

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
HELD NOVEMBER 14, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on November 14, 2006 in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Mueller at 7:40 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Betty Huf  
Joan Jankowsky  
Patricia Jones  
Michael Monaghan  
Cynthia Mueller

Administration:

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

CEA/Teachers:

Ann Boger  
Haidy Kerber  
Susan Starr  
Marie Belcher

Public:

Tom Reinboth  
Jacob Gallagher  
Andrea Thompson  
Joe Miller  
Kathy Miller  
Roy Weiser  
Emily Weiser  
Gus Witzel  
Liz Watts  
Marie Murray  
Carol Sharp  
Karen Melio  
Andrea Woodring  
Barb Patrick  
Ilysa Grabert

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Mueller announced that several Board members were absent from this meeting. Mrs. Brzezinski was excused since she was out of town. Mr. Strouse had a close personal loss. Mrs. Lynch was ill. Mr. Faust should be arriving late due to a prior commitment.

Mr. Monaghan stated that he had attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new music lab. He congratulated the Music Department and Dr. Masko for getting this lab going.

Mr. Monaghan also spoke about the Career Showcase that had taken place the previous week. He congratulated the committee members as well as the students.

Mrs. Jankowsky spoke about meeting Kermit Cintron, a graduate of William Tennent, at the Hall of Fame game and induction. In the October 29<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Courier Times* there was an article regarding Mr. Cintron becoming the welterweight champion of the world.

Mrs. Mueller spoke about the Centennial Education Foundation's Dinner with Friends that was held at Ann's Choice. There were over 250 in attendance. Mrs. Jones pointed out that the desserts that night were made by MBIT students and were outstanding.

Mr. Blatt thanked Mr. Monaghan for his hard work on the Career Fair and spoke about what a wonderful event it was.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### William Tennent Varsity Pep Band

Mr. Blatt introduced Joseph LoVecchio and the William Tennent Varsity Pep Band. Mr. LoVecchio spoke briefly and the band played several selections.

Mrs. Mueller thanked them for coming out to the Board meeting and complimented them on their accomplishments. She also thanked the parents for their support.

## **GOOD NEWS**

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

## **STUDENT REPORTS**

Andrea Thompson reported on events at Tennent, including the following:

- The Varsity Girls' Volleyball team and the Football team made it to the playoffs.
- FBLA opened an online store.
- The Seniors won the Powder Puff game.
- Mix-it-up Day was held today.
- The career showcase was a large hit, with over 500 students attending.

Ms. Thompson distributed tickets for the play to be held this weekend to Board members.

Jacob Gallagher reported on events at MBIT, as follows:

- The renovation program was progressing nicely and was in Phase 2.
- Approximately 20 students recently returned from the Skills USA competition.
- MBIT's annual Open House was scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The student-run salon was open by appointment.
- The Cosmetology students were doing a fundraiser, "Cut Out Breast Cancer."
- Aspirations Restaurant was open on Wednesday and Thursday. Please call for reservations.

## COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

## OLD BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

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

*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 to allow Student 14-13 to remain at Leary Elementary School for the 2006-2007 school year. The family will provide transportation.*

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this had the support of Administration.

*The motion passed 5-0.*

### 2. Final Approval of the WTHS Academic Team Trip to the Scholars' Bowl, January 5-6, 2007

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final 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 School District school bus.*

*The motion passed 5-0.*

3. Permission to Accept Entitlement Grants

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to accept the following entitlement grants for the 2006-2007 school year in the amounts indicated:*

<i>Title I</i>	<i>\$905,777</i>
<i>Title II</i>	<i>262,425</i>
<i>Title III</i>	<i>32,681</i>
<i>Title V</i>	<i>6,026</i>
<i>Safe &amp; Drug Free Schools &amp; Communities</i>	<i>20,469</i>

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the Title I grant was up significantly (about 15%) and that Title II and III were also up. Title V and the Safe & Drug Free Schools grants were down.

*The motion passed 5-0.*

4. Permission to Apply for a Competitive Grant

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to apply for the following competitive grant for the 2006-2007 school year in the amount indicated:*

<i>School Based Behavioral Health</i>	<i>\$90,000</i>
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Mrs. Jankowsky noted that this grant had not been available to us the previous year.

*The motion passed 5-0.*

5. Permission to Accept Accountability Block Grant

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

<i>Accessibility Block Grant</i>	<i>\$468,817</i>
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Mrs. Jankowsky asked if this was the same amount that was budgeted. This will be checked on.

*The motion passed 5-0.*

6. Permission to Accept a Competitive Grant – Science: It’s Elementary

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to accept the following competitive grant for the 2006-2007 school year:*

*Science: It’s Elementary                      Amount to be Determined*

*The motion passed 5-0.*

7. Permission to Accept a Competitive Grant – Dual Enrollment

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to accept the following competitive grant for the 2006-2007 school year in the amount indicated:*

*Dual Enrollment    \$4,177*

Mrs. Mueller stated that this was not available last year.

*The motion passed 5-0.*

8. Agreement with Wordsworth Private Academic School

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Agreement between Wordsworth Private Academic School and the Centennial School District to provide alternative placement for special education students for the 2006-2007 school year at a per diem rate of \$168.00 per student per day.*

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if this was the same amount they charged last year. She requested that this information be e-mailed to the Board.

*The motion passed 5-0.*

**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; Support Staff Substitutes; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Substitute Bus Driver; Mentors; Curriculum Resource Team Members; Homebound Tutors; Student Work Study Program; and Co-Curricular.*

*The motion passed 5-0.*

## **OPERATIONS AND POLICIES**

### Initial Distribution:

Mrs. Jankowsky noted the following policies for initial distribution:

- 2.6 – Personal Appearance – Staff
- 7.23 – Excusing Students from State Assessments

### Final Approval:

#### 6.6 – Title I – Parent Involvement

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 6.6, Title I – Parent Involvement.*

*The motion passed 5-0.*

#### 7.27 – Payment of Bills

Mrs. Jankowsky distributed new language to address a question raised by Mr. Faust at the previous meeting. She indicated that Mr. Faust was in agreement with this new language.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.27, Payment of Bills.*

*The motion passed 5-0.*

## **FINANCIAL**

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

- *Schedule of Bills – October 2006*
- *Investments – October 2006*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – October 2006*
- *Student Activity/Clearing Funds – July 1 through September 30, 2006*

*and approves the:*

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer’s Report – October 2006*
- *Budgetary Transfers –November 2006.*

*The motion passed 5-0.*

## MINUTES

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

- *Regular School Board Meeting – October 10, 2006*
- *Work Session/Regular School Board Meeting – October 24, 2006*

Mrs. Huf stated that she had read the Minutes and asked if she would be able to vote on them although she had been absent from the meetings. Mrs. Mueller felt that she should abstain.

*The motion passed 4-0-1. (Mrs. Huf abstained.)*

## BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

### Sale of District Property – Termination of Agreement

Mrs. Mueller requested that the following statement be entered verbatim into the Minutes:

“Mrs. Detwiler, please enter my remarks verbatim from this point. This evening I requested the Driver Ed Training lot be listed under Board Discussion and have prepared these remarks to make the facts of what transpired a matter of record for our community.

“During the June 20, 2005 Finance Committee the matter of the sale of the surplus property known as the Drivers Ed Training Lot was discussed. Under Mrs. Lynch’s direction as Board President, Solicitor Jeff Garton was contacted about what options were available to the Board for the sale of property. This item was then discussed in detail by the Board during executive session before the regular Board Meeting on August 23, 2005 to determine if we were going to move ahead for Board action that evening.

“Please note that Mr. Monaghan, Mrs. Jones and Mr. Strouse were not on the School Board. Mrs. Gold, Mrs. Baranski and Mr. Grossi were the other members of the Board at time of this decision.

“As a board we decided to go to a private sale to control the sale of the land to be a good neighbor. The land was zoned Institutional and could have been used in many ways not desirable to the neighborhood.

“On September 23, 2005, Mr. John VanLuvanee was appointed as the solicitor to handle the sale of the Driver’s Ed lot.

“In order to sell the Driver’s Ed property the District was required to subdivide the parcel from the rest of the High School property. The cost of the engineering services to do this was \$3,547.67.

“Warminster Township had a public hearing May 11 2006 on rezoning the property to R-2. We as a board did not make formal request to change the zoning. Mrs. Lynch was the Board President and we took the lead from her through her contacts in Warminster that the Township would rezone it to R-2 like the rest of the properties. Administrators were also led to believe this would be done. However, at the May 11, 2006 meeting of the Warminster Township a number of residents objected to the proposed zoning. The Board

of Supervisors decided to advertise for R-1 zoning. At the meeting of July 13, 2006, the Board of Supervisors approved R-1 zoning for the parcel.

“On September 20, Granor Price Homes presented a preliminary sketch plan to the Warminster Township Planning Commission. At this meeting a number of residents objected to various aspects of the plan.

“On October 26, 2006 Granor Price made a similar presentation to the Board of Supervisors. The neighbors of the property again objected to the plans of Granor Price. Specifically they did not want any access from the new development to Lily Road. The Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 to not approve any plan that required access to Lily Road.

“The following are the fees associated with the Driver’s Ed Lot:

“Legal fees through the end of September - \$4,640.25 (Do not have October bills.)

“Appraisal - \$750.

“Engineering Costs - \$3,547.67.

“Total: \$8,937.92.

“The neighbors complained and now our taxpayers will need to make up for the 1 million dollar shortfall.

“Many factors have changed since June of 2005 including the members of this Board, so at this point I am remanding this matter to the Operations Committee for them to fully review the current situation and make a recommendation to the full Board.

“This concludes my prepared statement.”

Mr. Monaghan stated that he knew the Supervisors changed this to R-1. He asked if it would now revert to Institutional. Mrs. Mueller responded that it would not.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she felt this was an issue that required timely addressing and that it would be placed on the November 28<sup>th</sup> agenda for discussion. She was hopeful that this could be implemented for the 2007-2008 school year.

Regarding the WTHS Parent Forum, Mrs. Mueller stated that one of the issues that came up was that during the bomb threat the back gate was not opened. Several parents felt that during an emergency that gate should be opened. Mrs. Mueller inquired as to whether that would be possible.

Mr. Blatt explained that when the building was originally designed, it had two entrances and exits. For the better part of 30 years the rear entrance has been closed and no vehicles had access in or out. Mr. Blatt has been told that this was closed because of the traffic from the building into the neighborhood. He did not feel that the recent problem was so acute that this exit was needed. However, he felt that he must take responsibility for not taking into consideration that it could have been used. He felt that the gate could be opened. There is custodial staff that has a key. He indicated that they would look at the condition of the access way to make sure that vehicles could get through safely. He felt this was a good recommendation.



Mrs. Huf asked if the fire company and police had access to the gate. Mr. Lasher did not believe they had a key but felt they would have to use cutters if the need arose.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that this should be put in writing in the management manual if it was not already in there.

Mrs. Mueller called for a recess at 8:43 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:53 p.m.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Blatt stated that it was nice to have Mrs. Huf back and on the mend. He welcomed her back.

Mr. Blatt felt that it had been quite a productive and exciting school year so far. He continued to receive positive feedback regarding the Career Fair and he felt it would become a tradition in Centennial.

He reported that the Centennial Education Foundation social was a wonderful event and spoke about all the good that has been done for the District by the Foundation.

Mr. Blatt indicated that he and Dr. Masko continued to work closely and well together. Dr. Masko was assuming increasing responsibilities. Dr. Masko agreed that the transition was going well.

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Huf reported that the Education Committee had met on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The topic was informational on restorative practices which contribute to a safer school environment.

#### Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Jankowsky reported on the following matters from the meeting held the previous evening:

- The budget was passed, which called for a 3.66% increase, including the bond issue payment.
- Rick Black was appointed as temporary Dean of Students.
- It was decided that an enrichment component is needed for the Summer School program, in addition to the remediation component, including a modern language experience (Spanish and Chinese) not only for the high school but perhaps for K-12. This program operates in the black.

Intermediate Unit

No report.

**FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that extensive discussion took place regarding a new phone system, which would provide the opportunity to allow the District to connect with all parents K-12 and provide emergency services. She felt this should be considered in the budget process.

Mr. Blatt pointed out that a number of school districts have experienced events that have endangered their students this fall. People were quite impressed with how we handled our recent events. He indicated that there would be a meeting the Monday after Thanksgiving regarding communications and related matters.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Operations Committee had met earlier in the evening and reviewed the elementary school feasibility study. Their recommendation, which was to do nothing, would be documented and brought forward to the full Board. The Committee recommended that this be revisited when either: (i) the Shenandoah Woods property was disposed of; (ii) the impact of Act 1 is known; or (iii) as enrollment dictates.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that the review of the high school feasibility study would be coming forward at a future date.

The next meeting of the Operations Committee was scheduled for November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked Mr. Lasher for his hard work as liaison to the committee. She also thanked Diane Sgrillo for putting together all of the information into a readable document.

Citizens Policy

Mr. Monaghan stated that this Committee would meet on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Legislative Liaison

No report.

Tax Study Commission

Tom Reinboth of 784 Boxwood Drive, Warminster, stated that there would be a meeting of the Tax Study Commission the following evening at the High School Auditorium and

that the public was welcome to attend. This would be a public hearing and there would be public comment.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

**SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

See Schedule attached hereto.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary