



# Centennial School District Education Committee of the Board

Meeting of March 22, 2010

## Minutes

*Attendance:*

**Board**

Katherine Driban  
Michael Hartline\*\*\*  
Thomas Hezel  
Betty Huf  
Mark Miller  
Cynthia Mueller\*\*  
Andrew Pollock\*

**Administrators**

Michel Devitt  
Jennifer Foight-Cressman  
Lisa Follman  
Maryanne Ormsby  
Agnes Romano  
Thomas Turnbaugh

**Staff**

Erin Allen  
Marilyn Bernheisel  
Colleen Mooney  
Alex Schuh  
Timothy Walker

**Community**

Sina Baranski  
Timothy Coughlin  
Robert Montgomery  
Barb Patrick  
Paul Rokuskie  
Robert Shaffer

- \* Acting Chair
- \*\* Committee member
- \*\*\* Alternate member

*WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS*

Dr. Pollock called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

Mrs. Mueller moved to approve the minutes from February 22, 2010. Dr. Pollock seconded the motion. The minutes were approved in a vote of 3-0.

*MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS FOR PROFICIENCY COURSES AND STAFFING*

The Education Committee revisited the data related to the proposed reduction in staff for the middle school Mathematics for Proficiency courses. Mrs. Mueller asked Mrs. Klyman whether she supported the elimination of the course to which Mrs. Klyman responded that she was comfortable with the decision and would monitor the affected students next year. Dr. Turnbaugh reminded directors that the positions had already been removed from the proposed 2010-2011 budget and that board members had directed administration to reduce the millage impact on taxpayers. Dr. Pollock pointed out that the adjusted class sizes do not approach the numbers permitted contractually. Ms. Driban concurred and stated that student needs would be met differently to accommodate them in a more fiscally responsible manner. The motion to curtail the program was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Hartline. The motion passed 3-0.

*CENTENNIAL SATELLITE SCHOOL AND CYBER ACADEMY (CSSCA)*

Dr. Foight-Cressman provided an historical overview of the Dorothy Henry Satellite School and explained how the school has adapted to meet the needs of different populations of students over

time. The following William Tennent High School staff were present: Dr. Devitt, Assistant Principal; Mrs. Follman, Assistant Principal; Ms. Ormsby, Assistant Principal; Ms. Bernheisel, Guidance Counselor; Ms. Allen, Dorothy Henry Satellite School Curriculum Coordinator; Ms. Romano, Special Education Supervisor; Mr. Walker, Art Teacher and Centennial Education Association representative; and Ms. Schuh, Social Studies Teacher and Centennial Education Association representative. The group presented a proposal that would reconfigure Dorothy Henry Satellite School to include ninth grade students who failed two or more courses and “thirteenth” year students who did not complete all required courses for graduation. A twilight school for students who currently are placed outside the district as well as a cyber academy would be developed over the next several years. Metrics for success would include statistics regarding academic achievement, graduation and retention rates, discipline referrals, and the financial benefits of serving students within our district.

Mrs. Huf expressed reservation regarding the loss of the alternative school but was assured that the school was continuing its evolution to meet the needs of a different population of students. Directors inquired as to why attendance at Dorothy Henry was lower than usual. Ms. Allen explained that there had been a large graduating class in 2009 and that students had not yet been identified to attend. Ms. Driban asked how many students lost instructional time due to medical reasons to which Dr. Devitt replied that very few students were affected for that reason. Mrs. Mueller pointed out that the cyber component of the proposed program would be exceedingly valuable to students on homebound status. Ms. Romano commented that changes in the current program would permit students with special education identification to participate in the program. Ms. Schuh indicated that the Centennial Education Association was willing to enter into a letter of agreement regarding the CSSCA if the terms were congruent with the current contract.

Dr. Turnbaugh complimented the William Tennent High School team and indicated that there was the opportunity to recoup significant amounts of money from student placements outside of the district and payments to cyber charter academies. Mr. Hartline wondered how long it might take to get the model up and running. Dr. Devitt responded that the program could be ready for September 2010. Dr. Pollock indicated that he would be willing to give the CSSCA a year to prove its viability.

Mrs. Mueller made a motion to move the discussion of the CSSCA to the Finance Committee for further discussion of the fiscal implications of the program and was seconded by Mr. Hartline. The vote passed 3-0.

Mrs. Mueller made the motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Hartline. The motion passed 3-0. Dr. Pollock thanked all in attendance for their attention and participation and adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

JFC/rc