

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
HELD FEBRUARY 10, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on February 10, 2009 in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Reinboth at 7:00 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

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

Administration:

Sandy Homel  
Victor Lasher  
Jean Rollo  
Timothy Vail

CEA/Teachers:

Public:

See attached listing.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Huf thanked everyone who had called and sent cards during her recent bereavement.

Mrs. Mueller commended anyone who had anything to do with the Hall of Fame. She felt it was very nice.

**PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **GOOD NEWS**

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

## **STUDENT REPORTS**

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

Dave Martin, who was substituting for Jessica Pettit, reported as follows:

- Black & White Night was coming up.
- Course selection was online this year. Students and faculty thought it went well.
- The canned food drive was underway.
- The band would be going to Florida to play.
- Parent conferences were coming up.

### **MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Mr. Reinboth read the report from Chelsea Miller, who could not attend the meeting. The report included the following:

- February was Career and Technical month.
- The student-built house was underway. Bids were due March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Adult education would begin the following week.
- Dual enrollment classes had begun.
- Salon Extreme would be open on Fridays.
- Aspirations Restaurant would be opening on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Mr. Miller reported that the Senior Sweetheart Ball had taken place the previous weekend.

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. Homel reported that the previous Friday evening Modell's, one of our sponsors, informed her that our share of the profits from the basketball game was \$247.81. Since half of these were to be split with the Alumni Association, Mrs. Homel presented Mrs. Huf with a laminated check for \$123.90.

**NEW BUSINESS**1. Adjudication re Student 10-19

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the Adjudication pertaining to Student 10-19. The School District Administration is directed to take the action necessary to effectuate the Adjudication and to properly serve the Adjudication on Student 10-19.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

2. Adjudication re Student 3-13

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the Adjudication pertaining to Student 3-13. The School District Administration is directed to take the action necessary to effectuate the Adjudication and to properly serve the Adjudication on Student 3-13.*

Dr. Pollock pointed out that both of these students are out of Tennent for this year and that there are conditions to them returning.

*The motion passed 9-0.*

3. Adoption of 2009-2010 Preliminary Budget

*A motion was made by Dr. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Miller to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts the preliminary General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 in the amount of \$93,377,565 as presented and authorizes submission of said preliminary budget to the PA Department of Education by February 23, 2009 in compliance with Special Session Act 1 of 2006. Final adoption of the budget is tentatively scheduled for June 9, 2009.*

Mrs. Lynch stated that under the direction of Act 1 she knew it was important to have this budget. She commended Mr. Vail on due diligence and great performance with this budget. Since this budget contains a tax increase, she could not vote in favor of it.

Mr. Reinboth noted that 6.81 mills was the original estimate. The payments on the debt service have been reduced by .56 so it is down to 6¼ at this time and they would look to further reduce it.

Mr. Miller stated that to the best of his knowledge we are the only school district in Bucks County that has brought the budget in under the 4.1 cap.

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

4. Referendum Exception Application 2009-2010 Budget

*A motion was made by Dr. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Miller to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes Administration to prepare and submit all back-end referendum exception applications that the District may be eligible for in compliance with Special Session Act 1 of 2006. Said applications to be filed with the PA Department of Education by Thursday March 5, 2009. Administration is further authorized to advertise Intent to Submit said applications not later than Thursday, February 26, 2009. This action is taken in order to apply for the “grandfathered debt” exception needed to balance the 2009-2010 budget and/or to fund unanticipated costs in the event that expense or revenue changes, unforeseen when the Preliminary 2009-2010 Budget was adopted, should become necessary prior to adoption of the Final Budget in June 2009.*

Mrs. Lynch stated that she would be voting no against these exceptions. She indicated that she knew that by Act 1 the applications must be put forth. She also knew that grandfathered debt was a hypocrisy that the state has put on us.

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

5. Bond Proceeds Investment Approval

*A motion was made by Dr. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following investment(s) with the proceeds of the 2009 General Obligation Bond issue to close on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, per the terms and conditions of the attached request for proposal:*

<i>Citizen’s Bank</i>	<i>\$25,257,000.00</i>
<i>TD Bank</i>	<i>\$25,257,000.00</i>
<i>Tri State Capital Bank</i>	<i>\$25,257,000.00</i>

*Award is contingent upon satisfactory documentation and confirmation of compliance with the terms of the Request for Proposal.*

Mr. Miller stated that this was a very large amount of money. The RFP calls for specific information from the responding banks. He wanted to know why that information was not forwarded to Board members.

Mr. Vail stated that, as he told the Board at several meetings, we would get the rates the day before the actual closing of the bonds since the market conditions change on a day-to-day basis. The proposals were actually received today at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Miller pointed out that it was not just about the rates. He felt that the Board should have received copies of the prospectuses and other information.

Mr. Reinboth indicated that he was involved in the conference call to finalize the information and that they chose FDIC-insured banks.

Mr. Vail added that they may also have been insured by the Federal Home Loan Bank. He also indicated that Mr. Reinboth was part of the conference call so there was a Board representative present at the time.

Mr. Lawlace explained that Mr. Vail had sent out a total of 16 packets to different institutions and received nine responses. One of the biggest concerns was the safety of the investment. The one vehicle is FDIC insured because it was split under a network of banks. Another is secured by a Federal Home Loan Bank letter of credit, which is considered to be extremely secured. He indicated that he has seen this with other investments.

Mr. Miller stated that he felt that all nine Board members should have this information so that they could decide for themselves.

Mrs. Lynch asked why local banks did not quote on this, if the magnitude of the investment was too large.

Mr. Lawlace felt that might be the case but he didn't really know.

Mrs. Lynch asked if any of the banks had any stimulus money in them. Mr. Lawlace indicated that he didn't know.

Dr. Pollock stated that this money would be in these banks for about three years or less. This would earn just under \$2.5 million of interest, which the taxpayers would not have to use to fund the new building.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would not be supporting this. She had not supported the building of a new school. This was a lot of money and a lot of bond issue. She was apprehensive of this amount of money.

Dr. Pollock stated that we already have the money – if it is not put somewhere, the interest would be lost. That is what not supporting this means.

Mrs. Lynch agreed with Mrs. Huf. It was the principal. She indicated that she would not be supporting this either.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she shared the concern that the Board did not get this. She understood that this needed to be done at the eleventh hour. She asked Mr. Reinboth to confirm that he was comfortable with all three institutions. Mr. Reinboth stated that he was comfortable with them.

Mr. Miller stated that he would vote for this; however, he still felt that the Board should have received backup. Things have been messengered on lesser items – they should have been on this. Mr. Reinboth indicated that the point was well taken.

Mr. Hezel asked if these were guaranteed rates. Mr. Vail confirmed that they were.

*A roll call vote was taken as follows:*

<i>Dr. Pollock</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Miller</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Monaghan</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. Reinboth</i>	<i>Yes</i>

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

6. Approval of Compensation for Concession Manager

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Miller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the compensation plan for the newly created position of Concession Manager, who will also serve as a ticket taker, as follows:*

<i>Up to 4 hours</i>	<i>\$45.00</i>
<i>4-6 hours</i>	<i>\$60.00</i>
<i>Over 6 hours</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>

Mrs. Lynch stated that this position was really needed. Under normal circumstances, she would not agree to anything in this time frame but this was desperately needed.

*The motion passed 9-0.*

7. Approval of Concurrent Enrollment Agreement

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves a Concurrent Enrollment Agreement between Bucks County Community College and Centennial School District for 2009-2010.*

Mr. Miller asked what policy this was covered under.

Mrs. Homel stated that this was money from the state. Policy 5.7, Reporting Student Progress, refers to it. There is no stand-alone policy.

Mr. Miller stated that the only policy he could find was Policy 6.7, which was recently amended. He was concerned because that policy, in Section I.E.1., addresses educational programs but also, in the newly-revised edition, under Section IV.B. says that a Board member may not be a participant in this without an exception granted by the Board. He

noted that Dr. Pollock, whom he trusted, was on that committee. He wondered if the Board was creating a double standard by eliminating that provision of the policy without Board action.

Mrs. Homel stated that the PDE requirements call for a Board member.

Mr. Miller stated that then we would need an exception to Board policy.

Dr. Pollock commented that we cannot have a policy that goes against state law.

Mrs. Mueller stated that it is a business affiliation and she thought that was where Mr. Miller was coming from. She pointed out that that was why there needed to be exceptions due to the way the policy was written. She suggested that it might be something that needed to be revisited.

*The motion passed 9-0.*

8. Final Approval for WTHS Key Club Trip to Hershey

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval for a trip by the William Tennent High School Key Club to the PA Key Club State Convention in Hershey, PA from March 6-8, 2009. The cost to the District is not to exceed \$1,200.*

Mr. Miller stated that he supported this but at the last meeting when this was brought up he had asked for feedback as to why we are paying for this trip but are not paying for two less expensive trips for our sports teams. He questioned whether a double standard was being created and pointed out that this was an optional trip for which taxpayer money was not supposed to be used.

Mrs. Homel explained that our sports tournaments over the vacations are optional so we have a history of asking them to be self-sustaining. This is a culmination of what Key Club has been doing.

Mr. Miller stated that he wanted to pay for this but he felt we should look into paying for other trips.

Dr. Pollock stated that he would like to make that an item for an upcoming Finance meeting and would like the historical background.

*The motion passed 9-0.*

9. Submission of Plan Con D & E

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the submission to Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) of PlanCon Part D and PlanCon Part E.*

Mrs. Lynch stated that even though she knew this was required, she was not for this and would be voting no.

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

10. Approval of Bidding Strategy

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Miller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the bidding of the William Tennent High School Addition and Renovation Project using the single prime contractor option and the multiple prime contractor option.*

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that we got an exception to do the single prime contractor option; however, given the business climate we are having the bidding going both ways hoping that this will drive the cost down.

Mrs. Lynch indicated that, with the philosophy she had stated, she would be voting against this. She did not believe the community could afford this.

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

11. 22 Equal Pays – 10-Month Support Staff

*A motion was made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Hezel to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves, effective with the February 13, 2009 pay date, that all 10-month salaried support staff receive paychecks of equal amounts for the remainder of this year. Henceforth, they will be paid in 22 equal biweekly checks.*

Mr. Reinboth stated that this was due to our new software.

Dr. Pollock stated that Mr. Vail had brought this up the previous week and let the Board know what was going to happen. He indicated that they really listen to what people say and encourage community members to come to committee meetings.

*The motion passed 9-0.*

12. Approval of 2009-2010 District Calendar

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Centennial School District calendar for the 2009-2010 school year.*

Dr. Pollock stated that he could not support this for several reasons. He felt there were too many in-service days for clerical reasons and not for school improvement. Although that might be due to the contract, he felt something needed to be done about it. (In particular January 29<sup>th</sup>, which was left over from block scheduling.)

Dr. Pollock pointed out, as was brought up at the Education Committee meeting, the PSSA's in April might be changed to May. There are already half days in April and we lose 1½ days of instructional time for ¾ of our students.

Dr. Pollock stated that, for the above reasons, he could not vote for this calendar.

Mrs. Lynch stated that when the tests were discussed, she felt that the answers they were given were very clear and the scores went up. That is what we are in business for. Many of these items that are in the calendar are contractual and we must honor that.

Mr. Reinboth stated that the only substantive change in this calendar from the preliminary calendar is that both the fall election and the spring primary have been added as school days. Extra steps will be taken for the security of the children at that time.

Dr. Pollock indicated that we already got approval from the teachers union to move two days. He felt that could be done for other days.

Mrs. Huf felt that there were too many polls at the schools. She stated that she would not support any calendar that has the kids in the schools on election day. She would not be supporting this calendar.

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

**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; Mentors; Curriculum Resource Team Members; Co-Curricular; and accepts Award of Tenure.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **OPERATIONS AND POLICIES**

### Initial Distribution:

Mrs. Mueller noted the following policies for initial distribution:

- 5.6 – Ownership of Intellectual Property
- 5.1 - Homework

### Discussion:

#### 2.4 – Housekeeping

There was no discussion on this policy. Mrs. Mueller indicated that it would be moved forward for final approval at the next Board meeting.

#### 2.16 – Support Staff Education/Training Cost Subsidy

Mrs. Homel noted that in Section I., the reimbursement amount was changed from \$150 to \$200.

Mr. Miller asked if that was a contract item. After discussion, it was decided that a specific number was not named in the contract.

### Final Approval:

#### 7.24 – Acceptable Use of Computer Technology

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.24, Acceptable Use of Computer Technology.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **FINANCIAL**

*A motion was made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the:*

- *Schedule of Bills – January 2009*
- *Investments – January 2009*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – January 2009*

*and approves the:*

- *Student Activity/Clearing Funds – October 1 through December 31, 2008*
- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – January 2009*
- *Budget Transfers – February 2009*

Mr. Miller asked why the Class of 2007 still had a balance of \$12,000. Mr. Vail indicated that they just had not spent it down yet and that as classes leave, they often donate the money. That would be a question for Administration.

Mr. Miller asked why interest was not prorated for this. Mr. Vail indicated that he would have to look into that.

Mr. Miller noted that Log's account contained a lot more than those for Klinger and Tennent and questioned why. Mr. Vail replied that they tend to let it build up for something big before they spend it.

*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 – January 13, 2009*

*The motion passed 8-0-1. (Mr. Monaghan abstained since he was absent from that meeting.)*

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

Mrs. Mueller reported that there had been a tour of the elementary schools. She complimented Mr. Lasher and his staff on the upkeep of the buildings. She also complimented the students for how they respect the schools.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mrs. Homel also spoke about the building tour. She reported that the architects from Burt Hill had been in the District for several days and some good meetings had been held.

Mrs. Homel also spoke about the following:

- Senior Sweethearts was very impressive.
- Strategic Planning midpoint review will be brought forward shortly.
- On June 25<sup>th</sup> Tennent will be the site of a 4-state emergency drill.
- The Athletic Hall of Fame was lovely. We are underway for an Academic Hall of Fame. Hopefully after that we will be getting one together for the arts.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Lynch reported that the Education Committee had met the previous evening. She reported on the following:

- Parent survey discussion.
- Update on high school PSSA plan to improve student performance, which was very informative.
- Update on reading and math for MBIT students.
- Update on Gifted K-12. There will be a meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup> for parents.
- The Hall of Fame was discussed.

### Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf reported that there was a meeting the previous evening but she was unable to attend.

Mr. Miller reported that he had attended the meeting. There was \$2 million remaining after the major renovation to the building. There was no bid alternate list so they are trying to do that now to make some massive renovations to the building, with the help of Mrs. Huf's personnel, program and policy committee which has put together some new programs that will be enabled by the renovations. The first step was taken by approving the plans. They will have to go to bid, look at contractors, and speak with architects. They have put the wheels in motion. If all goes well, there will be several new, much-needed programs.

### Intermediate Unit

Mr. Monaghan reported that the next meeting would be held on February 17<sup>th</sup>. He indicated that some dinners and meetings were canceled recently due to the snow.

## **FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Mr. Reinboth reported on the two meetings recently held, indicating that the budget was discussed, as well as items voted on at this meeting. On February 3<sup>rd</sup> there was a special meeting to discuss compensation for the Concessions Manager and the 22 equal pays issue.

The next meeting of this committee will be held on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Mueller reported that a meeting of this committee was held on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. They discussed PlanCon Parts D and E. The construction solicitor was in attendance. The interior design was discussed with the architects. All of this is moving forward.

Also discussed was the PIAA request for February 24<sup>th</sup> at the high school

Mr. Miller stated that we have received notice that they will not need it on that date.

Mr. Lasher indicated that he had given them other dates.

Mrs. Mueller reported that the next meeting would be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Citizens Policy

Mr. Hezel reported that a meeting of this committee was held the previous evening. The policy on homework was reviewed, but no changes were made.

The next meeting will be held on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Lynch indicated that she knew that everyone had read about the Governor's proposal for merging 501 school districts into 100. She felt this was a very interesting proposal, which might have merit for smaller districts but for a district this size she felt it was insane.

Mr. Reinboth stated that we are in about the top 10% of school districts by size.

#### PSBA

Mr. Miller reported that PSBA said it would be coming out with a position statement by April.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

### **ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

### **SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Mrs. Lynch reviewed the schedule. (See Schedule attached hereto.)

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Dr. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn the meeting. The*

*motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary