

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
HELD APRIL 10, 2007**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on April 10, 2007, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Mueller at 7:41 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

CEA/Teachers:

Al Catarro

Administration:

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

Public:

Andrea Thompson  
David Thompson  
James Morrison  
Robert Jacoby  
Andy Pollock  
Roseanne Gaul  
Barb Patrick  
Tom Reinboth  
Jim Rice

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Mueller asked those in attendance to observe a moment of silence for Eugene Grossi, a former Board member and friend, who had passed away the previous evening.

Mrs. Jankowsky spoke about Mr. Grossi and his legacy to the Centennial School District, as follows:

**“EUGENE GROSSI:  
A LEGACY OF SERVICE TO THE CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

“Eugene Grossi's interest in and passion for the Centennial School District began in the early 1970's. Although his health did not permit him to serve out his last term in office in 2005, his commitment to the District never diminished. Gene's support for public education and Centennial students was unwavering. He was extremely proud of the District, the students and the staff.

“For thirty-five years, Gene was intimately involved in the happenings of the District either as the parent of two sons who attended the Centennial schools, a volunteer assistant coach for the William Tennent High School football team, a twenty-two year member of the school board or simply as a member of the community.

“As a licensed professional civil engineer, Gene lent his enormous engineering expertise to the District when issues surrounding the construction of the new William Tennent High School surfaced in 1973.

“In 1975, Gene entered his first municipal election as a candidate for the Centennial School Board from Southampton. He not only won that election but also successfully stood for election four more times. In addition, Gene was appointed to serve a two-year term when a Southampton board member resigned in 1987.

“As a new member of the Centennial School Board, Gene was instrumental in resolving a major labor issue in the mid-seventies and went on to negotiate nearly every subsequent contract with the Centennial Education Association providing the students of the Centennial community with an uninterrupted educational experience.

“Gene also chaired many of the labor relations committees that developed agreements with the Centennial Administrators' Association as well as the Centennial Support Staff.

“Gene's financial acumen protected the District from near-bankruptcy in the 1970's. As the perennial chairperson of the District's finance committee, he provided the board with sound budgeting and long-range financial planning practices that continue to serve the District well today.

“Colleagues on the Centennial board of school directors elected Gene as board president for four terms of office and as vice-president for four terms. He also was elected chairperson of the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology by representatives from the four sending school districts of Central Bucks, Council Rock, New Hope/Solebury and Centennial and often served as chairperson of the MBIT finance committee.

“Gene was instrumental in securing and maintaining federal funding for impact aid for the Naval Air Warfare Center. He also chaired the committee that negotiated the payment in lieu of taxes agreement with the Erickson Corporation regarding the development of the Ann's Choice community. The funds generated through these efforts and many more afforded the Centennial taxpayer low school taxes while maintaining a quality program of education for the students.

“In its nearly fifty-year history, the Centennial School District has employed five superintendents. Gene chaired or served on the superintendent search committees for the selection of three of the District's five superintendents: Dr. Harry Quinn, Mr. Harry Harhigh and Mr. David Blatt. This is indeed a legacy to honor and to emulate. “

[Note: At the time of Board Discussion and Comment, later in the meeting, Board members concurred that this statement should be placed in the Minutes in its entirety.]

## **PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **GOOD NEWS**

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

## **STUDENT REPORTS**

Andrea Thompson reported on events at Tennent as follows:

- The annual SADD lock-in was held on April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Tennent writers are excited about the Poet Laureate contest.
- Juniors will be attending a College Fair at the Convention Center on April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- GSA members would be hosting an ice cream social with the Klinger GSA on April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The Junior Prom would be held in April.
- The Drill team was practicing.

Mr. Blatt reported that several weeks ago Ms. Thompson had called and requested the opportunity to visit with one of the ESL (English as a Second Language) classes. She is interested in exploring this as a career path. She visited Log College. Mr. Blatt asked her to share her experiences.

Ms. Thompson explained that she had attended Log College when she was younger and that the class she visited was grades 6-8. Students from all over the South and Central American countries were part of the class. She found it very enjoyable and indicated that she hoped to continue on this career path.

There was no student report from MBIT.

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Final Approval of the WTHS Future Business Leaders of America Trip to Hershey, PA

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval for William Tennent High School Future*

*Business Leaders of America trip to the state competition in Hershey, Pennsylvania – April 30 – May 2, 2007. The cost to the District is not to exceed \$9,990.00.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

2. Final Approval of the WTHS German American Partnership Program Trip to Germany

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval for the William Tennent High School-Max-Slevogt-Gymnasium/German American Partnership Program (GAPP) trip to Germany June 23 – July 15, 2007. The cost to the District is not to exceed \$150.00 for the use of a District school bus.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

3. Approval of Resolution Opposing House Bill 184

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the attached resolution opposing House Bill 184.*

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that this was unbelievable and pointed out that it was another unfunded mandate.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that we try to be fair to our employees but that the legislators are putting us in a bad position.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she would like to know who sponsored this bill. She felt that it was insane and that the legislators have to consider what they are doing. We can't afford all these things. Mr. Blatt indicated that he would get that information.

Mr. Faust found it interesting that the state was saying they are going to add these benefits but the school districts are going to pay for them.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked that this resolution be sent to the legislators.

Mrs. Mueller asked community members to contact the legislators and pointed out that this would be a direct cost to everyone as taxpayers.

*The motion passed 9-0.*

4. Permission to Apply for Competitive Grant

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Monaghan 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:*

*The Council for Corporate and  
School Partnerships*

\$10,000

*The motion passed 9-0.*

**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; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Support Staff Substitutes; Homebound Tutors; and Co-Curricular.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

**OPERATIONS AND POLICIES**

Initial Distribution

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out the following policy for initial distribution: 5.7 – Reporting Student Progress.

Final Approval:

3.15 - Graduation

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 3.15 – Graduation.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

3.19 – Homebound Instruction

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 3.19 – Homebound Instruction.*

Dr. Masko advised that this policy had been reviewed by the solicitor and indicated that the designation on the cover page indicating that it had not been was in error.

*The motion passed 9-0.*

3.3 – Clubs and Co-Curricular Activities

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 3.3 – Clubs and Co-Curricular Activities.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **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 – March 2007*
- *Investments – March 2007*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – March 2007*

*and approves the:*

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – March 2007*
- *Budgetary Transfers – April 2007*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Minutes of the February 27, 2007 Work Session/Regular School Board Meeting.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Brzezinski to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Minutes of the March 13, 2007 Regular School Board Meeting.*

*The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mrs. Lynch abstained.)*

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Operations Committee had met earlier in the evening and discussed a comprehensive, coordinated plan to address the District's facilities. She asked that this study be advanced to the Board level and to come under the guidance and auspices of the Board President. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that she felt that because of the broad scope of the plan, there would be benefit to taking the plan out to the community. This had the unanimous approval of the Committee that this be elevated to Board level and to ask that the Board President develop the plan to be taken to each of the three regions.

There was concurrence of the Board to move this to Board level.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

None.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Lynch reported that there had been no Education Committee meeting but that the next meeting would be held on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

### Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mr. Faust reported on the following matters from the Executive Council meeting held the previous evening:

- Approximately 20-30 students were honored from the Skills USA and HOSA competitions.
- Summer school consortiums to be held at MBIT were approved.
- There was acceptance of a grant of over \$103,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor. This is a matching grant for one of the reconstructed labs.
- The construction is still on schedule, with completion targeted by the opening of school in September.

### Intermediate Unit

Mrs. Brzezinski reported that the search for a new Director was still underway and that they would be interviewing the two final candidates this month.

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

Mr. Faust reported that a meeting of this committee would be held on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that at its meeting the Operations Committee discussed renovations to the William Tennent facilities and asked to move this forward to the Finance Committee for review and to look into the options for underwriting the high school athletic facility renovations.

No additional meetings were scheduled at this time.

### Citizens Policy

Mr. Monaghan reported that this committee had met about two weeks prior but did not complete everything on the agenda. Although they are finished for the season, they will try to have another meeting to complete the policy that was unfinished.

### Legislative Liaison

No report.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that she received a letter from the Delaware Valley High School that serves some of our students. She was surprised to see that this facility will offer a vocational opportunity to the students that qualify.

## **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 at 8:31 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary