

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD JANUARY 23, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A Work Session/Regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on January 23, 2007, 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
Harve Strouse

Administration:

Sandy Homel
Victor Lasher
Dr. Michael Masko
Jean Rollo
Timothy Vail

CEA/Teachers:

Andy Mahony
Betty Kline
Angela Sin
Michelle Pfeiffer
Cheryl Tonkinson

Public:

Thomas Hezel
Terry Falcone
Nick Rosa
Richard DeKalb
Tim Mull
Michelle Mull

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Mueller announced that the swim coach would be arriving late and that the presentation would be held then.

GOOD NEWS

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

STUDENT REPORTS

None.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

- *Education Committee – November 6, 2006*
- *Education Committee – December 4, 2006*
- *Finance Committee – December 5, 2006*
- *Finance Committee – December 11, 2006*
- *Finance Committee – January 3, 2007*
- *Operations Committee – November 14, 2006*
- *Operations Committee – November 28, 2006*
- *Operations Committee – December 12, 2006*

The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of the WTHS 2006-2007 School Improvement Plan

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that this matter was extensively discussed at the Education Committee meeting.

Dr. Masko explained that the District was required to submit a school improvement plan to PDE because the 11th grade IEP students did not make adequate yearly progress in Reading and Math. He explained the process.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the William Tennent High School 2006-2007 School Improvement Plan. Approval of the William Tennent High School 2006-2007 School Improvement Plan imposes no financial commitment on this Board or future School Boards. Individual actions in the plan that require funding are either included in the 2006-2007 budget proposal, or will be included in the annual budget review process of future years.

The motion passed 9-0.

2. Approval of 2007-2008 District Calendar

Mrs. Mueller noted that the children did not have off the week before Easter or on Columbus Day but that there were many other days off during the school year, which goes late into June. She indicated that she would like to see a longer Easter break or a four-day weekend so that families could have time for a vacation. She preferred to defer voting on the calendar until Administration had time to look at this issue.

Mr. Strouse stated that he was not in favor of this proposal. He pointed out that adding days off would take the calendar even later into June.

Mrs. Jankowsky did not feel that vacation time should be scheduled during the school year. She indicated that she would not support this and pointed out that there were contractual obligations also.

Mrs. Brzezinski felt that if parents wanted to take a vacation with their children, they would take them out of school, so if we could give them some time they wouldn't take them out as much.

Mrs. Lynch supported this, stating that if we made it available, maybe people wouldn't be sending in so many excuses.

Mr. Faust indicated that he didn't see a problem with the idea but, looking at the professional development days and knowing what the contract says, there was not really anything that was free to be moved around. He didn't know how we could make this work without affecting the end of the year.

There was further discussion regarding graduation and snow days being built into the end of the year.

Dr. Masko indicated that the calendar underwent a lot of review by administrative staff and teachers.

There was a consensus of the Board to send this back to Administration to see if there was anything that could be done.

3. Preliminary Approval of WTHS Marching Band Trip to Toronto and Niagara Falls, Canada, May 16-20, 2007

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for the William Tennent High School Marching Band trip to Toronto and Niagara Falls, Canada, May 16-20, 2007. The cost to the District is not to exceed \$900.00 for substitute teachers.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Waiver of Policy 3.4, Student Trips

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves a waiver of Policy 3.24, Student Trips, in order to permit grade 4 and grade 5 “Davis Singers” to participate in a trip to see “Riverdance” at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia on May 19, 2007. There is no cost to the District.

Dr. Masko explained that this trip would take place on a Saturday. Since the policy says that trips should be during the school day, a waiver is required. Administration supports this request.

The motion passed 9-0.

PRESENTATIONS

WTHS Swim Team

Biz Keeney introduced Lisa Forlini and a representative from Neshaminy. Ms. Forlini spoke about the swim team’s trip to Florida and how they formed friendships with the members of the swim team from Neshaminy, which have lasted beyond the trip. She presented t-shirts to the Board and members of Administration commemorating the trip.

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

5. Approval of County-wide Network

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Centennial’s participation in the County-wide Network effective July 1, 2009 as specified in the County-wide Network Service Agreement. The associated costs are \$2,649 per month for access to the county-wide

WAN, and \$180 per month for access to the Internet, both amounts subject to the e-rate discount.

The motion passed 9-0.

6. Accept 2005-2006 Audit Report

Mr. Faust stated that this was a good, clean audit.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the 2005-2006 Financial Statements and Single Audit as submitted by Barbacane Thornton and Company for the year ended June 30, 2006.

Mrs. Mueller acknowledged Mr. Vail and everyone who works in the Business Department for their fine work.

The motion passed 9-0.

7. Set 2007-08 Proposed Preliminary Budget Amount/Set Adoption Date/Authorize Public Display

Mrs. Lynch stated that she would vote against this because of a 3 mill tax increase. She felt it was too much after the tax increase last year.

Mrs. Mueller stated that there was a lot that happened in the Finance Meeting, which Mrs. Lynch was not able to be present for. Mrs. Lynch stated that she was at another meeting.

Mrs. Mueller suggested that she get together with Mr. Vail or Mr. Faust in order to get more information about this. She felt they made a great effort.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board, in conformance with Special Session Act 1 of 2006, hereby authorizes a proposed preliminary general fund budget for FY 2007-2008 in the amount of \$83,843,656 be put on display for public review beginning January 24, 2007 and authorizes Administration to advertise intent to adopt said proposed preliminary budget at the regular Board of Directors meeting scheduled for February 13, 2007.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this motion puts us in good stead with the law and is the first step. We then have until June 30th to adopt the final budget.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| <i>Mrs. Jones</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Mr. Monaghan</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Mrs. Lynch</i> | <i>No</i> |

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| <i>Mr. Faust</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Mrs. Huf</i> | <i>No</i> |
| <i>Mrs. Brzezinski</i> | <i>No</i> |
| <i>Mr. Strouse</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>Mrs. Mueller</i> | <i>Yes</i> |

The motion passed 6-3.

8. Facility Use Waiver

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Facility Use Waiver Application for the Boy Scouts of America for use of William Tennent High School pool for a Swim-o-Ree event on March 19, 2007. Requesting a 50% waiver in pool fees. The cost to the District is \$37.20.

The motion passed 9-0.

9. Proposal Solicitation

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves soliciting proposals from real estate brokers to market the William Tennent High School Driver's Ed Property.

Mr. Strouse stated that because of potential conflicts of interest, he would abstain from voting on this motion.

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that this stemmed from the efforts to sell this parcel of land and gave some background on the issue. She indicated that the Operations Committee had voted unanimously to forward this motion to the full Board endorsing the concept of engaging the services of a professional real estate broker.

Mrs. Huf asked if this would be an open solicitation for proposals. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that it would.

The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mr. Strouse abstained.)

10. Resolution Regarding Appeal of Act 1

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she would not vote on this since she did not have time to digest it since the Board just received some of the information this evening.

After discussion, it was decided to defer this matter until the next meeting.

PERSONNEL:

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

The motion passed 9-0.

POLICIES

Discussion:

2.23 – Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that this policy had not been reviewed by the solicitor and that there were very few changes. Since there were no comments by Board members, this policy would be moved to the next meeting.

3.1 – Drug/Alcohol

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that this policy had not been reviewed by the solicitor. Mr. Faust questioned why this was not reviewed by the solicitor since the solicitor had recommended the changes. He suggested that perhaps the wrong box was checked on the form.

Dr. Masko felt that the solicitor had reviewed the policy and indicated that he would check on it.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the Board would be amenable to having this policy brought forward at the next meeting if the solicitor had reviewed it in its final form. There was consensus of the Board to do so.

3.24 – Family Trips Scheduled During School Year

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that this policy had not been reviewed by the solicitor.

Dr. Masko indicated that changes to this policy were developed and reviewed by the Administrative Policy Committee.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that if a parent wished to take a child out of school for a trip, they could do so under this policy.

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that since many families had already scheduled trips, implementing this policy immediately could pose a problem.

Mr. Strouse stated that he was more concerned about the instructional time than with trips to Disney World. He felt that three days was adequate for a trip. Mrs. Mueller stated that she was not in favor of three days, but was in favor of five days. She was not in favor of two weeks notice since she did not feel it was enough for the secondary teachers to do what they needed to do.

Mrs. Homel pointed out that there were teachers on the committee and they did not have a problem with this.

Mrs. Lynch wanted to know the record of abuse of family trips for the past year or two since these changes would dramatically change the policy. She felt it would be extremely rigid. Mrs. Homel responded that in Grades 6-12, it was quite significant – there were a lot of requests.

After lengthy discussion, there was consensus of the Board to move this forward to the next meeting, with the changes implemented in the next school year.

3.26 – Student Attendance

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that this policy had been reviewed by the solicitor.

Mrs. Huf questioned why the forms were crossed out. Dr. Masko explained that forms would still be used but they chose not to include them in the policy because they may be different from level to level and may change over time.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mrs. Mueller noted that Rebecca Rubin was resigning but that she was scheduled to chaperone a trip so a replacement chaperone would have to be found.

Mrs. Jankowsky referred to page 21 of the January 5, 2007 edition of *School Leader News* regarding changes in assessment, tracking system rollout. Pennsylvania was one of 20 states that had applied for a slot to be part of a federal pilot program in which states propose a growth-based accountability model for use in meeting NCLB goals. She requested that Dr. Masko follow-up on this to find out if Pennsylvania had been approved for one of these slots.

Mrs. Lynch pointed out that at the last Board meeting an interpretation was requested on how many meetings we needed to have regarding the referendum. She wondered if there had been an answer to that question.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that that had happened at the Finance Meeting. Mr. Vail was informed by the solicitor that we could go forward with having one meeting, which would be held on February 8th. This information was given by the solicitor verbally.

There was discussion by Board members regarding not being notified of the date being finalized.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she would like to know what other districts have the PIT. Mrs. Mueller stated that she would try to get that information from PSBA prior to the next meeting. Mrs. Lynch stated that she would like the names of the districts in Bucks County that recommended PIT.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that apparently the Department of Education has asked to share information regarding the High School Improvement Plan with other districts. She would like to know what other districts.

REPORTS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Brzezinski requested that Board members review the newsletter from Leary, particularly the “No Place for Hate” column and the diversity pledge. She asked if any other school in the District was working on this. Dr. Masko replied that all of the schools were working on it, that it was a District-wide activity.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Jones to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary