

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD JUNE 26, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A Work Session/Regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on June 26, 2007, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Mueller at 7:38 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
Dr. Jenny-Foight-Cressman
Sandy Homel
Jean Rollo
Timothy Vail

CEA/Teachers:

Public:

There was no sign-in sheet for this meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Jankowsky commended all the seniors for their performance throughout the year, indicating that 65% of the high school seniors donated nearly 20,000 hours of community service. She felt that was impressive.

PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Mueller presented Rose Marie Doh with flowers and a citation from the House of Representatives, sponsored by Representative Bernie O'Neill and Scott Petri, on the occasion of her retirement from the School District.

Mr. Blatt stated that he and Mrs. Doh had worked together for the past six years. They never had cross words. All she wanted to do was to serve the children of the District. He felt that he couldn't have had a better Executive Assistant and couldn't have been more blessed than to work with someone like Mrs. Doh. He stated that he would truly miss her.

Mrs. Mueller then presented to David Blatt a citation from the House of Representatives, sponsored by Representative Bernie O'Neill and Scott Petri, on the occasion of his retirement from the School District.

Mr. Blatt spoke about how the people of the District welcomed him six years ago. He expressed his appreciation for this opportunity.

Mrs. Lynch made the following statement:

"With reference to the duties of the Operations Committee role of reviewing and recommending decisions on the proposed new high school building plans, I am compelled to resign my position on this committee.

"I am totally against the building of a new high school and being on this Committee will compromise my position."

GOOD NEWS

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Al Hertenberger of 307 Maple Avenue, Southampton, congratulated the Board for a successful year. Also, he stated that he wanted to make it clear that David Blatt did not run the School District – it was Rose Marie Doh. He wished farewell to Mrs. Doh, and also wished Mr. Blatt well in his retirement.

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 – March 5, 2007
Operations Committee – April 10, 2007
Finance Committee – May 21, 2007*

The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS**1. Withdrawal Agreement between the District and Student 1-16 and the Parent of Student 1-16**

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Withdrawal Agreement between Centennial School District and Student 1-16 and the parent of Student 1-16.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she thought that she had asked how much this would cost. Mrs. Homel indicated that as soon as the June statement was received from the solicitors, she could forward that information.

The motion passed 9-0.

2. Approval of Extended School Year Program

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the ESY (Extended School Year) Program at McDonald Elementary School from July 2 through August 8, 2007. The IEP team has determined that seven Centennial School District serviced students are eligible for ESY services because data indicates a regression with limited recoupment of skills in IEP goals during interruptions to educational programming. The Centennial School District Extended School Year program will be funded by IDEA funds. Costs not to exceed \$6,000.00.

The motion passed 9-0.

3. Approval of Ed-Flex Waiver

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the application for an Ed-Flex waiver for Klinger Middle School under the Title I 2007-2008 school year grant.

Mrs. Homel explained this for the purpose of the listening audience.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Close 2006-2007 Books and Authorize Audit

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes Administration to close the 2006-2007 Centennial School District books as of June 30, 2007, incorporating all accruals therein; that all bills that arrive and are due by June 30, 2007 are approved for payment provided the administration reviews the bills and is satisfied the same are just and proper obligations of the school district, and provided said expenditures are within the budget; that the transfer

of budget amounts necessary for the processing of budgeted expenditures are approved subject to review and ratification by the Board in September, 2007; and that the School District auditors be directed to proceed with conducting the necessary audit for the close of the Fiscal Year 2006-2007.

Mr. Strouse explained that this was the procedure that has been followed for the last few years.

The motion passed 9-0.

5. Auxiliary Pay Rates 2007-2008

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the pay rates for all auxiliary positions for the 2007-2008 school year and accepts the Athletic Officials pay rates as set by the PIAA Board of Directors as per the attached supplements.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that this item was extensively discussed at the Finance Committee meeting.

The motion passed 9-0.

6. Permission to Bid Security Cameras – Middle Schools

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes Administration to bid for security cameras and related equipment for the Klinger and Log College Middle Schools. Award to be made in August 2007.

Mr. Strouse indicated that this had been discussed at the Finance Committee meeting and with Administration and is a change from the original proposal.

The motion passed 9-0.

7. Response to Auditor General Report

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the response to the Auditor General's report dated September 15, 2006 per the attached supplement.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this was discussed extensively at the Finance Committee meeting and had unanimous support.

The motion passed 9-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves all personnel recommendations, as follows: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Change of Status; Support Staff Substitutes; Elementary Summer Remedial Program; Elementary Summer Enrichment Program; ESY Teacher for Summer 2007; ESY Aide for Summer 2007; Student/Summer Employees; and Co-Curricular.

Mr. Strouse commended Administration for getting the Co-Curricular appointments done on a timely basis.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board accept the Awards of Tenure as indicated on the attached supplement.

The motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Blatt explained that he had forwarded to the Board an e-mail referencing a request for an additional half-time music position. He felt it would be appropriate for Dr. Masko to make this recommendation to the Board. This position will be for the high school. This will allow us to move forward to advertise and seek a quality candidate so that Dr. Masko and his team can make a recommendation to the Board. We will have a better pool of candidates now than we will in August. Money for this position will come from contingency staffing funds.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves a half-time position for the Music Department of William Tennent High School, funded out of the personnel contingency portion of the 2007-2008 budget.

The motion passed 9-0.

POLICIES

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that Policy 5.14 would be addressed at a later date.

Discussion:7.9 – Child Custody

Since there was no discussion on this item, Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that it would be moved forward.

7.26 – Investments

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.26, Investments.

The motion passed 9-0.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Driver's Ed Parcel

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she had requested an update on the status of this matter. She had received a memo from Mr. Lasher dated June 14th indicating that the realtor had advertised this but has had very few inquiries. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that since the sale of this land might not be going well, she had suggested to Mr. Lasher that the field hockey fields between Centennial and Newtown Roads could be moved to the driver's ed lot and the existing fields could be put up for sale. She asked the Board to consider asking Administration what the acreage of these fields is and to investigate whether this would be feasible.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she understood that Mrs. Jankowsky was trying bring about a vision but she would be here next year and she felt a great deal of investigation would need to go into this. There was macadam and pipes on the property. Although we need money desperately, this must be well thought out. She felt it was interesting that Mrs. Jankowsky wanted to put the children on a beat-up old driver's ed lot.

Mrs. Jankowsky clarified that she was talking about the macadam being removed and the surface being prepared for a field hockey field, both for practice and game playing.

Mrs. Brzezinski pointed out that when we sold that land to Centennial Station, we promised Warminster Township that we would always have those fields for sports.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that although Mrs. Brzezinski might be correct, we would not know until the research was done. If that was a condition of the land, then we would wait. She pointed out that all she was asking for was information.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would like to see the fields stay over there or would like to see if Warminster Township is interested in buying it for a small park.

Mr. Blatt stated that he felt there was real merit to this and that it was worth exploring.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she would like to know if a prior Board made an agreement regarding the land. She indicated that she would like to have this looked into.

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Mrs. Jankowsky stated that in one of the Board's Friday updates they were provided with copies of a presentation on the cost of mandates. Central Bucks has figured out their cost. She felt that Centennial needed to generate a document showing how much unfunded and underfunded mandates cost us. She asked Administration to come up with something similar to the Central Bucks document.

REPORTS

I.U. – Mrs. Brzezinski reported that Dr. Coe would be active until sometime in August; then the new Director would be taking over.

Operations – Mrs. Jankowsky reported that a meeting would be held on July 23rd to review proposals regarding the new high school, with another meeting on July 30th.

Finance – A meeting was scheduled for the second Monday in August.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Brzezinski spoke about an article in the *Intelligencer* on June 23rd that had a list of district rankings by test scores that had been run by the *Pittsburgh Business Times*. Centennial ranked 160 on this list. She felt that this is what it is all about.

Also, in the June 21st edition of the *Intelligencer* there was an article entitled “Proposed Law Would Require Title IX Reporting to State,” which she passed on for distribution to the Board.

In the June 21st edition of the *Intelligencer*, Mrs. Brzezinski indicated that there was an article regarding an emergency drill at Neshaminy School District. She indicated that she would like information about what happened in that drill.

Mr. Monaghan reported that in the *School Leader News* there was a report from the Task Force on school cost reduction regarding cyber schools and transportation expenses. He felt that we should review this and see if any of these can help us reduce costs. Also, there was one specific item that he wanted to bring to the Board’s attention, which was the consideration of the use of the interior and exterior bus advertising to defray transportation costs. This would be something that could help to raise money to offset costs.

Also, there were some reports suggesting that when searching for a builder/contractor to contact other school districts that had problems with some of these builders to find out what types of problems they had. By doing so, we could possibly exclude them from our list so that we don’t get stuck in the same position in which these other schools found themselves.

Mrs. Jones stated that she had read in the paper that the governor stated that they would raise the sales tax now and help the schools. She felt this was just another way to pretend to be helping the schools.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that we also had a piece of information from the Auditor General in which they cite that cyber charter schools are charging school districts unequal amounts of money to educate children in their cyber charter schools, so now they have become the subject of investigation by the Auditor General.

Mrs. Lynch left the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Mr. Strouse pointed out that the state determines the tuition rate, not the charter schools.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she had received a letter from Mrs. Grossi thanking the Board for unanimously passing the motion regarding Mr. Grossi.

Mr. Blatt stated that when PSSA came in, it was a standardized test that was to be used to establish curriculum, guide instruction, determine student performance and help teachers deliver the program and help students. School boards were told it would not be used for the purpose of ranking school districts. Legislators told us that, and at least two or three Secretaries of Education told us that. It is in countless documents put out by PDE. Time and time again, various media use this to rank school districts. Mr. Blatt stated that he felt it serves to dishonor communities and schools.

Mrs. Patrick requested permission to address the Board. She stated that during the 13 years her son, Philip, has been in Centennial School District, he has received many accolades. She felt that it didn't seem fair that he get all the credit without sharing it with the School District. She felt that everyone had worked very hard to maintain very high standards at Centennial and that they were doing something right. She thanked everyone on behalf of the entire Patrick family.

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 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary