

Centennial calls on governor, lawmakers to compromise, pass budget

By Gary Weckselblatt Staff Writer | Posted: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 9:00 pm

The Centennial School District passed a resolution Tuesday night that calls on Gov. Tom Wolf and the state Legislature to compromise and reach a budget accord.

The resolution, suggested by director David Shafter, passed 8-0.

Wolf, the Democratic governor, and the General Assembly, led by Republicans, have been at an impasse on the budget, which was due June 30.

Board member Michael Hartline, president of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit's board of directors, said the lack of action by lawmakers "directly effects some of our students who have the greatest needs."

His words led to Shafter's call for a resolution "urging the compromise."

"This is hurting some of our most fragile students," Hartline said.

School districts, he said, are being forced to use their capital reserve funds to pay for initiatives the state should be funding. "For school districts that don't have funds available, they'll be looking for short term loans," he said, "and there's a cost to borrow money."

Also Tuesday night, the board appointed director Andrew Pollock as liaison to the academic, artistic and athletic hall of fame selection committee.

Pollock has pushed for recognition of graduates with academic and artistic excellence, similar to that bestowed on Tennent graduates who achieved athletic excellence.

He said a committee of nine members will be created to work on a charter and consider nominations. Matthew Shade, Tennent athletic director, will direct the group.

Beginning next month, applications for nominations to the three halls will be accepted. Pollock said they'll be available on the district and high school web sites and should be sent to Shade.

Hall of fame selection will be made on a rotating basic, with the artistic inductees taking place during the 2015-16 school year, Pollock said.

Tax collector Barbara Loftus attended Tuesday's meeting to remind residents that those seeking a discount on their school property taxes have until Aug. 31 to pay the bill. Loftus said her office at 433 Centennial Road, suite 2, in Warminster, will be open that day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. It's usually closed on Monday.