

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
HELD OCTOBER 14, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on October 14, 2008, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Monaghan at 7:00 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:

Sandy Homel
Susan Klyman
Victor Lasher
Jean Rollo

CEA/Teachers:

Liz Stanfield
Jessica White
Sunshine Silenzi
Jen Konen

Public:

Jessica Rodgers
Mike Manno
Andrew Dornblaser
Taylor Meacham
Kyle Hahn
Logan Clare
Mark Koutsouradis
Megan Sanders
Chris Tully
J. R. Meisner
Howard Singer
Pam Singer

Barb Patrick
Jessica Pettit
Jack Diamond
Becky O'Hara
Paul Cammarota
Cheryl MacKenzie
Joe Green
Barbara Garofalo
Karen Ovington
Jeff Milnazik
Liz Camacho
Michelle Miller

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 October 6th regarding personnel; and on October 7th following the Operations Committee meeting regarding personnel.

Mrs. Mueller expressed thanks to all of the families who hosted students from Germany, as well as to the staff members who participated. She asked Mrs. Homel to relay this to the rest of the staff. She felt this was a great experience and very worthwhile.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

GOOD NEWS

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

STUDENT REPORTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

Jessica Pettit, the President of student government, reported on current happenings at Tennent, as follows:

- They had a great weekend for Homecoming.
- The Athletic Council is holding a fundraiser for Melissa Nunn.
- The Powder Puff is upcoming.
- Any student who is 18 is being encouraged to register to vote.

MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Liz Camacho reported on the following items at MBIT:

- The semi-annual Occupational Advisory Committee meeting would be held this evening.
- The Stanley Cup of Bucks County Fundraiser would be held at MBIT on November 15th.
- On December 3rd and 4th the Annual Counselor in-service activities were scheduled.
- The Annual MBIT Open House was scheduled for January 8th.
- Salon Extreme would be open on Friday afternoons by appointment.
- Aspirations Restaurant would be open later in the month on Wednesdays and Thursdays for lunch.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Mr. Monaghan outlined the policy for community comments and indicated that there would not be discussion on personnel decisions regarding the movement of the principals, except to say that the movements were done with the best interests of the School District and the community.

Jack Diamond of 299 Kent Road, Warminster, stated that he had missed a few meetings. Now he saw that there was a whole new plan similar to the first plan, with similar cost and similar taxes.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that it was still on budget and this would be more cost-effective. She stated that there was input from the community, students, teachers, and Board members. The final plan would be presented on December 3rd.

Mr. Diamond stated that he would like to see a copy of the plan.

Julian Meisner of 688 Whittier Drive, Warminster, discussed that recently one of our schools was the target of a terroristic act. This was the second year that this school was subjected to this. Despite this, the school has thrived because of the leadership of the school and the resolve of the school community, parents and the neighborhood in general. However, in this case, although the police were called to the scene, the Acting Superintendent took no action to notify the school community of the police action. She also did not use the e-alert system, which he felt led to more confusion.

Jim Rice of 686 Mueller Road, Warminster, also spoke about the events at Longstreth. He indicated that he felt the changes could have waited until the beginning of the new year. He felt the needs of the students and parents were disregarded. In the future, he felt that the effect should be kept in mind before decisions are made.

Cheryl MacKenzie of 509 Harting Circle, Warminster, asked what specifically was the goal of moving the principals. She also asked what the time frame was to accomplish those goals and how success was measured. She stated that the taxpayers should be able to hold the Board and Administration accountable when they don't agree with their decisions. She did not think the emotional needs of the students were considered.

Paul Cammarota of 91 Buchanan Way stated that he had a complaint about the transfer of the principals since the community did not have a voice in this. He also felt he was lied to about the move of Miss Hartman, as well as being dismissed and put off when he brought this up to Mrs. Homel. He stated that at the beginning of this meeting it was stated that this would not be discussed; however, when they were at Longstreth the other night, they were told to come to the Board Meeting to discuss this. He wanted to know what the process was for putting in a complaint about a principal.

Barbara Garofalo of 859 Phillips Road, Warminster, stated that a lot of her feelings had already been expressed. She was sad to see Mrs. Mahan leave, and indicated that she was needed. The

public relations between the School Board and the public is not right. She felt something needed to be done about that.

Bonnie Hilton of 11 Lacey Avenue, Ivyland, stated that the thing that bothered her the most was that there was a lot of autocratic feeling. The parents were not included. She felt it was important for the parents to be heard and that cooperation between parents, teachers and administrators was important. There was a feeling of alienation that has negated that, which needs to be healed.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appointment to Warminster Township Parks & Recreation Board

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the appointment of John P. Pulkowski to the Warminster Township Parks and Recreation Board for a five-year term beginning January 1, 2009.

The motion passed 9-0.

2. Approval of Overnight Conference Requests

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Miller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following overnight conference requests:

- (1) Nancy Scalzott, Reading teacher at William Tennent High School, Literacy and CTE, October 30-31, 2008 in State College, PA, sponsored by Middle Bucks Institute of Technology. The cost to the District will not to exceed \$200 for the cost of a substitute for two days.*
- (2) Lindsay Konell, Math teacher at William Tennent High School, Knowles Foundation Fellowship Conference, October 23-24, 2008, in Santa Barbara, CA. There is no cost to the District.*

The motion passed 9-0.

3. Approval of Agreement with Reading Connection for Student 1-12

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Agreement for Professional Services between the Centennial School District and the Reading Connection for Student 1-12. Student 1-12 is to receive 10½ hours per week in the Orton-Gillingham Reading Method at a rate of

\$80.00 per hour, not to exceed \$32,000.00 by June 17, 2009. The contract terminates either upon the last day of school or with a 30-day advance written notice to terminate.

Mr. Miller pointed out that the Agreement called for notice but did not contain any provision for where or how the notice was to be made. It should state addresses as to where and how notice should be served. Mr. Miller indicated that he would like this to be addressed before the Agreement was signed. There was consensus on this.

The motion passed 9-0.

4. Approval of New Position – Stadium Manager

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Miller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the creation of the position of Stadium Manager with duties as described in the attached job description; daily stipend of \$85 for up to five hours and \$115 for over five hours of work; scheduled on as-needed basis. Funds to be appropriated from the General Fund.

Mrs. Lynch asked why this was to be taken from the General Fund. Mrs. Mueller explained that it is a new position so funds had not been appropriated.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she thought this was to be taken out of the stadium fund. Dr. Pollock explained that it must go into the General Fund first but it would be taken from the stadium profits.

The motion passed 9-0.

5. Salary Increment – Acting Superintendent

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves a salary increment of \$101.31 per day for Sandy M. Homel while serving as Acting Superintendent retroactive to her appointment date of July 16, 2008. Increment will remain in place until Mrs. Homel no longer holds the position of Acting Superintendent or until further Board action should occur.

The motion passed 9-0.

6. Approval of Facility Use Waivers

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board hereby approves the Facility Use Waiver Application for the following:

- A. *Warminster Basketball Requesting Sunday usage of William Tennent High School gym from October 19 2008 to March 29,*

2009, with the exception of February 8, 15 and 22, 2009. There is no cost to the District.

B. Centennial Aquatic Club Use of WTHS pool September 2008 through March 2009. Requesting 50% waiver of fees at a cost to the District of \$3,992.88.

C. Centennial Aquatic Club Sunday use of WTHS pool on January 11, 2009 for the Odd Age Meet. Also requesting a 50% waiver of fees at a cost to the District of \$318.50.

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; Substitute Support Staff; Substitute Bus Drivers/Trainees; Mentors; Tutors; Homebound Tutors; and Co-Curricular.

Mrs. Rollo indicated that the employee involved in Item #6 under Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence requested that this be removed.

Mrs. Mueller and Mrs. Huf, as the maker and seconder of the motion, agreed that Item #6 under Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence be removed and not voted upon.

The motion passed 9-0 (as amended.)

OPERATIONS AND POLICIES

Final Approval:

Policy 7.18 – Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status.

The motion passed 9-0.

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 – September 2008*
- *Investments – September 2008*

- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – September 2008*

and approves the:

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – September 2008*
- *Budgetary Transfers – June 2008, October 2008*

Mr. Hezel stated that now banks can insure depositions up to \$250,000. He asked if that would change how the deposits were made. Mr. Reinboth responded that this will be considered as things mature.

Mr. Miller indicated that he would like the Cafeteria Fund operating statement to be pulled until the next meeting since he had questions.

After discussion, it was suggested that this report appear on the agenda for the next Finance Committee meeting so that Mr. Miller's questions could be answered. Mr. Miller agreed to this. Therefore, this item was not pulled from the motion.

The motion passed 9-0.

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 – August 19, 2008*
- *Regular School Board Meeting – September 9, 2008*

Mrs. Lynch asked Mrs. Huf if she had voted against the stadium. Mrs. Huf stated that she believed that she had supported the stadium. Mrs. Lynch stated that she believed so also. Mrs. Lynch stated her recollection was that Mrs. Huf did vote for the stadium, but that she herself did not. She felt that page 27 should be revised to reflect that Mrs. Huf voted yes.

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that what Mrs. Lynch was referring to what Mrs. Mueller's verbatim statement. She indicated that there were other votes that happened where that was not the case as the stadium process went along. Her statement, as indicated in the Minutes, reflects exactly what she said and she did not wish her statement to be changed. The Minutes are a reflection of what is said and that is her statement as she wished it to be reflected verbatim. She would like the Minutes to reflect her statement verbatim.

Mrs. Lynch stated that the facts were different. Mrs. Huf voted for the stadium; Mrs. Lynch voted no. She stated that if Mrs. Mueller did not want to deal with the facts, then she would vote against these Minutes. Mrs. Mueller replied that she would gladly deal with the facts. If Mrs. Lynch would like, at the next meeting Mrs. Mueller would gladly bring those and she would show the history. When Minutes are put before the Board, the issue is whether what is reflected in the Minutes is what was stated at the meeting. Mrs. Mueller stated that she believed Mrs. Detwiler took her statement verbatim and reflected it in the Minutes.

Mr. Monaghan explained that the Minutes of this meeting would reflect that Mrs. Lynch believes that Mrs. Mueller's statements were incorrect.

Mrs. Huf stated that, as memory served her, she did support the stadium. She believed that her hesitation was when the amount for the stadium was increased. That was when she had a problem with supporting it. She supported it at the amount that she thought it was going to be. Because of conditions, there were additional monies needed. At that point, there was hesitation.

Two other minor revisions were discussed.

There was consensus to vote on the Minutes separately.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School approves the Regular School Board Minutes of August 19, 2008.

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>Abstain (not present at meeting)</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 8-0-1.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting held on September 9, 2008 (as revised.)

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>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 7-2.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

None.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Homel reported as follows:

- The students were settled into the new school year now.
- There have been meetings with the architects and engineers for the high school and we are on target.
- She had meetings with the CEF and the fundraising subcommittee.
- The new budget was being developed and was 90% done at the building level.
- The grand opening at the stadium on September 19th was wonderful. There was a great turnout.
- Mrs. Mueller had spoken about the German exchange, which occurred September 23 to October 19. It was very enriching for the students, the host families and the high school.
- On October 4th, we had an outstanding Unity and Diversity Day.
- We welcomed Mr. Wallace to the District. Mrs. Homel was looking forward to working with him.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Lynch reported that the September 22nd Education meeting was phenomenal. They spoke to the lead teachers and discussed goals. They also discussed the classroom of the future, had a Skyward update, reviewed PSSA and SAT data, and discussed planned course outlines.

The next meeting will be held on October 22nd.

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf reported on the following matters from the meeting held the previous evening:

- There was an administrative report and a health science clusters presentation.
- Employments were ratified.
- Review of enrollment report, which she will have copied for the Board.

Intermediate Unit

Mr. Monaghan reported that there would be a meeting of the I.U. on October 21st.

FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Reinboth reported that the Finance Committee had discussed several items that were voted on at the last Board meeting. He indicated that the next Committee meeting would be on October 20th and that the agenda would be posted on the District website.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Mueller reported on the October 3rd Operations Committee meeting as follows:

- A transportation issue was discussed.
- There will be a subcommittee looking into food services operations.
- Discussion of job description for the stadium manager.
- Discussion of the comprehensive coordinated building plan.
- On November 6th the architects would be meeting with Administration to review the final design.
- At the December 2nd Operations meeting, the architects and construction managers would present the latest cost estimates.
- A presentation would go to the Warminster Township Planning Committee on December 3rd.
- At the December 9th Board Meeting there would be a request for the Board to authorize advertisement for the Act 34 hearing.
- On December 10th there would be a committee meeting with regard to the high school.
- The Act 35 hearing would be held on January 7th.

The next Operations Committee meeting would be held on November 5th.

Citizens Policy

Mr. Hezel stated that the first meeting of this Committee would be held on November 18th.

Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Lynch reported that the Senate and House were in recess. All Board members had received House Bill 1258. She hoped that everyone would e-mail the Governor and ask that this be vetoed.

PSBA

Mr. Miller stated that there would be a convention in Harrisburg with the PSBA liaisons. He would be filled in about this and would report at the next Board meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Jack Diamond (who had spoken earlier in the meeting) indicated that there would be discussions about teachers' salaries, etc. He pointed out that "the market just tanked." He felt that it was not equitable that state employees had an agreement stating that they get whatever percentage they were guaranteed. We have to indemnify them from incurring any losses when everyone else has taken their lumps. He felt that the School Board could make changes. He pointed out that federal governments change laws and that lawyers live on breaking and making contracts. He asked that the Board give serious consideration to tackling this issue and trying to snowball it with other communities.

Mrs. Mueller stated that we can only ask that everyone in the community write to the state legislators and that they have been requested to do so in the past.

Dr. Pollock explained what happens with pensions and the fact that the state decided not to put money in this year so down the road it has to be made up. They are taking money that is earmarked for the future and spending it now. He suggested that the people write to their legislators about teacher strikes.

Michelle Miller of Boxwood Drive, Warminster, asked if Mrs. Homel had stated that Mr. Wallace had shadowed Mrs. Mahan at Longstreth in the previous weeks.

Mrs. Homel stated that the tapes could be checked to see exactly what she had said. She clarified that he was in the building the previous week; Mrs. Mahan took him into classrooms and introduced him to the children; they did office procedures together; he was in the cafeteria with her. Mrs. Homel stated that she would call that shadowing.

Mrs. Miller stated that Mr. Wallace was there for one day and the Wednesday night of the committee meeting. She indicated that she worked in the school as a volunteer for many hours and felt that maybe "shadowing" was a strong statement.

Mrs. Homel stated that she knew he was there more than one day.

Mrs. Miller also stated that she was concerned with the direction the District was taking, especially with regard to management. She asked if the Board was moving towards getting an umbrella of management in the District, rather than one person making all the decisions.

Mr. Monaghan indicated that that would be a personnel issue but there is movement on making sure that we are working towards accommodating the changes we have to make.

Mrs. Miller asked if there were any stipulations on a retired person coming back to work in the District and if we were confident that Mr. Wallace would stay the whole year or until a permanent replacement was found.

Mr. Monaghan indicated that the plan was for him to stay the whole year.

Bonnie Hilton again addressed the Board, indicating that there was a feeling of alienation at Longstreth because of the quickness of the transfer of the principal. She felt the feeling was a little hostile and it affected the environment of the school. She asked what was being done to heal that. She felt that a solid explanation would help.

Mr. Monaghan explained that a meeting was held at Longstreth the previous Wednesday. He read the explanation that he had read at that meeting regarding what had happened, indicating that this was not something we wanted to do; it was forced upon us by someone deciding they wanted to retire at this time.

Mr. Miller stated that the previous week's meeting was not an advertised Board meeting. It was a meeting that Board members attended. The community was invited to attend this Board meeting to share their views, although the Board would not change their minds regarding the decision. Mr. Miller stated that with last year ending with the conviction of a former teacher and community member, now is the time for healing. As far as he was concerned, Mrs. Mahan and Warminster Police Department have made Longstreth the safest school in all of Bucks County. However, this District needed her somewhere else and the Board had to make that move. He felt that Mr. Wallace was very experienced and able.

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that the meeting the previous Wednesday was Chief Murphy's meeting, not the Board's meeting. The Board members who were present at that meeting took notes, which they shared with the other Board members. By law, the Board cannot discuss what goes into their decisions. The community has to trust the Board. When a principal decides to retire after the school year starts, it is a disadvantage. Mrs. Mueller stated that she hoped that community members could open themselves to Mr. Wallace's qualifications and experience. When the Board looks at something, it is for the entire community. Mrs. Homel had the support of all nine Board members.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she thought Mrs. Mueller and Mr. Miller had said it all. She pointed out that when she looked at the community member's faces, she saw hurt and anger. She stated that if she was younger and it was her children, she would probably feel the same way. But she pointed out that the Board cares about the children and their education and wants the best for them. She hoped that the community understood that.

Paul Cammarota (who had spoken earlier in the meeting) stated that he did not understand how McDonald got into this and why three separate schools were uprooted because one principal retired. He questioned why the other moves couldn't have been made at the end of the year if needed. He asked how he could complain about a policy that is being made about an educational issue.

Mr. Monaghan responded that he should contact Mrs. Homel and give her the information.

Michelle Miller (who had spoken earlier in the meeting) stated that she felt that Mr. Wallace was welcomed and his qualifications were not questioned. She felt he should be removed from the current conversation. She felt that his name was being dragged through the mud.

Julian Meisner stated that he had heard several Board members ask the community to “trust us.” He had heard several parents ask the Board to explain the educational reasons for their actions and there was still no explanation. He stated that if the Board wanted the community to trust them, they should develop an open and team approach to working with the community. He did not see that here.

Bonnie Hilton (who had spoken earlier in the meeting) stated that they did not have trouble with Mr. Wallace. They would accept him. That was not the issue. The issue was the rift they felt with the Board and District. There are better ways to do things.

Mrs. Homel stated that she thought they were hearing some of the things the community was saying. She felt right now everyone needed to re-center. The letter of September 26th that was sent home with the children outlined what they felt needed to be done for the District. No one saw the retirement coming. They tried to be effective and timely with this. She was trying to be mindful of their feelings. They had looked at the six schools and done what they felt was best. She stated that she had received an e-mail that morning that had been sent out to 2½ pages of people, and not one thing in it was true. She stated that she was as frustrated as the community members and felt that she was being slandered.

Mrs. Huf stated that she wanted everyone to know that she respected Mrs. Homel, the Board, the community and the children. She stated that at the meeting the previous Wednesday she felt threatened. After 15 years on the Board she asked herself why she was here. This is the first time she has seen this disrespect. She asked the community to give this a chance.

SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mr. Simpson reviewed the schedule. (See Schedule attached hereto.)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary