

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
HELD SEPTEMBER 11, 2007**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

A Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on September 11, 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  
Joan Jankowsky  
Patricia Jones  
Jane Schrader Lynch  
Michael Monaghan  
Cynthia Mueller  
Harve Strouse

Administration:

Dr. Jenny Foight-Cressman  
Susan Klyman  
Victor Lasher  
Dr. Michael Masko  
Jean Rollo  
Timothy Vail

[Mrs. Huf was absent from the meeting.]

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. Everyone then observed a moment of silence for the victims of 9/11.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Mueller noted that Mrs. Huf was absent from the meeting.

Mrs. Mueller reported that they had begun the evening outside at William Tennent High School for the dedication of the Eugene J. Grossi Athletic Complex. The Grossi family was present, as well as administrators, staff, students, Board members and many others.

Mrs. Jankowsky commended the custodial and maintenance staff for getting the buildings in shape for the beginning of school. She noted that on August 22<sup>nd</sup> there was a tour of the facilities

and everything was in great shape. She also commended Willow Dale for integrating students with disabilities in a more physical way with other students.

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that Congressman Murphy had held a forum regarding No Child Left Behind. She commended Dr. Laws for being able to identify issues that need to be addressed. She requested Administration to review the law so that we can suggest what aspects need to be reconsidered.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### Fulbright Exchange Trip to Thailand

Mrs. Buckley presented a slide show of her trip to Thailand this past summer. She explained that we are building a partnership with the high school where Dr. Masko visited when he was in Thailand several years ago and we are going to exchange ideas as administrators. In October, 14 administrators from Thailand will be visiting Centennial. They will bring four female students with them, who will live with Centennial families and attend Sophomore and Junior classes from October through March.

## **GOOD NEWS**

Dr. Masko presented the Good News Report (see attached.)

## **STUDENT REPORTS**

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

McKenzie Cloak, Senior Class President at Tennent, reported on the following items:

- School lunches have gotten a lot healthier.
- Fall sports have begun.
- Homecoming will be held in October.

### **MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Gabrielle Cancelliere reported on the following items at MBIT:

- Everyone was invited to attend the annual Open House on November 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The Counselor in-service activities would be held on December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Aspirations Restaurant will be open in mid-October.

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS****1. Agreement with Bucks County Intermediate Unit**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board agrees to pay the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 the projected sum of \$2,146,871.00 for the 2007-2008 school year to provide instructional programs and services for Centennial School District special education students as indicated in the attached listing. All instructional programs and services shall be consistent with all state and federal requirements.*

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if there were any significant increases in any of these areas. Ms. Klyman indicated that there is some fluctuation from year to year but it is within a similar ratio.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if this was a General Fund Expenditure. Mr. Vail responded that it is.

Mr. Faust noted that this included a speech therapist. He indicated that he thought we were trying to bring some of this in- house. Ms. Klyman responded that this reflected services to children that are in I.U. classes rather than Centennial classes.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that there are two high ticket items on the backup (PDD/Autistic Support - \$763,744 and Multiple Disabilities Support - \$426,112) and asked how many students were in these classes. Ms. Klyman responded that there were 12 elementary and 15 secondary in the MD classes, and in the PDD/Autistic Support there were 8 students per class/4 classes. She explained that there is one elementary level class of children that we brought back from the I.U. There are other children that are serviced within the District.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

**2. Agreement with Bucks County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Letter of Agreement between Bucks County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. and the Centennial School District for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$30,100.00 to provide services for students who exhibit high-risk behaviors related to the use of drugs, alcohol or dangerous controlled substances.*

Mr. Vail indicated that this was a General Fund Expenditure.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

3. Agreement with Lakeside Educational Network

*A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Agreement between Lakeside Educational Network and the Centennial School District for the 2007-2008 school year for three (3) regular education slots at the rate of \$22,575.00 per slot and three (3) special education slots at the rate of \$25,965.00 per slot, with an initial deposit of \$31,158.00. The Centennial School District is not contracting with Lakeside Educational Network for transportation services for the 2007-2008 school year.*

*If additional placements are needed, the per diem rate of \$155.80 for each regular education placement would apply and the per diem rate of \$176.34 per special education placement would apply.*

Mr. Vail indicated that this was a General Fund Expenditure.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

4. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 11-13

*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 to allow student 11-13 to attend Centennial's Life Skills Support Program at Willow Dale Elementary School as a half-day kindergarten student on a tuition basis at a rate of \$7,148.00 for the 2007-2008 school year. Transportation will be provided by the home district.*

Mr. Strouse asked if there is room in this classroom. Ms. Klyman indicated that there is.

Mr. Strouse asked how this tuition rate was determined. Mr. Vail explained that it is one and one-half times the elementary tuition rate. That is the maximum allowed by Code. Mr. Faust asked if that covers our cost. Mr. Vail indicated that we still have the same expenses whether these children are added or not.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

5. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 10-8

*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 to allow student 10-8 to attend Centennial's Life Skills Support Program at Willow Dale Elementary School as a half-day kindergarten student on a tuition basis at a rate of \$7,148.00 for the 2007-2008 school year. Transportation will be provided by the home district.*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

6. Approval of Construction Attorney

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the appointment of Venzie, Phillips & Warshawer as construction attorney for the William Tennent High School building project. Fee rates are \$295/hour for partners and range from \$150-\$195/hour for associate attorneys.*

Mrs. Brzezinski asked if we are hiring them now or when we start construction. Dr. Masko replied now. Their purpose is to develop the contract with the architectural firm if the next motion is approved.

*The motion passed 7-1. (Mrs. Lynch opposed.)*

7. Approval of Architectural Firm

*A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board hereby approves negotiations between the District's construction attorney and Burt Hill to develop a contract for the design of the William Tennent High School building project.*

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she did vote for the construction attorney because she thinks it is wise to have one but she is not going to vote for Burt Hill. She thinks we should wait for the next Board to come in. She was not happy with what she saw with the high school, although she did not want to go into details. She felt everything was moving too fast.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she was prepared to support Burt Hill at this time. The first step will be the development of a feasibility study. We have taken steps to curtail any significant loss of money to the District if the next Board does not wish to move ahead with this.

*A roll call vote was taken, as follows:*

<i>Mrs. Brzezinski</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Faust</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Lynch</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Jones</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Monaghan</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Strouse</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>Yes</i>

*The motion passed 6-2.*

8. I.U. Lease – Hearing Impaired Program

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board hereby approves the attached lease between the Bucks County Intermediate Unit and the Centennial School District. This lease is for Room #1 at the Administration Building and is for a pre-kindergarten hearing impaired program.*

Mr. Strouse pointed out that the lease calls for the property to be in tenantable condition. He asked if any changes need to be made to the space and how much it will cost.

Mr. Lasher explained that several improvements needed to be made, including a new dropped ceiling and improved lighting. We also installed network wiring for phones and computers at a cost of about \$2,000, for which we should be reimbursed.

*Mrs. Jankowsky requested Mr. Faust to consider an amendment to the motion to include the term of the lease, from 9/14/07 to 6/30/08, at a yearly cost of \$17,083 payable in ten equal monthly installments. Also, the District is to be reimbursed approximately \$2,000 for the cost of network wiring for computers and phones. Mr. Faust agreed to the amendment.*

Mr. Faust pointed out that a fixed cost had been set for classroom rentals. He asked if this met that cost. Mr. Vail indicated that it did.

Mrs. Brzezinski asked if this was a new rental. Mr. Lasher indicated that it was.

*The amendment to the motion passed 8-0.*

*The amended motion passed 8-0.*

9. Hiring of Additional Professional Staff from Contingency Fund

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the use of 1.5 positions from the contingency fund to be used for 1.0 third grade teacher at McDonald Elementary School and a 0.5 kindergarten teacher at Longstreth Elementary School.*

Mr. Vail indicated that this was a General Fund expenditure.

Mr. Strouse pointed out that the Board had been approving pieces of this contingency over the last few meetings. He asked what was left. Mr. Vail responded that this was the balance of the contingency.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

10. Permission to Apply for 2007-2008 Entitlement Grants

*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 2007-2008 entitlement grants:*

<i>Title I</i>	<i>\$1,021,730</i>
<i>Title II-A</i>	<i>265,660</i>
<i>Title III</i>	<i>46,587</i>
<i>Title V</i>	<i>5,957</i>
<i>Safe and Drug Free</i>	<i>21,198</i>

Mrs. Jankowsky asked Administration to consider including in future packets what we have received in previous years.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

11. Permission to Apply for a State Entitlement Grant – PA Accountability Block Grant

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to apply for a state entitlement grant for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount indicated:*

<i>Pennsylvania Accountability Block Grant 2007-2008</i>	<i>\$481,739</i>
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Mrs. Jankowsky asked if this was a formulaic amount and if we are assured of getting this. Mr. Vail indicated that this is a line item in the Governor's budget and this is Centennial's entitlement. This is really a formality.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

12. Permission to Apply for a Private Competitive Grant

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to apply for the following private competitive grant for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount indicated:*

<i>AARP Ethel Percy Andrus Legacy Award for Innovation</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
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*The motion passed 8-0.*

13. Permission to Apply for State Competitive Grants

*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 state competitive grants for the 2007-2008 school year in the amounts indicated:*

<i>Dual Enrollment</i>	<i>\$2,422</i>
<i>Learn and Serve America K-12 School Based Program</i>	<i>3,500</i>
<i>Full Day Kindergarten Supplemental To the Pennsylvania Accountability Block Grant 2007-2008</i>	<i>41,091</i>

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if there was any information on how successful we were last year on receiving information for dual enrollment. Dr. Masko indicated that we received information that two students attended Bucks County Community College. He explained that the amount of interest dictates the amount of money we go after.

Mr. Strouse felt that we need to make sure that this program is well publicized so that students and parents know it exists. Dr. Foight-Cressman indicated that this is something they will be working on. Mrs. Jankowsky asked if this was a weighted course. Dr. Foight-Cressman was not sure but indicated that she would look into it.

*The motion passed 8-0.*

14. Permission to Apply for 2006-2007 State Entitlement Grants

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to apply for the following 2006-2007 state entitlement grants to be used in the 2007-2008 school year in the amounts indicated:*

<i>Title I – 2006-2007 Academic Achievement (To be used in the 2007-2008 school year)</i>	<i>\$12,456</i>
<i>Title I Reallocation of 2006-2007 Funds (To be used in the 2007-2008 school year)</i>	<i>28,000</i>

Dr. Masko explained that the first one is the state's way of patting school boards on the back who have achieved AYP two years in a row. Dr. Foight-Cressman explained that the reallocation is funds that other school districts have not claimed.

*The motion passed 8-0.*



15. Approval of Superintendent's Contract 2007-2008

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Employment Agreement between Centennial School District and Dr. Michael Masko effective July 1, 2007 for a term of three years ending on June 30, 2010. The School District shall pay the Superintendent at the annual rate of One Hundred and Sixty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$160,000.00) for the 2007-2008 school year. For the 2008-2009 school year the School District shall pay an annual salary that is at least Three and One-half percent (3-1/2%) higher than the annual rate actually paid at the conclusion of the 2007-2008 school year. For the 2009-2010 school year, the School District shall pay an annual salary that is at least Three and One-half percent (3-1/2%) higher than the annual rate actually paid at the conclusion of the 2008-2009 school year.*

Mrs. Brzezinski asked for information about what other Superintendents of this size school district make. She stated that she needed to be able to answer questions and justify such a large salary to members of the community when she is asked.

Mr. Faust provided the following numbers: Bensalem - \$171,000; Neshaminy - \$171,000; Quakertown - \$165,000; Pennridge - \$151,000. Mr. Monaghan indicated that this had just been raised to \$160,000. Mr. Faust pointed out that there are a lot of Superintendents that are getting perks. We tied ours into the salary, such as auto reimbursement.

*The motion passed 7-1. (Mrs. Lynch opposed.)*

## **PERSONNEL**

*A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Change of Status; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Support Staff Substitutes; Kindergarten Bus Aides; Mentors; Homebound Tutors; and Co-Curricular.*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

## **OPERATIONS AND POLICIES**

None.

## **FINANCIAL**

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

- *Schedule of Bills – August 2007*
- *Investments – August 2007*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – August 2007*

*and approves the:*

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – August 2007*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

## **MINUTES**

None.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she was devastated that a Centennial teacher, Denise Quinn, had lost her son. The funeral was earlier in the day. This was a terrible loss.

Mrs. Mueller felt that it was a loss to the entire District.

Mrs. Lynch indicated that the family requested that donations be sent to Centennial School District with a memo indicating that it was for the Kyle Quinn Scholarship.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she had received an e-mail from Mr. Schaefer, wherein he had recaptured the Grossi 16 list of PSSA scores. She requested that Administration verify this list. She felt that it would be valuable to continue the list.

Mrs. Jankowsky also indicated that she received a memo from Dr. Masko addressed to Board members, dated August 24, 2007, regarding Tennent GPA's and class rank. Because of a computer software issue, the GPA's for students were incorrectly developed. We were told that at least the valedictorian was provided with a new calculation; however, others did not seem to be provided with them. Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that those students who have not been recognized correctly at graduation (i.e., the top 25) could be recognized another way, possibly on the website.

Mrs. Brzezinski left the room at 9:34 p.m.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that in the August PSBA Bulletin there was an excellent article by Michael Levin, our legal counsel, regarding regulating school district records, data and documents. She requested Administration to review this and make sure that we are complying with it. She felt that if a policy was needed to address this, it should be brought forward.

Mrs. Brzezinski returned to the room at 9:36 p.m.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that a community member had raised a question as to Board members traveling together and questioned whether there was some policy that no more than four Board members should be traveling together so that there is always a quorum together at home.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Masko noted that the opening of school was very smooth and that there is a very good turn-out for fall sports, with excellent coaches.

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Lynch reported that the next Education Committee meeting would be held on October 8<sup>th</sup> regarding test scores.

#### Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Jones reported that goals and objectives for the year had been presented; the main bid for the student-built home was \$73,500; there are about 900 students at MBIT; and the landscaping program is growing.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she thought the facility looks terrific and is more handicapped accessible.

Mrs. Jones recommended that everyone attend the Open House on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### Intermediate Unit

No report.

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

Mr. Faust reported that the next Finance meeting would be held on the following Monday.

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Operations Committee had met the previous evening and discussed recommendations regarding the construction attorney and the architectural firm. The next meeting will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The Committee directed Mr. Lasher to develop information on the merit of having a construction management firm to oversee construction of the high school versus a clerk of the works. We are also waiting for information from the solicitor regarding any deed restrictions on the hockey fields. Also, there is a planning commission hearing on September 19<sup>th</sup> regarding the stadium project.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that the Operations Committee expressed their sincere thanks to their hosts at Pennridge School District and the Cannon McMillan School District in the western part of the state, who hosted representatives of Centennial for the purpose of

touring their facilities since their projects were the most similar to ours. She felt that these tours were very worthwhile. Mrs. Mueller echoed these sentiments. Mr. Monaghan thanked Mr. Lasher for putting the whole process together.

Citizens Policy

Mr. Monaghan reported that meetings were scheduled for November 20, January 15, February 19, and March 18.

Legislative Liaison

None.

**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 Mrs. Brzezinski to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary