

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
MEETING OF MONDAY, January 24, 2011**

PRESENT:

Committee: Jane Schrader Lynch, and Andrew Pollock

Board Members: Michael Hartline, Mark B. Miller

Staff: Donna Dunar, Khalid Mumin, Jenny Foight-Cressman, Michael Schrank, Yael Schwartz, Amanda Schwenzer, Danielle Mangiola, Megan Persa, Lisa Rubin, Laurie Schenfelt, Tami Rubin-Tiger, Megan Schuman, Bert Shoulberg, Alexandra Schuh, Al Catarro, Danene Marchesani, Brian Sayer, Christine Shepper

Community: Robert Montgomery, Robert A. Shaffer, Jennifer Monan, Michelle Gorman

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M by Mrs. Schrader Lynch.

1. On a motion by Mrs. Schrader Lynch to approve the minutes from November 22, 2010, the minutes were approved, 3-0.
2. The Centennial Satellite School and Cyber Academy (CSSCA) staff and faculty provided the Committee with an interim report on CSSCA's expanded program, which incorporated new cyber-learning courses into its curriculum for the 2010-2011 academic year.

In addition to providing services for students from the original Dorothy Henry Satellite School, who thrive in a smaller learning environment rather than in a traditional high school setting, CSSCA expanded its enrollment this year to include 13th year students in need of additional credits for graduation, and ninth grade students failing two or more courses in their first semester.

Thirteen students entered CSSCA's program to complete their 13th year coursework in the first semester of the year. On January 29, fourteen ninth graders will begin the program as a fresh start to their high school endeavors.

Dr. Andrew Pollock asked CSSCA to consider launching a formal counseling program to transition its students back to William Tennent at an appropriate time. He further requested that CSSCA staff track the progress of the incoming ninth graders to evaluate the success of the program on that cohort.

Noting that CSSCA students are able to participate in William Tennent athletics, clubs, AP classes and other opportunities, Mr. Mark Miller said, "It's the best of both worlds."

3. The Education Committee considered a Request for Proposal (RFP) for “William Tennent Bank.” A school-based financial institution branch that will be an on-campus resource for the needs of students, faculty and staff at William Tennent High School.

Centennial is looking to partner with a qualified bank or credit union to provide basic financial services such as checking and savings accounts, ATM/Debit cards, check cashing and online services. Additionally, the financial institution selected to operate at the William Tennent site will collaborate with the Business, Computers and Technology Education Department to provide much needed financial education opportunities for students in the school.

4. Dr. Donna Dunar proposed the distribution of surveys designed to gather data assessing school culture and climate from elementary school parents and staff and students (Grades 3-5) in the district.

The surveys will address issues ranging from each of the school consolidations to bullying. They will also ask parents and staff what aspects of Elementary Schools should be preserved as the new elementary buildings are constructed and opened.

The school improvement data generated by these surveys will allow us to create targeted plans for the future. The Education Committee approved the distribution of the elementary school surveys, which will begin in February 2011.

5. Starting with the Class of 2015, students across the state will be required to pass standardized, end-of-course exams in order to graduate. Centennial students now in eighth grade will need to demonstrate proficiency in four assessment areas – English Composition, Literature, Algebra I and Biology I. Students in the class of 2017 will have to show proficiency in 6 assessment areas. Keystone Exams will be offered three times per year, can be retaken and may replace course final exams.

The first round of exams will be given in Algebra I in late spring 2011, when some Centennial eighth graders will get their first shot at the new state Keystone Exams. Students who struggle to pass will be provided alternative ways to supplement their scores.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education provides school districts with four testing options:

1. Use Keystone Exams as course finals, with the exam scores accounting for 33 percent of the student’s final course grade.
2. Use Keystone Exams as stand-alone tests, with the school district determining impact on the final course grade. Students must show proficiency in order to graduate.
3. Develop a local system of assessment, which allows districts to create their own exams, but they must be externally validated by state.
4. Use AP or IB exams where appropriate.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

The next Education Committee meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

Khalid N. Mumin, Ed. D
Director of Secondary Education

Donna Dunar, Ed. D.
Director of Elementary Education