

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD JANUARY 8, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on January 8, 2008, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Monaghan at 7:36 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Thomas Hezel
Betty Huf
Jane Schrader Lynch
Mark Miller
Michael Monaghan
Cynthia Mueller
Dr. Andrew Pollock
Thomas Reinboth
Joseph Simpson

Administration:

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

Attendees:

Chelsea Miller
Cara Burgess
Mary Purdy
Linda Jacobson
Maria Pisoni
Debbie Sobczale
Suzanne Brown
Linda Ricci

Barb Patrick
Jane Strawley
Ana Brown
Jim Rice
Steven Ebert
Lynn Peterson
Alexander Ricci
Victoria Ricci

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Monaghan led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Monaghan announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting relative to legal and employee issues.

Mr. Monaghan announced that his daughter had a baby girl earlier in the day.

Mr. Miller reported that the planetarium was put on eBay and sold for \$10,600 to a private investor, who will also pay to have it dismantled. Mr. Monaghan pointed out that we have a new digital projector so students will still benefit.

Mrs. Huf reported that she had attended the Kyle Quinn Scholarship Memorial, which was very successful.

Mr. Hezel reported that in December he attended the Leary Winter Festival, at which was there was a packed crowd. The bell choir put on an excellent show.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

GOOD NEWS

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

STUDENT REPORTS

MBIT

Chelsea Miller reported as follows:

- The Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce recognized 3 Middle Bucks students with the 2007 Young Citizens Award, including Gabrielle Cancelliere from Tennent.
- The Student-built house was recently featured in *The Intelligencer*. The article included families who have purchased the student-built homes over the years.
- The students participated in community service projects, including collecting over 200 winter coats for people in need, donating canned goods to Red Cross food shelters, sponsoring holiday gift packages for service men in Iraq, and filling Christmas stockings.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Steven Ebert of 116 Parry Road, Warminster, distributed and read a letter he had prepared regarding the fact that currently there are no 7th grade teams in certain sports.

Dr. Masko explained that he had also received another letter from a Klinger parent regarding this matter and that there was a meeting scheduled the following day where this issue would be discussed. If this can be done at minimal expense, he was sure that the Board would be happy to consider it.

Lynn Peterson of 725 Fairfield Drive, Warminster, asked what the Board's position is if one middle school wants to do this and one does not.

Dr. Masko stated that he did not know the Board's feeling on this but he felt that if we are going to provide an opportunity for one school, we should provide it to the students at both schools.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 1-3

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the request for an exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status, which would permit Student 1-3 to complete the 2007-2008 school year at Willow Dale Elementary School, with the stipulation that the student will be transferred to Leary Elementary School for the 2008-2009 school year. Parents will be responsible for transportation needs of the student during the 2007-2008 school year.

Mrs. Mueller stated that Administration supports this motion.

The motion passed 9-0.

2. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 5-2

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the request for an exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status, which would permit Student 5-2 to complete the eighth grade at Klinger Middle School for the 2007-2008 school year. Student has attended Klinger since sixth grade. Parents will be responsible for transportation needs of the student during the 2007-2008 school year.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that Administration supports this motion.

The motion passed 9-0.

3. Nomination for BCIU Board of Directors

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Hezel to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the nomination of Michael Monaghan as the Centennial School District's representative for the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 Board of Directors.

A roll call vote was taken, as follows:

<i>Dr. Pollock</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Reinboth</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Miller</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Lynch</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Hezel</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Simpson</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Monaghan</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Set Proposed Preliminary Budget Amount/Set Adoption Date

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board, in conformance with Special Session Act 1 of 2006, hereby authorizes Administration to advertise intent to adopt a proposed preliminary general fund budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 in the amount of \$88,437,216 and further authorizes said proposed preliminary budget to be placed on the agenda for adoption at the Board of Directors meeting scheduled for January 22, 2008.

Mrs. Lynch felt that the Board should address the fact that Act 1 is a total disaster for any School Board. She felt we should send a loud and clear message to Harrisburg to fix it or get out of town. She stated that she would vote against this even though it is required by law.

A roll call vote was taken, as follows:

<i>Dr. Pollock</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Reinboth</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Miller</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Lynch</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Hezel</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Simpson</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Monaghan</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed 6-3.

5. Permission to File Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeals

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board hereby ratifies the filing of Real Estate Assessment Appeals

through District Solicitor Begley, Carlin and Mandio and authorizes District Business Administrator, Timothy E. Vail, authority to execute the Appeal documents per attached supplement.

The motion passed 9-0.

6. Tax Penalty Refund

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board hereby approves refunding the \$237.77 real estate tax penalty assessed against Warminster parcel #49-010-202-002 for non-payment of 2007-2008 school district real estate tax bill before the end of the face period on 10/31/07. Refund is approved based on the evidence provided by the taxpayers that tax collection files had not been properly updated and as a result their tax bills were sent to the wrong address and not properly forwarded by the postal service. District Real Estate Taxes assessed against this property for the 2007-2008 year shall be considered paid in full at the face amount due of \$2,377.70.

Mrs. Lynch stated that when this was brought before the Board on December 17th, she thought something was missing, so she contacted the local tax collector, who gave her a copy of what Bucks County sent to her office, which is called the transfer. Mrs. Lynch distributed a copy of this to each of the Board members, pointing out that at the bottom the mailing address was listed as Philadelphia, and this was not as it was presented.

Mrs. Huf asked why the Centennial School District is being held responsible to refund the money for a bill that went to a wrong address.

Mrs. Lynch felt that the picture was cloudy at this time.

Mr. Monaghan asked if it would be a problem to hold this matter until the next meeting. Mr. Vail indicated that it would not.

A motion to table was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Lynch.

The motion passed 8-1. (Mrs. Mueller opposed.)

Mr. Monaghan indicated that this would be brought back as Old Business at the next meeting.

7. American Red Cross Agreement

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Simpson to resolve that the Centennial School Board hereby approves the attached agreement with the American Red Cross.

Mr. Monaghan asked what the term of the Agreement was. Mr. Lasher indicated that it lasts until they come back for another one.

The motion passed 9-0.

8. Digital Music II Course Inclusion in 2008-2009 WTHS Program of Studies

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the inclusion of the Digital Music II course (0.5 Semester, Grades 10-12) in the William Tennent High School 2008-2009 Program of Studies.

Fiscal Note: \$11,120 for computer hardware and software.

The motion passed 9-0.

9. International Studies/Current World Issues Course Inclusion in 2008-2009 WTHS Program of Studies

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the inclusion of the International Studies/Current World Issues course (0.5 Semester, Grades 11-12) in the William Tennent High School 2008-2009 Program of Studies.

Fiscal Note: \$5,000 required for various news media. These costs will be covered through vouchers already acquired through the resale of textbooks.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she would support this but Social Studies had just come through curriculum renewal. Usually when programs are added, it is through curriculum renewal. She indicated that the only reason she was supporting this was because of the requirements that we had changed after block scheduling. Also, she wanted to make sure that we are planning for future budgets. This course will need to be funded every year.

The motion passed 9-0.

10. Permission to Accept Entitlement Grants

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to accept the following entitlement grants for the 2007-2008 school year in the amounts indicated:

<i>Safe & Drug Free Schools and Communities</i>	<i>\$21,198</i>
<i>Inclusive Practices Performance Grant (Klinger \$5,000 and McDonald \$5,000)</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>

The motion passed 9-0.

11. Permission to Accept a State Competitive Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to accept the following state competitive grant for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount indicated:

<i>Learn and Serve America K-12</i>	
<i>School Based Program</i>	<i>\$3,500</i>

The motion passed 9-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller 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 and Co-Curricular.

Mrs. Huf indicated that she wished to pull Item #2 under Resignations for a separate vote.

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that Robert McLaughlin was retiring and stated that it was with a heavy heart that she would approve his resignation. Dr. Masko indicated that he believed Mr. McLaughlin had served for 35 years.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel item: Item #2 under Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence.

The motion passed 9-0.

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Initial Distribution:

Mrs. Mueller enumerated the following for initial distribution: Policy 7.4, Induction and Orientation.

Discussion:6.1 – Community/School Fund Raising

Mrs. Homel stated that this policy had been reviewed by the solicitor. It was brought forward about two years earlier than it would normally have come through due to the stadium renovations.

Mrs. Lynch asked if this would get in the way of the Home and School Associations. Mrs. Homel replied that it would not.

Dr. Masko stated that the principals' approval has been required so this is not a change.

Mrs. Homel explained that if the Board adopted the policy, then Administration would meet with the principals. Mrs. Lynch questioned why a meeting with the principals was not held first. Mrs. Homel responded that there were principals on the committee, so there was input.

Mr. Monaghan stated that this would get input from principals and HSA's before it comes back to the Board.

Mrs. Huf noted that door-to-door sales were prohibited.

Mr. Miller asked if anything was needed to limit one school from selling in another school's area. Also, he felt accountability needed to be strengthened for the funds.

2.8 – Employee Code of Ethics

Mrs. Mueller indicated that this policy had been reviewed by the solicitor.

Mrs. Homel stated that this is a new policy on the recommendation of the auditors.

Mrs. Mueller asked if this addressed everything the auditors were asking for. Mrs. Homel indicated that it did.

Mr. Vail explained that the auditors looked at the draft and we incorporated their suggestions.

In Section VI. B., Mr. Miller asked if it was considered that an employee could "recommend" but then not "participate" in the decision-making process.

Mrs. Huf pointed out that the procedure that has been used in the past is that if a Board member wants a language change, he/she should come up with suggested language to be considered by the Board. Mrs. Homel agreed. Mr. Miller said that he would consider this.

FINANCIAL

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the:

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

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – December 2007*
- *Budgetary Transfers – January 2008*

The motion passed 9-0.

MINUTES

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

- *Work Session/Regular School Board Meeting – November 27, 2007*
- *Reorganization Board Meeting – December 3, 2007*

The motion passed 9-0.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Mrs. Lynch stated that she had seen in the paper that some groups in the local area received sponsorships from various banks. She felt that since we are looking for a partnership and since we have so much money in Commerce Bank, maybe they could take some of their profit and help us out with a sponsorship. She asked if we could contact them and ask them to do this for some of our projects. She felt that if they said no, we could pull the money out and put it in a bank that would give us a sponsorship since there are at least 17 banks in the area.

Mr. Monaghan responded that this was currently being worked on.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she has read that Comcast and Verizon help out with cable television and there is a battle between them. She questioned why we can't get them to help us. Mrs. Mueller responded that we need to explore all of our options and this is one that is being researched.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Masko recognized the presence of several teachers from Leary at the meeting. He noted that we are midway through the winter sports season and spoke about some of the sports teams.

Regarding the stadium fundraising, Dr. Masko reported that Mr. Schrader and Mr. Blatt have put together a list of banks and corporations that would like to be sponsors at some level. They would like to share this with the Board to make sure they would be agreeable. This will be coming forward shortly. Recently they were guests of the Superintendent in Bethlehem School District and will be providing information from there.

Regarding diversity, students at Tennent celebrated Asian Heritage Day today.

Dr. Masko noted that January is School Board Recognition Month.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Hezel reported that the Education Committee had met the previous evening and finalized wording and approval of the Digital Music II class. There was quite a bit of information passed on from Longstreth regarding inclusion practices. They are doing a great job.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf indicated that the next meeting would be Monday, January 14th.

Intermediate Unit

Mr. Monaghan reported that the following Tuesday there would be a meeting and recognition dinner. Also, there would be a tour of some of the special ed sites the following week.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Reinboth reported that the Finance Committee had met on December 17th to review the proposed budget. They also formalized the budget adoption deadline. The next meeting will be on January 14th.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Mueller reported that the Operations Committee had not yet met this year but that the Board had received a tentative schedule in their packets. She indicated that they do not want to have Operations meetings prior to the Board meetings because there is too much going on and there is not enough time. They are looking at the first Tuesday of the month for these meetings. The next meeting will be February 5th. Burt Hill is tentatively scheduled to be at this meeting. They will be coming back with the results of the feasibility study. There is also a community presentation tentatively scheduled for February 6th.

Citizens Policy

Mr. Monaghan indicated that the next meeting of this committee would be held on January 15th.

Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Mueller stated that the legislature is looking at potentially putting in state exams that students would have to take on certain subjects and that this could be another unfunded mandate. She encouraged Board members to review this in the *School Leader News*.

PSBA

Mr. Miller reported that the magic number on the property tax relief fund should be approximately \$541,000.

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. Huf to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary