

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD FEBRUARY 12, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on February 12, 2008 in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Monaghan at 7:35 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

Administration:

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

[Mr. Simpson was absent from the meeting.]

CEA/Teachers:

Tyrone Dinkins

Public:

Gwendolyn Mueller
Tom Koch
Denise Koch
Jim Rice

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 on February 4th and prior to this meeting relative to legal, employee and labor matters.

Mr. Monaghan made the following statement:

“I want to clarify the circumstances that took place at a meeting of the Longstreth School Home and School last Monday, February 4, 2008.

“On Thursday, January 31, the Warminster Police Chief, Michael Murphy, and the District Attorney, Michelle Henry, issued a press release confirming a teacher would be arrested and charged with 17 counts of terroristic threats.

“Following that announcement, requests from some members of the Longstreth H&S group asked Dr. Masko if they could hold a meeting to inform the parents of children who attend Longstreth School as to what happened. Due to the sensitivity of the issue and in order to minimize the stress of the parents, it was felt that the meeting be for the Longstreth family without the press and the cameras rolling.

“To make sure the press was well informed and had an opportunity to ask all the questions they had, a press conference was added prior to the H&S meeting. That meeting ran from 5:15 p.m. until about 5:55 p.m. The press conference was attended by three TV news crews and a few newspapers. Their questions were fielded by the Warminster Police Chief Michael Murphy, three other officers of the Warminster police department, Superintendent Dr. Mike Masko, and Principal Keely Mahan. After the press conference, the H&S meeting took place.

“The Centennial School District’s attorney had previously advised anyone from the District to refrain from making any statements regarding the employee or the investigation. If asked, Dr. Masko, Keely Mahan and I would limit our comments and answers to what we have done and what we will do to provide a safe and secure environment for the students. It was left to the police to respond to any questions regarding the investigation of the October incidents or the telephone messages from the last weekend in January.

“One of the newspaper reporters’ editors was upset that this meeting was not open to the press. Dr. Masko explained the parents’ feelings should be honored and that this was not a Board meeting. Some members of the Board (5) showed up at the meeting to show their support and concern for the students, parents and staff. Two Board members left at about 6:40 to participate in an Education meeting at the Administration building, which started at 7:00 p.m. At no time was this a meeting of the School Board, rather an informational meeting by and for the parents of Longstreth’s Home and School. There was no violation of the Sunshine Act as they, the reporter and editor, were trying to imply.”

PRESENTATIONS

Leary Elementary School Kindergarten Students

Mr. Monaghan announced that this presentation had been suspended due to the bad weather.

GOOD NEWS

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

STUDENT REPORTS

Mr. Monaghan announced that there were no students present to give these reports due to the bad weather.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS**1. Approval of Exception to Policy 7.18**

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Hezel to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the request for exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status, which would permit students 12-11 and 10-12 to attend Klinger Middle School through 8th grade. Parents will be responsible for transportation needs of the students during their tenure at Klinger Middle School. This exception is contingent upon residency at 1215 Jacksonville Road, Warminster, PA 18974.

The motion passed 8-0.

2. Final Approval of the WTHS Key Club Trip to Hershey, PA

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval for a trip by students of the Key Club at William Tennent High School to the Pennsylvania Key Club State Convention at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA, on February 29-March 2, 2008. The cost to the District is not to exceed \$900.00.

The motion passed 8-0.

3. Permission to Transport

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board, per recommendation of District insurance broker, hereby grants permission to use District school buses to transport non-district students to activities associated with the PMEA Southeastern Regional Choral Festival to be held March 27 through 29 and hosted by William Tennent High School. Cost of the bussing for the three-day festival, estimated at \$1,855, will be reimbursed by PMEA. As recommended, parent permission to transport agreements will be required of all participants.

The motion passed 8-0.

4. Administrative Reorganization Plan

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Administrative Reorganization Proposal.

The motion passed 8-0.

5. Appointment of Assistant Superintendent

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the appointment of Mrs. Sandy M. Homel as Assistant Superintendent for a term commencing February 13, 2008 and ending at the close of business on June 30, 2011, and approves the Employment Agreement between the Centennial School District and Mrs. Homel.

The motion passed 8-0.

6. Indemnification/Hold Harmless Agreement

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Indemnification/Hold Harmless Agreement for David P. Blatt related to his recently Board-approved volunteer status for William Tennent High School Stadium fund raising activities as drafted by District Solicitor Begley, Carlin and Mandio.

The motion passed 8-0.

7. Approval of 2008-2009 District Calendar

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Centennial School District calendar for the 2008-2009 school year.

Dr. Pollock stated that he could not support this calendar. There are seven professional development days for teachers but five of them are clerical days and only two are non-clerical days. He feels there is no way we can improve education for the students with only two days. He felt this is ridiculous.

Mrs. Lynch stated that this was discussed in great detail when Dr. Pollock was out of town. Many of these are contractual according to the agreement.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she does not disagree with Dr. Pollock but under contract we have no choice. When the contract comes up for renewal in 2010, she will be right there with Dr. Pollock arguing for more professional development days, as she feels most of the Board will. Also, Mrs. Mueller noted that the Board will pick a firm graduation date after the end of the third marking period rather than waiting until the last minute.

Mr. Miller noted that he supported the comments of Dr. Pollock.

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>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. Monaghan</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed 7-1. (Dr. Pollock opposed.)

8. Projects for PDE Approval

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board hereby applies to the PDE (Pennsylvania Department of Education) for approval of the plans and specifications for the work described as follows:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Building(s)</u>
<i>Door Replacement</i>	<i>Administration Building, Longstreth Elementary School, McDonald Elementary School, Stackpole Elementary School, Klinger Middle School, Log College Middle School, William Tennent High School</i>
<i>Replace Paving</i>	<i>Davis and Stackpole Elementary Schools</i>

The Board hereby applies to the Department of Education for approval of the plans and specifications for the work described above. The Board certifies that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, construction bid documents comply, or will comply, with applicable laws, regulations and policies, and the project will not pose a hazard to the health and safety of users. Specifications include all applicable statements set forth in the current PDE document entitled “Required Clauses for Specifications.” Construction contracts will not be entered into prior to PDE approval. If the Board proceeds with this project, the lowest responsible bidder(s) will be selected. The Board also certifies that the above-described work will proceed whether or not additional on-site work that is subject to Act 34 of 1973 goes forward.

Dr. Pollock asked, if we move towards a new building at Tennent, we would be getting rid of these doors. Mr. Lasher responded that there are only two doors involved and they are in the swimming pool area.

The motion passed 8-0.

9. Permission to Accept Private Competitive Grants

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

Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant \$2,500

The motion passed 8-0.

10. Permission to Apply for an Entitlement Grant

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

School Improvement Fund Grant \$9,500

The motion passed 8-0.

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; Substitute Bus Drivers; Student Work Study Program; Mentors; Curriculum Resource Team Members; and Co-Curricular; and accepts Award of Tenure.

Dr. Pollock requested that the AFG items be separated.

The motion passed 8-0 (with the exception of the AFG items.)

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the AFG items presented under Personnel.

Dr. Pollock stated that he would be voting against this. He felt that this was not something we need to do. We are looking at a budget with a large millage increase and we need to look at ways to reduce costs. Even though it is not a lot of money, it is something that will not be in the budget and could be used in the future.

Mrs. Lynch agreed but noted that some situations have other things attached to them. If we do not comply with this, we will jeopardize our Middle States accreditation. She does not want to do that. The Education Committee voted 3-0 for this. She stated that she respects Dr. Pollock's comments but she cannot agree.

Dr. Pollock indicated that he did not feel that it would jeopardize accreditation.

The motion passed 7-1. (Dr. Pollock opposed.)

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Initial Distribution:

Mrs. Mueller noted the following policy for initial distribution: 7.32 – Continuing Professional Education.

Dr. Pollock pointed out that the administrators were now broken into groups. One of the groups is no longer covered under Act 48; rather they are covered under Act 45. He felt that we might want to make sure that the administrators on this committee are actually covered by Act 48.

Discussion:

6.1 – Community/School Fund Raising

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

Mrs. Homel called attention to the cover page and pointed out that this policy is directed to organized groups. Since the Board last saw this policy, Attachment A was changed.

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that “Assistant to the Superintendent” needed to be changed to “Assistant Superintendent.” Mr. Monaghan indicated that they had discussed that there would be a blanket policy that any of these that say “Assistant to the Superintendent” could be changed to “Assistant Superintendent” without having to come before the Board since these are housekeeping changes.

Mrs. Lynch asked if they had followed her suggestion of talking to some of the HSA’s. Mrs. Homel indicated that they had and they were comfortable with was being done.

Mr. Miller stated that he was uncomfortable with Attachment B since it keeps track of money but not the merchandise. He felt that we should know where any left-over inventory is. Mrs. Homel indicated that that change could be made.

Mr. Reinboth felt that a lot of latitude seems to be left to the individual principals. He was concerned that there may not be consistent application from school to school. He questioned the use of the word “substantial” in Section I.A.2.c. Mrs. Mueller suggested that this be discussed at Mrs. Homel’s monthly meeting with the principals.

6.2 – Facility Use

Mrs. Mueller stated that this policy was reviewed by the solicitor.

Mrs. Homel indicated that Mr. Garton suggested that we get out of the long-term lease business. Therefore, this section has been deleted on page 8. If we want to do a lease, it should be looked at separately.

Mrs. Mueller asked if this would affect Tot Time's leases. Mrs. Homel stated that she would call that an agreement rather than a lease.

3.25 – Distribution of Written Materials from Outside Individuals or Groups, and From “Limited Open Forum Student Groups” to Students

Mrs. Mueller stated that this was not reviewed by the solicitor.

Mrs. Homel stated that we got a 12-page solicitor's opinion regarding this during the process so we did not feel the need for another opinion on the final product.

Dr. Pollock indicated that he would feel more at ease if the solicitor looked at this before we bring it back for final approval.

Final Approval:

7.4 – Induction and Orientation

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Reinboth to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.4, Induction and Orientation.

The motion passed 8-0.

2.8 – Employee Code of Ethics

Mr. Miller stated that he was not fully satisfied with Section IX, and that it should be consistent with the facilities use policy as well as the Code of Ethics.

Dr. Pollock stated that he had a problem with this because, for example, if we have something for sale on e-Bay, an employee would not be able to purchase it. If we have surplus equipment, an employee should be able to buy it also as long as everyone has an equal opportunity.

Mr. Miller clarified that the point of this section is that we don't want an insider to have an improper advantage but we don't want the District to lose out because an employee can't purchase an asset.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that this should be sent back to the solicitor for new language; then brought back to the Board for approval.

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 – January 2008*
- *Investments – January 2008*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – January 2008*
- *Student Activity/Clearing Funds – October 1 through December 31, 2007*

and approves the:

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

The motion passed 8-0.

MINUTES

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

- *Regular School Board Meeting – December 11, 2007*
- *Regular School Board Meeting – January 8, 2008*

The motion passed 8-0.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

Dr. Pollock asked the status of middle school athletics, which had been brought up a while back. Mr. Reinboth responded that that would be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Miller stated that he had previously requested getting a working computer connected to the Internet in the Board Room. Mr. Dinkins had his personal website that he would have liked to show the Board. Also, Mr. Miller indicated that he had requested several times the status of senior contracts, i.e., the vendors for caps and gowns and yearbook photos. He had asked how these are approved and what the Board's involvement is.

Mr. Reinboth indicated that this was also part of the next Finance agenda.

Dr. Pollock asked if we need to advertise the retreat we are going to have. Mrs. Mueller indicated that we do not need to but she felt it would be a good idea so nothing is misconstrued.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves advertising the School Board Conference on February 23, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. to be held at the Johnsville Administration Building as a retreat.

The motion passed 8-0.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Masko stated that he would defer his report.

Mrs. Mueller asked for consensus to defer all reports until the next meeting. There was a consensus of the Board to do so.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Huf reported that Doctor Irwin announced his intent to resign from MBIT at the end of the school year.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she had received an e-mail from Robert Shafer asking if the Board would support House Bill 1369 ending teacher strikes. Pennsbury School Board has done so. All Board members have been copied on this. There was consensus of the Board to have a resolution prepared for the next meeting supporting the Bill.

Mr. Reinboth announced that the next Finance Committee meeting would be held on February 19th at 6:30 p.m.

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 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary