

A parade of accolades for Centennial's Huf

By James Boyle correspondent | Posted: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 9:48 pm

In a Warminster home 23 years ago, state Rep. Bernie O'Neill, a teacher at William Tennent High School at the time, grilled the woman he grew up calling Aunt Betty about why she wanted to run for school board.

"I took it very seriously, because if she won, she was going to be my boss," said O'Neill. "Betty said she wanted to do it for her kids. She has stayed true to that ever since. Her votes on the board were never about politics, they were about what she believed would help the kids."

O'Neill was the first of a parade of representatives from all levels of government who filed into the Centennial School Board meeting room Tuesday night to congratulate Betty Huf on her retirement after 22 years of service on the board.

Each dignitary presented a special proclamation, and each plaque and commendation, whether given by Bucks County Commissioner Charles Martin, the Warminster Board of Supervisors or by a representative from Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick's office, started with Huf's given name, Elizabeth, then referred to her with the more familiar "Betty."

"I'm very happy with the way it went," said Huf. "I had a wonderful time, and I think I have done a lot of good things with the school district. I've received so many good responses from people."

Centennial School Board president Jane Schrader Lynch announced Huf's retirement earlier this month. She suffered a stroke in June 2014 and missed intermittent meetings since. Huf also retired after serving 30 years as a telephone operator at Abington Memorial Hospital. After she sells her home in Warminster, Huf will retire to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to live with her daughter, Kimberly.

"I'm really proud of the contributions she has made to the community," said Kimberly. "If she wanted to, she could run again and win re-election. But she is leaving on her terms the way she wanted. We are going to be two single girls living on the beach."

Having served on the board with one of her best friends for the past 12 years, Lynch gave Huf a bittersweet goodbye capped with a sharp warning.



Longtime Centennial School Board member Betty Huf

"I'm going to miss you beyond words," said Lynch. "I will be visiting you a lot in Florida, and I better see every one of those plaques hanging on the walls."

In other board news, Tuesday was the first board meeting attended by David Baugh as Centennial's new superintendent. The board approved his hiring Sept. 8, and the five-year contract does not officially begin until Oct. 9.

A special memorial concert by the William Tennent Alumni Madrigal Singers will be Oct. 10 at the high school at 7 p.m. for Lucy Carroll. Carroll taught music and drama at William Tennent for more than 25 years, founding the Madrigal Singers in 1971, a group which received international recognition. Tickets cost \$10 and will benefit the Dr. Lucy Carroll Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The district is also looking for nominees for its annual Hall of Fame honor. The revamped award will now recognize achievements in the artistic, academic and athletic fields on a three year cycle. This year, William Tennent alumni that have made significant contributions in the creative world will be selected to the hall of fame. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the school district's website and submitted to the administration offices.