

## **Bucks IU director to head search for Centennial superintendent**

**By Gary Weckselblatt Staff Writer | Posted: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 10:00 pm**

The Centennial School District voted Tuesday night to have Barry J. Galasso, executive director of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit No. 22 , conduct a search for a new superintendent.

The void developed when Superintendent Joyce Mundy resigned April 10 “with very mixed feelings,” just shy of two years into a four-year contract. She will remain on the job through Aug. 7 before relocating with her family.

Though Galasso’s search for Mundy’s replacement comes at no financial cost to the district, the board debated the issue.

Mark Miller, the board’s vice president, said that considering the importance of the decision “we need somebody with a considerable amount of experience in doing this” and suggested “we look at proposals from more than one source,” including a full-time search firm.

While he has a “high opinion” of Galasso and has no doubt the I.U.’s head “is very competent to conduct a search for Centennial School District’s next superintendent,” Miller abstained from the vote because there was no written proposal of services.

Board member Kati Driban agreed. “We should have seen a proposal. Even at no cost, we should know exactly what we’re getting.”

Jane Schrader Lynch, the board’s president, said while she appreciated the points, she said Galasso has a “great record.”

That’s something Centennial does not have in choosing its schools’ chief, she said.

In her 12 years on the board, Lynch said the district has gone through nine superintendent searches and “we have produced one good person,” referring to Mundy.

She described prior searches as going through “the good old boys’ network.”

Driban concurred with Lynch that previous searches “were not very fruitful.” In fact, she described the results as “horrible.”

The loss of Mundy, two years into her four-year-contract, means Centennial could have its sixth superintendent in nine years in 2015-16.

In the past four years, Mundy, who has spearheaded ways to increase communication with parents and community members, has helped solidify the district’s vision and build systems to support learning. Prior to her hire, Centennial had not had good luck with superintendents.

Mundy, paid \$168,300 this year, was assistant superintendent under Jennifer Cressman, who was given an \$118,575 severance payment to get her to vacate her contract before it expired in 2014.

Like Cressman, Thomas Turnbaugh lasted two years; Sandy Homel was an interim superintendent in 2009, following the one-year term of Michael Masko. Prior to that, David Blatt held the post for six years.

Talking about Mundy, Lynch described herself as getting emotional. She told the outgoing superintendent that “your loss is devastating to me. I thought together we could build an unbelievable team.

“I also understand you need to be closer to your family and to seek new ventures. You must forge ahead and do what’s best for you. ... Honey, it will not be the same without you.”

Board member Steve Adams said Mundy did a “tremendous job. We’re losing a star. I’ve been a staunch supporter while you were here. Thank you for the time you gave us.”

Prior to joining Centennial in 2011, Mundy, 45, was an assistant to the superintendent and middle school principal in the New Hope-Solebury School District. In 2010, she was selected Pennsylvania’s Middle School Principal of the Year.

Before that she was an assistant principal in the Souderton Area School District and an English teacher in the Council Rock School District.