

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD JUNE 24, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A Work Session/Regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on June 24, 2008, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Monaghan at 7:34 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
Susan Klyman
Dr. Michael Masko
Jean Rollo
Timothy Vail

CEA/Principals/Teachers:

Eileen Porozok

Public:

Barb Patrick
Jim Jobba
Jim Jobba [Note: father and son]
Kaitlin Jobba
Fran Jobba

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 June 16th relative to legal matters.

Mrs. Huf congratulated all the recent graduates.

Mrs. Mueller stated that it was a pleasure to be able to hand out diplomas and indicated that the graduation ceremony was lovely. Her daughter was in the graduating class.

Mr. Miller thanked Mrs. Mueller for allowing him to share in the privilege and addressing his son and his classmates.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Fine Arts Festival Purchase Prize Winner

Dr. Foight-Cressman explained the purchase prize process and stated that it had been a difficult decision. She congratulated Jim Jobba, the purchase prize winner, and indicated that his painting would be displayed in Room 16.

Mr. Jobba explained that his self-portrait was his graduation project. He explained the process he used, one used by Vincent Van Gogh, which was totally different from his usual style. He indicated that he would be majoring in animation in college.

Dr. Foight-Cressman presented Mr. Jobba with a check and congratulated him on behalf of everyone in the District.

GOOD NEWS

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

- *Education Committee – May 12, 2008, June 2, 2008*
- *Finance Committee – May 19, 2008, May 20, 2008*
- *Operations Committee – April 29, 2008*

The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

1. District Goals 2008-2009

Dr. Masko stated that he had redone the goals to realign them with the strategic plan, as discussed at the previous month's meeting. He read the four goals.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she would prefer that the elementary schools be deleted from goal #4 since there is so much on the Board's plate at this time.

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that this was part of a comprehensive building plan so she would like to see this stay as part of the goal. The elementary schools are not getting any newer. She explained that there was a case where they had to cancel school because of the heat since there was no air conditioning in the elementary schools.

Dr. Pollock stated that he also felt that they needed to consider the elementary schools. He thought they needed to make sure they did not do what happened with Tennent when they put good money after bad. He felt they should have to pay a lot of money to bring these six buildings into this century. He felt they needed to make some big decisions about what to do.

Mr. Miller stated that he realized Dr. Masko could only pick four goals but he would like to see Skyward expanded to other areas of communication.

With respect to goal #4, Mr. Monaghan stated that he agreed that the Board needed to consider other areas. The community should be made aware that the Board is looking at the whole process of how to keep schools open, not just discussing closing schools.

There was a consensus of the Board to keep elementary schools as part of the goals.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves removing from the table the approval of the District Goals for 2008-2009 that was tabled at the May 27, 2008 meeting of the Board.

The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mrs. Lynch opposed.)

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the District Goals for 2008-2009:

- 1. Maintain and achieve No Child Left Behind Annual Yearly Progress designation;*
- 2. Successful implementation of Skyward Student Information System;*
- 3. Long-Range Financial Plan; and*
- 4. Comprehensive Coordinated Building Plan.*

The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mrs. Lynch opposed.)

2. Agreement with RHS Consultants

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves removing from the table the approval of the

agreement with RHS Consultants that was tabled at the May 27, 2008 and June 10, 2008 meetings of the Board.

The motion passed 8-1. (Dr. Pollock opposed.)

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the agreement with RHS Consultants in accordance with the attached supplement.

Mrs. Lynch stated that this company was not related to her.

Dr. Pollock stated that he could not support this. He felt that the majority of grants were non-competitive and involved only filling out paperwork as long as you meet the requirements. He stated that he had done a lot of these and they were not difficult, nor time-consuming. He did not think we were getting our money's worth.

Mr. Monaghan asked what size school district Dr. Pollock was in when he did the grants. Dr. Pollock indicated that he was in school districts of 1,500 to 2,000 students. He felt that we were outsourcing this at a large cost when it could be done within the District.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she had questioned this from a legal standpoint for tax purposes and indicated that she had received that opinion. She pointed out that Mr. Schrader does a lot more than just grants for the District. Since we have this opinion, she indicated that she had no problem supporting this motion. She suggested that as the year progresses, the Board should examine what he is doing and consider that in the future.

Mr. Miller suggested that Mr. Schrader could tackle more difficult grants if the easier ones were taken off his plate. Mrs. Lynch felt that if the Board wanted to discuss anyone's work, a public meeting was not the place to do it.

Mrs. Huf asked how long the agreement was for. Mr. Miller responded that it was for three years.

The motion passed 8-1. (Dr. Pollock opposed.)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Release and Settlement Agreement

Mr. Monaghan indicated that this item had been pulled from the agenda.

Mrs. Huf suggested that multiple items be voted on at once.

2. Approval of an Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 4-13

3. Approval of Change in Board Meeting Time

5. Close 2007-2008 Books and Authorize Audit
6. Auxiliary Pay Rates 2008-2009
7. Adopt 403(b) Plan Document
9. Approve Permission to Apply for Competitive Grants
12. Warminster Township Escrow Fund
13. Geotechnical Services for WTHS Project

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

- (2) *Approves an exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status to allow student 4-13 to attend Davis Elementary School for the 2008-2009 school year. The family will provide transportation.*
- (3) *Effective July 1, 2008, the Board approves the change in the Centennial School Board meeting times from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM. This change will also be advertised.*
- (5) *Authorizes Administration to close the 2007-2008 Centennial School District books as of June 30, 2008, incorporating all accruals therein; that all bills that arrive and are due by June 30, 2008 are approved for payment provided the administration reviews the bills and is satisfied the same are just and proper obligations of the School District, and provided said expenditures are within the budget; that the transfer of budget amounts necessary for the processing of budgeted expenditures are approved subject to review and ratification by the Board in September, 2008; and that the School District auditors be directed to proceed with conducting the necessary audit for the close of the fiscal year 2007-2008.*
- (6) *Approves pay rates for all auxiliary positions for the 2008-2009 school year and accepts the Athletic Officials pay rates as set by the PIAA Board of Directors as per the attached supplements.*
- (7) *Adopts the final version of the Centennial School District 403(b) Retirement Savings Plan as required by U.S. Internal Revenue Regulations adopted July 26, 2007 per the terms and conditions of the resolution and documents attached hereto per review and approval by District Solicitor Levin Legal Group and the Centennial School District 403(b) Committee.*
- (9) *Approves permission to apply for the following competitive grants for the 2008-2009 school year in the amounts indicated:*

<i>Title I Parent Involvement Mini-Grant</i>	
<i>Davis Elementary School</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>

*Title I Parent Involvement Mini-Grant
Leary Elementary School \$500.00*

*Title I Parent Involvement Mini-Grant
Longstreth Elementary School \$500.00*

*Title I Parent Involvement Mini-Grant
McDonald Elementary School \$500.00*

*Title I Parent Involvement Mini-Grant
Willow Dale Elementary School \$500.00*

(12) *Approves the establishment and maintenance of an escrow fund in the amount of \$15,000 to Warminster Township for legal and engineering costs for the William Tennent High School renovation project. This will be funded through the Capital Project Fund.*

(13) *Approves the proposal for Geotechnical services for the William Tennent High School project to the lowest responsible bidder, GAI Consultants at the cost of \$9,500.00. This amount to be funded through the Capital Project Fund.*

The motion passed 9-0.

4. WTHS Pilot Senior Final Exam Privilege

Mrs. Porozok stated that this was an annually-occurring event. She explained what the criteria would be and answered some general questions.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the William Tennent High School Pilot Senior Final Exam Privilege for the 2008-2009 school year

The motion passed 9-0.

8. Appoint 2008-2009 G.O. Bond Issue Team

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mr. Miller to resolve that the Centennial School Board appoints RBC Capital Markets and Janney Montgomery Scott LLC as Underwriters and Thomas J. O'Neill, Esquire as Bond Counsel for the upcoming 2008-2009 General Obligation Bond Issue per the terms and conditions of the attached resolution.

Mrs. Lynch read the statement she had made on May 1, 2006 in opposition to this matter and indicated that nothing had changed.

Dr. Pollock asked her to explain the statement.

Mrs. Lynch explained that the same proposal is being made now and that there was never a comparison made.

Dr. Pollock asked if we had looked into the Royal Bank of Canada. Mr. Vail responded that we pretty much had. In order to modify this, we would have to look at rescinding the entire agreement. It would be difficult to do.

Dr. Pollock asked if we knew the interest rate. Mr. Vail stated that it would be the prevailing rate. He indicated that we would probably be doing this in the early fall. We are getting a team in place so we can move quickly when necessary.

Mr. Miller asked if there was time for discussion on this now if the Board chose. Mr. Vail indicated that there was.

Mrs. Mueller stated that what the Board did at that time was to make sure we had funding in place if Act 1 had gone through. Mrs. Mueller asked for confirmation that if we were to change this, we would have to redo the bond. Mr. Vail confirmed that we would potentially have to do that.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she had no problem going forward with this. We have a good track record with this group, and this was discussed at length at the Finance Meeting. Mr. Vail recapped that this is a bond indebtedness resolution that was put in place in anticipation of Act 1 becoming law. It was a mechanism whereby we would be eligible for grandfathered tax increases, if necessary, in order to issue bonds for construction projects. The plan to move forward with the high school project in 2008 falls very neatly into that \$110 million bond indebtedness resolution, using a great majority, but not all, of the money.

Mrs. Huf stated that she did not have any problem moving forward with this. In her years on the Board, they had many dealings with these firms and Mr. O'Neill.

Mr. Miller stated that he was also looking at moving forward on this now. If there was better backup, he might have been swayed but at the recommendation of senior Board members, he felt this should be moved forward.

Mrs. Lynch stated that there was no competitive bidding on this. This was one company that has done good by us so we are using them. But what about other companies out there? She stated that she had voted no on this in 2006 and she would vote no on this now.

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

10. Bread and Rolls Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Centennial School District to participate in the Suburban Schools Food Service Purchasing Co-Op Bread & Rolls Bid No. 2008-16, to be awarded to Amoroso Baking Company, Morabito Baking Company, and Stroehmann Bakeries. The approximate total value of this award as it pertains to Centennial School District is \$38,000. Funds to be appropriated from the Cafeteria Fund

Mr. Miller asked if we attempted to get other prices. Mr. Vail explained that the consortium had done the bid; we did not go out on our own.

The motion passed 8-1. (Mr. Miller opposed.)

11. Approval of Agreement with Coca-Cola

A motion was made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves entering into a Sponsorship Agreement with the Coca-Cola Bottling Company for a 5 year period commencing July 1, 2008.

Mrs. Huf stated that Mr. Miller had done a lot of work on this and she was excited about it. She indicated that she would support it.

Mrs. Mueller agreed. She stated that a lot of hours were put into this by Mr. Miller.

Mrs. Lynch thanked Mr. Miller for his hard work and spoke about the scoreboard.

Mr. Reinboth echoed these sentiments; however, he expressed concerns about the contract. He stated that he would be closely monitoring this to make sure it will be as beneficial as possible to the school district and the students. He stated that he would support it because he thought it was beneficial to the taxpayers and would enable us to install a scoreboard.

Mr. Monaghan expressed his concern about paragraph 5. Mr. Miller explained that Section 5 was originally called “Competitive Products Prohibited” but the Code would place restrictions on us if we were to enter into an exclusive agreement. The word “Prohibited” was taken out. He explained that we can sell competitive beverages such as coffee, hot tea, etc.

After further discussion, Mr. Monaghan stated that a letter had been received from the solicitor earlier in the day. He felt that in view of the need for the District to proceed, he would have no objection to the Board agreeing to this agreement if the terms of the opinion are satisfied. Mr. Monaghan indicated that he would like to include the entire letter as part of the minutes. (See letter dated June 24, 2008 from Jeffrey P. Garton, Esquire, attached hereto and made a part hereof.)

The motion passed 9-0.

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Mueller stated that she would like to have an Executive Session for a few minutes.

At 8:44 p.m. Mr. Monaghan stated that the meeting would be in recess for an Executive Session of the Board.

The meeting resumed at 9:07 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves all personnel recommendations, as follows: Resignations, Retirements, Terminations, Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Change of Status (except item #4); Substitute Support Staff; Substitute Bus Drivers; Student/Summer Employees; Co-Curricular Additions; and Awards of Tenure.

The motion passed 9-0.

POLICIES

Initial Distribution:

Mrs. Mueller noted Policy 2.3, Drug & Alcohol Testing for CDL Licensed Drivers and Safety Sensitive Personnel for initial distribution.

Discussion:

4.2 – Conferences

Mrs. Mueller noted that this policy had not been reviewed by the solicitor.

Mrs. Homel stated that this was an updated policy to reflect the Board's questions on Section III. This reflects how we have been doing conference requests prior to the last discussion by the Board. The Board had previously shown concern about the reimbursement for meals, so this section was redone to reflect the Board's wishes.

At the last meeting, there was discussion about each conference request being brought forward for Board approval. Mrs. Homel indicated that Board direction was needed on that issue.

Dr. Masko stated that the Board had indicated that all conference requests, for both overnight and local conferences, should be submitted to the Board at least one month in advance. He had sent a memo to the Board regarding the mechanics and the numbers involved in this. There were a number of concerns, including timeliness of approval, local conferences (there are a lot of these), a large volume of paperwork, and the fact that

we may lose out on conferences because they are usually first come-first served. Therefore, he requested direction from the Board. He suggested that Administration could provide quarterly reports on local conferences and, perhaps, monthly or every-other month for overnight conferences.

Dr. Pollock stated that he would agree, with the stipulation that the principals or people who are coordinating these have been attending in-service. He felt that overnight conferences should come before the Board. That could be as soon as they are received, even if it is six months ahead of time.

Mr. Reinboth agreed with both Dr. Masko and Dr. Pollock. Mr. Miller also agreed. He stated that he would like to see something in place to assure that the required reports are provided. Mrs. Homel pointed out Section IV, which stated that reports are required for all conferences. Mr. Miller reiterated that he would like something in place to make sure that this is being done.

Final Approval:

1.2 - Centennial School Board Meetings

Mrs. Mueller suggested a change to item VI. A. regarding broadcast of the meetings. There was consensus to change the phrase "...broadcast to the public..." to "...broadcast live and re-broadcast to the public..."

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 1.2 – Centennial School Board Meetings.

The motion passed 9-0.

4.4 - Student Membership

Mrs. Mueller stated that this policy was not reviewed by the solicitor. Minor changes were made to correct terminology.

Mrs. Homel explained that this was an update to our procedure and that nothing major had changed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 4.4 – Student Membership.

The motion passed 9-0.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Dr. Masko recommended that the Board approve attendance by one teacher at the Pennsylvania Department of Education-sponsored Community on Transition Conference on July 23-25 at State College. There is no cost to the District. There are two nights in a local hotel, meals and mileage.

A motion was made by Dr. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves attendance by one teacher at the Pennsylvania Department of Education-sponsored Community on Transition Conference on July 23-25, 2008, at State College, Pennsylvania. There is no cost to the District. There are two nights in a local hotel, meals and mileage.

The motion passed 9-0.

Dr. Masko requested that the Board support a motion for attendance by two teachers as presenters at the 11th National Conference on Restorative Practices in Toronto, Canada, on October 22-24, 2008, with a registration fee of \$300 each and to also provide school business days for the trip and substitutes for the teachers if the teachers are agreeable to taking care of transportation, meals and lodging.

Since this was not until October, Dr. Pollock asked that a motion be brought forward for this in July with more backup information.

Mrs. Mueller explained that there were 466 diplomas handed out at graduation this year. This class consisted of 519 students at the end of freshman year. This means there was a 10% drop. Mrs. Mueller requested that this drop be looked into.

Dr. Pollock noted that the national drop-out rate is 25%; in the cities it is closer to 50%. He indicated that these are current statistics.

Mr. Miller pointed out that in the last two bill runs \$15,000 was spent on postage. He felt that was a lot more than what report cards would cost.

Dr. Masko responded that Mr. Vail had indicated that annually he fills the meters with postage from funds available at the end of the school year, which carries us well into the fall. So the postage has not necessarily been used but it has been purchased and is available.

Mr. Miller felt that he needed more information. It was possible that more money is being used on postage that necessary.

Mrs. Mueller asked for confirmation about there being something in policy about using money left over in the budget at the end of the budget year.

Dr. Masko explained that Mr. Vail usually puts a freeze on the budget around mid-March so that whatever money is left in the budget cannot be spent without prior approval. Mrs. Mueller asked

who checks what the Business Department does. Mr. Miller felt that this type of thing should be looked into.

Mr. Monaghan pointed out that the Board had voted to change the time of the meetings to 7:00 p.m. He requested Administration to make sure this is changed on the calendar.

Mr. Monaghan noted that he had received a letter from Carroll Engineering regarding safe routes to school. There is a federal Safe Routes to School program from 2005 to 2009. If we are interested, there are federal funds for this to make certain improvements.

Mr. Miller stated that we may have a surplus of vending machines soon. He suggested that we ask for a plan of disposal. Mrs. Mueller suggested that this be done at Operations.

REPORTS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Dr. Pollock to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary