

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
HELD OCTOBER 27, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A Work Session/Regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on October 27, 2009, in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Reinboth at 7:08 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 Homel
Victor Lasher
Wayne Robinson
Dr. Thomas Turnbaugh
Timothy Vail

[Ms. Driban was absent from the 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 labor, legal and real estate matters.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she had received a text message from Ms. Driban, who apologized for missing this meeting and the previous one. She was in Texas for a family emergency.

Mr. Reinboth stated that he and Dr. Turnbaugh had attended the 2010 Teacher of the Year ceremony in Harrisburg. One of the 12 nominees was from Centennial – Rose McKevitt from Davis. Mr. Reinboth congratulated Ms. McKevitt, as well as Jordan Francis, one of her former

students, who had the honor of introducing her. Dr. Turnbaugh commented that he did a heartfelt job.

Mr. Monaghan reported that at the I.U. meeting the previous week, they had been advised that the Intelligencer would not be returning as a sponsor for the regional spelling bee so they were looking for a replacement. The fee was \$4,000 (or two sponsors for \$2,000 each.) If anyone knew of someone who might be interested, they were encouraged to contact us or the I.U. We would like to keep this going. We have sent people to the National Spelling Bee.

PRESENTATIONS

Light the Night

Mrs. Homel gave a Light the Night update. Geri LaGuardia, a 3rd grade teacher at Willow Dale, spoke about Brandon Crosby, whom she had been privileged to teach in his home. He had lost his battle with cancer in May. She spoke about Light the Night, indicating that Team Brandon had raised more than \$10,000.

Presentation of Check by Modells to Centennial Bus Drivers

Wayne Robinson explained that they were raising funds to support the Centennial Education Foundation's annual banquet. They presented a ceremonial check in the amount of \$261.58 to offset the cost of the banquet.

GOOD NEWS

[To be delivered at the next Board Meeting.]

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Judith Braunston of 1455 Nancy Drive, Southampton, questioned whether a meeting had been held with the Supervisors regarding an appraisal on the land in the park.

Mr. Reinboth responded that a meeting had not been held but something would be planned soon.

Mark Witzigman of 960 West Maple Drive, Southampton, stated that he was representing the William Tennent Marching Band Association and was the Chairman of the Celebration of Bands. He thanked the Board and the Administration for the Celebration of Bands and the help they received that evening. In spite of the construction and the rainy weather, they had an extremely successful celebration this year. He also asked for suggestions and help with getting more students involved.

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 – August 10, 2009; September 21, 2009*
- *Operations Committee – September 1, 2009*

The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Miller asked that Policy 5.14 be moved up. There was concurrence of the Board to do so. Therefore, this item became Item #1 of New Business.

1. Policy 5.14 – Volunteers

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Monaghan to resolve that the Centennial School Board pass the following resolution: WHEREAS, on April 28, 2009, the Board of School Directors amended Policy 5.14 respecting volunteers; and WHEREAS, implementation of the policy requirements has resulted in some unanticipated confusion; NOW, therefore, be it resolved that Policy 5.24 be temporarily restored to its previous language adopted on March 9, 2004.

Mrs. Mueller stated that Board members had received many phone calls and e-mails regarding this policy. She explained that it was never the Board's intention to ruin the spirit of volunteerism. Mrs. Mueller read a letter written by the solicitor, dated October 23, 2009, which she requested be made a part of these Minutes. (The letter from Michael I. Levin, Esquire, is attached hereto and made a part hereof.)

Mrs. Mueller stated that the Board apologized for the stress that had been put on the teachers, parents and students over the past few weeks. They did not intend for this to happen. They Board would suspend this policy and reinstate the previous policy until a new one could be written.

Mary Alice Brancato of 236 Kipling Drive, Warminster, stated that while she agreed that we have to keep our children safe, she thought this policy was over the top, which was what the Board had acknowledged. She asked how this policy had gotten passed in the first place.

Glen Nagle of 527 Spencer Lane, Warminster, stated that, as a parent, he went through all the tests. He stressed how much the field trips mean to the children and stated that he did not want to see trips taken away from them.

Mr. Reinboth stated that the Board was taking steps to rescind the policy and come up with a policy that would meet reasonable needs.

The motion passed 8-0.

2. Preliminary Approval of WTHS Students' Trip to Quebec, June 24, -28, 2010

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 students at William Tennent High School to Quebec, Canada from June 24 to June 28, 2010. There is no cost to the District.

The motion passed 8-0.

3. Approval of Contracted Service Providers

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves engaging the following contracted service providers for the 2009-2010 school year: Michael Herman – Alternate Concession Manager; Melissa Stefanowski – Alternate Stadium Manager. The above action supplements prior action of April 28, 2009.

The motion passed 8-0.

4. Approval of Cafeteria Fund Payments on Hold

A motion was made by Dr. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves payment of the following Cafeteria Fund checks presently on hold in compliance with Policy 7.27 (Payment of Bills):

<i>Check #4787</i>	<i>10/21/09</i>	<i>\$18,974.68</i>	<i>Cream-O-Land</i>
<i>Check #4801</i>	<i>10/21/09</i>	<i>\$10,125.58</i>	<i>US FoodService</i>
<i>Check #4802</i>	<i>10/21/09</i>	<i>\$ 3,726.74</i>	<i>US FoodService</i>

The motion passed 8-0.

5. Upper Southampton Township Tax Collector Audit

A motion was made by Dr. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves engagement of Barbacane Thornton & Company of Wilmington, Delaware to conduct an audit of Upper Southampton Township Tax Collector William J. Kerins for the period July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 per the terms and conditions of the attached engagement letter at a cost not to exceed \$3,400.00.

The motion passed 8-0.

6. Reopen 2009-2010 Budget

A motion was made by Dr. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Miller to resolve that the Centennial School Board, in compliance with PA Legislature guidelines, hereby reopens the 2009-2010 General Fund Budget to make the following changes to budgeted state subsidy revenues based on the late adoption of the state budget on October 9, 2009:

<u>Subsidy</u>	<u>Current CSD Budget 2009-10</u>	<u>Adopted Commonwealth</u>	<u>Budget Difference</u>
Basic Subsidy	\$12,278,075*	\$11,762,195	-\$515,880
Special Education	\$ 2,859,357	\$ 2,859,344	-\$ 13
Charter Schools	\$ 142,929	\$ 129,413	-\$ 13,516
Accountability Block Grant	Included in Basic Subsidy	\$ 515,880	+\$515,880
Net Difference			-\$13,529

Mr. Reinboth explained that it was appropriate to reopen our budget so that we have the money in the appropriate categories as approved by the state.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she would vote for this because it was appropriate to insert the state’s figures but she felt this was only an accounting procedure. However, she voted against the budget and would still vote against the budget.

Mr. Hezel asked if Finance discussed how we would make up this difference.

Mr. Reinboth responded that they did not, that they were merely allocating the money.

Dr. Turnbaugh explained that there were many things in the budget that were not accurate and that would be a function of the fund balance.

The motion passed 8-0.

7. Naming of the Stadium

A motion was made by Dr. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves continuing with the name of Alumni Stadium for the William Tennent High School stadium.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she had three issues with this, as follows:

- (1) According to Policy 1.2, all items on the agenda should have sufficient documentation backup to support informed decision-making by the Board. There was no backup provided.
- (2) Policy 4.11, Naming Rights, states that the community and school employees recognize the purview of the Board to approve naming rights to facilities and events

throughout the District. She read the procedure that was to be used for this, which was not done.

(3) When the Board undertook the financing for the stadium, it borrowed from the General Fund and made a commitment to the community that that stadium would not be on the backs of the taxpayers, that fundraising would be done.

Mrs. Mueller suggested that these policies be followed. If it was the will of the Board to name the stadium “Alumni Stadium” and no funds would be received for the name, then there should be a motion to that effect. Said motion would need to reflect that this was no longer a loan but rather that the taxpayers will be footing the bill for the rest of the stadium.

Dr. Pollock stated that what the Board seemed to be doing was everything for financing and forgetting education and students. He felt that the goodwill of the community and the Alumni Association was more important than the few dollars we would get to put into the coffers for the stadium. He thought it was time to get back to education, rather than finances.

Mrs. Huf stated that one thing people did not understand was why they were being asked to pay to have this named after the alumni. She did not have a problem supporting this. She agreed with Dr. Pollock.

Mrs. Lynch agreed. She felt that if we couldn’t afford the stadium, we shouldn’t have built it.

Mr. Miller stated that he would probably support Dr. Pollock’s motion and would agree with recognizing the alumni although he was not sure that recognizing the alumni should be through the stadium since they were not all involved in athletics.

Mrs. Huf stated that she did not think naming it Alumni Stadium meant it was only for sports people because alumni attended sporting events and were involved in all aspects of the District.

Mr. Reinboth stated that, as a non-sports alumni, he would support this. He suggested that we reference the policies that Mrs. Mueller mentioned that we would be granting exceptions to.

Mr. Miller felt that we should follow our own policies.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she was not saying that she was opposing this, just the process. She felt it did not have to be passed at this meeting since this was a work session.

Mr. Hezel stated that he was for the Alumni Association and naming it that; however, he felt this needed to go through the naming rights policy process. He did not feel they would have any problem getting Board support if they went through that process.

Mrs. Huf suggested adding an exception to the policy to the motion.

Dr. Pollock stated that we were talking about \$50,000 to \$75,000 over ten years to come up with fundraising for \$3 million. He felt that the community was sold a bill of goods and that this was not going to happen – we are not going to come up with \$3 million over ten or 20 years. We want to offset as much as we can but the goodwill of the alumni and the community is much more important than \$5,000 per year.

Mr. Miller stated that he would not disagree with Dr. Pollock in terms of the numbers. If we put this out again in two years, we could probably get something closer to \$150,000 to \$200,000. The real issue was that we have a policy that we should follow.

Mrs. Huf stated that she voted for the stadium because she was told we had the money. Now we are being told we don't have it.

A motion to table was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Hezel.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<i>Dr. Pollock</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Miller</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Monaghan</i>	<i>No</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. Reinboth</i>	<i>No</i>

The motion to table failed 3-5.

A recess was called at 8:31 pm. The meeting resumed at 8:41 p.m.

Dr. Pollock and Mrs. Huf, as the mover and seconder of the motion, respectively, agreed to amend the motion to read as follows: to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the naming of the William Tennent High School Stadium as "Alumni Stadium" and waives all applicable board policy, including but not limited to Policies 4.1.1 and 1.2.

Mr. Miller stated that he believed this was an illegal motion because it increased indebtedness.

Mr. Reinboth stated that he did not believe it increased indebtedness but rather it would slow down repayment.

Mr. Monaghan stated that there were several statements that were not factual. The original stadium was supposed to be \$2.5 million. It came in at \$3.4 million. The \$900,000 is what we would have fundraising for. With the old stadium, we would have

had to put in new stands because of ADA requirements, as well as bathrooms. We would also have had to do the retention basin, which we were not counting on. So we would have had to spend \$2.5 million anyway. Each year that we would have had to bring our old stadium up to par would have cost us money. We were having many injuries occur.

Mr. Reinboth stated that the size of the restroom facilities was a lot larger than was anticipated.

Mrs. Lynch stated that the bottom line was that we spent over \$3 million.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<i>Mr. Hezel</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Lynch</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Monaghan</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Miller</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Dr. Pollock</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Reinboth</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed 5-3.

8. Facility use Waiver

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Miller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the waiver of the stadium rental fee for use of the William Tennent High School track by the Warminster Township Police for a physical fitness assessment test for police candidate screening on Saturday, November 7, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. No other facilities will be used. The cost to the District is approximately \$1,150.00.

The motion passed 8-0.

9. Approval of Overnight Conferences

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

- A. *Dr. Donna Dunar, principal at Leary Elementary School, Best Practices in Character Education from the Principal's Perspective, November 16, 2009, St. Louis, Missouri. There is no cost to the District.*
- B. *Dr. Jenny Foight-Cressman, Director of Teaching and Learning, PSSA/AYP Reports Workshop, October 28, 2009, State College, PA. The cost to the District is \$125.00.*

Mrs. Mueller stated that she wanted to divide the motion.

The motion was divided, so that a vote was taken on Item A only.

The motion as to Item A passed 8-0.

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

Dr. Jenny Foight-Cressman, Director of Teaching and Learning, PSSA/AYP Reports Workshop, October 28, 2009, State College, PA. The cost to the District is \$125.00.

The motion passed 8-0.

10. Approval of Revision to Policy 5.7, Reporting Student Progress – Elementary Changes

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves a revision to Policy 5.7, Reporting Student Progress, per the attached memo, due to changes in the elementary report card.

The motion passed 8-0.

11. Approval of Agreement with CGA Law Firm

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves securing the services of CGA Law Firm in accordance with CGA Law Firm's Letter of Engagement dated October 21, 2009.

The motion passed 7-0-1. (Mr. Monaghan abstained.)

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 the following: Resignations, Retirements, Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Per Diem Substitute Teachers/Nurses; Substitute Support Staff; Substitute Bus Drivers/Trainees; Mentors; Homebound Tutors; Student Work/Study Employees; and Co-Curricular.

The motion passed 8-0.

POLICIES

Initial Distribution:

Mrs. Mueller noted the following policies for initial distribution:

- Policy 2.20 – Support Staff – Evaluation and Rating
- Policy 3.9 – Corporal Punishment/Reasonable Force
- Policy 3.27 – Retention
- Policy 3.29 – District Financial Support for Student Trips to Competitive Events

Mr. Monaghan mentioned that there was an opening for a citizen advisor on the Citizens Policy Committee.

Discussion:

Policy 2.23 – Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace

Mrs. Homel indicated that there were housekeeping changes to this policy. There was no further discussion.

Policy 7.7 – Participation in Non-School Community Activities

Mrs. Homel noted that some of the language in this policy had been clarified and updated.

Policy 7.10 – Special Transportation Within Walking Zones

There was no discussion on this policy.

Final Approval:

Policy 1.3 – Centennial School Board Organization and Board Director Responsibilities

A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Miller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 1.3, Centennial School Board Organization and Board Director Responsibilities.

Mr. Miller stated that he did not think the policies should be taken lightly. He wanted to be able to look back and see who voted how on which policies.

Dr. Pollock read Section I. A. 2. c., which stated, in part, that “Board Directors have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board” and stated that he wished Board members would do that and follow that policy because he thought that was violated a number of times.

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>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Lynch</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Hezel</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Reinboth</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed 8-0.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Policy 5.4 - Volunteers

[This item was discussed earlier in the meeting under “New Business.”]

REPORTS

Mr. Miller reported that the Celebration of Bands was a very nice event and commended everyone who worked to put it together.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she had gone to a conference and would have a report completed by the next Board meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Reinboth reported that Boys Varsity Soccer had won in the first round of playoffs.

Mr. Monaghan stated that members of the Leary and Willow Dale Home and School had asked some questions at the Operations meeting, to which he had answers, including the following:

- Timeline of the renovation – 6/10 – 8/11.
- Timeline for new building to open – 9/11
- It was to be determined where Willow Dale students would be during the renovations. There would be a meeting on 12/7.
- It was to be determined what would happen to the building and grounds if Leary closed, as well as where Leary students would end up. This would also be discussed at 12/7 meeting.
- Committee has taken into consideration decline in enrollment – no decisions made.
- As to committee posting meeting minutes on website – they will be posted after approval. A synopsis will be posted as soon as possible.
- The community asked if the committee would actually listen to what the community wants in this process. Mr. Monaghan’s response was that we have not done anything on this formally and he has asked for this to happen.

Dr. Turnbaugh stated that administratively they had not developed a procedure to post synopses of meetings and that they were very uncomfortable doing that until Minutes are approved.

Mrs. Mueller stated that they had all been asking that things get up on the web as soon as they are approved. Their committee had taken a lot of community input. They would use the same process as for the high school. Community members were always welcome at committee meetings.

Mrs. Lynch stated that they were fortunate to be invited to the Willow Dale Home & School as it was a good time to be able to address some of the issues.

Mrs. Homel stated that she had received a call from MBIT regarding the December 7th meeting. They will send a team for that night.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie A. Detwiler
Board Secretary