

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD MAY 26, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

Administration:

Dr. Jennifer Foight-Cressman
Sandy Home1

[Mr. Simpson was absent from this meeting.]

CEA/Teachers:

Public:

See attached listing.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Reinboth announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this meeting relative to personnel issues.

Mr. Reinboth also stated that Mr. Simpson was not able to attend this meeting.

Mrs. Huf thanked everyone who came to the Warminster Parade the previous day.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Outstanding Achievement Award Winners

Mrs. Homel read the nominations regarding each of the award winners. The winners of the Outstanding Achievement Award were as follows:

- Patricia McBride, nurse at Log College Middle School and District nurse coordinator
- Kristy McCulloch, support staff/aide at McDonald Elementary School
- Harry Lipps, support staff, maintenance
- Shannon Martin, teacher at William Tennent High School
- Betty Ann Weiss, support staff/aide at Longstreth Elementary School
- Bridget Gil, librarian at Log College Middle School

Each award winner was presented with a plaque. Mr. Reinboth thanked each of them on behalf of the Board.

Mr. Reinboth called for a short recess at 7:32 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:36 p.m.

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:

- *Education Committee – April 6, 2009*
- *Finance Committee – April 20, 2009*

The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS1. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 19-13

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 19-13 to attend McDonald Elementary School for the 2009-2010 school year.

The motion passed 8-0.

2. Final Approval for Girls' Volleyball Team Trip to Penn State

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval for a trip by the William Tennent High School Girls' Volleyball team to participate in a team competition at Penn State University, University Park, PA from June 24-28, 2009. There is no cost to the District.

The motion passed 8-0.

3. Final Approval for a Trip by Longstreth Elementary School Students to Camp Canadensis

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 students at Longstreth Elementary School to Camp Canadensis, September 16-18, 2009. The cost to the District is not to exceed \$765.00.

The motion passed 8-0.

4. Preliminary Approval for Boys' Basketball Team Trip to Rider University

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 the William Tennent High School Boys' Basketball team to participate in a team competition at Rider University, Lawrenceville, New Jersey, June 26-28, 2009. There is no cost to the District.

The motion passed 8-0.

5. Preliminary Approval for Girls' Basketball Team Trip to Albright College, Reading, 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 the William Tennent High School Girls' Basketball team to participate in the team camp at Albright College, Reading, PA, July 17-29, 2009. There is no cost to the District.

The motion passed 8-0.

6. Approval of Overnight Conferences

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

Bonnie Zuckerman, nurse at Longstreth, and Patricia McBride, nurse/coordinator to attend the National School Nurses Conference in Boston, MA, June 25-26, 2009. The cost to the District is \$1,252.00.

The motion passed 8-0.

7. Food Bid Award – BCIU

A motion was made by Dr. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes Administration to join the BCIU Cooperative Purchasing Group – Food Service Component Subgroup at an annual fee of \$1,000 and to notify BCIU purchasing/bidding staff of the items and estimated volumes that the District will purchase through the consortium during the 2009-2010 school year based on the most advantageous pricing available via that bid award.

Mr. Miller asked if there was a plan or procedure in place to make sure that we were getting the best pricing.

Mr. Reinboth indicated that since Mr. Vail was not present, he would follow up with him.

The motion passed 8-0.

8. Food Quote Award – Tri-County Consortium

A motion was made by Dr. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes Administration to notify Tri-County Consortium officials of the items and estimated volumes that the District will purchase through their recently solicited Food Distributor Supplies quote during the 2009-2010 school year based on the most advantageous pricing available via items awarded to participating distributors. It is expressly understood that items quoted to the Tri County Consortium by participating distributors will be purchased via those participating distributors only if the unit pricing is lower than the pricing obtained via the BCIU Cooperative Purchasing Group – Food Service Component Subgroup bid award.

The motion passed 8-0.

9. 403(b) Plan Investment Offering Modifications

A motion was made by Dr. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board authorizes Mass Mutual Financial Group, per the attached agreement, (the District's 403(b) Plan record keeper) to modify the current plan to delete Wells Fargo Advantage Small Cap Blend and replace with AIM Trimark Small Companies A and delete Fidelity Advisor Leveraged Mid Cap Blend and replace with AIM Mid Cap Core Equity A effective July 1, 2009. These changes are made per the recommendation of the District's 403(b) Plan Consultant, Henderson Brothers, and in consultation with the CSD 403(b) employee committee. These changes are recommended based on the poor performance of these two investment vehicles over the past year and in keeping with District efforts to provide the best available investment options to employees within allowable IRS 403(b) regulations.

The motion passed 8-0.

10. BCIU Room Rental – Hearing Impaired Early Intervention Program

A motion was made by Dr. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the rental of a classroom in the Centennial School District Administration Building to the Bucks County Intermediate Unit for their pre-school hearing impaired program for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years. Rental fee is set at \$17,083 per year for the two year term of the agreement, with all other terms and conditions of the original 2007-2008 lease agreement incorporated therein and adding a provision that the agreement be modified to include a 90 day renewal clause that can be invoked by either party.

Mr. Monaghan stated that he would be voting no on this. It was discussed at the Finance meeting. The I.U. talked about offering \$12,000 to whatever sending district would do this for them. It would be saving the District money, so approving this would be costing the I.U. money.

Mr. Miller disagreed with Mr. Monaghan. He stated that the rate was from two years ago and he did not think that the Board was in a position to reduce the rate. He felt that the rate established was more than fair. He did not think we should be subsidizing the I.U. more than our fair share.

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

11. Approval of Facility Use Waiver

A motion was made by Dr. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Facility Use waiver for the following: Sunday use of the Log College Middle School auditorium by Penn Valley Church for continuation of weekly worship services from the first Sunday in October 2009 through October 2010.

Also requesting use of one room close to the auditorium for child care during the service. There is no cost to the District.

The motion passed 8-0.

12. Approval of Release and Settlement Agreement for Student 2-13

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Release and Settlement Agreement for Student 2-13 to attend Wyncote Academy for the 2009-2010 school year in an amount not to exceed \$23,600.00. The District will provide transportation.

The motion passed 8-0.

13. Resolution Opposing Proposed High School GCA/Keystone Exams

A motion was made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Lynch to resolve that the Centennial School Board opposes the State Board of Education proposals to enact GCA/Keystone Exams and any other regulations or legislation that usurp the authority of local school districts to determine whether their students have earned high school diplomas. This resolution will be shared with the State Board of Education, legislators, including local legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

Mr. Miller explained that what was happening was that the State Department of Education had presented a purchase order to Governor Rendell, which he signed on May 12th, to spend \$210 million to develop these tests which have never been defined or approved and, to a large part of our population, are unnecessary. The fair share to our District, since this is an unfunded mandate, would be about \$680,000 if divided by 500 school districts. If this is divided per student, our share would be well over \$1 million.

Mr. Miller encouraged everyone to contact their state legislators to tell them they are opposed to this.

Mr. Miller read the language of the resolution, which was as follows, to be made part of the motion:

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED
HIGH SCHOOL GCA/KEYSTONE EXAMS
by the Board of School Directors
Centennial School District
May 26, 2009**

WHEREAS, the Centennial School District is currently preparing all students for success in college and the workplace; and

WHEREAS, students who have passed the local proficiency evaluations and have historically experienced placement and success in college could be denied the opportunity to attend even after offers of admission have been granted; and

WHEREAS, in the Centennial School District, students who have not scored Proficient on the PSSA have shown understanding of State standards through a variety of other assessments including portfolios, oral presentations, hands-on demonstrations, and other methods; and

WHEREAS, the PSSAs and local assessments already provide districts with information about students in need of remediation, and another layer of testing will only confirm what is already known; and

WHEREAS, the State, without regulatory change, can extend technical and financial assistance to districts already known to be struggling; and

WHEREAS, verification of the validity of these alternative assessments would be required every six years and would be costly to school districts and administration in both time and money, giving districts no choice but to “voluntarily” use the GCA/Keystone Exams rather than incur the financial burden associated with the validation process; and

WHEREAS, the monies required by the districts for verification of the validity of alternative assessments would require expenditures that would be better spent in classrooms; and

WHEREAS, the criteria for local assessments are undefined and may discourage assessments that would be beneficial for diverse learners; and

WHEREAS, the addition of the GCA/Keystone Exams would reduce the number of instructional days and impose an unreasonable load of high-stakes testing on students who are already facing a burden of stressful standardized tests; and

WHEREAS, the introduction of GCA/Keystone Exams amounts to a state- controlled curriculum that reduces the District’s ability to provide a curriculum based on community needs and desires for education that focuses on developing in students a passion for learning, personal integrity, the pursuit of excellence, and social responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the GCA/Keystone Exams will not measure 21st Century skills employers are seeking and will take away instructional time that should be used for developing skills set in the areas of leadership, collaboration, creativity, and technology; and

WHEREAS, the GCA/Keystone Exams will have continuing economic impact on districts operating under Act 1 fiscal constraints and on taxpayers across the Commonwealth, and these required expenditures have no proof of cost effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the State, having already identified best practices related to local proficiency assessments, can share these methods with all districts without the need to add GCA/Keystone Examinations and related expenses;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors of the Centennial School District opposes the State Board of Education proposals to enact GCA/Keystone Exams and any other regulations or legislation that usurp the authority of local school districts to determine whether their students have earned high school diplomas. This resolution will be shared with the State Board of Education, legislators, including local legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

Secretary, Board of School Directors

President, Board of School Directors

The motion passed 8-0.

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: Resignations, Retirements, Leaves of Absence; Change of Status; Per Diem Substitute Teachers/Nurses; Substitute Support Staff; Extended School Year Teachers; Extended School Year Aides; and Student/Summer Employees.

The motion passed 8-0.

POLICIES

Final Approval:

4.12 – Reserve Funds

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval to the revisions to Policy 4.12 – Reserve Funds.

The motion passed 8-0.

6.5 – Diplomas for World War II Veterans

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval to the revisions to Policy 6.5 – Diplomas for World War II Veterans.

Mrs. Huf stated that at the previous meeting she had asked if anyone had applied yet. Mrs. Homel responded that no one had yet but that Mr. Barth would be putting something in the newsletter.

The motion passed 8-0.

5.13 – Use of Calculators

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval to the revisions to Policy 5.13 – Use of Calculators.

The motion passed 8-0.

7.5 – Staff Development

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval to the revisions to Policy 7.5 – Staff Development.

The motion passed 8-0.

3.28 – Student Health Services

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval to the revisions to Policy 3.28 – Student Health Services.

The motion passed 8-0.

2.24 – Communicable Disease in the Workplace

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval to the revisions to Policy 2.24 – Communicable Disease in the Workplace.

The motion passed 8-0.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Miller explained that there was a new organizational chart which would take effect on July 1st. He asked if there was any transition plan in place. He was particularly concerned about technology.

Mrs. Homel replied that on the organizational chart there were four departments that were reassigned and that some of this was underway.

Mr. Miller stated that over the next 30 days he was particularly concerned that the network side be split from the information side. He wanted to make sure who would be responsible for what as of July 1st.

Mrs. Homel indicated that she would respond in the Friday update.

Mrs. Huf congratulated Leary School, staff and parents on being named a 2009 National School of Character. She stated that it took a lot of work to get recognition and that she would like to see more of this.

Regarding the organizational chart, Mrs. Lynch stated that in the event there is a new Superintendent, she would like to have their input before they are on board.

Mr. Miller pointed out that the organizational chart had already been enacted by the Board. The superintendent search was taken into account at the time. Not all of the changes considered at the time were made because of that.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she recalled the procedure and what occurred but she was stating what she would like to have happened. She felt it should have been postponed. She thought that if there were another vote, it would be different at this time.

Mr. Miller stated that if there was a new Superintendent with different views, they could bring their views to the Board and it could be dealt with at that time.

Mrs. Huf stated that she agreed with Mrs. Lynch. She hoped that down the road they could take another look at it.

Dr. Pollock stated that Quakertown was laying off 26 people and discontinuing all sports below the varsity level. He mentioned other schools doing similar things and indicated that all districts were facing many problems. He felt that if we do not do something, we might be in the same position down the road. He would hate to see us have to do some of the things other schools were having to do.

Mr. Miller supported what Dr. Pollock said.

Mrs. Lynch stated that cutbacks and changes should have happened years ago. The day always comes when you have to pay. We have to do something.

REPORTS

Operations: Mrs. Mueller reported that this committee would meet on June 2nd. Groundbreaking for the high school would be at 4:00 on that day and everyone was invited.

I.U.: Mr. Monaghan reported that there was no quorum for the last meeting so it would be held on Thursday evening.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary