

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD MARCH 27, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A Work Session/Regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on March 27, 2007, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Mueller at 7:42 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Marie Brzezinski
Joseph Faust
Betty Huf
Joan Jankowsky
Patricia Jones
Michael Monaghan
Cynthia Mueller
Harve Strouse

Administration:

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

[Note: Mrs. Lynch was absent from the meeting.]

CEA/Teachers:

Joe O'Connor
Audrey Dalton
Debbie Fredman
Robert Mulville
Cheryl Lyman
Chris Shepper
Michael Swider
Robert Cassidy
Marilyn Bernheisel
Judith Hoffman
Karen Ellingson
Cheri Tenaglia

Public:

Scott DeRosa
Jerry DeRosa
Steve Raczak
Ed Weitz
Georgeann Weitz
Mariana Allison
Joel Mickelberg
Bobbie Loftus
Larry McKeogh
Jim Rice
Tom Reinboth
Andy Pollock
Roseanne Gaul
Sina Baranski

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Huf congratulated the William Tennent Middle School B Team Ice Hockey team for winning the senior championships.

Mrs. Jankowsky spoke about the House Appropriations Committee meeting regarding funding for public education, the focus of which was student achievement. She thanked John Galloway and Scott Petri for their efforts. Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she had attempted to show the impact of unfunded mandates on the Centennial community, and indicated that the Board would be provided with this information.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

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 Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the Minutes of the:

- *Education Committee – February 5, 2007*
- *Finance Committee – January 16, 2007*
- *Finance Committee – February 26, 2007*

The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 1-23

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status to allow student 1-23 to attend Klinger Middle School for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year. The parent(s) will provide transportation.

The motion passed 8-0.

Mrs. Huf left the room at 8:14 p.m.

2. Approval of District Administration Reorganization

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Centennial School District Administrative Reorganization Plan.

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that the Board had had the opportunity to read and review this plan and meet with Dr. Masko to discuss it at length.

The motion passed 7-0.

3. Sports Medicine Services

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the agreement with Performance Rehabilitation/Velocity Sports Performance of Warminster, PA for game day physician and athletic trainer services for a three-year period commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2010 per the terms and conditions of the attached agreement.

Mr. Faust explained that the previous provider had problems providing the contracted services and that the cost of their new proposal was significantly increased. He indicated that Administration and the Committee had even looked at bringing someone on staff but that contracting for services with Performance Rehabilitation/Velocity Sports Performance is less expensive and they have the ability to provide the needed services at a much lower cost than the previous vendor.

Mrs. Huf returned to the room at 8:18 p.m.

The motion passed 8-0.

4. Installment Payments of Real Estate Property Taxes

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the installment payment of real estate property taxes by approved homestead/farmstead property owners in compliance with the Taxpayer Relief Act of 2006 (Act 1) effective July 1, 2007 and hereby enacts the attached resolution as submitted in its entirety. All modifications to tax collector software necessary to accomplish this transition will be paid by the District.

Mrs. Huf asked the Board's permission to read a statement prepared by Mrs. Lynch, which she requested be recorded in the Minutes verbatim, as follows:

"As all 501 school districts must comply with Act 1, the Taxpayer Relief Act, which is the law in the State of Pennsylvania, we, the Centennial School Board, passed a resolution in February, 2007 opposing Act 1 with a unanimous vote. This Board had complied with all the aspects of Act 1 which were mandated by this Act.

"Act 1 requires that the District permit the installment of payments of school taxes. The Act requires at least three installment payments and permits the District to enter into agreement with third parties for the purpose of collection of installment tax payments.

"The large meaning in the above paragraph permits, but does not say it is the law! It simply states permits!

"Can a company on Madison Avenue, New York City, give the customized services and direct service to the many seniors who need help with their bills, or is this company giving a lower price for the collections?? But, will not help the Centennial community?"

"In the Centennial School District we have three elected tax collectors! Have any of the three had the opportunity to discuss installment payment with the Centennial School District?"

"Can the local tax collectors do this job cheaper?"

"How do we know, when we didn't have the opportunity to discuss this plan? Are we saving tax dollars by having a tax collection company from New York City do the collecting?"

"I know that my tax collector goes to the seniors' homes and picks up their checks because they cannot get out! She also calls the seniors on the phone to alert them of mistakes on their checks.

"Knowing full well that Act 1 is supposed to help the seniors, -- I guess that sending a check to New York City is a way to help our Centennial seniors.

"I commit this statement as voting NO on the alleged agreement."

Mrs. Huf asked Mr. Vail if our tax collectors were aware of what we were trying to do. He had said that they were and that Mrs. Loftus had attended. However, when Mrs. Huf spoke to Mrs. Loftus, she didn't know what she was talking about. At this point, Mrs. Huf indicated that she would like to have these motions tabled until the local tax collectors had a chance to make proposals of their own.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she had heard Mrs. Loftus talk about something like this. She asked Mr. Faust about what happened at the Finance meeting. Mr. Faust explained that this came out of legislation. This particular proposal guaranteed us our money up front. They indicated that they will pay us 97 cents on the dollar up front. He went on to explain exactly how this would work.

Mrs. Jankowsky explained that the main issue driving the decision was that we would receive the money up front and we would receive a regular revenue stream. She felt that the local tax collectors would require a lot of capital to compete with this proposal.

Mr. Strouse stated that this proposal would not affect any taxpayer who was paying within the discount period or if they were making a single payment after the discount period, but only those who were paying in installments.

Mr. Vail explained that this was brand new legislation so we have no idea how many taxpayers will elect to pay in installments. This gives the taxpayers a win/win situation. Although they are paying at face, they can pay over six months with no penalty. Mr. Vail pointed out that this is the law – we have a solicitor's opinion on it.

Mr. Faust indicated that this permits us to go to a third party but we have to go to the installment plan.

Mr. Vail pointed out that this does not affect the tax collector's compensation.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to table this matter so that the tax collectors and anyone who has questions can get more information.

The motion to table failed 2-6. (Everyone opposed with the exception of Mrs. Huf and Mrs. Brzezinski.)

Barbara Loftus of 100 Villa Drive, Warminster, stated that she attended one meeting and that it was her understanding that Administration was going to look into installment payments and get back to her but she heard nothing.

She pointed out that as a tax collector, she is paid 1/10 of 1%. Last year she collected about 99%. The majority of school districts were going with three installment payments, not six. She asked if there would be a local office so that the senior citizens could pay in person. Mrs. Mueller stated that there would not, but it was her understanding that there would be coupons.

Mrs. Loftus stated that she was not concerned for herself, but for the seniors, who will not have the same level of personal service that she gives. She asked how liens will work. Mr. Vail indicated that arrangements have been made for this.

Mrs. Loftus gave specific examples of how taxes would be affected, using Mr. Strouse's and Mr. Monaghan's specific tax information.

Mr. Blatt stated that he felt there were a number of people in the community that would appreciate that there was a coupon and they could put this in the mail. This was a convenient way for many people in the community.

Mrs. Jones stated that last year at tax time she received many phone calls about how high taxes were and had many questions about whether there were installments. Now we will have this. She felt that it was wonderful.

Andrew Pollock of 22121 Ann's Choice Way, Warminster, stated that he had no problem with installments. He was glad the District would be getting the money up front. He asked what the estimate was that the New York company would make.

Mr. Vail responded that no one had any idea how many taxpayers would elect to make installment payments.

Mr. Pollock indicated that it bothered him that some of this tax money was going to a company in New York. He would rather see it going to the education of the children here.

Edward Weitz of 19 Fairway Drive, Warminster, stated that it did not seem like a thorough financial analysis was done.

Mr. Vail explained that taxpayers would have the opportunity to pay over six months in equal installments with no penalty. He felt that was a big benefit.

Mr. Strouse pointed out that this was a one-year agreement. If we determine that the financial risks are too great, we don't have to do it again.

Mrs. Huf stated that she was a senior and that she did not intend to send one cent of her tax money out of Centennial School District.

Larry McKeogh of 159 Villa Drive, Warminster, stated that this was really a collection agency. He felt that Board members did not have any facts; they just wanted a big lump sum of money. He indicated that the people felt that the tax collector they have now collects the money and is there for the people. Those that will elect to go on this plan are really destitute. He felt there was that much hardship in the township to warrant this and felt that this was terrible.

Mrs. Mueller stated that in Southampton what she heard was that this was a huge help to be able to make six payments instead of one and not get penalized for it.

Sina Baranski of 854 Pelham Avenue, Warminster, stated that the people of Warminster elected Mrs. Loftus to collect their taxes and that they want her from start to finish. She

indicated that she would like to see this tabled until there are negotiations with our tax collectors. She wanted to see the money in our School District. She did not want to see it going out.

Stanley Allen of Deer Run Road, Warminster, stated that he felt this was a poor provision of Act 1. We are making taxpayers pay several payments before they would have to pay at the flat rate. We need to be sure that we are getting reports of everyone who has paid them. He did not see those provisions in the agreement. When it goes to the Tax Claim Bureau, they continue to add on 9% interest, which comes back to the District. He was also not sure that such things as bankruptcy and default were covered. He asked if we were totally out of collecting these once they are turned over. Mr. Vail confirmed that that was the case.

Jerry DeRosa of 1001 Mueller Road, Warminster, stated that he didn't think the Board had done its homework, nor did it have all the details. He felt they should give the local taxpayers the first year to prove themselves. Then if it is better to go outside, do so.

Scott DeRosa of 1116 Brennan Drive, Warminster, questioned why this shouldn't be kept in-house for the first year. Then we could see how many people opt into the installment plan.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that this was discussed at length at the Finance Committee meeting.

Mrs. Brzezinski indicated that she had changed her mind and that she agreed with Mr. Allen. She felt that the Board should listen to the public and wait a year since we don't know what is going to happen.

Mr. Monaghan asked if there was a time crunch on this or if it could be tabled. Mr. Vail indicated that the deadline was June 30th.

Mr. Monaghan indicated that he had changed his mind after listening to the audience. He pointed out that the Board had not heard from the Southampton and Ivyland tax collectors. He felt that we should hear what they had to say.

Mrs. Huf stated this issue could be defeated if everyone just paid their taxes, then nothing would go to New York City.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Strouse</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Brzezinski</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Faust</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Monaghan</i>	<i>No</i>

<i>Mrs. Jones</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed 5-3.

At this point, an unidentified male who had been sitting in the audience, although unrecognized by the Chair, began to berate the Board as a whole for their actions, and also threatened individual Board members, specifically Mrs. Mueller and Mr. Faust. Despite Mrs. Mueller's attempts to bring order and continue the meeting, he continued for several minutes until he was persuaded by other audience members to leave. [Note: The unidentified male was later identified by Mrs. Mueller – see "Other Discussion Items."]

5. Assignment Agreement – Real Estate Property Tax Installments

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Assignment Agreement for sale of all District Real Estate Property Tax Installment parcels between Plymouth Park Tax Services, LLC and the Centennial School District per the terms and conditions of the attached agreement for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010.

Mrs. Huf questioned why this was for three years. Mr. Vail stated that this was for three one-year agreements. Mr. Strouse felt that if this was a one-year agreement, it should be for one year only.

A motion was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to change the period of the agreement to be "for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008."

The motion to amend passed 7-1. (Mr. Monaghan opposed.)

A roll call vote was taken on the amended motion, as follows:

<i>Mrs. Jones</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Monaghan</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 amended motion passed 5-3.

Mrs. Brzezinski left the room at 9:26 p.m.

6. William Tennent High School Professional Development PILOT

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board, per recommendation of Administration, hereby approves the permanent implementation of the PILOT program, known as “William Tennent High School Professional Development Wednesdays and Tuesday/Thursday Office Hours”, effective July 1, 2007.

The motion passed 7-0.

7. William Tennent High School Security Monitors

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board, per recommendation of Administration, hereby approves the permanent creation of three security monitor positions at William Tennent High School effective July 1, 2007, per the attached job description. Positions had been created on a PILOT basis for the 2006-2007 school year as part of the William Tennent High School Professional Development PILOT program.

Mrs. Brzezinski returned to the room at 9:29 p.m.

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 all personnel recommendations, as follows: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Change of Status; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Support Staff Substitutes; Mentors; Curriculum Resource Team Members; Homebound Tutors; and Co-Curricular.

Mrs. Rollo indicated that the effective dated for Item #3 under Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence should be changed to 5/25/07.

The motion passed 7-0-1. (Mrs. Brzezinski opposed.)

POLICIES

Discussion:

3.15 – Graduation

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this policy had been reviewed by the solicitor and the Citizens Policy Committee. Since there was no Board discussion, this policy would be moved to the next meeting for final approval.

3.19 – Homebound Instruction

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that several changes had been made to this policy and that it had not been reviewed by the solicitor.

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that there was nothing in the policy that discussed how many hours a week a homebound student was eligible for. Mrs. Rollo responded that the hours per week per subject came from PDE. Mrs. Mueller felt that this should be set forth in the policy. Mrs. Rollo indicated that the PDE document could be referenced in the policy.

Mr. Blatt explained that they were going to be putting together a brochure for children and parents that would outline some of this information.

Mrs. Huf asked how many students were currently on homebound. Mrs. Homel indicated that on average there are between 20 and 25.

Mrs. Mueller asked what the rationale was for the 30 days. Mrs. Homel indicated that this was intended as a temporary remedy. For some students, it was becoming a way of life.

3.3 – Clubs and Co-Curricular Activities

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

Mr. Faust suggested that, in light of what was approved earlier, the effective date could be changed to July 1 and the position title changes could be effective as of that date.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that that be done in every policy.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that information was distributed by Mr. Blatt regarding HB 184, including a resolution opposing this. She indicated that she would like this to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. She felt that it had a tremendous cost implication to the District.

Mrs. Brzezinski welcomed Kelly O’Leary back to Davis School and asked if Dr. Belli had left. Dr. Masko explained that Dr. Belli would be spending a few weeks with her.

Mr. Blatt indicated that he would have made the statements and comments he was about to make earlier if the opportunity had presented itself. He pointed out that we experienced some behaviors this evening inconsistent with what we are about. Dissenting opinions are what the process is all about. You can disagree but you are not disagreeable. You can disagree but not with bad behavior. The children have a right for the adults to model the behavior they expect from the kids.

Mr. Blatt pointed out the Diversity Pledge, the first sentence of which is “I pledge to treat everyone as I would like to be treated.” He explained that we promote that every day. As the Chief Executive Officer of the School District, he has a duty to report certain things. There was a threat made this evening and he indicated that he had a duty to report that. He has a duty to protect the people in his charge. He stated that you may not come to Centennial School District and threaten people. We do not accept it from children. That is serious stuff in today’s world.

Mr. Blatt stated that he was always available to discuss things.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she wanted the record to show that the gentleman who threatened Mr. Faust and herself was George Naylor of Acorn Drive, Warminster.

REPORTS

I.U. – Mrs. Brzezinski stated that there were several interviews coming up.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Faust to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary