

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD OCTOBER 9, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on October 9, 2007, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Mueller at 7:45 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:

Sandy Homel
Susan Klyman
Victor Lasher
Dr. Michael Masko
Jean Rollo
Timothy Vail

CEA/Teachers:

Beth Campbell
Bill Faehner
Gail Gismondi

Public:

Thomas Hezel
Leigh Lieberman
McKenzie Cloak
Robert Luciani
J. A. Dunn
Karen Whitney
Jeanette Earl
Jennifer Trotter
Jane Strawley
Tom Reinboth

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Monaghan recognized the Warminster Symphony for their 8th annual Family Concert at Tennent, which was a large success. Their next concert, “Northern Lights, Winter Nights”, will be held December 1st at Tennent.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she had attended the Teacher of the Year awards in Harrisburg, which was a wonderful experience. Mrs. Mueller stated that we are all very proud of Lauren Zucker for making it to finalist.

PRESENTATIONS

Warminster Days Committee

Karen Whitney, Warminster Township’s Director of Parks & Recreation, addressed the Board and thanked the District for its assistance over the years. She presented a plaque to the District in appreciation for the cooperation the Dept. of Parks & Rec has received from the District and the partnership that they have been able to develop with the District over the years.

GOOD NEWS

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

STUDENT REPORTS

MBIT

Mrs. Homel read the report from Gabrielle Cancelliere, who was not able to attend this meeting. (See attached.)

Student Council

McKenzie Cloak reported on events at Tennent, as follows:

- The Seniors have 161 PSSA All-Stars to date.
- The student government fundraiser for Kyle Quinn raised \$500 in change. The student government will up that to \$1,000.
- Homecoming activities would be held the upcoming weekend.
- Seniors have begun to apply to colleges. The counselors have been a great help.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Leigh Lieberman of 396 Byron Road, Warminster, addressed the Board regarding SAT scores. She was pleased that Dr. Masko had raised the subject of the Smart and Smarter program that Abington was using and asked if we were considering it.

Dr. Masko responded that we are considering it and that we are planning to visit Abington regarding this program.

Robert Luciani of 750 Wallace Drive, Warminster, asked several questions regarding the architect bids for the new high school as well as the sports stadium. He asked for the names of the architects and the fees quoted. Dr. Masko indicated that he would provide this information.

Jeanette Earl of 229 Centennial Road, Warminster, addressed the Board regarding a transportation issue involving her kindergarten daughter being erroneously placed on a bus, then being allowed to get off the bus. She felt that the Transportation Dept. should not have allowed the child to get off the bus, and had requested that the policy be changed for the kindergarten students. She was upset that this request was met with opposition and she was concerned with the safety of the students.

Dr. Masko explained that he had informed her that he had met with Mr. Robinson and the six elementary principals regarding this matter and that they appreciate her concern. However, to immediately change the procedure by not letting the children off the bus unless they are met by a parent would cause problems for many other parents and children who already have set procedures in place. Dr. Masko explained to Mrs. Earl that we are prepared to make a change for her by having her child not be let off the bus unless she or her husband are present. However, when he told her this, Mrs. Earl had indicated that she had already made other arrangements for her child.

Dr. Masko indicated that we are checking to see if there is support for a change. If there is support, we would have to give parents time to make arrangements if they are not able to be at the bus stop. It is a more complicated situation than how Mrs. Earl is portraying it to be but it is being addressed.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Agreement with Vanguard School

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Agreement between the Vanguard School and the Centennial School District for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$38,400.00.

Mr. Faust asked if both of the agreements, in motions #1 and 2, been through the solicitor.

Ms. Klyman responded that they have been through people within the District but she would have to check to see if they have been through the solicitor.

Mrs. Brzezinski asked if we could have an institution closer to us take care of this student. Ms. Klyman responded that the IEP reviews these. It is based on reviewing and matching the school with the child's needs. We do consider transportation and the needs of the child. This was the placement that best meets the child's needs.

A motion to table was made by Mr. Strouse and seconded by Mr. Faust until the solicitor could review this Agreement.

A roll call vote was taken, as follows:

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

The motion to table failed 4-5.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if Administration could confirm that these Agreements had been reviewed by the solicitor, either at this time or at a previous time.

Dr. Masko indicated that they would have to check whether they were reviewed by the solicitor at a previous time, although they are the same Agreements that have been approved by the Board in the past.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked whether delaying approval would affect the program. Mr. Vail stated that no payment could be made without Board approval, but he had not yet seen an invoice on this.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that a phone call be made to this school explaining the situation.

Ms. Klyman felt that it would be a tremendous disservice to the child if there was a delay.

Mrs. Lynch pointed out that on August 21st the Board had approved numerous other contracts, and asked whether they had been approved by the solicitor. She itemized each agreement that was approved and pointed out that each was approved unanimously, and asked whether anyone knew if they had been approved by the solicitor.

Mrs. Brzezinski pointed out Addendum B, which set forth payment information.

Ms. Klyman indicated that she had researched this issue and found that when these Agreements were put forward originally, they were thoroughly reviewed by the solicitor. In subsequent years, they were not reviewed by the solicitor but information is updated.

Mr. Strouse asked why the Board was being asked to approve a contract that started on September 4th and for which payment was due on September 15th. He asked why the Board was just seeing this now, in October, for services that had already started.

Ms. Klyman explained that it takes time and effort to review these contracts and they do not come before the Board until they are thoroughly reviewed.

Mr. Strouse pointed out that we are already in default under this contract before we have even signed it. A payment was due September 15th, so either we are in default because we have not made the payment, or the payment was made and not authorized.

Mr. Vail indicated that he did not recall seeing an invoice.

Mrs. Mueller stated that if this had not been a contract that had not just been updated, she would have a problem with it. However, since it was just updated, she did not have a problem with it. Since Ms. Klyman indicated that they wanted to thoroughly review it, she could appreciate that.

Mr. Faust asked what would happen if the internal review came up with a problem and pointed out that this child is basically in a school that is not authorized by the Board. This could create a liability situation. He felt that these contracts have to be requested from the vendors earlier, possibly in June. However, since this has been previously reviewed by the solicitor, he did not have a problem with it.

Mr. Monaghan suggested that in the future if there are any outstanding obligations or students that have not been placed, we could get a letter from the school granting permission until we get Board approval so we would be covered for liability.

Mrs. Jankowsky suggested that an administrative procedure could be codified and the Board could be made aware of it.

Mrs. Lynch noted that this is not the only contract that has been approved after the fact.

The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mr. Strouse abstained.)

2. Approval of Agreement with Therapy Source

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the therapy services contract between Therapy Source, Inc. and the Centennial School District for a three-year term beginning November 1, 2007 through October 31, 2010 at the hourly rate of \$68.00.

Mrs. Jankowsky noted that this is in advance of the delivery date.

Mrs. Brzezinski asked if this company hires the therapists. Ms. Klyman responded that they are independent contractors for Therapy Source. Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she would not vote for this because we will not have information on these people that work with our children.

Mrs. Mueller pointed out Section 1.7, which indicated that they will provide such information if requested. She indicated that we will make sure that we request this information.

Mr. Strouse asked if this is a new vendor. Dr. Masko stated that it is not.

Dr. Masko indicated that this had previously been reviewed by counsel.

The motion passed 9-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf 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; Homebound Tutors; Saturday School Proctors; Support Staff Substitutes; and Co-Curricular.

The motion passed 9-0.

Mrs. Brzezinski left the room at 8:48 p.m.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

None.

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 – September 2007*
- *Investments – September 2007*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – September 2007*

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – September 2007*
- *Budgetary Transfers – June 2007 (End of Year); October 2007*

Mrs. Huf stated that Commerce Bank has been sold to a Canadian bank and asked if we were concerned about this. Mr. Vail responded that the exchange will be in March or April of 2008. We have an existing agreement that will be honored by the successor, which runs through June

of 2008. We will be seeking proposals for a depository this winter or spring and those issues can be addressed at that time.

Mrs. Huf asked if we have any deposits in foreign banks. Mr. Vail indicated that we do not.

Mrs. Brzezinski returned to the room at 8:51 p.m.

Mrs. Jankowsky commended the Food and Nutrition Supervisor and the students for piloting new recyclable milk containers.

The motion passed 9-0.

MINUTES

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

- *Regular School Board Meeting – August 21, 2007*
- *Regular School Board Meeting – September 11, 2007*

Mrs. Jones requested a small revision to the September 11, 2007 Minutes.

The motion passed 7-0-2. (Mr. Faust and Mrs. Huf abstained.)

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mrs. Jankowsky commended those involved in the Celebration of Bands. It was a terrific evening of entertainment.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she would like to have Bob Schrader seeks grants for putting the Board meetings on cable television. Mr. Monaghan indicated that Mr. Schrader is working on things like that with the partnership committee and the career showcase.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that at the Education Committee meeting the previous evening, one of the agenda items was the cost of approving private schooling for students. The Committee had asked Mrs. Klyman to generate some numbers to see what was budgeted and what the subsidy would be. Earlier this evening, Dr. Masko indicated that Administration will be working on generating a report to address the cost of mandates. Mrs. Jankowsky felt that it would be beneficial if we could publicize on our website the mandates, the total cost, and what the subsidy is for it. This would help the community to understand what is required of us when the legislature comes up with a new mandate, many of which are unfunded. Mrs. Mueller concurred.

Mr. Monaghan reported that the Centennial School District Career Showcase will be held on November 7th at the high school.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Masko reported on the four action plans that are part of the strategic plan, as follows:

- Mr. Monaghan had already spoken about progress made on the partnerships action plan. They are finding ways to make sure our affiliation policy is real and to go out and recruit people who are able to support district initiatives.
- The communications action team met and is talking about plans for Skyward, the student information system, and making sure we are prepared for that innovation.
- The diversity action team will be meeting this coming Thursday. We recently joined over 20 other school districts in the Delaware Valley as part of the Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement consortium.
- The achievement standards action team has been working on several action steps, not the least of which is inclusion. Our November 6th in-service day will be devoted to the inclusion efforts in the District.

Dr. Masko also reported that he had lunch with 700 youngsters at the middle schools. He commented on what a pleasure it was and how polite and orderly they were.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Lynch reported that this committee had met the previous evening and discussed PSSA's. Mrs. Poroszok and Dr. Foight-Cressman gave reports. Mrs. Lynch felt we should put this information on the website. It was a phenomenal meeting, with a lot of information. She felt that we have a wonderful team.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

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

- Review of preliminary budget – there was a 2.88% budget-to-budget increase. The actual increase to districts is 2.52%. Centennial's contribution with adjustment next year would be \$1,863,753. The big change is the debt service.
- Received the October 1st enrollment report of 903 students. They lost 91 students that they thought they were going to have.
- Approved the MBIT strategic plan.
- Agreed to fund \$31,000 for a traffic light at Deer Run and York Roads.
- Approved the bid for a new Bobcat in the amount of \$29,782 for the landscape program and to maintain the grounds.

Mrs. Huf indicated that they would get us information about the 91 students they lost. Dr. Irwin felt that it might have something to do with the disruption from the construction last year.

Intermediate Unit

No report.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Faust stated that the next meeting will be on October 29th.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Operations Committee had met earlier in the evening and discussed requests for exceptions to the transportation policy. There is still more to deal with at the next meeting, which will be on October 23rd.

The committee also discussed the smoke detection system seen at Cannon McMillan School District. This will be moved to the Finance Committee for funding out of Capital Reserve. This will address the issue of smoking at the high school.

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the committee also looked at the deed restrictions related to the fields opposite Centennial Station and has requested additional information. They will revisit this topic at their next meeting. They also looked at the concept of a project manager for the high school project. Mr. Lasher gave them an update and they requested him to look into firms that can provide that type of service but that will not be addressed until the contract with the architect has been approved by the Board.

Citizens Policy

Mr. Monaghan stated that the first meeting of this committee will be in November.

Legislative Liaison

No report.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that there was a story in the Bucks County Courier Times indicating that some of the Lower Bucks County legislators are holding forums to discuss methodology to reduce property taxes by 50% by increasing the personal income tax and also through an increase in the sales tax to 6½%. She requested any available information on whether the bill has been formulated.

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. Jankowsky to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary