

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD OCTOBER 24, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A Work Session/Regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on October 24, 2006, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Mueller at 7:45 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

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

Administration:

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

[Note: Mrs. Huf and Mr. Strouse were absent from the meeting due to health reasons.]

CEA/Teachers:

Ana Brown
Jessica White
Eileen Doyle Rosseljong
Lizabeth Stanfield
Andy Mahoney

Public:

Gregory Horn
George Ropars
Phillip Patrick

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Mueller announced that Mrs. Huf and Mr. Strouse were excused from the meeting due to medical reasons.

Mrs. Mueller reported that she had attended the Celebration of Bands the previous Saturday evening and that it was a wonderful experience.

Mrs. Mueller commended Administration, the staff, parents, students and the Transportation Department, as well as the Police forces from Warminster and the surrounding communities that were involved in handling a bad situation the previous week at the high school.

Mr. Blatt stated that there had been a serious situation and that he would like to applaud the students and staff at the high school, as well as the District-wide administrative staff, and Dr. Masko. He felt that the experience Dr. Masko received during that week was invaluable. Several things took Mr. Blatt out of the District during the week and Dr. Masko stepped in and did a wonderful job. Mr. Blatt commended him for his good judgment and leadership. He also recognized the students for their cooperation and assistance.

Dr. Masko also thanked the Warminster Police. He felt they were amazing in that they were able to coordinate help from 12 other law enforcement agencies in a short period of time. He also commended the Transportation Department for their work.

Mr. Blatt thanked the Board for not impeding Administration's efforts and for their expressions of support and appreciation. He felt they acted very professionally.

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Blatt stated that he had received from PSBA a Certificate of Appreciation for Mrs. Brzezinski for her years of service. He read a history of the honor roll of School Board service.

Mrs. Mueller presented the certificate to Mrs. Brzezinski.

Mrs. Brzezinski thanked everyone and spoke about how good the District has been to her and to her children.

GOOD NEWS

No report.

STUDENT REPORTS

None.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

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 Operations Committee of June 21, 2006.

The motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Preliminary Approval of the WTHS Academic Team Trip to the Scholar's Bowl

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for the William Tennent High School Academic Team trip to the Scholars' Bowl in Dix Hills, Long Island, New York, on January 5-6, 2007. The cost to the District is not to exceed \$600.00 for the use of a District school bus.

The motion passed 7-0.

2. Approval of PSSA Tutor/Assessment Specialist

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves retaining Jason Solt as a contracted PSSA Tutor/Assessment Specialist at William Tennent High School for the period September 21, 2006 through March 30, 2007 at the rate of \$200.00 per day. Funds to be appropriated from the School Improvement Grant and the General Fund.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested additional information and asked if the District had this person last year. Dr. Masko indicated that this was a new person who was interviewed for this position.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if this went through the budget process. Dr. Masko indicated that it did not because we did not know we had this need until we had the designation in August.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked for specifics as to where in the General Fund this money would be coming from. Dr. Masko explained that \$8,000 would be from a grant, which would be used first. The remainder would come from the General Fund and that there is money there that came from a school improvement grant.

The motion passed 7-0.

3. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 13-14 and Student 20-3

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-

Resident and Tuition Status to allow Student 13-14 and Student 20-3 to attend Leary Elementary School for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year. The District will continue to provide transportation.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that this was a departure from past practice regarding providing transportation. However, in her opinion this case merited the exception to the policy. This was also supported by Administration.

The motion passed 7-0.

4. Walking Zone Exception for Student 12-3

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that this was supported by Administration and had the unanimous support of the Operations Committee.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to the Leary kindergarten walking zone for Student 12-3 to receive transportation services for the 2006-2007 school year.

The motion passed 7-0.

5. Agreement with Nexus School

Mrs. Lynch explained that this was previously approved on September 26th but was being amended.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Jones 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 per student.

Dr. Masko explained that this agreement was being amended. We only had one student there before but are amending this so we can use it for more than one student.

In response to a concern expressed by Mrs. Brzezinski, Dr. Masko confirmed that this agreement had been reviewed by one of the District's solicitors.

The motion passed 7-0.

PERSONNEL

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

Mrs. Brzezinski wished Ms. Pfeiffer well in her retirement.

Mrs. Rollo indicated that item #4 under Leaves of Absence should be revised to indicate “Business” rather than “Mathematics.”

The motion passed 7-0.

POLICIES

Discussion:

6.6 – Title I – Parent Involvement

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that this was a new policy, which was not reviewed by the solicitor. She asked how it differed from what was already done with parents of students that have been identified as Title I.

Dr. Masko explained that there is quite a bit of communication with parents. However, the School-Parent Compact (Section IV) was new.

Mr. Faust questioned why this was not reviewed by the solicitor if it was to be in compliance with the law.

Dr. Masko stated that he believed the language was all taken directly from the law.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this policy would be moved forward to the next meeting for approval.

7.27 – Payment of Bills

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that this was a cyclical review of the policy and that it was not reviewed by the solicitor. The changes seemed to be housekeeping rather than substantive.

Mr. Faust asked for clarification of Section I.C.3.b). It was indicated that Mr. Vail would be asked about this since he was not in attendance at this meeting.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she had received a notice from the Warminster Planning Commission indicating that there would be a presentation at the Supervisors Meeting by Granor Price Homes regarding houses to be constructed on the drivers ed lot. The meeting would be on October 26th.

Mrs. Lynch indicated that she had received a letter from the Planning Commission regarding a meeting on November 1st regarding zoning for this property.

Mr. Monaghan asked if the Board wanted to make sure that Mr. von Luvanee was at this meeting. Mr. Faust pointed out that this presentation was about the homes that Granor Price was going to build, which had nothing to do with the School District. He did not know how we could spend taxpayer money to pay the solicitor to go to this meeting.

It was decided that Mr. Blatt would call Mr. von Luvanee to determine whether or not he should attend the meeting.

Mrs. Lynch stated that someone was under the impression that there was a report given to the School District regarding the cable TV issue and that it was awaiting Board action. Mrs. Brzezinski felt that there was not good communication.

Mrs. Mueller suggested having Mr. Blatt or Dr. Masko check into the status of this matter.

REPORTS

I.U.

Mrs. Brzezinski reported that on October 30th a special meeting was held to discuss hiring a new Director. On November 15th there would be another I.U. meeting but she would be in Italy and would be unable to attend. She asked if anyone could go in her place.

Mr. Blatt pointed out that there was a Tax Commission meeting that evening but he felt that we should have a representative at the I.U. meeting since this was an important issue. He suggested the possibility of the I.U. rescheduling their meeting.

Mrs. Mueller asked Mrs. Brzezinski to make it clear to the I.U. that this date was a problem for us and to ask if it was possible for them to change the date.

MBIT

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Building Security and Technology Committee met on November 18th. Three items will be funded under bond money for the most part, as follows: (1) upgrading of phone system for \$14,000; (2) proposal for six-foot chain link fence to be extended around another section of the property to provide additional security, as well as the need for a guard during construction (which could come out of Perkins money); and (3) lockers.

Finance

Mr. Faust reported that the Finance Committee had met on October 16th and reviewed the student absence calling system, which would also serve other options. Additional information was requested.

The committee also discussed how they will look at the budget this year due to the accelerated time frame under Act One. At the next meeting they will be looking at revenues. This will be given to Administration with the direction to develop a budget that falls within that number.

Mr. Blatt stated that they were expected to develop a budget with some integrity even earlier than in the past. He indicated that they would all do the best they could but he felt it would be a real challenge.

Citizens Policy

Mr. Monaghan stated that due to the Tax Commission meeting on November 15th, the Citizens Policy meeting would be held on November 20th.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that Peter Suanlarm was not at his place at the press table since he had taken another position with another company. She had received this information by e-mail.

Dr. Masko indicated that Peter planned to become a teacher in the future.

Mrs. Jankowsky praised Dr. Belli, the Grand Master of the 50th birthday of Davis School, and thanked the HSA for purchasing shirts for all the students.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Faust to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary