

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD SEPTEMBER 23, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A Work Session/Regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on September 23, 2008, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Monaghan at 7:05 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

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

[Note: Mr. Hezel was absent from the meeting.]

CEA/Teachers:

Mary Ellen Donnelly
Shannon Christine
Deb Freedman
Jennifer John
Joe Green
Al Cataro
Michael Swider

Administration:

Sandy Homel
Jean Rollo
Timothy Vail

Public:

Becky Goeller
Jessica Rodgers
Megan Sanders
Bobby Simmons
Dylan Noonan
Mark Koutsouradis
Kelly Carson
David Hyman
Jeff Lynes
Robert Mulville
Taylor Meacham
Barb Patrick
Sam Angus

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Monaghan stated that Mr. Hezel was absent from the meeting due to family business.

PRESENTATIONS

“Laws of Life” Essay Contest Winners

Mrs. Homel spoke about the “Laws of Life” essay contest sponsored by the Bucks County Boy Scout Council. She explained that the contest challenges the students to take a stand for what they believe in. There were three winners from Klinger: Taylor Carson, Justine Belinsky and Victoria Balestro. They each read their essay for the Board. They were each presented with a Good News certificate.

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 Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the Minutes of the:

- *Finance Committee - June 16, 2008; August 11, 2008*
- *Operations Committee - June 3, 2008; July 1, 2008; July 15, 2008*

The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Mueller requested permission of the Board to move up item #3 of New Business. There was consensus of the Board to do so.

3. Approval of Facility Use Waivers

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Facility Use Waivers Applications for the following groups:

- A. *Boy Scouts of America – Troop 400
Use of William Tennent High School pool, Friday, November 14, 2008 for Eagle Scout Project – fundraiser project donations going to Gilda’s Club of*

Delaware Valley. Requesting a waiver of fees at a cost to the District of \$82.50.

B. William Tennent High School Cheerleaders

Sunday use of William Tennent High School gym and auditorium for cheerleading competition on February 22, 2009 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost to the District is approximately \$1,002.00.

C. William Tennent High School Girls Soccer Program

Sunday use of William Tennent High School gym on February 15, 2009 for indoor soccer tournament to be played over President's Holiday including Monday, February 16, 2009. The cost to the District is approximately \$2,672.00.

The motion passed 8-0.

1. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 2-13

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status to allow Student 2-13 to attend Log College Middle School for the 2008-2009 school year. The family will provide transportation.

Mrs. Mueller stated that Administration recommended approval of this matter.

The motion passed 8-0.

2. Final Approval of the WTHS Boys Basketball Team Trip to State College, PA

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval for a trip by the William Tennent High School Boys Basketball team to State College, PA, December 28-30, 2008. There is no cost to the District.

The motion passed 8-0.

4. Fuel Bid Award

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the fuel bid No. 2009-02 for Centennial School District transportation and awards same to the lowest responsible bidder, Sunoco Inc. at a price of \$3.2809 per gallon for the period October 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 and \$3.3739 per gallon from July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 for delivery of quantities greater than or equal to 6,000 gallons. These prices were locked in by Administration on the day of the bid opening per Board authorization at the August 19,

2008 meeting. This resolution is intended to simply formalize the approval authorization given on that earlier date.

Dr. Pollock stated that he thought a debt of gratitude was owed to Vic Lasher. He has saved the District a lot of money by not going along with some of the other districts.

Mr. Reinboth indicated that the price was approximately \$1.00 per gallon less.

The motion passed 8-0.

5. Special Experience Room Fees

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves setting the rates for rental of the McDonald Special Experience Room to outside groups as follows until subsequent action of the Board is taken to change said fees:

<i>Schools and community groups outside the District</i>	<i>\$250.00 per session</i>
<i>Non-public schools and community groups within the District</i>	<i>\$125.00 per session</i>

Mrs. Lynch stated that she thought the non-public schools should have a lesser rate since they pay taxes. She felt we should help them out.

The motion passed 7-1. (Mrs. Lynch opposed.)

6. Homestead Exclusion Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board denies the request by several real estate taxpayers for a refund of the 2008 homestead exclusion credit (in the amount of \$167.00 per parcel) they paid per their 2008 real estate tax bills. Refund requests are based on the granting of the homestead exclusion per their appeal of an earlier denial by the Bucks County Board of Assessment Appeals. Said action is taken in recognition of the fact that the homestead/farmstead exclusion credits given to qualifying Centennial taxpayers were based on the District's share of gaming revenue appropriated by the PA Legislature and that these funds were expended in their entirety to all taxpayers who were approved for the exclusion as of the date the tax bills were generated. No further funding is available at this time to honor refund requests. Administration is further directed to notify all future applicants for refunds based on appeal approvals granted by the Bucks County Board of Assessment Appeals after tax bills are generated each year that refunds will not be granted in such cases.

Mr. Miller stated that we didn't just come out and refuse because the money has been distributed. It is because that particular homestead has changed hands from the time the original exclusion was approved and the exclusion does not follow the property. This is not an arbitrary conclusion; it is a conclusion of law.

The motion passed 8-0.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Miller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves all personnel recommendations, including the following: Resignations, Retirements, Terminations, Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Change of Status; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Substitute Support Staff; Mentors; Tutors; Co-Curricular Additions; and Accreditation for Growth Appointments.

Mr. Miller requested that the motion regarding Mr. Pacchioli be pulled for a separate vote.

The motion passed 8-0 (as to all matters except Item #7 of Resignations/Retirements.)

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves Item #7 of Personnel under Resignations/Retirements.

Mr. Miller stated that he was very sad to see this come through. Mr. Pacchioli has been a leader in the District and has brought some recognition to the District. We have excelled because of him.

Mrs. Huf stated that she was sad to see Mr. Pacchioli leave. He has been a great advantage to the School District for a great number of years. But she indicated that she understood his desire to retire. She wished him health and happiness.

Mrs. Lynch echoed Mrs. Huf's comments. She stated that she was sure Mr. Pacchioli would be active in the community.

Mrs. Mueller stated that Mr. Pacchioli had agreed to stay on until his successor was found. She thanked him for everything he had done for the District. She stated that he had done everything that was asked of him.

Mrs. Homel stated that she hoped Mr. Pacchioli was watching and hearing everyone's words that were being spoken from the heart. She explained that he had come to the District in 1999 when we really needed some direction. The new stadium was his dream. He has certainly left his handprint on it. Mrs. Homel stated that she was sad to see him go but she understood. He has made us very proud.

The motion passed 8-0.

POLICIES

Discussion:

7.18 – Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status

Mrs. Homel stated that Mr. Levin had reviewed this and rewrote the entire policy. He reorganized it and it is very up-to-date. Representatives of the committee have reviewed it.

After discussion, it was indicated that the policy would be brought forward at the next meeting.

Final Approval:

2.13 – Recruitment and Employment of Staff

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

Mrs. Homel stated that no changes had been made to the policy since the last time it was reviewed two weeks ago.

Mr. Miller stated that he had considered this since the last meeting. It has been seven years since this policy was reviewed and a lot has changed in technology. He would like us to do more on the recruiting side and would like to see more than representation at job fairs.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 2.13 – Recruitment and Employment of Staff.

Mrs. Mueller felt that maybe Section I. C. 8 addressed Mr. Miller's concerns. Mr. Miller stated that he would like us to go out and look for these candidates.

Mrs. Rollo stated that we are always on the lookout for good candidates. We do attend various job fairs, especially in the spring. If she were looking to improve things, it would be to start earlier in the spring instead of waiting until June. However, we have not found a lack of qualified candidates.

Dr. Pollock agreed with Mrs. Rollo that waiting until June or July was too late to start. He felt we should be doing this in March, April and May.

Mrs. Rollo explained that part of that is a contractual problem because we do not know what our openings will be. We don't have placements finalized until June 1st. That may have to be addressed.

Dr. Pollock indicated that Central Bucks stated on its website that they are anticipating openings in certain areas and requests resumes.

Mrs. Rollo explained that they have a practice that teachers must state their intentions early in the spring. We are not privy to that information at that time.

Mrs. Mueller clarified that we would need to address this in the next contract, not through policy.

Dr. Pollock asked if it were possible to meet with the Association and see if they would be willing to move the date up. Mrs. Mueller felt that it didn't hurt to ask.

The motion passed 7-1. (Mr. Miller opposed.)

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Miller indicated that the German exchange students would be arriving this evening and that they would be staying for a month. His family would be hosting a student. Shady Brook Farms has invited the students and has provided 40 passes as a donation.

REPORTS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Dr. Pollock to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary