt stated that it appeared that the other districts handled this more informally than Centennial.

Mrs. Huf stated that she believed the agreement with Abington was supposed to be similar to the one with Warminster. Mrs. Homel indicated that that was correct.

Mr. Catarro explained that part of the negotiations consisted of structuring a model similar to Warminster.

Mr. Faust stated that he still had the same issue as before, which was that this was being run during the school day without the District providing transportation. He felt that this might be some type of discrimination because some of the students could not get there. Since this is a public school, all of the programs should be available to all students who qualify for them.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that Administration had provided information on transportation.

Mr. Faust stated that that was not included in the proposed motion so he was assuming that Administration was not recommending it.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the motion could be amended to provide transportation at the amount indicated in the backup.

Mrs. Homel explained that the hospital was looking for students who were not committed to time frames. There were various activities available to our students that were beyond the normal school day. To attach a bus to the process would restrict what the hospital wants to do.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that the bus could pick the students up later, rather than picking them up during the normal school day. She questioned how many days per week this would be.

Mr. Catarro indicated that it was discussed that this could be two or more days per week. There could be more possibilities depending on the interest of the students.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the buses picked students up at 4:00 or 5:00 if that would fit. Mr. Catarro pointed out that things might change from day to day, so that would complicate it.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she supported this with or without transportation and that she would be willing to try it for a year. Mrs. Mueller pointed out that this was a two-year agreement. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she would support whatever the pilot period was – either one or two years.

Mr. Catarro indicated that it was hard for him to say no when this would be such a good experience for the students.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she totally supported this and felt that it would be great for the young people. Even though we have to pay transportation, the amount of knowledge our children would receive had no price tag.

Mrs. Huf indicated that she liked that this was a partnership. She thought it would be invaluable and she would hate to see us pass this up. She supported this.

A motion was made by Mr. Monaghan and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves a two-year Affiliation Agreement, effective April 11, 2006 through June 30, 2008, for the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years, between Centennial School District and Abington Memorial Hospital. There is no cost to the District.

Mr. Faust felt this was an excellent program but that he must vote against it because we would not be providing transportation.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Huf to amend the motion to include transportation in the amount of \$10,200.33.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she felt Mr. Catarro and Mrs. Homel had indicated that it was not a good idea to provide transportation as far as the hospital's position. There were other courses that were not offered to all students. She would not support the amendment.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she had been in agreement with Mr. Faust until she heard what Abington would allow our students to participate in. She was not in favor of the transportation because she felt it would stifle the program and put too many limits on it. She pointed out that the students could carpool. She indicated that she would support the original motion, without the transportation.

Mrs. Huf asked if they thought this would fly with or without the transportation. Mr. Catarro stated that he thought the transportation would present a problem and indicated that he would like the students to have some flexibility.

Mrs. Huf indicated that she would like to remove her second to the motion to amend.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she would like to remove her motion to amend.

The motion passed 6-2. (Mr. Faust and Mr. Strouse opposed.)

2. Request for Fulbright Administrator Exchange

Mr. Blatt reminded the Board that they had requested additional information, which was provided in their packets. He indicated that Mrs. Buckley was recuperating from surgery and was not able to be present at this meeting. Dr. Masko had consulted with Mrs. Buckley and prepared the memo enclosed in the Board's packet. At this point, Fulbright was reviewing the applications. He felt that if the Board did not want to approve this, they should decide sooner rather than later; otherwise the Fulbright people would be proceeding in good faith.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she was ready to proceed and suggested that when Mrs. Buckley had recovered, maybe she could appear before the Board.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Lynch to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Mrs. Sheila Buckley's request for permission to apply for a Fulbright Administrator Exchange assignment.

The motion passed 8-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Final Approval of the WTHS Boys' Volleyball Team Trip to State College PA

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Lynch to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval of the William Tennent High School Boys' Volleyball Team Trip to the State College Volleyball Tournament in State College, Pennsylvania, May 5-6, 2006. The cost to the District is not to exceed \$100.00.

The motion passed 8-0.

2. Final Approval of the WTHS Science Students' Trip to State College, PA

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Faust to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval of the William Tennent High School Science students to the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Competition in State College, Pennsylvania, May14-16, 2006. The cost to the District is not to exceed \$1,680.00.

The motion passed 8-0.

3. Permission to Apply for Entitlement Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to apply for the following 2006-2007 entitlement grant in the amount indicated:

Accountability Block Grant \$378,710

Dr. Sexton provided some background on this matter, pointing out that this was the third year for this grant. The money for this comes from the state, which we use to offset the cost of the full-day kindergarten program. The amount is based on our PSSA scores.

The motion passed 8-0.

4. Permission to Accept a Mini-Grant

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

Inclusive Practices Mini-Grant Program \$10,000

The motion passed 8-0.

5. Permission to Apply for a Private Competitive Grant – Lowe's

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones 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.

The motion passed 8-0.

6. Permission to Apply for a Private Competitive Grant – BMW

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 competitive grant for the 2005-2006 school year in the amount indicated:

BMW Group Grant \$10,000

The motion passed 8-0.

7. WTHS Feasibility Study

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves referring the William Tennent High School Feasibility Study to the Operations Committee for further action.

The motion passed 8-0.

PERSONNEL

None.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Initial Distribution:

Mrs. Jankowsky enumerated the following policies for initial distribution:

- 1.3 – Centennial School Board Organization and Board Director Responsibilities
- 1.5 – Board Governance Standards (Code of Conduct)
- 3.2 – School Sponsored Student Publications
- 3.24 – Family Trips Scheduled During School Year
- 5.7 – Reporting Student Progress

Final Approval:

2.18 – Employment of Co-Curricular Coaches, Advisors and Club Sponsors

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 2.18, Employment of Co-Curricular Coaches, Advisors and Club Sponsors.

The motion passed 8-0.

3.18 – Student Indebtedness

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 3.18, Student Indebtedness.

The motion passed 8-0.

5.4 – Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Development

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 5.4, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Development.

The motion passed 8-0.

7.24 – Acceptable Use of Computer Technology

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.24, Acceptable Use of Computer Technology.

Mrs. Lynch asked if the use of the Internet by faculty and staff was in accordance with the policy (i.e., for supporting educational purposes only.)

Mr. Blatt stated that he was sure that our technology was used almost exclusively to deliver the educational program but he was not naïve enough to believe that someone had not used it inappropriately at some point. When this happens, it is addressed.

The motion passed 8-0.

FINANCIAL

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

- *Schedule of Bills – March 2006*
- *Investments – March 2006*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – March 2006*

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – March 2006*
- *Budgetary Transfers – April 2006*

The motion passed 8-0.

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 Work Session/Regular Meeting of February 28, 2006.

The motion passed 8-0.

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 Meeting of March 14, 2006.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she would be abstaining since she was absent from that meeting.

The motion passed 7-0-1. (Mrs. Lynch abstained.)

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

None.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

No report.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Lynch thanked Dr. Masko, Mr. Monaghan and Mrs. Jankowsky and all the Steering Committee for all of their work on the Strategic Plan they are developing. She indicated that they would be meeting again on April 18th and that hopefully this would be moved forward to the Board on April 25th.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Faust reported that this meeting was originally scheduled for the previous evening but had been rescheduled for the following afternoon.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she would not be able to attend that meeting. She pointed out that one issue that had arisen was addressing the matter of who would oversee refurbishing the renovation of MBIT and it was decided to go with a Clerk of the Works. At the Authority meeting, they decided it would be better to have a separate contractor status for the Clerk of the Works position so this would be a 1099 contractor rather than an employee. Since the original amount was \$72,000, they decided that they should add another 15%, so the amount would be closer to \$82,000. The main purpose was that bond counsel strongly advised separation of the two.

Intermediate Unit

None.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Faust reported that the budgeted shortfall was still around \$9 million. He asked Administration to look at running a second budget that would fall in line with current possible legislation.

Mrs. Mueller asked whether we would be affected for this budget if the legislation passed.

Mr. Faust indicated that it could happen. We could take the matter to a Court of Common Pleas, but if they ruled against us, it could happen.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this Committee had met on April 6th and would be meeting again on April 17th. They had focused on the preliminary feasibility report generated by Administration. That report would be distributed to Board members on the following day. She encouraged Board members to attend the next meeting.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that the Committee had approved a motion to get quotes for the appraised value of each of the elementary schools and that they would be discussing this at the April 17th meeting also.

Citizens Policy

Mr. Monaghan reported that the Citizens Policy Committee had met on March 21st and discussed Policies 3.2 – School Sponsored Student Publications, 3.24 – Family Trips Scheduled During School Year, and 5.7- Reporting Student Progress. The Committee's next meeting would be on April 18th, at which they would discuss several policies.

Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Lynch indicated that at a meeting the previous evening Mr. Blatt was asked to contact Bernie O'Neill regarding getting more information regarding House Bill 39. He indicated that there is a stalemate on this issue and that this has gone into a conference committee. Mrs. Lynch stated that this was property tax relief, which senior citizens needed, but that this was going nowhere in this committee.

Mrs. Lynch felt that a letter should be forwarded to our state representatives and our state Senate; however, she was unsure that there was enough information to do so.

Labor Relations

Mr. Faust reported that the Committee had met twice with representatives from the administrative group to review the compensation program.

Legislative Liaison (continued)

Regarding the sending of a letter to state representatives, Mrs. Jankowsky stated that while she agreed that there was not a lot of information about this, we do know that one of the key components is that it would take effect immediately and would affect the 2006-2007 budget. She felt that it would be worthwhile to send something asking that they do not, at this point in the budget process, make rules that affect the 2006-2007 budget cycle.

Mrs. Mueller felt that was a wonderful suggestion and that with the concurrence of the Board, Mr. Blatt could be requested to do this. The Board concurred.

Mrs. Lynch asked that all representatives be included.

Mr. Faust suggested that it be sent to every member of the conference committee.

Mr. Blatt felt that what might be helpful was if there was a Board member who could collaborate with him on drafting a letter. Mrs. Jankowsky agreed that when an elected official is included on a letter, it makes a better impact. Mrs. Mueller requested Mrs.

Jankowsky to collaborate with Mr. Blatt. Mrs. Huf felt that it should be signed by all of the Board members. It was decided to have the letter drafted first, and then a decision would be made.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Faust stated that he had received a letter from Mr. Diamond, which he forwarded to Mr. Blatt for distribution to the Board.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto. Also, Mrs. Mueller indicated that following this meeting there would be an Executive Session regarding personnel issues.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Jones to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary