

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD FEBRUARY 26, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A Work Session/Regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on February 26, 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
Joseph Simpson

Administration:

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

CEA/Teachers:

Public:

See Attached.

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 the previous evening following the Finance Committee meeting, on Saturday after the public meeting of the Board (retreat), and prior to this meeting relative to legal and personnel issues.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of WTHS Sports Teams

Mrs. Homel announced that William Tennent High School had received the Sportsmanship Award for the fall sports season from the Suburban One League. Tennent was the overall winner in the Continental League for all fall sports. The basketball team also won the sportsmanship award.

Mr. Pacchioli introduced the coaches for the various sports. Ray Coleman, the Secretary of the league, spoke about the league and presented a plaque, which Mrs. Mueller accepted on behalf of the School District.

GOOD NEWS

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

STUDENT REPORTS

McKenzie Cloak reported that students at Tennent were celebrating African American Heritage month. She also gave an update on the sports teams and reported that Black and White Night was approaching quickly.

Mr. Monaghan asked for a consensus of the Board to move Personnel items forward since Mrs. Rollo needed to leave the meeting. There was consensus to do so.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves all personnel recommendations, including: Authorization to Employ, Per Diem Substitute Teachers, Support Staff Substitutes, Substitute Bus Drivers, Tutors, Curriculum Resource Team Members, and Co-Curricular.

The motion passed 9-0.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Joel Mickelburg of 113 Villa Drive, Warminster, stated that there had not been a real estate tax assessment in Bucks County for many years and most of the houses were under-assessed. If the Courts ever order this, many of the people would be hurt. He asked the Board if it had ever done any planning for such an eventuality.

Mr. Monaghan responded that Mr. Mickelburg would have to speak to the legislators and county commissioners because that is where it would be decided. However, he stated that he understood Mr. Mickelburg's concern about how it would affect everyone. He felt that it was premature to

discuss something when there is no legislation coming forth to be discussed at the state level or at the county commissioners' board meetings.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

- *Education Committee – January 7, 2008*
- *Finance Committee – January 14, 2008*
- *Operations Committee – December 11, 2007*

The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves removing from the table the Real Estate Tax Penalty Refund that was tabled at the January 8, 2008 meeting of the Board.

Mrs. Huf stated that she did not oppose removing this from the table but would be opposing the motion itself. Mrs. Mueller concurred with Mrs. Huf.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she had received the transfer from Mrs. Loftus that was given to her from Bucks County. The question is the address on the property. The address on the transfer is Philadelphia. The address on the deed is the same address in Philadelphia. Mrs. Loftus did not make an error. Mrs. Lynch stated that she totally opposed refunding this money.

The motion to remove from the table passed 9-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves refunding the \$237.77 real estate tax penalty assessed against Warminster parcel #49-010-202-002 for nonpayment 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 she thought she made her statement clear and that she had given two pieces of evidence that have the Philadelphia address for the people.

The motion failed 0-9.

NEW BUSINESS**1. Preliminary Approval of WTHS Future Business Leaders of America Trip to Hershey, PA**

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for a trip by William Tennent High School Future Business Leaders of America students to the Pennsylvania State Competition in Hershey, PA, on March 30 – April 2, 2008. The cost to the District is not to exceed \$8,072.00.

The motion passed 9-0.

2. Accept the District-wide Feasibility Study as Submitted by Architect Burt, Hill

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the Centennial School District Feasibility Study of February 2008 prepared by Burt, Hill Architects.

The motion passed 7-2. (Mrs. Huf and Mr. Simpson opposed.)

3. Approve Option for William Tennent High School

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Reinboth to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves one of the following options for the William Tennent High School project:

- (a) Option 1 (minimal renovation – warm, safe and dry) – Estimated Total Project Cost \$67,661,215*
- (b) Option 2 (substantial renovation to the existing facility) – Estimated Total Project Cost \$75,874,037*
- (c) Option 3a (renovate Building B and replace Building A) – Estimated Total Project Cost \$79,331,676*
- (d) Option 3b (renovate Building B and replace Building A with LEED silver design) – Estimated Total Project Cost \$83,644,218*
- (e) Do nothing*

Mrs. Lynch felt that option (e) was the correct choice since the money would be coming from the taxpayers. We have a community that has a lot of senior citizens on fixed incomes. We also have young people who want the best for their children. She felt that everyone should contact their legislators and demand property tax relief. If this would occur rapidly, the burden would be taken off the taxpayers.

Mr. Miller stated that he felt it was a mistake that option (e) has no cost. There is maintenance required for the building. If we don't do something, the cost not to rebuild the school may not be calculable.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she had asked for figures of how much we have put into things but has not gotten them.

Mrs. Huf stated that she felt this was a lot of money and she could not support this. She did not think the high school was that bad. She could not support anything that would be such a burden on the community. If the community wants this, it should be put on a referendum. She indicated that she is in support of renovation but not at this cost.

Dr. Pollock stated that he could support (a) or possibly (b). He could not support (c), (d) or (e). He felt that it does need renovation but he could not support a new building. He felt that the longer we wait, the more the cost will go up. Before he was on the Board, the cost of (a) was about \$60 million. The building will not last the way it is.

Mr. Hezel stated that he respected Mrs. Lynch's and Mrs. Huf's opinions. He believed option (a) would not be worth it for the amount of money we would be putting into it. Regarding option (b), he felt doing major work would damage the structural integrity of the building. He felt option (c) would give us the most for our money. But he felt this could actually cost \$5 million to \$10 million more. He felt the estimate was on the low side.

Mrs. Mueller stated that this has been before the Board since 2004. She is still with option (c). The reason she can't support option (b) is because once things start to be moved, the structural integrity of the building will be compromised. She did not feel that it was worthwhile to spend the extra money for the LEED certification in option (d) ("going green"). She felt that we could probably go green in other ways. She indicated that she wholeheartedly supported option (c).

Dr. Pollock stated that he would like to see what the engineer has said. There is not a big difference between options (b) and (c). He would like the engineer to come and see us because some of the Board members were not on the Board at that time. He is leaning toward option (b) at this time.

Joseph Donnelly of 434 New Road, Southampton, spoke about tax increases coming up. He spoke about spending money on a new school, a football stadium, and salaries. He stated that many taxpayers are angry. Renovations are necessary but not a new school.

Marvin Salvo of 104 Villa Drive, Warminster, asked if we are looking for education or to build a palace. He stated that if a child wants to learn, a palace won't make it any better.

Ray Regan of 397 Juniper Street, Warminster, stated that the Board was facing a crisis. He stated that the bills being put on the taxpayers now would be shouldered by their children and grandchildren in the future. There were problems with the school when it was built. He was on the School Board at the time. He urged the Board to put this on a referendum for the people.

Steve Adams of 789 Bethany Circle, Warminster, stated that we have done nothing with this school in the past; it is now time to do something.

Dr. Pollock asked about the effect of the current environment on the children.

Cheryl Lyman, a teacher at the high school, stated that it is like teaching in a basement. There is no light. The carpets were just replaced in the Business Department, which had been there for 30 years. There are things that can be done to renovate the school but you can't change the fact that it wasn't built properly. It is depressing.

Eric Goldsman of 188 Hogeland Road, Southampton, a teacher at the high school, added that you can hear through the walls and can hear other teachers teaching other subjects. He stated that he was a student at Tennent and it was very hard to concentrate. It is also very hard to teach because you have to make sure you don't make too much noise. He felt the process the Board is using is excellent, whatever they decide.

Dr. Pollock asked Mr. Goldsman what option he would favor. Mr. Goldsman replied that, for 4% more, he felt it was worth building a new building.

Marianne Ormsby, Assistant Principal at Tennent, stated that there is no natural light anywhere in the building except for the catwalk and that is where the students congregate at lunchtime and before and after school so they can see outside.

Mrs. Lynch spoke about the lawsuit in 1973 and the fact that Centennial received money to correct the problems. She wondered why some of the people who are dissatisfied with the lawsuit did not come forward at that time. She did not want people to leave the meeting feeling that the school is not safe. Her sons went there and got a great education.

Mrs. Huf felt that the cost of the renovation was padded so that it comes close to the cost of a new school. Either that or the cost of the new school is wrong.

A roll call vote was taken, as follows:

<i>Dr. Pollock</i>	<i>Option (b) / 2</i>
<i>Mr. Reinboth</i>	<i>Option (c) / 3a</i>
<i>Mr. Miller</i>	<i>Option (c) / 3a</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Option (b) / 2</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>Option (c) / 3a</i>
<i>Mrs. Lynch</i>	<i>Option (e) / Do nothing</i>
<i>Mr. Hezel</i>	<i>Option (c) / 3a</i>
<i>Mr. Simpson</i>	<i>Option (c) / 3a</i>
<i>Mr. Monaghan</i>	<i>Option (c) / 3a</i>

The motion passed in favor of Option (c) /3a. (6 in favor of Option (c) /3a; 2 in favor of Option (b) / 2; and 1 in favor of Option (e) / do nothing.)

4. Authorize Solicitor to Prepare Referendum Question on Incurring Construction/Renovation Debt for Submission to Bucks County Board of Elections

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes the school district solicitor to prepare a referendum question on incurring construction/renovation debt for submission to the Bucks County Board of Elections.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she had ten e-mails from parents about no referendum and three in favor of going to referendum. She read one e-mail saying that we should look to the elected officials to make these decisions. Mrs. Mueller explained that we would have to be over \$150 million to be required by Act 34 to go to referendum. She stated that she would not be supporting a referendum on this project.

Mrs. Huf stated that if the community supported a new school, then she would support it also. She would like the community to have a say in this.

Mrs. Lynch stated that the referendum means that everyone has a vote. This affects everyone's life. She indicated that she supported the referendum.

Dr. Pollock stated that he was against the referendum and that something has to be done to the structure of the building. The longer we wait, the more it will cost. If you put it on a referendum and it is voted down, it will cost more later. The citizens had a chance to decide in November on the people that wanted a referendum on that building and they didn't vote them in. He felt they made their decision already.

Mr. Hezel stated that he brought the idea of the referendum to the table. He hoped this would force the District to bring the facts forward and the people would review them and vote appropriately. He felt that if this goes on a referendum, it will probably be voted down. If that happens, we will be voting against our children's future. He stated that he could not in good faith vote for a referendum. He hoped that he was making the right decision because he knew it would hurt some people. He was sorry for the people who wanted it.

Mr. Miller stated that he was not going to support a referendum but he was not supporting \$79,331,676 either.

Mr. Reinboth stated that he could not support a referendum because of one basic question: If not now, when? This project must be done at some point. The cost will only increase. Right now we have a favorable borrowing rate so it is better to do it now.

Brad Kirsch of 541 Fisher Lane, Warminster, stated that he was originally pleased with the idea of referendum. He believes the timing of this idea is premature. The public is upset about this idea. Most people do not understand the facts of this issue. They are taking positions because of the taxes. He requested that the public receive information by mail including facts and figures about the project and projected tax increases that will be

caused by the project, and that no referendum be held until the public has had a chance to review the full facts. He asked that this information be sent out the public, whether or not the Board is going for a referendum.

Jerry Shesney of 240 Kent Road, Warminster, stated that there are many older buildings that are still in good shape. He felt that you have to get someone who is value conscious.

Larry McKeogh of 159 Villa Drive, Warminster, stated that when referendum is mentioned, Board members get hysterical. The public puts trust in the Board, and now the Board doesn't want the public's votes. He found it highly offensive. He stated that everything he heard tonight was subject to question. He felt there should be a referendum so the public could vote since it is their money.

Michelle Miller of 733 Boxwood Drive, Warminster, stated that she was at the community forums that were held and there were many options for the community to attend. The architects and engineers were very upfront. Her concern was that there were no guarantees made. Referendum votes are very limited. There will be a one or two sentence question that does not fully explain the issue. She did not think it should go to referendum.

Richard Rodgers of 269 Fairway Drive, Warminster, felt that the Board should find out what the real numbers are. If they are both off a little bit, the difference could be \$8 million to \$10 million. As far as a referendum, he felt that the people should be given this choice and that they should have the proper numbers.

Joel Mickelburg of 113 Villa Drive, Warminster, stated that he felt it is the teachers that make the difference, not the school. He suggested spending money on the teachers rather than the building. He did not understand how so much could be spent without the matter being put to a referendum.

Neal Miller of 252 Surrey Road, Warminster, questioned why an external third party company couldn't be hired, who had no interest in this, to review the numbers and find out if they are accurate. He thought this would only cost a few thousand dollars.

Mr. Mark Miller stated that this has been considered and is not out of the question.

Neal Miller asked why the vote was taken before this was done.

Mr. Mark Miller explained that they were reasonably sure that the relationship between the numbers was accurate. They were just not sure what the numbers were.

Mrs. Mueller explained that the reason the numbers were not totally accurate was because the Board just approved the feasibility study, and now it needs to be designed.

Rena Stecklein of 271 Essex Road, Warminster, asked for the current enrollment figures. Dr. Masko replied that there were currently 6,200 students enrolled.

Ms. Stecklein stated that you cannot effectively govern by referendum and that nothing would get done in this country if you voted by referendum. She stated that she and many others in the community supported renovation of the building. She also felt that there was a lot of false information sent out by community members that would affect voters during a referendum. The Board was elected to represent the entire community, not just those old enough to vote.

Steve Adams of 789 Bethany Circle, Warminster, spoke again to clarify some of the comments he made earlier. He also stated that he thought the teachers in the District were top-notch.

Norman Schutzbank, of 84 Villa Drive, Warminster, felt that the Board was missing the point. There was something like a 17 mill increase in the last few years and there is about a 27 mill increase anticipated in the next few years. He did not care if there was a referendum or not. He thought a new school probably was needed. The problem was the way it was being handled. He felt that the community wanted to know what was being done with this money.

Mrs. Mueller stated that this was all explained in the newsletter, or community members could come to the Finance Committee meetings.

A roll call vote was taken, as follows:

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

The motion failed 2-7.

5. Authorize Burt Hill to Proceed with the Design of the William Tennent High School Construction/Renovation Project

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Miller to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes Burt, Hill Architects to proceed with the design of the William Tennent High School renovation and/or construction project.

The motion passed 7-2. (Mrs. Huf and Mrs. Lynch opposed.)

Mr. Monaghan called for a short break in the meeting at 10:15 p.m. The meeting resumed at 10:30 p.m.

6. Land Appraisal

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Lynch to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes Administration to obtain an appraisal for property located on the east side of Newtown Road currently used for field hockey. The cost to the District is not to exceed \$1,100.00.

The motion passed 9-0.

7. Authorize Application for IRS 501(c)(3) Status

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board retains tax attorney Clemons Richter Walsh and Reiss of Doylestown at a cost of \$250 per hour to assist the District in applying for IRS designation for Section 501(c)(3) non-profit status for the purposes of pursuing tax deductible donations and contributions to be used toward various academic, athletic and arts fund raising endeavors presently underway and anticipated in the future.

Mrs. Huf stated that although her maiden name was Walsh, there was no relationship with this firm.

Mrs. Mueller asked if we had any idea how many hours this would take. Dr. Masko felt that it would take no more than 10 hours.

Mr. Miller suggested copying the by-laws of the Centennial Education Foundation; they could modify these rather than start from scratch.

The motion passed 9-0.

8. Approve 403(b) Consulting Services Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Henderson Brothers, Inc. of Pittsburgh, PA to act as District consultant in the formulation and implementation of the IRS required Employee 403(b) Plan Document per the terms and conditions of the revised agreement, contingent upon review and approval of revised agreement by solicitor and Administration. Appointment is for an indefinite term with a 60-day notice of Intent to Terminate by either party. Services shall be provided at no cost to the District.

The motion passed 9-0.

9. Appoint Employee 403(b) Plan Committee

A motion was made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mrs. Lynch to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints the following Centennial School District employees as the CSD Employee 403(b) Planning Committee to work with District consultant Henderson Brothers in formulating and implementing the IRS required 403(b) Plan Document:

*Ana Brown – Representing CEA
Mary Ellen Donnelly – Representing CEA
Keely Mahan – Representing CAA
Vic Lasher – Representing CAA
Amy Campbell – Representing Support Staff
Richard Linke – Representing Support Staff*

In addition, Mr. Thomas Reinboth is hereby appointed as Board Representative to the Committee and Dr. Michael Masko, Mr. Timothy Vail and Ms. Jean Rollo are assigned as staff support personnel to the Committee. It is anticipated that the final report and plan document will be completed not later than April 15, 2008 and will, at that time, be forwarded to the Finance Committee for review and recommendation to the Board.

The motion passed 9-0.

10. Appoint Auditor

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints Barbacane Thornton & Company as District auditor for the audit years ending June 30, 2008, June 30, 2009, and June 30, 2010 at the following rates of compensation:

<i>Audit Year Ending June 30, 2008</i>	<i>\$22,250.00</i>
<i>Audit Year Ending June 30, 2009</i>	<i>23,030.00</i>
<i>Audit Year Ending June 30, 2010</i>	<i><u>23,840.00</u></i>
<i>Total three-year award</i>	<i>\$69,120.00</i>

Mr. Vail noted that the audit for the year ended June 30, 2007 just ended; this audit will be done after the year ending June 30, 2008 is completed.

Mr. Hezel questioned why the Board would be appointing this firm if its bid was higher than the others. Mr. Reinboth indicated that it was because we have a history with them and because of the quality and integrity of the work they have done that we decided to stay with them.

The motion passed 9-0.

11. Approval of Longstreth Security Equipment

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the purchase of security camera equipment for Longstreth Elementary School from Access Security Corporation at a cost of \$8,995 with all rental fees paid to date to be credited toward the purchase. Also approves the installation of a card access device at the employee entrance door to the building at a cost of approximately \$5,000. Funds to be appropriated from the General Fund.

The motion passed 9-0.

12. Accept Vehicle Donation

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board directs Administration to develop the necessary agreement to accept the loan of a vehicle for five (5) years from C&C Ford/Chapman Chrysler Jeep, Warminster.

Mrs. Mueller congratulated Mr. Miller for suggesting that maybe we could get one donated.

The motion passed 9-0.

13. Approve Early Retirement Incentive Program

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes amendments to Policy 2.17, Retirement Incentive Program, per the attached supplement.

The motion passed 9-0.

A motion was made by Dr. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Miller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves offering an early retirement incentive to the teaching staff for the 2007-2008 school year by Policy 2.17.

The motion passed 9-0.

14. Approval of Resolution Opposing Proposed Graduation Competency Assessments

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following resolution opposing proposed High School Graduation Competency Assessments:

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has approved a proposal to revise the current high school graduation requirements under the Chapter 4 regulations

to require students to pass a series of standardized high stakes Graduation Competency Assessments in order to get a diploma; and

WHEREAS, these new requirements and exams will be the same for all students, whether they are taking college prep or vocational courses, are English language learners or participating in individualized programs, and all students effectively will be required to take the same courses in order to pass this new battery of state tests; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 4 currently allows districts to use either the PSSA or rigorous local assessments for their students to demonstrate proficiency of the state academic standards; and it is misleading and incorrect to make the assumption that because students demonstrate their achievements on local assessments rather than the PSSA that there is a disconnect between proficiency and graduation; and

WHEREAS, although the GCA proposal permits schools to use a local assessment option, it establishes numerous limitations, including the elimination of the ability to use various assessment strategies now available to local entities and requires local tests to be closely modeled to the GCAs; and

WHEREAS, decades of research shows many reasons why standardized pencil and paper test scores should never be the determining factor in making major decisions about students, and that a diploma should be granted based on the coursework, tests and quizzes, presentations, projects and papers throughout the student's career; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has not prepared a cost analysis or fiscal note, even though this will create a large financial impact on state and local budgets, and the State Board's own costing-out study did not include the costs for this new system and found that the state already is \$4.4 billion short in helping school districts prepare students to meet the academic standards by 2014; and

WHEREAS, the proposal requires school districts to absorb many new costs related to revising curriculum, professional development, test development and validation, test preparation and administration, remediation and other costs. Given the state's funding shortfall and the Act 1 limitations on tax increases, school districts have limited ability to fund these potential new costs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors of the Centennial School District opposes the State Board of Education's proposal to enact Graduation Competency Assessments and any other regulation or legislation that usurps the authority of local school districts to determine whether their students have earned a high school diploma. This resolution will be shared with the State Board of Education, state legislators including local

legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

Dr. Pollock stated that he would like to see this going to all the other school districts in the state, as well as PSBA. Also, he did not believe that this would be funded by the state. He felt that it might in the beginning but then it would decrease until it becomes another unfunded mandate. He indicated that he agrees with this motion wholeheartedly.

The motion passed 9-0.

15. Dismissal of Employee

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following resolution regarding the termination of an employee:

WHEREAS, the School District administration has advised this Board of School Directors of the following:

that allegations were made that a teacher, herein referred to as Employee 19-18, was accused of immorality, intemperance, willful neglect of duties, persistent negligence in the performance of duties, and persistent and willful violation of the school laws of this Commonwealth (including official directives) growing out of the alleged commission of the acts alleged in the criminal complaint, affidavit and related documents; and

that the allegations were investigated; and

that the administration believed that there was sufficient basis to the allegations to issue a Statement of Charges and Notice of Hearing against Employee 19-18 in accordance with the School Code; and

that, in the Statement of Charges and Notice of Hearing, Employee 19-18 was advised that the failure to request a hearing will constitute a waiver of her statutory and constitutional rights and that she will be discharged from employment without any hearing; and

that, in the Statement of Charges and Notice of Hearing, Employee 19-18 was further advised that if she wished to contest her dismissal, she must ask for a hearing on a timely basis or she will lose all of her rights, the hearing will be cancelled, and she will be dismissed without a hearing; and

that Employee 19-18 received notification of the Statement of Charges and Notice of Hearing, as evidenced by the certified mail receipt returned to the Administration; and

that Employee 19-18 did not request a School Board hearing notwithstanding the instructions in the Statement of Charges and Notice of Hearing; and

that counsel for Employee 19-18 sent a letter to counsel for the School District that she would contest her discharge through arbitration; and

that it is the recommendation of the Administration that Employee 19-18 be dismissed from employment.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the foregoing, it was moved by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf that Employee 19-18 be and is hereby dismissed from employment effective immediately, subject to the grievance provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The motion passed 9-0.

PERSONNEL

[This was handled earlier in the meeting.]

POLICIES

Final Approval:

6.1 – Community/School Fund Raising

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Hezel to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Policy 6.1, Community/School Fund Raising.

Mr. Miller suggested a change on page 2 to make the policy consistent with the changes made to the accounting form regarding inventory.

The motion passed 9-0.

6.2 – Facility Use

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Hezel to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Policy 6.2, Facility Use.

Mr. Miller stated that he had serious concerns because of PIAA's request for use of the gym at Tennent. Because of the stadium, he felt that this should be kicked back to the Operations Committee for changes.

Mrs. Mueller agreed.

Mr. Lasher explained that there was a group working on an amendment regarding stadium rentals.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to table this matter.

The motion to table passed 9-0.

2.8 – Employee Code of Ethics

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Policy 2.8, Employee Code of Ethics.

The motion passed 9-0.

Initial Distribution:

Mrs. Mueller noted Policy 2.2, Professional Personnel Placement, Assignment and Transfer, for initial distribution.

Discussion:

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

Mrs. Homel stated that this was reviewed by the solicitor even though the box was checked indicating that it was not.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that this would come before the Board at the next meeting for action.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Strike-Free Education Act

Mrs. Lynch stated that a lot of refinement needs to be done on the Bill and indicated that one school district in Bucks County has approved this.

Robert Shaffer of 1150 Mill Creek Road, Southampton, stated that he felt that teachers should not be allowed to strike. They are professionals and they have a job to do. They affect the general public when they strike and the students suffer. We are one of the few states that allow its teachers to strike.

Dr. Pollock suggested that we could do this but just make it generic by stating that we are against teacher strikes, without mentioning the House Bill number.

Mrs. Lynch felt that they should hold public hearings rather than just craft a Bill.

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that this was just up for discussion, it was not an action item. She stated that as the Bill reads now, she could not support it. After reading this, she felt that it is not what they make it out to be.

Mr. Reinboth felt that the biggest losers whenever there is a strike are the students. He would like more time to review this. Conceptually, he liked it but he wanted to make sure there is a fair arbitration process.

Mr. Monaghan stated that this would come back at the request of a Board member in the future.

REPORTS

Mrs. Lynch reported that the Education Committee would meet on March 3rd.

Mrs. Mueller reported that the next meeting of the Operations Committee would be on March 4th.

Mr. Reinboth reported that the Finance Committee had met on February 19th and that they are seriously looking at pursuing separate 7th and 8th grade teams at the middle schools. Their next meeting will be on March 17th.

Mrs. Lynch left the meeting at 11:15 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Monaghan reported that *The Princess and the Pea* by Willow Dale School had played to a sold-out crowd.

Mr. Monaghan also reported that he had received a message from Dale Johnson, a Supervisor from Warminster Township, regarding a program they have promoting energy conservation by using wind-generated power. Schools can earn money for each sign-up with PECO Wind. There is more information on their website. Mr. Monaghan felt that this was worth promoting and was a good educational tool.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary