

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
HELD APRIL 13, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Regular Meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on April 13, 2010 in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Reinboth at 7:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The following Board members were in attendance:

Kati Driban	Jane Schrader Lynch
Michael Hartline	Mark B. Miller
Thomas Hezel	Cynthia Mueller
Betty Huf	Thomas Reinboth

Dr. Pollock arrived at the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

The following Administration members were in attendance at the meeting:

Dr. Jennifer Foight-Cressman	Dr. Thomas Turnbaugh
Susan Klyman	Timothy Vail
Victor Lasher	

Additional meeting attendees are listed on the attached sheets.

**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 and real estate matters.

Mr. Reinboth stated that he thought Dr. Pollock would be joining the meeting a little later.

## **GOOD NEWS**

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

## **STUDENT REPORTS**

Dylan Malitski reported on the following items at Tennent:

- The success of the musical, *Footloose*.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade dance was also successful
- The FBLA was currently at the state competition.
- 13 students recently returned from a trip to Italy.
- PSSA's for Juniors were currently taking place.
- The Junior Prom would be on April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The SADD lockin would take place at the end of the week.
- Dinner for those who serve would take place on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Liz Camacho reported on the following items at MBIT:

- Skills USA state competitions would take place the following week.
- The Senior recognition ceremony would be held on June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The last day of school would be June 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The student-built house was for sale and bid packets were available.
- Sale Extreme and Aspirations Restaurant were open to the public.
- The Multimedia Technology Program was nationally recognized as the Apple Exemplary Program of 2009.
- The MBIT construction carpentry and electricity and networking cabling programs had just received a full endorsement by the Pennsylvania Builders Association.

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Approval of Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 7-20

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18 to allow Student 7-20 to remain at Stackpole Elementary School for the remainder of the 2009-10 school year. The family will provide transportation.*

*The motion passed 8-0.*

2. Approval of Last Day of School and Graduation Date

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Lynch to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves setting the last day of school for all students and the graduation date for seniors at William Tennent High School for Friday, June 18, 2010.*

*The motion passed 7-0-1. (Mr. Miller opposed.)*

3. Curtailement of the Mathematics for Proficiency Program

*A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves curtailing the middle school Mathematics for Proficiency program at Klinger and Log College Middle Schools, effective the 2010-2011 school year.*

Mrs. Mueller stated that she was supporting this with a lot of reservation. She asked that this be watched carefully and if we start to lose students, then Administration should be alerted immediately and possibly funds could be found to put something back in place.

Dr. Turnbaugh stated that it was currently the Board's directive to reduce expenditures. It was not possible to do that without reducing programs and services within the District.

Mr. Miller stated that he encouraged Administration to continue to look at ways to cut costs without cutting programs because there were ways that Administration refused to look at.

*The motion passed 7-0-1. (Ms. Driban opposed.)*

4. PSBA School Design & Construction Conference

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Ms. Driban to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the attendance of Mark B. Miller at the PSBA School Design & Construction Conference in Lancaster, PA from May 6, 2010 to May 7, 2010 at a cost to the District of approximately \$375.00.*

*The motion passed 7-0-1. (Mrs. Lynch opposed.)*

5. Installment Payments of Real Estate Property Taxes

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mrs. Lynch to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the installment payment of real estate property taxes for approved homestead/farmstead property owners in compliance with the Taxpayers Relief Act of 2006 (Act 1) effective July 1, 2010. Three even installment payments are*

*hereby approved totaling the face amount of each tax bill which shall remain in effect until such time as changed by the Board of School Directors. Deadline dates for each installment payment are as follows:*

*September 1  
October 15  
November 30*

*Failure to remit the second installment payment (postmarked by October 15) shall mean that the remaining face amount of the tax due must be made by the end of the face period. In such instances, failure to pay the balance due by the end of the face period shall result in the full 10% penalty permitted by law being assessed on the remaining amount due. The Board further directs that the local elected tax collectors bill for and collect said installment payments and that each tax bill sent out clearly defines the amount and deadline date for each installment payment. Tax collectors shall be compensated at the rate of \$2.75 each for the second and third payments received by those taxpayers electing to pay under the installment program. Tax collectors shall be required to itemize each installment payment in a form acceptable to the District's Business Administrator and tax collector compensation shall occur in the month following the due date of the second and third installment payments provided adequate documentation has been submitted to enable the District to determine billing and collection has occurred.*

Mr. Miller stated that Board members had received a letter from Bob Tate of Warminster Township and he had spoken with him earlier that day. They requested that consideration be given to tabling this matter to the next meeting because there were some things they were not aware of at the time they made the request.

Mrs. Lynch stated that she had spoken to the Warminster Supervisors that were aware of that letter and she did not feel there was any reason to table.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Huf to change November 30<sup>th</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup>.*

Mrs. Lynch stated that she believed that November 30<sup>th</sup> was a hardship and that November 15<sup>th</sup> should be a proper timeframe for everything to work well.

Mrs. Huf stated that she supported that date.

Mr. Miller stated that this was discussed at great length at the Finance Committee. When the November 30<sup>th</sup> date was adopted, it was already a compromise. Several other school districts were proposing November 30<sup>th</sup> or even December 15<sup>th</sup> as the date. Mr. Tate was not aware of districts already having later dates. He was not aware of the District having bought software last year that would expedite getting bills out and that other school districts could take advantage of that at no cost. He spoke of other concerns, such as postage, and asked if there was time to table this motion.

Mrs. Huf stated that she would like to hear from our tax collectors, one of whom was present at the meeting, because she supported changing this.

Dr. Pollock arrived at the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Mrs. Lynch stated that the e-mail was sent out by Mr. Tate via instructions of the Board of Supervisors chairperson. He was the vehicle for the Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Reinboth stated that the availability of installment payments for school taxes became available due to Act 1. It was his opinion that the final payment date of November 30<sup>th</sup> gave the taxpayers a little bit of a break to choose installment payments.

Bobbi Loftus, tax collector, asked the Board to reconsider changing November 30<sup>th</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup>. Final notices go out on November 15<sup>th</sup>. These let homeowners know that the taxes have not been paid by the mortgage company. December 15<sup>th</sup> was too late. Due to the final notices, she collected a lot more money. Also, December 15<sup>th</sup> is the last day that a taxpayer can pay with a personal check.

Mr. Reinboth asked if late notices could go out right after November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Loftus explained that reports were due the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month so she could not send late notices until after that. The bottom line was that she preferred November 15<sup>th</sup>.

James Fluehr of 169 Marian Avenue, Southampton, (the newly-elected tax collector for Southampton) stated that he concurred with Mrs. Loftus. He noted that in his township there were a lot of elderly people. He felt these bills should go out on November 15<sup>th</sup>; otherwise it would seem that they were hammering the residents.

Cathy Faas of 126 Clover Circle, Southampton, stated that she had come out to support the tax collectors. She hoped that the Board would support them. She felt that the tax collectors really knew their business.

Mr. Miller was concerned that November 15<sup>th</sup> did not meet the spirit of Act 1 where we are trying to give a break to the consumer. He asked if November 23<sup>rd</sup> could be considered.

Mrs. Lynch felt that the tax collectors had presented a good case and that they were the people who dealt with the taxpayers.

*A roll call vote was taken as follows on the amendment to the motion:*

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

<i>Ms. Driban</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Hartline</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Hezel</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Huf</i>	<i>Yes</i>

*The motion to amend passed 7-2.*

*The amended motion passed 8-1. (Mr. Reinboth opposed.)*

6. Use of Facilities Exception

*A motion was made by Mr. Hezel and seconded by Ms. Driban to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Facility Use waiver for the following: BSA Troop 5 of Southampton requests a 50% reduction in fees for use of the Klinger Middle School pool on Monday, May 10, 2010 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for the BSA Swim Test and recreational swim. The cost to the District is approximately \$29.00.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

7. Change Order Approval

*A motion was made by Mr. Hezel and seconded by Mr. Miller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves change orders 049, 055 and 056 for a credit of \$7,098.22 for the WTHS Additions and Renovations Project.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

8. PlanCon F Submission

*A motion was made by Mr. Hezel and seconded by Mr. Hartline to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the submission of PlanCon Part F for the Region 3 Elementary School to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

9. PlanCon F Board Agreement

*A motion was made by Mr. Hezel and seconded by Ms. Driban to resolve that the Centennial School Board certifies to the following:*

- 1. The Board will not enter into construction contracts until it has received written approval for PlanCon Part F, Construction Documents, from the Department of Education.*
- 2. The Board of School Directors has obtained, or will obtain, all necessary approvals from local, regional, and state agencies relating to health, safety,*

*design, planning highway access, and freedom from flooding and subsidence, prior to entering into construction contracts.*

3. *The Board acknowledges that failure to obtain the requisite approvals prior to entering into construction contracts may be sufficient cause for the Department of Education to revoke its approval for this project. If approval is revoked, the project will not be reimbursed by the Commonwealth.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

10. Preliminary and Final Approval of Trip by WTHS Music Students to Pittsburgh, Pa, April 21-24, 2010

*A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary and final approval for a trip by music students at William Tennent High School to the Pennsylvania Music Educators All State Festival/Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, April 21-24, 2010. The cost to the District is approximately \$1,100.00.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

11. Approval of Organizational Chart

*A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Organizational Chart, effective July 1, 2010, as listed on the attached supplement.*

Mr. Miller asked why the symbolic keystone of this chart, the community, had been removed. He stated that he had not been happy with the way the District had been communicating with the community and bypassing the Board.

Dr. Turnbaugh replied that he believed that question had been asked before and he had responded to the Board. It was part of a conversation with Mr. Levin, who brought up that the community is not a part of the organization and it was his recommendation that the community not be a part of the chart. It should be reflective of the Board and the employees under the Board.

*A roll call vote was taken as follows:*

<i>Mr. Miller</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mrs. Mueller</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Dr. Pollock</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Reinboth</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Driban</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mr. Hartline</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Hezel</i>	<i>Yes</i>

*Mrs. Huf*                      *Yes*  
*Mrs. Lynch*                   *Yes*

*The motion passed 6-3.*

**PERSONNEL**

*A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth 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/Nurses; Substitute Support Staff; Substitute Bus Drivers/Trainees; Lead Teacher Centennial Academy Elementary Summer Academic Program; Centennial Academy Elementary Summer Academic Program; and Co-Curricular.*

Mrs. Mueller noted that there was a resignation on the list for Mrs. Detwiler. She asked how long she had served the District.

Mrs. Detwiler responded that it had been 14 years.

Mrs. Mueller thanked Mrs. Detwiler for the outstanding job she had done for all the years in all the Minutes, stating that before she was even a member of the Board she could always go to the library and pick up the Minutes and know what happened at a meeting. She felt it was really important to the community for the job Mrs. Detwiler had done for all those people who could not attend the meetings. She thanked Mrs. Detwiler and stated that it was with a heavy heart that she would have to accept this resignation. She was tempted to say no.

Mrs. Huf stated that she had sat next to Mrs. Detwiler for most of the 14 years and she had enjoyed working with her and next to her. She would like to refuse this tonight but, of course, she couldn't.

Mrs. Lynch thanked Mrs. Detwiler, stating that her Minutes had been absolutely wonderful in the over six years that she had been on the Board.

*The motion passed 9-0.*

**OPERATIONS AND POLICIES**

Discussion:

5.9 – Animals in the Classroom for Educational Purposes

There was discussion on this item.



### 3.11 – Prohibiting Discrimination in Education

Ms. Driban felt that this needed to go back to be rewritten because the go-to person was the Assistant Superintendent.

Dr. Turnbaugh stated that there were such designations in all the policies in the District. This could be done by direction of the Board rather than reviewing each and every policy. He recommended that the Board authorize Administration to make such changes.

Mr. Hezel stated that he would not suggest that all of the policies be reviewed and cleaned up at this point. He felt that when these were split out with PSBA, they would get cleaned up at that time.

Mr. Miller felt that this should be reviewed by the solicitor since there was a basis in law and since changes had been made.

Dr. Pollock stated that all that was being changed were some titles.

Mrs. Mueller felt that this policy had not been reviewed for six years so maybe it should be reviewed to make sure that nothing had occurred that should be included.

Dr. Turnbaugh's recommendation was to delay approval until we received PSBA-approved policies.

Mr. Miller stated that PSBA still recommended that we have our solicitor review policies.

Dr. Turnbaugh stated that we are still subject to law even if it was not in our policies.

Mrs. Mueller stated that she still felt this should be reviewed by the solicitor.

### 3.16 – Hazing

Ms. Driban stated that she felt this policy should be reviewed by the solicitor.

Mrs. Huf said she believed that when this policy was entered, it was reviewed by the solicitor at that time.

Ms. Driban felt that since things change all the time, it should be reviewed.

Mrs. Mueller wondered if technologic developments that had occurred could be interpreted as hazing and whether this should be inquired into.

Mr. Hezel felt this might be covered under harassment.

Mrs. Lynch felt that having a solicitor's opinion was not a bad idea.

### 3.4 – Student Trips

Ms. Driban questioned why the solicitor was being removed in two places.

Mr. Hezel explained that a lot of the changes were by the Administrative Policy Committee.

Dr. Turnbaugh stated that it was removed because it was not complied with. He also asked the solicitor about Section II. 5.e. 1 & 2 and it appears that they are discriminatory in that you cannot require students to have insurance. You cannot prohibit students from going on field trips because the parents cannot afford insurance. The solicitor indicated that this was not legal.

Regarding Section III.A.i, Mrs. Mueller questioned what if the Home & School Association decided to provide the bus (for a second trip.)

Dr. Turnbaugh stated that it was his understanding that this was to limit exposure and expense to the District.

Mrs. Mueller asked Administration to come up with suitable language.

### 3.23 – Solicitation

Ms. Driban stated that she strongly objected to removing the word “written” from Section IV, even if it was just an e-mail.

### Final Approval:

#### 2.2 – Professional Personnel Placement, Assignment and Transfer

*A motion was made by Mr. Hezel and seconded by Ms. Driban to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 2.2, Professional Personnel Placement, Assignment and Transfer.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

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

*A motion was made by Mr. Hezel and seconded by Ms. Driban to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 2.16, Support Staff Education/Training Cost Subsidy.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **FINANCIAL**

*A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mr. Hartline to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the:*

- *Schedule of Bills – March 2010*
- *Investments – March 2010*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – March 2010*

*and approves the:*

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer's Report – March 2010*
- *Budgetary Transfers – April 2010*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Minutes of the:*

- *Work Session/Regular Board Meeting – February 23, 2010*

*The motion passed 8-0-1. (Ms. Driban abstained.)*

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

### District Goals – 2010-2011

Mr. Miller stated that he would like to see technology addressed specifically. He felt we were lagging and would like to achieve more with less money.

Mr. Hezel stated that he would like to see paperless Board meetings and communications.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that she would like to see this as a goal.

Mr. Miller stated that in looking back he saw things that had not been done yet for the year. He asked if we were behind on certain things or if things were not coming to the Board that had come to them before.

Dr. Pollock stated that issues would be coming forward in routine order.

## **REPORTS**

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Dr. Turnbaugh reported that there were two topics of discussion: curtailment of the math proficiency program at the middle school level and a proposal presented by a team of

teacher and administrators from the high school to make modifications to the current alternative education program. It was well received; however, we will have to wait to see which programs are funded in next year's budget to determine if we are going to be making any modifications to the program.

Dr. Foight-Cressman noted that it was being forwarded to Finance for further discussion regarding the fiscal note attached to it.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Reinboth reported that the Finance Committee had discussed installment plan dates for tax payments. They also discussed potential reductions throughout the District. Board members were reviewing this list.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Hezel reported that the committee had discussed the ongoing high school construction, as well as paperless Board meetings and Friday updates.

#### Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Mrs. Huf reported on items from the previous evening's meeting, as follows:

- Pennsylvania Builders Association accreditation for our student-built home.
- The Media Technology program's recognition by Apple.
- Update on renovation project.

#### Intermediate Unit

Mr. Hartline reported on the following items from the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- Celebration of student art collection.
- Authorized purchase and lease of new vans.

#### PSBA Liaison

Mrs. Lynch reported as follows:

- A conference was scheduled for April 25-26 regarding the pension crisis. She felt that it would be interesting if someone could attend.
- A cabinet meeting was scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> for liaisons.
- The Bux-Mont Regional Director would finish this term but would not seek another.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Pollock read an e-mail that he received, which he requested be inserted into the Minutes verbatim:

April 9, 2010

Dear Board of Education, Administration, and Teaching Staff:

The purpose of this e-mail is to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Centennial School District. This is a message that is long overdue.

In this difficult educational climate, I felt the need to tell you how truly remarkable my educational experience was while I attended the various schools in your district. I know that I am not alone in feeling this. In discussions over the years regarding this topic, the vast majority of folks who graduated during the time period in which I graduated share this sentiment. Those who did not have the opportunity to attend your schools often stand back in amazement when they are informed of what I learned while going to William Tennent in particular.

As both a mother of four children (aged 16, 13, 5, and 4) and as an educator, I often reflect upon the literary, mathematical, scientific, artistic, and social experiences in which we were frequently engaged as students of the Centennial School District. They were rich beyond compare. No, I was not an AP student; I was academically "average" in my coursework, but yet we still read *Waiting for Godot*, we still discussed Machiavelli, and we still conducted scientific experiments that were above some college level experiences. With the assistance of the fine teachers of your district, my friends and sisters all became thoughtful and creative people who are contributing to our society. Your district treated all students in a fair and ethical manner, and it shows in its ever-expanding learned student body (past and present). The hard work and dedication your staff put in over the years is now mirrored in my own work as an educator.

In the next few weeks, I look forward to testifying at the New Jersey state budget hearings regarding education. I now reside in New Jersey. As I am sure you are aware, the state of New Jersey is going through a very difficult economic time period with regard to educational funding. I will fight to make sure my own students, and all of the students throughout the state, receive the quality education I grew up with as standard practice. I suppose what I am trying to urge you to do is to never forget how a rigorous and diverse curricula can impact your students. I know it has had a lasting impact on me.

Thank you,

Noelle Jacquelin

Director of Curriculum & Instruction/Principal

Dennis Township School District

M.Ed.-Curriculum, Instruction, & Technology

M.Ed.-Educational Administration

Ed.D.(ABD)-Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Contributing author: *Ethical Educational Leadership in Turbulent Times*

**ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Hartline to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

---

Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary