



## *Centennial School District Education Committee of the Board*

**Meeting of September 22, 2008**

### **Minutes**

#### ***Attendance:***

#### **Board**

Thomas Hezel\*\*  
Betty Huf  
Mark Miller  
Michael Monaghan  
Cynthia Mueller  
Andrew Pollock\*\*\*  
Thomas Reinboth  
Jane Schrader-Lynch\*  
Joseph Simpson\*\*

#### **Administrators**

Michael Devitt  
Jennifer Foight-Cressman  
Sandy Homel  
Susan Klyman  
Eileen Poroszok  
Robert Reed

#### **Staff**

Amy Campbell  
Joanne Frances Danna  
Cheryl Lyman  
Heather Stek  
Michael Tennyson  
Philip Vinogradov  
Lori Warren

#### **Community**

Barb Patrick  
Robert Shaffer

- \* Chair
- \*\* Committee member
- \*\*\* Alternate committee member

#### ***WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS***

Mrs. Schrader Lynch opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

Mr. Hezel moved to approve the minutes from June 10, 2008. Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved in a vote of 3-0.

#### ***INTRODUCTION OF THE LEAD TEACHERS AND DISCUSSION OF GOALS***

Dr. Foight-Cressman was delighted to introduce our Lead Teacher Team to our Directors. The lead teachers for 2008-09 are:

- Mrs. Joanne Frances Danna, Literacy Lead Teacher, K-5
- Mrs. Lori Warren, Reading Lead Teacher, 6-12
- Ms. Mary Corcoran, English Lead Teacher, 6-12
- Mr. Michael Tennyson, Mathematics Lead Teacher, K-5
- Mrs. Heather Stek, Mathematics Lead Teacher, 6-12
- Mr. Philip Vinogradov, Science Lead Teacher, K-12

Each lead teacher gave a brief overview of his or her goals for the 2008-09 school year. Common goals included: providing leadership and vision, lending content area expertise,

providing inspirational professional development, building teacher knowledge to promote student mastery of PSSA eligible content and standards, and being visible and active curricular leaders in each of our schools.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch thanked the Lead Teacher Team for their enthusiasm, excitement, and energy. She also requested that the lead teachers appear before the Education Committee periodically to give updates on their work.

#### *CLASSROOMS FOR THE FUTURE UPDATE*

Mrs. Cheryl Lyman, Centennial's William Tennent High School Classrooms for the Future (CFF) coach, presented an update to the Education Committee on the CFF grant and discussed her goals as the CFF coach for the 2008-09 school year.

Centennial received \$183,233 in grant funding to purchase technological tools to outfit twenty-one classrooms with laptops, projectors, interactive whiteboards, a webcam, speakers, and a digital camera. Centennial School District also received an additional \$30,000 to subsidize the half-time coach position.

Teacher response has been extremely positive, and more than twenty-one teachers have volunteered to be a CFF classroom teacher. In addition to these volunteers, other WTHS teachers have also requested to take the 30-hour professional development course. Professional Wednesdays will be offered in October, November, and December to orient teachers to new pedagogical techniques.

Equipment orders will be placed by September 30. Installation and implementation is scheduled to begin in January 2009.

Students in inclusion classes, as well as students attending Dorothy Henry Satellite School, will benefit from the grant.

The entire Centennial community is excited about the transformative possibilities this grant opens for our high school students. Mrs. Schrader Lynch praised Mrs. Lyman's initial efforts and requested that she appear before the Education Committee throughout the year to provide periodic updates on the CFF implementation and the experiences of our students and teachers.

#### *SKYWARD UPDATE*

Mr. Robert Reed and Mrs. Amy Campbell were present to provide an update on the successful first implementation phase of our new Skyward Student Information System. Scheduling, attendance-taking, and grade book features are all proceeding smoothly due to their leadership and the hard work of the technology associates in each of our schools.

Teacher response has been extremely positive, as they are finding the system to be intuitive and easy to use. Teachers have commented that the response time of Skyward is greatly improved over the previous system. Teachers received professional development on Skyward on the June 16 and 17 in-service days, throughout the summer at "Wednesdays with

Skyward”, and on September 2. Mrs. Campbell and the technology associates are continuing to provide professional development and technical support throughout this year.

#### *REVIEW OF PSSA/AP/SAT DATA*

Dr. Foight-Cressman reviewed the 2008 PSSA, Advanced Placement, and SAT data with Directors.

Centennial School District has made Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) for the third consecutive year. William Tennent High School made AYP through “Making Progress” status. While the high school will remain in Corrective Action status for one more year, such a designation indicates that the high school made significant strides in both mathematics and reading for all populations, including our IEP population, and is on the right track. Our students receiving special education supports and services demonstrated an 18% increase in reading scores.

Log College Middle School and Willow Dale Elementary School are now classified as in PSSA “Warning Status”. With the support of the Offices of Teaching and Learning and Special Education, as well as William Tennent High School administration and teachers, the principals and faculty members will be working together to create and implement a plan to raise student achievement in these two schools.

Directors, administration, and community members engaged in a lively discussion regarding ways to improve SAT scores. There was agreement that parents play a critical role by stressing the importance of the examination, providing additional tutoring and preparation, and encouraging their children to take the PSAT and SAT multiple times. For families who are unaware of the significance of the exam in obtaining admission to college, school personnel can educate students and parents about the SAT. As part of the larger conversation with the Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium, and in keeping with the Centennial 2006-2012 Strategic Plan goals, district administrators are considering ways to educate parents of elementary children, particularly those parents who are not themselves college graduates, on the academic pathways to university.

#### *PLANNED COURSE OUTLINES*

Mrs. Homel and Dr. Foight-Cressman requested that our Directors revisit the decision to post all planned course outlines on our district website. After listening to administrative and teacher concerns, Dr. Pollock suggested that we consider embedding the planned course outlines in Skyward so that they are visible to students and parents as students undergo the course selection process. Directors agreed that this was an acceptable approach that honors the spirit of good communication with our families in helping their children make wise academic choices.

Mr. Simpson made the motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Hezel. The motion passed 3-0. Mrs. Schrader Lynch thanked all in attendance for their attention and participation and adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.