

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD SEPTEMBER 26, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A Work Session/Regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on September 26, 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
Joseph Faust
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
Patricia Jones
Jane Schrader Lynch
Michael Monaghan
Cynthia Mueller
Harve Strouse

CEA/Teachers:

Rose McKevitt

Administration:

David Blatt
Sandy Homel
Victor Lasher
Dr. Michael Masko

Public:

Jim Ford
Steve Gresh
Jamie Forlini

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 relative to legal and personnel issues.

Mrs. Mueller stated that on September 15th the annual Hall of Fame ceremony was held and that it was a wonderful evening. Mrs. Jones indicated that it was the first one she had attended and that it was wonderful to meet all of the young people and see what they have done with their lives.

Mrs. Mueller noted that she had received the I.U. newsletter, which referenced a presentation by Dr. Jack McGovern relative to raising bookworms/helping children fall in love with reading. She was pleased to note that while other districts had planned one building to be involved, Centennial planned to involve all its elementary schools. She requested Administration to advise the Board when these programs would take place.

Mr. Monaghan noted that a newspaper article had indicated that Janet Richard was absent from the Tax Advisory Commission meeting. He wanted to explain for the record that Janet Richard had called and was excused due to a family emergency.

Mr. Faust reported that the Labor Relations Committee had held an Executive Session several weeks ago to begin discussions on their support staff.

Mrs. Jankowsky commended staff members on the calendar. She felt that it was high quality.

Mrs. Brzezinski reported that the President of Commerce Bank was impressed with the artwork on the calendar.

Mr. Blatt spoke about the savings we have realized with the calendar and thanked everyone who had a hand in this.

PRESENTATIONS

Celebration of Bands

Steve Gresh announced that the 12th Annual Celebration of Bands would be held on October 21st at Claude Lodge Field. He invited everyone to come and distributed complimentary tickets to Board members. He also asked anyone who was interested in volunteering to contact him or Vicki Boruta.

GOOD NEWS

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

STUDENT REPORTS

None.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she would like to have the Minutes of the June 21, 2006 Operations Committee removed and brought forward at the next meeting since there were revisions to be made.

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

- *Finance Committee – June 19, 2006*
- *Finance Committee – August 14, 2006*
- *Finance Committee – August 24, 2006.*

The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Brzezinski pointed out that at the last meeting she had requested that she be called if there was any presentation at any of the schools about Constitution Day. She had not received any call but there was an article in the newspaper about another school district that had had something for this occasion.

Dr. Masko responded that there were no large assemblies for this but the Social Studies teachers were asked to refer to this and then to fit it into the curriculum at the appropriate time during the school year.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Extension of Term – Citizens Policy Committee

A motion was made by Mr. Monaghan and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an extension for Ellen Lynes of her term on the Citizens Policy Committee for an additional three years from September 27, 2006 to June 30, 2009.

The motion passed 9-0.

2. Exceptions to Facility Use Policy

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

(A) *Centennial Aquatic Club*

Use of WTHS pool from September 2006 through March 2007. Requesting a 50% waiver of fees at a cost to the District of \$5991.10.

- (B) *Centennial Aquatic Club* Sunday use of WTHS pool on January 7, 2007. Also, requesting a 50% waiver of fees at a cost to the District of \$287.62.
- (C) *OLGC Swim Club* Use of Klinger Middle School pool from September 2006 through February 2007. Requesting 50% waiver of fees at a cost to the District of \$421.60.
- (D) *Southampton Basketball* Sunday use of Klinger Middle School gym from January through March 2007. There is no cost to the District.
- (E) *Warminster Symphony* Sunday use of WTHS auditorium on September 24, October 8, November 26, 2006, March 4 and May 6, 2007. There is no cost to the District.
- (F) *Warminster Parks & Recreation* Requesting a 50% waiver of fees for use of Log College Middle School pool for all Fall, Winter and Summer community aquatics programs from September 2006 through August 2007. Approximate cost to District for the year of \$842.60.
- (G) *Southampton Youth Soccer* Sunday use of WTHS gym on February 18, 2007. There is no cost to the District.

The motion passed 9-0.

3. Parent Transportation Contract

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board agrees to contract transportation services with Mr. Jeff Clark to transport Student No. 999010469 to and from Pearl Buck School for a duration of approximately two weeks at the rate of \$26.52 per day.

Mr. Strouse asked if Administration was recommending this. Mr. Blatt indicated that they were.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Agreement with Bethanna

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Special Education Services agreement between

Bethanna, Inc. and the Centennial School District for the 2006-2007 school year at the per diem rate of \$150.76 per student.

Mrs. Homel explained that Bethanna had about 50 children and that the enrollment fluctuated through the year.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if this reflected an increase over last year's rate. Mrs. Homel indicated that it did and explained that the home districts are billed for these expenses but it takes close to two years before we see the money. Mr. Blatt explained that our costs are never fully recovered.

The motion passed 9-0.

5. Agreement with Bucks County I.U. #22

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board agrees to pay the Bucks County Schools Intermediate Unit #22 \$2,085,139.00 for the 2006-2007 school year to provide instructional programs and services for Centennial School District special education students as indicated in the attached listing. All instructional programs and services shall be consistent with all state and federal requirements.

Mrs. Homel summarized the total amount of students, teachers and classrooms involved, per the backup information provided to the Board.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked Administration to provide a better understanding of what federal money covers in the way of special education services and programs. Mr. Blatt indicated that he would do so in the Friday update.

The motion passed 9-0.

6. Agreement with Buxmont Academy

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Act 48 Program Placement Agreement between Buxmont Academy and the Centennial School District for the 2006-2007 school year at the per diem rate of \$97.82 (\$17,607.60 a school year) per regular education student and at the per diem rate of \$107.82 (\$19,407.60 a school year) per special education student.

Mrs. Homel stated that there were currently two students at Buxmont but this could vary as the year progressed. Usually, there were no more than four or five. She indicated that we have worked with Buxmont for years.

Mr. Faust asked if this agreement and the ones involved in the next few motions had received any legal review or if they had been reviewed in recent years. Mrs. Homel responded that they had been written by our own solicitor.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that these were all under Act 48. She questioned which Act 48. Mrs. Homel indicated that it was Act 48 of 1999. Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that this should be differentiated from the Act 48 that relates to professional development.

Mrs. Huf asked what determined the different costs for all of these programs. Mrs. Homel explained that they were primarily determined by what it costs them to attract the specialists they need on site.

The motion passed 9-0.

7. Agreement with Life Works – Foundations

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Act 48 Program Placement Agreement between Delaware Valley Mental Health Foundations, Inc. d/b/a Foundations Behavioral Health, and the Centennial School District for the 2006-2007 school year at the per diem rate of \$138.00 per student plus expenditures for Specialized Services.

Mrs. Homel explained that this could fluctuate more than most of the other facilities since this related to mental health. The placements have ranged from two to seven.

The motion passed 9-0.

8. Agreement with Lakeside Educational Network

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Agreement between Lakeside Educational Network and the Centennial School District for the 2006-2007 school year at the per diem rate of \$143.60 (\$21,906.00 a school year) for each regular education placement and at the per diem rate of \$162.55 (\$25,273.00 a school year) per special education placement, plus \$37.50 per day per student with respect to transportation.

Mrs. Homel indicated that we have six slots at Lakeside. At the current time, we have five students there. She explained that this school can issue their own diplomas and they also do their own transportation. We have had a wonderful experience with them as a school and have had good results with our youngsters that have been placed there.

Mrs. Brzezinski asked if she could visit. Mrs. Homel indicated that she would be happy to set this up.

The motion passed 9-0.

9. Agreement with Middle Earth, Inc.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Act 48 Program Placement Agreement between Middle Earth Academy, Inc. and the Centennial School District for the 2006-2007 school year at the per diem rate of \$80.36 (\$14,464.80 a school year) per student.

Mrs. Homel explained that this was for students with disciplinary issues and that we generally have two to five students there over the course of a year.

The motion passed 9-0.

10. Agreements with the NJ Department of Education Mandated Private Schools for the Disabled and Bancroft Neurohealth

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Tuition Contract and the Residential Services Contract between Centennial School District and Bancroft Neurohealth, an approved private school for the disabled in the County of Camden in the State of New Jersey, for the 2006-2007 school year at an estimated annual cost of \$215,818.49.

Mrs. Homel explained that this was for very special needs students. We have tried to bring this closer to home but have not been able to find anyplace. This has a high cost because it is a 365-day per year placement. We have been trying to get the county to help us with the cost.

Mrs. Brzezinski requested that Mrs. Homel find out how much we are getting from the federal and state governments and how much it costs us for the attorney to work on finding out from the county if we can get money back. Mrs. Brzezinski felt that when these numbers were put together, we should get in touch with our representatives to see what they could do for us.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt this would be good information for the bus trip to Harrisburg.

Mrs. Lynch asked how long we have had this child. Mr. Faust responded that he did not know but that it has been his experience that we always seem to have one child with very special needs.

The motion passed 9-0.

11. Agreement with Nexus

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Agreement between Nexus School and the Centennial School District for the 2006-2007 school year in the amount of \$56,000.00.

Mrs. Homel indicated that this was a new provider. We started doing business with them last year. This will be our first full school year with them.

The motion passed 9-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board Approves all personnel recommendations, as follows: Resignations, Retirements, Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Support Staff Substitutes; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Mentors; Homebound Tutors; and Co-Curricular.

Mr. Monaghan indicated that he would be abstaining since his wife was on the list.

The motion passed 8-0-1.

POLICIES

None.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Bus Trip to Harrisburg

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that it was announced at the I.U. meeting that we are pursuing going to Harrisburg. Dr. Coe is willing to help us put this together. He is very interested in sending all the districts with us.

Mr. Blatt indicated that about two weeks ago, he and Dr. Masko attended the monthly Superintendent's meeting. They made everyone aware of the Board's desire to go to Harrisburg regarding the education of children and funding. There was support for this.

Mr. Blatt explained that they have had dialogue with PSBA and that Tom Gentzel indicated that there is no point in going to Harrisburg with an issue if there is no one to listen; i.e., if the representatives are on the floor. PSBA is attempting to coordinate with our representatives so that they are available to visit with us. We are waiting to hear from them. We are also waiting to hear from the bus company.

Mrs. Brzezinski suggested contacting Senator Greenleaf since she felt he would be gracious to us.

Mrs. Lynch stated that, whether we have a bus trip or not, it is our duty to take care of these children and we do. She indicated that her heart went out to everyone who had a child with special needs. But she felt it was time that the government stopped banging the school districts for all of this money.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that in her 20 years of Board service, there was no one issue that was so common to all 501 school districts as special education funding.

Update on Video for Board Meetings

Mrs. Lynch asked for an update on video for the meetings.

Mrs. Mueller explained that Mr. Calhoun was working on this and on getting the cost down. She thought that he would be attending the next meeting.

REPORTS

Tax Study Commission

Mr. Strouse reported that the Tax Study Commission was convened on September 19th. They adopted by-laws which called for a recommendation to be presented to the School Board in 90 days and the expiration of the Commission following that. Tim Vail was elected Secretary, Bob Shaffer was elected Vice Chair, and Harve Strouse was elected Chairman. The Commission reviewed a variety of issues. They scheduled four additional meetings, as follows: October 12 – Commission meeting, which will be open to the public; November 15 (tentative) – Public Hearing; November 29 – Commission meeting; December 12 – Presentation of recommendation to the School Board.

Mrs. Brzezinski did not feel that Mr. Strouse should be the Chairman of this Commission. She indicated that she was not criticizing Mr. Strouse but she felt that, as a Board member, he should not be the Chairman.

Operations Committee

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Operations Committee had met earlier in the evening and discussed the final report on the elementary school feasibility study. They requested Administration to general information on the high school study.

Finance Committee

Mr. Faust reported that due to Act 1 considerations, we will hold off on the student software system until early next year.

Mr. Faust also indicated that Finance Committee members had attended PSBA's seminar on Act 1.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that it would be good to know what costs would be associated with complying with Act 1.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Brzezinski reported that the mother of a private school student had contacted Mrs. Huf, but Mrs. Brzezinski thought she could help. She had thought the problem was resolved, but it was not. The woman has been contacting her, so she may have to let the Board know about this issue.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she attended the Tax Study Commission meeting and the members that were present were the ones that selected the officers for the Commission. The floor was left open. There was no other name put out besides Mr. Strouse.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Faust to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary