

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD NOVEMBER 13, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on November 13, 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
Jane Schrader Lynch
Michael Monaghan
Cynthia Mueller
Harve Strouse

*Joseph Simpson

[*Note: Mr. Simpson was elected as a Board member during the course of this meeting.]

CEA/Teachers:

Marie Belcher
Michelle Lockett
Mary Ellen Oniskey
Ann Boger
Al Catarro

Administration:

Dr. Jennifer Foight-Cressman
Sandy Homel
Victor Lasher
Dr. Michael Masko
Jean Rollo
Timothy Vail

Public:

Jim Rice
Barry Galasso
John Baldwin
Charlie Snider
Bobbie Loftus
Andy Pollock
Bob Luciani
Thomas Hezel
Barbara O'Shea
Tom Reinboth
Josh Lipschultz
Judy Hengst
Dan Finello
Mark Miller
David Blatt

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that Dr. Galasso, the new Director of the I.U. was present and would speak in a few minutes.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she had attended National Literacy Day (“Potterpalooza”) and that it was very well attended and well received. Coming up later in the week was a ceremony with the Veterans, which she encouraged everyone to attend.

Mr. Monaghan thanked the William Tennent Career Showcase committee and the presenters (business leaders) who came out and spoke.

PRESENTATIONS

Introduction of Dr. Barry Galasso, BCIU Executive Director

Dr. Masko introduced Dr. Barry Galasso, the new Executive Director of the I.U.

Mr. Galasso spoke about the excellence of the educators in the county. He indicated that one of his goals is to look operational costs and to reduce costs to the districts.

GOOD NEWS

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

STUDENT REPORTS

Josh Lipschultz introduced himself as the student government President at Tennent. He reported that the winter sports had started. A meeting was held by Burt Hill earlier in the day for student leaders to explain students’ feelings about plans for the school. He stated that the students appreciated having their feelings being taken into consideration.

Gabrielle Cancelliere, the MBIT representative, reported as follows:

- The MBIT Open House was scheduled for November 14th.
- The Grand Reopening was held on October 25th.
- The building renovation has been completed.
- On October 26th Skills USA sponsored a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which raised over \$530.
- Approximately 20 students attended the Skills USA student leadership conference.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appointment of New Board Member

Mrs. Mueller explained the resignation of Mrs. Jones, that advertising was done for the position of Board member, and that interviews had been held.

Mrs. Mueller asked for nominations for the position of Board member.

Mrs. Jankowsky placed the names of John C. Baldwin and Joseph F. Simpson, Jr. into nomination.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Strouse to close the nominations.

The motion to close nominations was approved 8-0.

Mrs. Huf stated that she was impressed with both candidates and thanked them for coming forward.

Mrs. Brzezinski indicated that she was happy with both people and stated that her decision was more political than personal.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she was impressed with both of them and felt that either of them would do a wonderful job. She wished them both well.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<i>Mrs. Brzezinski</i>	<i>Mr. Simpson</i>
<i>Mr. Faust</i>	<i>Mr. Simpson</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Mr. Baldwin</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>Mr. Simpson</i>
<i>Mrs. Lynch</i>	<i>Mr. Baldwin</i>
<i>Mr. Monaghan</i>	<i>Mr. Simpson</i>
<i>Mr. Strouse</i>	<i>Mr. Simpson</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>Mr. Simpson</i>

The vote was in favor of Mr. Simpson, 6-2.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the appointment of Joseph F. Simpson, Jr. to the Centennial School Board to fill the position in Region 1 vacated by the resignation of

Patricia Jones. The appointment is effective November 13, 2007 through December 7, 2009.

The motion passed 8-0.

The Honorable Daniel Finello administered the oath of office to Mr. Simpson, who then took his place at the Board table.

Mrs. Mueller called for a break in the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:27 p.m.

2. Installment Payments of Real Estate Property Taxes

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the installment payment of real estate property taxes by approved homestead/farmstead property owners in compliance with the Taxpayer Relief Act of 2006 (Act 1) effective July 1, 2007, and hereby agrees to sell all outstanding installment payments due and payable to the District for tax years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 to XSPAND (Plymouth Park Tax Services, Inc.) per the terms and conditions of the attached agreement.

Mrs. Lynch felt that we are moving too fast in extending this for two additional years since we have only had six months and the initial contract was for one year. All the data is not in. She pointed out that Centennial School District is Plymouth's only client. She felt we should slow down and review all of the figures after all the data is in for the first year.

Robert Luciani of 750 Wallace Drive, Warminster, stated that he had attended the October 29th Finance Committee meeting, at which there was a representative of Plymouth Park present. The representative advised that their fee is 3% of the taxes collected and he felt that Plymouth Park is losing money at this rate. They would like to discuss this with the School Board at some point. Mr. Luciani felt that extending this contract for an additional two years was not in the best interests of the School District.

Bobbie Loftus of 401 Gibson Avenue stated that she had received an e-mail from Stan Allen on October 29th analyzing tax payments for the installments. It showed that the District would be losing money on tax payments by sending this out rather than having her do them.

Mrs. Loftus raised several questions. She pointed out that it was set forth in the tax collectors' manual that all funds collected and interest accrued must be paid to the taxing district. She questioned who was getting the interest – the School District or XSPAND. The manual also states that all compensation must be paid directly by the taxing district. Mrs. Loftus explained that she did not take her salary out of the taxes. She gives the money to the District; then the District pays her salary. She questioned how Plymouth

Park was paid since they were getting their money up front. She asked if they were getting a 1099, and if we are taking all of the necessary taxes out of their money.

Mr. Vail explained that we are not paying Plymouth Park – they are paying us, so there are no deductions involved.

Mr. Smith from Plymouth Park complimented Mrs. Loftus and indicated that she had helped them work through some of the issues. He explained that they are not a tax collector. Act 1 allows Centennial to sell taxes to a third party. They have purchased the property tax installments and have given Centennial money. He explained in more detail how this works.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she was comfortable that the Finance Committee and our solicitor reviewed this and made sure that this is in compliance with Act 1. From the feedback that she has heard, she is comfortable with this. She feels it is a win/win situation.

Mrs. Brzezinski stated that she was happy with getting the money up front. She agrees that this is a win/win situation.

Mrs. Lynch indicated that she was cautious because all the facts are not in. She felt our tax collectors try very hard.

Andy Pollock of Ann's Choice stated that what Mr. Allen's memo shows is that we are losing \$25 or more per person, if the memo is accurate. He would like to see the matter tabled for two weeks, have the memo reviewed and see if these assumptions are true. If they are not, then this Board can vote on the issue.

Mrs. Mueller stated that this was already discussed in detail at the Finance meeting and this is not as simple as it is laid out in that memo. She indicated that unless there is a consensus of the Board to do otherwise, there would be a vote.

There was no consensus of the Board to delay the vote.

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>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Jankowsky</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Lynch</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Monaghan</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Simpson</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Strouse</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed 7-2.

3. Approval of WTHS 2007-2008 School Improvement and Restructuring Plan

Dr. Foight-Cressman explained that this is a School Improvement Plan that is required by PDE for reading. She hopes that we see similar results in reading as we did in Math. She named many of the people who worked on this plan.

Mr. Strouse stated that this plan had come before the Education Committee twice and comes before the Board with the unanimous approval of the Education Committee.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval of the William Tennent High School 2007-2008 School Improvement Plan and William Tennent High School 2007-2008 Restructuring Plan.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Approval of Volunteer Position, Coordinator of Fundraising for WTHS Stadium Project

Mr. Blatt stated that he was honored and thankful that he was asked to serve in this capacity. He hoped to provide opportunities for our youngsters, families, individuals, corporations, and businesses. It is an exciting time in Centennial School District.

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mr. Strouse to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the creation of a volunteer position entitled Coordinator of Fundraising for the William Tennent High School stadium project and gratefully accepts the offer of David P. Blatt to serve in this capacity, effective immediately.

The motion passed 9-0.

5. Approval of Member of Citizens' Policy Committee

A motion was made by Mrs. Jankowsky and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints Mrs. Barbara O'Shea to a three-year term on the Centennial School District Citizens' Policy Committee. Such term shall begin effective November 14, 2007 and end June 30, 2010.

Mrs. Jankowsky thanked Mrs. O'Shea for submitting her name to participate in this committee.

The motion passed 9-0.

6. Adopt Revised 2008-2009 Budget Calendar

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the REVISED calendar for the formulation and adoption of the fiscal year 2008-2009 General Fund Budget as listed in the attached supplement. Revisions are necessary to recognize the accelerated state deadlines associated with the primary election being held in April, 2008.

The motion passed 9-0.

7. Purchase Smoke Detection System – WTHS

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the purchase of a smoke detection system for William Tennent High School rest room facilities in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 in keeping with the District's smoke-free policies for all facilities. Funds to be appropriated from the Capital Reserve Fund.

The motion passed 9-0.

8. Permission to Advertise for Student Vehicle Bids and Solicit Vehicle Lease Proposals

A motion was made by Mr. Faust and seconded by Mrs. Jankowsky to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants permission to solicit bids for school transportation vehicles as follows:

- 1. Up to four (4) 65-passenger vehicles*
- 2. Up to two (2) 24-passenger vehicles*
- 3. One (1) 48-passenger vehicle*
- 4. One (1) 42-passenger Wheel Chair Lift Vehicle*

Administration is directed to solicit the above bids with and without the trade-in provision providing a deadline date to the vendor for making this decision pending attempt by Administration to sell said vehicles directly on the open market.

Administration is further directed to draft a Request for Proposal (RFP) to replace a portion of the District's bus fleet with a three-five year lease arrangement. Lease proposals to be analyzed and brought back to Operations and Finance Committees for review prior to award of bids.

Mrs. Brzezinski felt that this should wait for the new Board. She stated that she would not vote for this.

Mr. Faust explained that all that was being done was putting the vehicles out for bid with an option for lease. This will not be back for several weeks. The information will be available to the new Board so they can decide what they want to do.

Mrs. Brzezinski agreed that this was acceptable to her.

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

Mrs. Huf asked if we have ever gone out for bus lease bids. Mr. Vail indicated that we have not but that this is a way of seeing what that looks like.

Mrs. Huf asked if we would still have our own drivers. Mrs. Mueller replied that we would, indicating that this has nothing to do with the drivers. She compared it to leasing a car.

Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that this was discussed thoroughly in the Operations Committee and the Finance Committee, and that it passed unanimously in both committees.

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

The motion passed 9-0.

9. Dismissal from Employment

Mrs. Mueller explained that there were several questions by Board members about this issue prior to the meeting. Therefore, she would call for an Executive Session. Mr. Strouse suggested finishing the action items on the agenda first. There was consensus of the Board to do so.

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

Mr. Strouse asked why the Co-Curricular items could not be placed on the agenda prior to the individuals starting in these positions. He felt these should be done on a timely basis.

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

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

None.

FINANCIAL

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

- *Schedule of Bills – October 2007*
- *Investments – October 2007*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – October 2007*
- *Student Activity/Clearing Funds – July 1 through September 30, 2007*

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – October 2007*
- *Budgetary Transfers – November 2007*

Mrs. Jankowsky asked how long student activity funds can be kept open when they are inactive. Mr. Vail responded that it is usually six months to a year; then we might merge some funds together to make better use of the funds.

Mrs. Jankowsky asked if a policy was needed. Mr. Vail explained that there is a clear definition in the School Code about this and we have really cleared this up over the past few years. We have a general policy in place about this. Also, the auditors look closely at these.

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

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 Work Session/Regular School Board Meeting of September 25, 2007.

Mr. Monaghan asked for a minor revision on page 25.

The motion passed 7-0-2. (Mr. Strouse and Mr. Simpson abstained.)

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 of October 9, 2007.

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

At 9:29 p.m., Mrs. Mueller called for a recess so that the Board could meet in Executive Session, as discussed earlier under New Business, Item #9. Mrs. Mueller explained that this matter must be discussed in Executive Session rather than at the public meeting since it involved a personnel issue.

The Board Meeting resumed at 9:54 p.m.

Mrs. Mueller stated that Item #9 of New Business was being pulled from the agenda of this meeting.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

In response to a question by Mrs. Brzezinski, Dr. Masko explained that the greenhouse was under construction and the students will be planting in the spring.

Mrs. Huf asked if there was money in the contingency fund for another reading specialist. Dr. Masko responded that there was money for three positions and that money has been used. He would need direction from the Board to do anything else. Mrs. Huf asked for information to be provided on this for the new Board. Mrs. Lynch felt that this is vital for the 10th graders to get help.

Mr. Strouse stated that he felt, based on the opinions of Mrs. Poroszok and Dr. Foight-Cressman, there has been substantial improvement in the achievement of the 10th graders and the Education Committee has requested additional data to determine whether this is critical at this time.

Mrs. Mueller pointed out the importance of the contingency fund.

Mrs. Jankowsky stated that she had received information from PSBA regarding a school design and construction conference in May. She urged that some members of the new Board might be interested in this.

Mrs. Jankowsky also stated that she had sent Dr. Masko an e-mail about a question raised by a parent about evening parent forums at the high school. She asked if he had looked into this.

Dr. Masko explained that the forums alternate between daytime and evening and that the schedule is on the website. They are also announced in the principal's newsletter. Mrs. Mueller added that it is also on the call system.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Masko stated that this was American Education Week. Each Board member received a pen with part of the District's Mission Statement printed on it. He stated that the doors of our schools are open to the community and that many activities would be happening at the schools throughout the course of the week.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Lynch reported that the next Education Committee meeting would be held on November 26th.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

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

- There was a report on the impact of the renovation project on the students, particularly on the automotive program. A copy will be given to Dr. Masko for distribution to the Board.
- Reviewed budget, which was then tabled.
- There will be an upcoming meeting of the Professional Advisory Council to decide what should be done with money left over from the bond.
- The budget will come back before the Council in January.
- The December meeting was cancelled.
- The resignation of the Director's secretary was approved.
- Partnerships with Bucks County Community College were approved.

Intermediate Unit

Mrs. Brzezinski reported that she would be visiting different school throughout Bucks County with the I.U. the following day.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Faust stated that the Finance Committee would meet the following Monday evening.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jankowsky reported that the Operations Committee had met earlier in the evening and discussed requests for exceptions for the transportation policy from three families. After extensive study, the committee unanimously approved not supporting these requests. The requests mostly dealt with municipality issues. They have made suggestions to the municipalities. Mrs. Jankowsky indicated that we are in compliance with policy on these.

Mrs. Jankowsky pointed out that all Board members were present for the Burt Hill report on the stadium project.

Citizens Policy

Mr. Monaghan reported that the next Citizens' Policy Committee meeting would be on November 20th.

Legislative Liaison

No report.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

Dr. Masko indicated that several weeks ago Mrs. Brzezinski had requested that a monthly calendar be prepared listing the events taking place at each of the schools in the District. Mrs. Homel had produced such a calendar for November. He requested the Board's input.

Mrs. Jankowsky requested an update on the mandate report.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See Schedule attached hereto.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Lynch to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary