

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD FEBRUARY 13, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on February 13, 2007, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Mueller at approximately 7:30 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:

David Blatt
Victor Lasher
Dr. Michael Masko
Timothy Vail

CEA/Teachers:

None

Public:

Tom Reinboth
Tom Hezel

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Mueller thanked everyone for coming out in the inclement weather and asked for the Board's consent to put off the following matters until the next meeting: Good News, Student Reports, Operations and Policies and Reports. The Board concurred.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked the individuals in attendance at the meeting the previous week regarding Act 1 for their understanding of the Board's position. Mrs. Jankowsky did not feel that the newspaper article captured the spirit of the meeting.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she did not get the same feeling from the meeting and that she received many phone calls regarding this issue.

PRESENTATIONS

Diversity Pledge

Dr. Masko explained that the Diversity Task Force had formalized the District's commitment to diversity by asking people to take a pledge and making a commitment to promote diversity in the District. This week was set aside as Diversity Week in the District, with many activities going on at the various schools. He explained that the pledge is a voluntary pledge and had been written by the students, teachers and principals.

Dr. Masko invited the Board members to take the pledge, after which they received a diversity bracelet to show that they had taken the pledge. Dr. Masko thanked the Board for their support.

Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year Nominees

This was deferred until the next meeting.

Leland Miller, Graduation Project Highlights

This was deferred until the next meeting.

GOOD NEWS

This was deferred until the next meeting.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of 2007-2008 District Calendar

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the 2007-2008 District Calendar.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she felt this was a schedule that they all felt was a great step moving forward.

The motion passed 9-0.

2. Repeal of Act 1

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by the entire Board to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Legislature is unable to carry out its Constitutional responsibilities and is crippling school districts and property owners through its inaction on property tax reform, and

WHEREAS, Act 1 does not provide property tax reform, and

WHEREAS, the disproportionate reductions that may become available under Act 1 are distributed in a discriminatory manner by favoring major cities over the balance of the state, and

WHEREAS, the shift to a higher local earned income tax under Act 1 in exchange for an offsetting reduction in property tax is not tax reform and does not solve inequitable funding across all school districts, and

WHEREAS, stressed school districts that have insufficient assessed value to support education also lack a sufficient income base, rendering the shift to local income tax useless in solving funding inequities, and

WHEREAS, Act 1 exacerbates funding inequities, as any rebates that may become available, plus a shift in local income tax, if approved result in the greatest reductions provided to school districts where the tax burden is the least and the smallest reductions provided to districts where the tax burden is the greatest.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Centennial School District Board of School Directors STRONGLY URGE that the Legislature immediately repeal Act 1, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Centennial School District Board of School Directors STRONGLY URGE the Legislature to IMMEDIATELY begin working on true property tax reform.

The motion passed 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 16-20
2. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 10-11
3. Permission to Apply for Competitive Grant

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

- (1) *Approves an exception to Policy 7.18 to allow Student 16-20 to remain at Leary Elementary School for the 2006-2007 school year. The family will provide transportation.*
- (2) *Approves an exception to Policy 7.18 to allow Student 10-11 to remain at Longstreth Elementary School for the 2006-2007 school year. The family will provide transportation.*
- (3) *Approves permission to apply for the following competitive grant for the 2006-2007 school year in the amount indicated:*
 - Special Education Performance Grant*
 - Transition from School to Community*
 - Based Employment for Students with*
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder* \$45,000

The motion passed 9-0.

4. 2007-2008 Preliminary Budget

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the preliminary General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 in the amount of \$83,843,656 as presented and authorizes that said preliminary budget be submitted to the PA Department of Education by February 19, 2007 in compliance with Special Session Act 1 of 2006. Final adoption of the budget is tentatively scheduled for June 12, 2007.

Mrs. Lynch pointed out that the preliminary budget has a three mill tax increase.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the cost of special education was \$14 million and the cost of regular education was \$35 million.

It was discussed that the cost of special education was up about \$1 million from the previous budget and that if special education would be funded, the Board would not be in the position of instituting a three mill tax increase.

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>Yes</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 7-2.

5. Referendum Exception Application 2007-2008 Budget

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes Administration to prepare and submit all back-end referendum exception applications that the District may be eligible for in compliance with Special Session Act 1 of 2006. Said applications to be filed to the PA Department of Education by March 1, 2007. Administration is further authorized to advertise Intent to Submit said applications not later than Thursday, February 22, 2007. This action is taken in the event that expense or revenue changes unforeseen when the Preliminary 2007-2008 Budget was adopted should become necessary prior to adoption of the Final Budget in June, 2007.

Mr. Faust stated that he could not support this because the Board had already addressed in the preliminary budget a 3.4% increase on millage and he was very much on board with that increase, knowing the needs of the District. He felt that the Board must get used to Act 1. The way Act 1 was written was that if something unforeseen should happen, the budget would have to be adjusted to address that without an additional increase. All an adjustment would do would be to give the Board the ability to raise taxes even higher without referendum.

Mrs. Huf agreed, indicating that she was opposed to an increase to begin with. An exception would mean that the Board would be looking for additional money that it hadn't seen coming in the preliminary budget. She saw this as another way to tack on increases to the taxpayers. She stated that she would not support this.

Mrs. Brzezinski asked for some explanation. Mr. Vail explained that under Act 1 there were ten exceptions that a District could apply for. If those exceptions were approved by either the Courts or the Department of Education, those would become additional sources of revenue for the District to access in order to balance their expenses to their revenues without going to voter referendum. The preliminary budget just approved is in balance within the index. However, good business practice as promoted by PSBA and all of the professional organizations throughout the state dictate that we take this added step and apply for the exceptions in the event that something unforeseen should happen between now and the adoption of the final budget that would necessitate increasing the amount of revenue we would need to generate. If we do not apply for the exceptions and that would occur, we have lost that opportunity as of March 1st. We cannot go back and apply later.

Mrs. Brzezinski questioned Mr. Faust as to why he was not supporting this. Mr. Faust indicated that this was discussed at a Finance meeting. His point was that the preliminary budget increased the millage 3.4%, which was the cap. He felt that if the District thought it needed more money at this point, they might have to cut other programs. He couldn't see going back to the taxpayers for even more above the cap, particularly since we did a 10% increase last year. He did not want to start going over the cap. Mr. Faust indicated that this was his personal opinion.

Mrs. Lynch agreed with Mr. Faust and Mrs. Huf. We have taken a resolution to send to Harrisburg and the world that Act 1 is a travesty of justice. She was opposed to this.

Mr. Strouse explained that the purpose was to preserve our rights under these exceptions. If the state legislature should at some time between now and final approval of this budget decide that there is some other mandate that we need to fund, this would preserve our rights. He indicated that he had no intention of adopting any further tax increase unless something came down that truly mandated it.

Mrs. Jankowsky concurred. She felt that this resolution tried to protect the District in the event of unforeseen circumstances. She felt the Finance Committee had made it clear to Administration what the limits are within the preliminary budget that had been adopted but sometimes the legislature comes up with things that are unanticipated. She felt the Board had a responsibility to protect the District from irresponsible decision making at the state level.

Mrs. Mueller completely concurred with Mrs. Jankowsky and Mr. Strouse. From a business standpoint, it is like having a contingency fund in our budget in case something happens. She indicated that she would be supporting this.

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>No</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 5-4.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Support Staff Substitutes; Homebound Tutors; Mentors; and Substitute Bus Drivers/Trainees; and accepts Award of Tenure.

The motion passed 9-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Co-Curricular.

Mr. Strouse stated that for years he had been reviewing Co-Curricular appointments and found them to be lacking in timing. He pointed out that this was just another example of that since the Board was being asked to appoint people who have already been in their positions for up to two months. He saw no reason why Administration could not get these appointments done in a more timely fashion. He indicated that he would oppose this motion.

Mr. Blatt responded that Mr. Strouse was correct. This matter had been brought to Administration's attention several years ago and there has been a marked improvement in the situation. He explained that in this instance the untimeliness was addressed by Ms. Rollo.

The motion passed 8-1. (Mr. Strouse opposed.)

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

This was deferred until the next meeting.

FINANCIAL

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

- *Schedule of Bills – January 2007*
- *Investments – January 2007*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – January 2007*
- *Student Activity/Clearing Fund – October 1 through December 31, 2006*

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – January 2007*
- *Budgetary Transfers – February 2007*

The motion passed 9-0.

MINUTES

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

- *Regular School Board Meeting – January 9, 2007*
- *Work Session/Regular School Board Meeting – January 23, 2007*

The motion passed 9-0.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

This was deferred until the next meeting.

REPORTS

This was deferred until the next meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary
(transcribed from tapes)