

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
HELD DECEMBER 12, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on December 12, 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

[Mr. Strouse was absent.]

Administration:

David Blatt  
Victor Lasher  
Dr. Michael Masko  
Timothy Vail

CEA/Teachers:

Public:

See attached.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Mueller indicated that Mr. Strouse was absent from the meeting because his father was ill.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Musical Performance – WTHS Madrigal Singers

Mrs. Mueller stated that since several members of the Madrigals had laryngitis, they could not perform at this meeting. However, they would be performing at a future meeting.

### Centennial School District Tax Study Commission Recommendation

Mrs. Mueller introduced the members of the Tax Study Commission: Thomas Hezel, Robert Shaffer, Janet Richards and Thomas Reinboth. She indicated that Marvin Feld could not be present and that Mr. Strouse was at the hospital with his father. She thanked the members of the Commission for their work.

Janet Richards presented the recommendation of the Commission, which was to put the PIT to a voter referendum.

Mrs. Lynch enumerated the tax study commissions of other school districts that were recommending EITs. She stated that so far Centennial was the only tax study commission in Bucks County that had voted for a PIT. She indicated that she was aware that Act One called for a tax study commission to recommend what they thought was best for the school district but questioned why they decided on PIT. She quoted census figures and questioned whether Centennial was that much different from other school districts in Bucks County.

Ms. Richards explained that it had a lot to do with the tax structure and the fact that under PIT renters would benefit more than under EIT.

Mr. Shaffer stated that the reason most of the school districts did not pick PIT was because they have no knowledge of the tax forgiveness option. He also pointed out difficulties in the implementation schedule and indicated that he would be willing to revisit this at a later date.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she would like to have a one agenda item special meeting of the Board, possibly at the end of January or beginning of February, to discuss and vote on this. There would be public comment for the community on this. This would be instead of sending this to the Finance Committee. She felt this would be a matter for the full Board.

Mrs. Jankowsky applauded Mrs. Mueller for this decision.

### **GOOD NEWS**

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

### **STUDENT REPORTS**

Andrea Thompson reported on events at Tennent as follows:

- December 2 – Winter Bowl to be held with profits given to the Make-a-Wish Foundation.
- December 5 – Financial Aid Night for Juniors and Seniors.
- FBLA Breakfast with Santa was held recently.
- December 20 – Special Ed Annual Luncheon will be held.
- After School Program will be starting on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- December 15 – Winter Concert to be held. Everyone was invited.

Jacob Gallagher reported on events at MBIT as follows:

- Phase 2 renovations were being wrapped up and were expected to be completed this summer.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from Klinger would visit MBIT on December 19<sup>th</sup>; students from Log College would visit on December 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Work was continuing on the student-built house.
- MBIT Annual Open House was a success – there was a great turn-out.
- On December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> the Guidance Counselor in-service activity was held and was a success.
- The student-run sale would be open to the public on Friday afternoons by appointment. They would be having a fundraiser for breast cancer, with the proceeds to go to the Susan B. Komen Foundation.
- On Wednesdays and Thursdays, Aspirations Restaurants would be open. Reservations were required.

## COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Ralph Badmann of 238 Street Road, Southampton, the President of the Southampton Estates Residents' Association, spoke on behalf of the residents, indicating that most of their income was made from investments and interest. He provided the Board with a copy of a letter indicating the amount of taxes paid on behalf of the residents. He pointed out that Mrs. Jankowsky had commented that they paid no taxes. He indicated that the letter showed how much they paid in taxes and how much of their monthly fees were allocated for taxes even though they did not each personally receive a tax bill.

Daniel Walsh of 1217 County Line Road, Huntingdon Valley, stated that on Election Day he would personally drive back and forth between Southampton Estates and Ann's Choice to make sure that this was voted down and no one who was in favor of this was voted back into office.

Jay Alker of 22302 Ann's Choice Way, Warminster, spoke about an article from the Bucks County Courier Times that indicated that the people who have the least ability to pay will benefit from the PIT. The people with deep pockets will pay. Those who have sold their residences and invested the money will pay.

Bill Leingang of 12301 Ann's Choice Way, Warminster, stated that at the last meeting he pointed out that pensions were gone. He felt the Board should define the word "pension" and see what it means in today's world. He did not see anyone on the panel representing the senior citizens. The average age at Ann's Choice was 78-80. He wondered whether they really had representation on the commission.

Helen Knight, of 1485 Maguire Lane, Warminster, asked about cost-cutting measures. She wondered why a cap could not be placed on teachers' salaries and why schools couldn't be closed or consolidated to save money.

Joe Donnelly of 434 New Road, Southampton, stated that this meeting was not organized – it was just people that showed up on their own. Anyone that voted for this would be voted out. They would have busloads of people showing up. He indicated that he had called seven districts and asked why they didn't vote for PIT. They said it was because it defeats the purpose of giving to the seniors.

Joseph Knight of 1485 Maguire Lane, Warminster, stated that he was not a senior citizen but was disabled and was on a fixed income. He indicated that he was on medications that cost a lot of money and that he was against this.

Larry McKeogh of 159 Villa Drive, Warminster, stated that he was there to represent the residents from Five Ponds, who had indicated that they did not want the PIT. They are going to vote against it.

Lisa Fugelo of 650 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Warminster, asked if she could obtain a copy of the recommendation.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that it would be on the website and made a part of the Minutes of this meeting.

William German of 427 Natale Lane, Warminster, stated that if the PIT was put in place, the senior citizens could easily transfer their investments to funds that it couldn't touch.

Charles Loughery of 841 Pelham Avenue, Warminster, stated that when he first heard about tax relief and the use of casino money, he thought it was a good idea; then the legislature came up with Act One. He indicated that he is a homeowner. He felt bad for the people that made the choice to live in Ann's Choice and similar places. He hoped that the Board would do the right thing and make the right decision.

Donna Iovine of 507 Acorn Drive, Warminster, stated that she disapproved a raise in anything. She indicated that she had two low-paying jobs and that everything keeps being raised except salaries. She suggested that the answer might be to bring higher paying jobs to the area.

Mrs. Mueller explained that this had nothing to do with the District's budget. It was something that had been dumped in the Board's lap. It is a tax relief law. In order to get tax relief, someone has to pay. The School District would get nothing from this. Whatever is put on the referendum, if it is voted down, there will be no property tax relief. This is not something that is being taken lightly. She urged people to call their legislators.

Tom Dougherty stated that he felt the people's voices should be heard through the School Board, who should tell the legislators. He felt budget costs were out of control. We can't go on borrowing millions of dollars to get out of a budget shortfall. Enron did this. He felt the District should declare the system bankrupt. He asked the Board to cancel the \$110 million loan and file for bankruptcy now.

Mrs. Mueller explained that we do not have that loan – there is no bond for that debt. That is misinformation.

Mrs. Huf thanked the Tax Commission and thanked the public for coming out. She stated that she was not a supporter of the PIT and was not in support of raising taxes. She told the community that they would be the decision makers and that they would probably vote this down and that she supported that.

Mrs. Brzezinski also thanked the Tax Commission but stated that from the very first day she heard about having another system of tax, she felt we would all be paying more taxes. She thanked the public for coming and stated that she was totally against any more in the budget. She did not vote for the last budget and would not vote for the next budget. She stated that she had not been well received by the teachers but she didn't care. She urged the public not to give up.

Mrs. Lynch stated that 500 people came to the last meeting. She was not blaming the Tax Commission; she was not blaming the legislators. The public has the right to go to the ballot box and turn this down massively and she supported them in that endeavor.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

Mrs. Mueller called for a recess at 8:45 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:56 p.m.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that the following resolution be adopted.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board dissolves the Centennial Local Tax Commission with gratitude and appreciation for their report.*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

### **1. Authorization of 2007-2008 Budget for Middle Bucks Institute of Technology**

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes the expenditures of the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology General Program for the period July 1, 2007 to June 30 2008. Centennial's adjusted share to be \$1,865,062 of a \$7,525,780 budget.*

Mr. Faust indicated that the cost to the District went up about 2.7% from last year. The increase was 3.66% including lease rental debt. There was an overall increase to the general fund operating expenditures of 3.97%.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that the District's share for the bond issue for the renovation would increase because we are in a period where we are only paying for interest or principal and that will change.

Mrs. Lynch asked if this was in line with last year. Mr. Faust indicated that the increase was actually less than last year.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

2. Permission to Accept Competitive Grants

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to accept the following competitive grants for 2006-2007 which is the fourth year of the 2003-2008 program:*

<i>Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth – Buxmont Academy</i>	<i>\$ 6,156</i>
<i>Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth – Delaware Valley High School – Bustleton</i>	<i>\$25,650</i>
<i>Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth – Lakeside Educational Network</i>	<i>\$ 7,182</i>
<i>Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth – LifeWorks Alternative School @Foundations Behavioral Health</i>	<i>\$ 7,182</i>
<i>Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth – Middle Earth, Inc.</i>	<i>\$ 6,156</i>

*The motion passed 8-0.*

3. Facility Use Waiver Application

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board hereby approves the Facility Use Waiver Application for the following:*

<i>Warminster Basketball Association</i>	<i>Requesting Sunday usage of William Tennent High School gym from December 10, 2006 through March 15, 2007. There is no cost to the District.</i>
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*The motion passed 8-0.*

4. Approval of Emergency Calling System

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the purchase of an emergency calling system. Installation and annual cost is not to exceed \$3,800.00, funds to be appropriated from the budgetary reserve.*

Mr. Faust stated that this matter was discussed at length at the last Finance Committee meeting. Administration was looking into another piece for attendance and other vendors. This is very important in today's world as it would allow us to call every parent in the District within 15 minutes in an emergency situation.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

**PERSONNEL**

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust 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; Change of Status; Per Diem Administrative Assistance; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Support Staff Substitute; Mentor; Homebound Tutor; and Co-Curricular.*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

**OPERATIONS AND POLICIES**

Final Approval:

2.6 – Personal Appearance – Staff

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 2.6, Personal Appearance – Staff.*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

7.23 – Excusing Students from State Assessments

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.23, Excusing Students from State Assessments.*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

## FINANCIAL

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

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

*and approves the:*

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

*The motion passed 8-0.*

## MINUTES

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

- *Regular School Board Meeting – November 14, 2006*
- *Work Session/Regular Board Meeting – November 28, 2006*

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she must abstain.

Mrs. Mueller requested a minor change on page 60.

*The motion passed 5-0-3. (Mr. Faust, Mrs. Brzezinski and Mrs. Lynch abstained.)*

## BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mrs. Lynch stated that she wished to have the following comments recorded verbatim in response to Mrs. Mueller's comments at the meeting of November 14, 2006, at which she was not in attendance, regarding the termination of the Agreement regarding the sale of the District property:

- "1. June 20, 2005 – Finance Committee discussed the matter of sale of surplus property because in the Building Feasibility Study report of February 11, 2005 conducted by Burt Hill Associates, Incorporated into this report on Page 30 'There is a driver's education training course, however, the driver's education program is no longer offered by the school. The district may want to consider selling this portion of the site for additional residential development.'
- "2. During the June 10, 2005 Finance meeting the committee in total agreement to contact the solicitor. Jeff Garton was contacted to review what options were available to the School Board.
- "3. As a Board, we decided to go to a private sale to control the sale of the land to be a good neighbor.

- “4. September 23, 2005 – Mr. John VanLuvanee was appointed as the solicitor to handle the sale of the Drivers Ed Lot.
- “5. A District employee gave the Township a plot plan that did not show the boundaries of these acres being separated from the Centennial School District properties.
- “6. The District was then required to subdivide through an Engineering Firm to complete boundaries and separate this property from the Centennial School District. The Engineering Firm divided the property into R-2 lots and presented this to the School District and Township of Warminster.
- “7. Warminster Township Supervisors meeting of May 11, 2006 held a public meeting on rezoning this property to R-2. The plan presented was the Engineering plan which the District paid \$3,547.67 for R-2 Lots.
- “8. I as School Board President and Administration believed the Engineering plans for R-2 zoning was the subject matter of this meeting.
- “9. Every resident adjacent to the proposed rezoning of this property was notified of this rezoning change to R-2.
- “10. The residents came out in force and stated they did not want R-2 Zoning, they wanted R-1 (larger lots.)
- “11. Warminster Township Supervisors advertised for R-1 zoning, and on July 13<sup>th</sup> a Public Meeting was held to rezone this parcel to R-1.
- “12. The residents adjacent to the proposed rezoning of this property were once again at this meeting in force to demand that this parcel be voted as R-1 only.
- “13. At this meeting of July 13<sup>th</sup> the Warminster Township Supervisors voted 5-0 to rezone this property to R-1.
- “14. On September 20, Granor Price Homes presented a preliminary sketch plan to Warminster Township Planning Commission. Many residents adjacent to this parcel were in attendance. Mrs. Brzezinski and myself were the only Centennial School Board members present. The Planning Commission described what the preliminary sketch plan needed for the Planning Commission to approve the sketch plan.
- “15. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Granor Price made the same preliminary sketch plan to the Warminster Township Supervisors. The residents once again came to the meeting and voiced their objections to this plan using Lily Road and the traffic of exiting onto Davisville Road.
- “16. The Township Solicitor objected to the retention basin being situated on 3 lots without a Homeowners Association.
- “17. Granor Price stated they would have to give up 1 lot to have the retention basin without a Homeowners Association. This would reduce the amount of buildable lots for their Company.
- “18. Warminster Township Supervisors voted 5-0 to not approve this plan.

This concludes my prepared statement.”

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that at the Finance Committee meeting the previous evening there was an issue related to the Warminster Rec Center. After reading the report from Harris & Harris about what might be involved in renovating the Rec Center, she felt that the Board might be well served to consider sending a letter to Warminster Township to see if they would like to purchase the building so they could renovate it without concern that the School District would wish to repossess the building. She asked if there would be any interest on the part of the Board in doing this.

Mr. Monaghan and Mrs. Jones indicated that they were interested in doing so.

Mr. Faust stated that he would like to see a legal opinion because there was an agreement with the Township that they take over the building and there were certain caveats on the deed.

There was consensus of the Board to explore this matter and to get a legal opinion.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that another issue, depending on the response from the solicitors, would be to get an appraisal to determine fair market value if they are interested.

Mrs. Mueller inquired as to the status of the back gates during an emergency situation.

Mr. Blatt explained that the area was easily accessible to both cars and buses and that there were multiple individuals who had keys to the gate, so it could be used.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Blatt spoke about how community service has been a very important part of our program at all levels K-12. The following day there would be a special ceremony in the administrative offices where Chief Murphy, the Chief of Police of Warminster Township, would be presented with a \$5,000.00 check for the neighborhood policy initiative in the township.

Mr. Blatt spoke of the great improvements to pedestrian and vehicular safety, as well as beautification of the high school campus.

Mr. Blatt indicated that he and Mrs. Mueller had attended a program at the VE Club the previous weekend where the football team was honored.

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Lynch reported that they had visited the Fitness Center and the Music Digital Computer Room. Dr. Masko had put this together and it was a very positive experience.

Mrs. Lynch left the meeting at this time.

### Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Faust reported that there was no Executive Council meeting but that the next one would be in January.

Mrs. Huf reported that she had attended the Personnel and Policy Committee meeting, which nominated officers for next year (same as this year.)

### Intermediate Unit

Mrs. Brzezinski indicated that there would be no meeting before the holidays.

## **FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Mr. Faust reported that the Finance Committee had met the previous evening. They discussed/reviewed the following:

- Act One and our real estate installment situation – they are requesting more information.
- The Rec Center and the tax forgiveness issue.
- The issue of athletic trainer coverage at the high school.
- The proposed timeline for EIT/PIT.
- The first copy of the draft budget for 2007-2008.
- Capital budget.

Meetings are scheduled for January 3<sup>rd</sup> and January 16<sup>th</sup>. On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, they will discuss special education issues.

## **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Education Committee had met earlier in the evening. They continued to review the high school feasibility study and addressed the issue of the Driver's Ed property. They will be coming to the Board with a unanimous recommendation that the property be put up for sale with a \$1 million floor and that we use a professional real estate broker to handle the sale.

### Citizens Policy

Mr. Monaghan reported that the Committee had forwarded recommendations to the Board. The next meeting was scheduled for January but would have to be changed as it was in conflict with the Finance Committee meeting.

### Legislative Liaison

No report.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

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

See Schedule attached hereto.

Mrs. Mueller wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mrs. Brzezinski mentioned that on December 22<sup>nd</sup> the Board was to meet at 1:30 p.m. to find out the results of the audit.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary