

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD SEPTEMBER 25, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A Work Session/Regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on September 25, 2007, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Mueller at 7:57 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

Administration:

Dr. Jennifer Foight-Cressman
Dr. Michael Masko
Robert Reed
Jean Rollo
Timothy Vail

[Note: Mr. Strouse was absent from the meeting.]

CEA/Teachers:

Tom Reinboth

Public:

Anna Brown
Andrew Pollock
Barbara Patrick
Janet Marinoff
Olena Kostishak & family

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Huf stated that someone had dropped off flyers regarding Iron Andy, an athlete with diabetes, who would be appearing at Tennent on October 23rd. She requested that the flyers be distributed.

Mrs. Mueller spoke about the Celebration of Bands to be held at Claude Lodge Field on September 29th.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of 2007 Earth Day Poster Contest Winner

Dr. Foight-Cressman presented a certificate to Olena Kostishak, a Freshman at Tennent, for being selected a first place winner of the 2007 Earth Day Poster Contest sponsored by Water Management.

Olena stated that she was very happy that she had won and that she had fun doing it. She thanked her teacher, Joan Juretus, who inspired her. She felt that she was a wonderful teacher.

GOOD NEWS

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Janet Marinoff of 51 Fern Road, Southampton, addressed the Board regarding an error in computing the grade point averages for the graduating class. She read a statement written by her son, Eric, who was part of the graduating class, to clear up misstatements in the newspaper.

Mrs. Mueller apologized for the error and thanked Eric Marinoff for finding the error and bringing it to Mr. Blatt's attention.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

- *Operations Committee – May 22, 2007, July 23, 2007,
July 30, 2007, August 23, 2007*
- *Finance Committee – June 18, 2007*

Mrs. Lynch indicated that she wished to abstain as to the Minutes of the August 23rd and June 18th meetings since she was not in attendance at those meetings. Mrs. Mueller asked if those Minutes should be pulled. Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that the Board was accepting the Minutes, not approving them; therefore, it was not necessary for everyone to have been in attendance in order to accept them. Mrs. Lynch indicated that she still wished to abstain as to those Minutes.

The motion passed 7-0-1. (Mrs. Lynch abstained.)

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Facility Use Waivers

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jones to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Facility Use Waiver Applications for the following group(s):

(A) Centennial Aquatic Club Use of WTHS pool, September 2007 through March 2008. Requesting a 50% waiver of fees, at a cost to the District of \$5,435.55.

(B) Centennial Aquatic Club Sunday use of WTHS pool, January 6, 2008. Requesting a 50% waiver of fees, at a cost to the District of \$167.05.

(C) Warminster Township Parks & Recreation Requesting a 50% waiver of fees for use of Log College Middle School pool for all Fall, Winter, and Summer community aquatics programs from September 2007 through August 2008. Approximate cost to the District for the year of \$2,970.19.

(D) Warminster Symphony Orchestra Sunday use of the WTHS auditorium – Sundays, September 30, 2007, October 7, 2007, November 25, 2007, March 9, 2008, and May 11, 2008. There is no cost to the District.

(E) WTHS Cheerleaders Sunday use of WTHS gym for cheerleading competition on February 24, 2008. There is no cost to the District.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked why the Board was just receiving this. Dr. Masko indicated that it was because it was fundraising, not co-curricular.

The motion passed 8-0.

2. Bid Award – Real Estate Property Tax Liens

Mr. Faust stated that at the last meeting the Board approved going out to bid for the sale of the tax liens. The bids were reviewed by the solicitor and this one was the best bid for the District and does not use a third party authority. Mr. Faust indicated that the liens are a year

or two old. Mr. Vail explained that the liens we are selling in the fall involve liens from 2002 through 2006. The liens we are selling in February are currently being collected and would be liened in 2008.

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that there are no changes to the taxpayer.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the sale of all existing real estate property tax liens and those to be filed in January, 2008 with the Bucks County Tax Claim Bureau to Plymouth Park Tax Services at the bid offering of 95% of full redemptive value. Further authorizes Administration to work with the successful bidder and District legal counsel to accomplish all necessary tasks associated with said sale per the terms and conditions detailed in the attached supplement.

The motion passed 7-0-1. (Mrs. Lynch abstained.)

3. Approval of Student Information System

Mr. Faust explained that this has probably been in the works for about two years. The District received several proposals, and Administration is recommending that we select this system for K-12.

Mrs. Huf felt that the amount was a little high.

Mr. Faust indicated that the program does everything in the District except financial. This would replace ProSoft, which we have not been satisfied with.

Mr. Reed explained that this covers every facet of student life, from grades to discipline, special education, etc. The difficulties we have had with the current vendor, even though the information is in the system, are that we can't get it out in usable form.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if the five-year cost figure was actual or projected. Mr. Reed indicated that it was projected – the initial cost times five.

Mrs. Jankowsky questioned whether taking \$230,000 from the Technology Reserve Fund would leave enough money for the refresh plan for existing technology. Mr. Reed explained that he had just approved the payment of the third year of a three-year lease of PCs for approximately \$177,000. Since we are now finished with that lease, we will not need that money next year. Also, we replaced servers several years ago. So it is anticipated that for the 2008/2009 school year this money will be available from the fund since we will not have to replace hardware that year.

Mrs. Lynch asked about a log-in concern with ProSoft that was raised by the auditors. Mr. Reed explained that there will be some type of conference call with the auditors during the implementation phase with Skyward to be sure that the auditors' concerns are addressed.

Mrs. Jankowsky commended Administration and the Finance Committee for the work on this.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she wanted to make sure that this is friendly to the parents and the children. She does not want to rely 100% on the computer. She wants to make sure we don't lose touch with the families. Mrs. Huf stated that we should be mindful of human error.

Mr. Faust stated that there is access to parents to review errors, and indicated that they have access to grade books. If they catch errors, they can notify teachers or administrators.

Mr. Reed indicated that this presentation is available on the website to anyone who has internet access.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the selection of Skyward as the provider of a K-12 Student Information System for the Centennial School District. Implementation to begin immediately, with a projected completion date of September 1, 2008.

*Fiscal Note: 2007-2008 - \$ 10,000 – Capital Project Fund
2008-2009 \$230,553 – Technology Reserve Fund*

A roll call vote was taken, as follows:

<i>Mrs. Brzezinski</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Faust</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Jones</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Lynch</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Monaghan</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed 8-0.

4. Permission to Accept State Entitlement Grants

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to accept 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>

The motion passed 8-0.

5. Permission to Accept 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 accept the following state competitive grants for the 2007-2008 school year in the amounts indicated:

<i>Dual Enrollment</i>	<i>\$ 2,422</i>
<i>Full Day Kindergarten Supplemental to the Pennsylvania Accountability Block Grant 2007-2008</i>	<i>\$41,091</i>

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if we plan to communicate the availability of dual enrollment to high school seniors.

Dr. Masko stated that there is a plan and they are investigating how it was communicated in the past. Previously, there was a survey to see if there was interest. There was not enough interest to have it at Tennent so it was offered at Bucks County Community College. This was not attractive enough to the students, so we have more homework to do.

Mrs. Jankowsky felt that part of the attraction for students is whether this is a weighted course. She asked if this was part of the discussion. Dr. Foight-Cressman responded that it is and that she is preparing something for the Friday update regarding this.

Mr. Faust asked if we have looked at splitting this with another school. Dr. Masko felt that would be a good option to explore.

The motion passed 8-0.

6. Permission to Accept PA Accountability Block Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to accept a Pennsylvania Accountability Block Grant for 2007-2008 in the amount of \$481,739.

Mrs. Brzezinski asked how many children were in full-day Kindergarten in the District. Dr. Masko indicated that he would provide that information in the Friday update.

The motion passed 8-0.

7. Permission to Apply for Entitlement 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 entitlement grant for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount indicated:

<i>Inclusive Practices Performance Grant (Klinger Middle School and McDonald Elementary School – \$5,000 each school)</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
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The motion passed 8-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves all personnel recommendations, including: Resignations, Retirements, Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Change of Status; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Support Staff Substitutes; Mentors; Tutors; Kindergarten Bus Aides; Co-Curricular; and Curriculum Resource Team Members.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that, in looking at the Change of Status section, it seems that we have taken a big step in making sure that our children have resources necessary to be successful in reading. She asked if we have taken similar steps in Math. Dr. Masko responded that, in brief, that answer was no although we do have some specialized instruction in Math at the middle school and high school levels but not the elementary level. We do not have the parallel expertise as we do in reading.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested that we look at math instruction and provide the same thoroughness as we do in reading instruction.

The motion passed 8-0.

POLICIES

None.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mrs. Huf stated that she was asked if the high school is in such deplorable shape that it should be condemned; either it is safe or it isn't.

Dr. Masko responded that it is safe. Our engineers and specialists monitor the building from year to year. However, for the long term it is a poorly constructed building on many accounts. The questions the Board needs to consider is whether this is where we want the students to spend their days, whether it will continue to be safe for another 30 to 40 years, and whether the money

that would need to be spent should be spent on renovating this building or building a new building.

Mrs. Brzezinski mentioned several newspaper articles that she would like to be copied for distribution to the Board, regarding Bill Gates, the GPA issue, and the effect of high taxes on the elderly. She also requested that Board members get a copy of an article about what happened at Columbia University when the President of Iran spoke there.

Mrs. Lynch asked if the students, universities and colleges received letters with the students' proper rankings. Dr. Masko explained that they invited all students to let us know if they want us to notify their colleges and universities of their rank. We are doing it on a case-by-case basis.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she felt it should be done for everyone, not on a case-by-case basis. Dr. Masko responded that they felt that we should follow the students' wishes. We have to follow procedure about giving out information about students.

Mr. Monaghan asked if the Board could get a follow-up on recycling in the schools. He would like a cost on this as to whether it is worthwhile.

Mrs. Lynch left the room at 9:15 p.m.

REPORTS

Superintendent

Dr. Masko stated that a correction will be printed in the Courier Times about the erroneous attribution of remarks to a school counselor. The Intel also said they would consider printing a correction regarding misinformation in an editorial. Dr. Masko stated that he regrets that the reporting may tarnish the reputations of hardworking counselors. Other than this matter, the reporting was accurate on this matter and the criticism deserved.

Dr. Masko reported that the William Tennent stadium project was reviewed and approved by the Warminster Township Planning Commission last week. This week the Warminster Township Board of Supervisors will consider final approval of the project. In anticipation of the renovations to the stadium, the last home football game of the season will take place on Friday, September 28th. On Saturday, September 29th, the last event in the stadium will be the Celebration of Bands.

Mrs. Lynch returned to the room at 9:17 p.m.

Dr. Masko reported that this weekend, we are expecting the arrival of a student from Thailand, who will spend a year with a Centennial family. We will also welcome 15 Thai school administrators, who will spend one week in the District.

Dr. Masko stated that on the following Tuesday representatives from the District would travel to Harrisburg to support the nomination of Lauren Zucker from Leary Elementary as Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Masko indicated that he had visited the Dorothy Henry Alternative School earlier in the day. A teacher and her students have developed a proposal to design and construct a greenhouse at the school in connection with their Science curriculum. Dr. Masko felt this was a positive initiative and indicated that we will support them in whatever way we can.

Operations

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that four families appeared before the Operations Committee seeking approval for transportation. The Committee has requested Administration to look into several issues. There are also two issues that the Committee will revisit at their next meeting.

The next Operations meeting will be held on October 9th.

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Mrs. Brzezinski reported that a meeting was held on September 18th. The representative from Bristol Borough resigned during the summer and there is now a new representative. As of now, there is no representative from Pennridge.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that Jack Brady informed them of the new rules for transferring money from one retirement account to another. There were only 16 legislative days left for our representatives to meet regarding this. Mrs. Brzezinski had information which she would like to have distributed to the Board regarding this matter.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if there was any information about whether the legislature will move the primary date up to February. Mrs. Brzezinski indicated that there was not.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked Mr. Faust if he recalled the dates that the budget would have to be adopted if the primary stays in April. Mr. Faust indicated that he did not recall but stated that he had received an e-mail from Mr. Vail. Mrs. Mueller read a copy of the e-mail, which indicated that the legislation to move the Presidential primary to the second Tuesday of February died in the Senate. Therefore, the primary election will be April 22, 2008. The revised budget calendar will require that the Board approve the proposed preliminary budget by January 22nd rather than February 12th.

Finance

Mr. Faust reported that there would be a Finance Committee meeting at the end of October.

Education

Mrs. Lynch stated that there would be an Education Committee meeting on October 8th.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Brzezinski and seconded by Mr. Faust to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary