

**WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2005**

**I. OPENING ACTIVITIES**

**A. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Warren County School District Board of School Directors was called to order by Mrs. Nuttall, President, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Eisenhower Middle/High School, Route 2, Box 2276, Russell, PA.

**B. Salute to Flag**

Mrs. Nuttall led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

**C. Roll Call**

Board Members Present:

Mr. Kevin Freestone  
Mr. Richard Lyle  
Mrs. Jacki Nuttall  
Mr. Richard Pascuzzi

Mr. Randall Peterson  
Mr. John Schwanke  
Mr. John Shea

Roll Call

Board Members Absent:

Mr. David Come

Mr. Dale Gerbec

Others Present:

Mr. John Grant, Superintendent; Dr. J. Hugh Dwyer, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. John Sechriest, Executive Director of Learning Opportunities; Mr. Mark Eberl, Executive Director of Support Services; Mr. Larry Conrad, Director of Business Services; Mr. Joseph Tassone, Director of Instructional Services; Mrs. Amy Stewart, Director of Technology / Information Management; Dr. Norbert Kennerknecht, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Mr. Arthur Stewart, Solicitor; Mrs. Ruth Huck, Board Secretary; Mr. Robert Seiden, Kinzua Broadcasting; Ms. Kristin Smith, Times Observer; Mr. Eugene Casasanta, Hearing Officer.

**D. Reading of Mission Statement**

Mr. Schwanke read the mission statement.

***The mission of the Warren County School District is to prepare all students to be responsible and productive citizens by providing them with the skills and education necessary to achieve academic and personal excellence.***

**E. Recognitions and Presentations – Dr. J. Hugh Dwyer**

**1) State Wrestling Qualifier**

Mr. Fera introduced Mike Sullivan, junior at Youngsville. He placed fifth in the State with a record of 44-4.

- 2) Eisenhower Middle/High School Student Government  
Ms. Bigley, advisor for the Eisenhower Middle/High School Student Government/Student Council, introduced Brittney Jones, Co-President; Cameron Ives, Co-President; Whitney Parker, Treasurer. The students shared some of the projects, events and fundraisers that they sponsored.
- 3) Warren County Career Center **Skills U.S.A.** State Winners  
Mr. Cronmiller, Principal at Warren County Career Center, introduced the Skills U.S.A. State Winners. Seven students went to the State competition held in Lancaster, PA. There were seven winners: Todd Landry, Culinary Arts - 8<sup>th</sup> place; Jacob Dickey, Power Equipment - 6<sup>th</sup> place; Clayton Burke, Auto Service - 4<sup>th</sup> place; Amanda Anderson, Food and Beverage Service - 4<sup>th</sup> place; Danielle Seastrom, Architectural Drafting - 3<sup>rd</sup> place; Pat Wright, Motorcycle Service Technology - 3<sup>rd</sup> place; Andy Rose, Welding - 1<sup>st</sup> place. Andy will go on to Kansas City for the Nation Competition June 22.

F. Public Comment

Rev. Richard Hammrick      Youngsville, PA      Revisions Policy 10450  
Sunday Practice Policy  
Do not permit Sunday practices.

G. Agenda Adoption

April 11, 2005  
Agenda Adoption  
Approved  
7-0-0

- 1) **Motion:** Mr. Peterson  
That the Board of School Directors adopts the April 11, 2005, agenda as presented/amended.  
  
Second: Mr. Freestone  
Passed: Unanimously

Minutes  
March 14, 2005  
Approved  
7-0-0

H. Approval of Minutes

- 1) **Motion:** Mr. Lyle  
That the Board of School Directors adopts the regular meeting minutes of March 14, 2005.  
  
Second: Mr. Shea
- 2) **Motion:** Mr. Pascuzzi  
That the Board of School Directors adopts the special meeting minutes of March 21, 2005.  
  
Second: Mr. Peterson  
Passed: Unanimously

Special Meeting  
Minutes  
March 21, 2005  
Approved  
7-0-0

I. Approval of Financial Reports (attachments pp. 2-5)

Financial Reports  
Approved  
7-0-0

- 1) **Motion:** Mr. Freestone  
That the Board of School Directors approves financial reports and authorizes the release of funds in payment of the listing of bills. Further, that a copy as presented be submitted for audit.  
  
Second: Mr. Lyle  
Roll Call:  
Voting Yes: Mr. Shea, Mr. Freestone, Mr. Lyle, Mrs. Nuttall, Mr. Pascuzzi, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Schwanke

J. Hearing Officer's Report – Mr. Eugene Casasanta

1) **Motion:** Mr. Peterson

That the Board of School Directors approves the Hearing Officer's report dated April 11, 2005 (Cases: UU-GGG)

Second: Mr. Lyle

Passed: Unanimously

Hearing Officer's Report Approved 7-0-0
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II. PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

A. Mrs. Nuttall announced that Mr. Dale Gerbec will be resigning his position on the School Board due to personal reasons. Mrs. Nuttall appointed Kevin Freestone as the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and Richard Lyle as the Chairman of the Personnel Committee. Mr. Gerbec will continue through the budget process with the Board. (Mr. Gerbec will send a letter with the exact date of his resignation.)

B. Reports and Information

1) I.U. #5 – Mr. John Schwanke

There was no report.

2) PSBA – Mr. Randall Peterson

April 7, 2005, Warren, Erie and Crawford Counties had the Spring Legislative meeting at Conneaut Valley High School. Items discussed were Act 72 and some of the ramifications of the legislation. Representative Brad Will was there and a representative from the office of John Evans' was there. School Boards have not been too receptive to Act 72. There are still a lot of questions about Act 72. Representative Will was there to present an alternative plan of a five percent increase in sales tax across the board with very few items that would be exempt from the tax. This would generate \$16-\$18 billion in revenue. Also discussed that PSBA has officially litigated Act 72 for the following reasons: a) insufficient information regarding effects on multi-county school districts with regard to the appropriate calculation of local contributions; and ramifications for school districts that choose not to participate in the Act; b) significant disagreements among State officials over the distribution of gaming revenues in the future reductions of property taxes; c) the uncertainty regarding the amount of any substantial gaming revenue available for property tax reduction and the pending litigation before the State Supreme Court regarding Act 71. They feel the estimate of \$1 billion in property tax relief is too high and it is more in-line with \$240-\$270 million dollars that would be available for real estate tax reduction.

3) Career Center Advisory – Mr. John Shea

There was no meeting in March.

C. Important Dates

1) April 19 – 6:00 p.m. - Physical Plant and Facilities Committee – Curwen Building

2) April 25 – 6:00 p.m. - Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Committee – Curwen Building

2) April 25 – 12:00 p.m. - Athletic and Extra-Curricular Committee – Curwen Building

- 3) April 26 - 5:00 p.m. - Personnel Committee - Curwen Building
- 4) TBA - Finance Committee - Curwen Building
- 5) April 27 - 1:00 p.m. - Board Docs Training - Curwen Building
- 6) April 28 - 8:00 a.m. - Board Docs Training - Curwen Building
- 7) April 28 - 1:00 p.m. - Board Docs Training - Curwen Building (Administration)
- 8) April 28 - 6:30 p.m. - Board Docs Training - WCCC (Board Members)
- 9) April 21 - 6:00 p.m. - Act 72 Committee Meeting - Warren County Career Center
- 10) April 28 - 6:00 p.m. - Act 72 Committee Meeting - Warren County Career Center
- 11) May 2 - 6:00 p.m. - Act 72 Committee Meeting - Warren County Career Center
- 12) May 9 - 7:00 p.m. - Regular Board Meeting - Warren County Career Center

D. Other

Mr. Shea asked Solicitor Stewart how does the fact that Act 71 is being litigated in the State Supreme Court affect Act 72 if Act 71 is thrown out?

Mr. Stewart answered that no one in the State knows, and that is indeed one of the premises of the PSBA's litigation against Act 72; that with Act 71 in question, how could you go forward with Act 72? If you go to the Internet and ask the question, you will get a number of opinions. The most fascinating one that was there recently was that if you are going to opt into Act 72, that you do it on a contingent basis, pending approval of a lot of these things including Act 71 is a go, and assuming that the revenue is as advertised by the governor's office. Again, everyone in the State is in the same boat of not knowing.

Mr. Freestone stated that he is on record as opposing the Act, basically the revenues that are calculated are different for a casino than most businesses. They figure the revenues that cross the threshold of their doorways, the people will play until they are gone. So they calculate the justification of the organization far differently than most would calculate them. Given those issues, the anticipated revenues are conservative in nature.

Mr. Schwanke stated that the referendum requirements could be mandated in the future anyway, according to the governor's teleconference.

Solicitor Stewart stated that it would take an act of the legislature for that to occur and that is a seed planted by the governor's office. It is part of the campaign by the governor's office to push Act 72.

Mr. Pascuzzi spoke with a representative of the governor's office and discussed Act 72. Every question asked was answered. Mr. Pascuzzi asked him to come to the May 2 Act 72 Committee meeting to answer any questions from the administration, school board members, and the committee. Mr. Pascuzzi asked all of the Board members to attend to get a better idea of what the Board is dealing with.

Larry Conrad stated that the Act 72 meeting on May 2 is the last meeting and suggested that the governor's representative come to either the April 21 or April 28 meeting instead.

Mr. Pascuzzi will notify the Board of the date Mr. Brush is coming to the meeting.

### III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. General Comments – Mr. John Grant/Dr. J. Hugh Dwyer
- B. Informational Personnel (attachment pp. 6-7)
- C. Grants Development – Mr. Matt Jones  
There was no report.
- D. Federal Projects/Professional Development – Mrs. Rosemarie Green  
There was no report.
- E. Support Management Team – Mr. Mark Eberl/Mr. Larry Conrad  
There was no report.
- F. Capital Projects Update – Dr. Norbert Kennerknecht  
There was no report.
- G. Information Management – Mrs. Amy Stewart  
Mrs. Stewart reported that the Pentamation trainer is running a “parallel “ payroll or practice run to see how well things are going. The trainer was impressed with how well things went.  
  
Accounting work will start this week in Finance Plus.  
  
On the student side of things, our schools are working on putting immunization records and medical records into the system. Guidance counselors and secretaries are working on building schedules. Secretaries are entering data.  
  
BoardDocs training will begin this month and will be operational for the May meeting. We are very excited.  
  
The technology department is very busy getting computers ready for the Warren Elementary Center.  
  
The Broadband is moving along. We have been meeting with them and things should be ready for July 1.
- H. Instructional Management – Dr. John Sechriest/Mr. Joseph Tassone  
There was no report.
- I. 2005-2006 Budget Presentation – John Grant (attachments pp. 127-143)  
Mr. Grant shared a detailed explanation of the first draft of the 2005-2006 budget.  
  
A preliminary budget must be approved before May 30 and the final budget must be approved by June 30.  
  
Mr. Freestone thanked the team for their efforts.

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Consent Agenda: Committee meeting action items will be enacted under one motion unless removed for separate action upon Board request.

Items removed for separate action:

- 1)(c) Lander Elementary Deed Restriction Removal - Mr. Peterson
- 3)(a) Articulation Agreement with Edinboro University of Pennsylvania - Mr. Lyle
- 4)(a) Policy Number 10450, titled, Interscholastic Athletics - Mr. Freestone

Consent Agenda  
Approved  
7-0-0

Motion: Mr. Peterson

That the Board of School Directors approves the Consent Agenda with the exception of the above listed items.

Second: Mr. Shea

Roll Call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Schwanke, Mr. Shea, Mr. Freestone, Mr. Lyle, Mr. Pascuzzi,  
Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Nuttall

Passed: Unanimously

PlanCon H  
Submission  
Approved  
7-0-0

1) Physical Plant and Facilities Committee – Mr. Richard Pascuzzi

(a) PlanCon H Submission to PDE for Russell (attachments pp. 9-13)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves submission of Plan Con Part H to PDE for approval for the Russell Elementary/Renovation Addition Project.

(b) North Warren Vacant Lot Bid Results (attachments p 14)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves a Bid from Larry and Linda Ambrose in the amount of \$9,000 for the North Warren Elementary Vacant Parcel #WN 545-9993

(c) Lander Elementary Deed Restriction Removal (attachments pp. 15-30)

**Removed for separate action.**

Sale of Vacant  
Lot in NW  
Approved  
7-0-0

Athletic  
Contracts  
Approved  
7-0-0

2) Personnel Committee – Mr. Dale Gerbec

(a) Personnel Report: Athletic Supplemental Contracts (attachments p. 31)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the list of athletic supplemental contracts.

(b) Personnel Report: Support Staff (attachments p. 32)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the Support Personnel Report.

(c) Personnel Report: Certificated Staff (attachments p. 33)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the Certificated Personnel Report.

(d) Personnel Report: Student Teaching Contract (attachments pp. 34-38)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves Student Teaching Contract with Clarion University after final review by Attorney Arthur Stewart.

Support  
Personnel  
Approved  
7-0-0

Certificated  
Personnel  
Approved  
7-0-0

Clarion Univ.  
Student Teaching  
Contract  
Approved  
7-0-0

3) Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Committee – Mr. Richard Lyle

(a) Articulation Agreement with Edinboro University of Pennsylvania (attachments pp. 39-41)

**Removed for separate action.**

(b) Grant Proposal (attachments pp. 42-48)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the submission of a grant proposal to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for a Career and Technical Education Equipment Grant for \$19,100 for equipment for the Warren

County Career Center Building Construction Occupations, Power Equipment Technology and Electronic Information Technology Programs.

Grant  
Proposal  
Approved  
7-0-0

4) Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities Committee – Mr. John Shea

- (a) Policy Number 10450, titled, Interscholastic Athletics (attachments pp. 49-51)

**Removed for separate action.**

- (b) Policy Number 10465, titled, Student Participation and Coaches Needed (attachments pp. 52-53)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the revisions to Policy 10465 on first and second readings.

Policy 10465  
Student  
Participation/Coaches  
Needed 1<sup>st</sup>  
and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
Approved  
7-0-0

- (c) Y.M.C.A. Pool Proposal (attachments pp. 54-57)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the Y.M.C.A. Pool Proposal.

YMCA Pool  
Proposal  
Approved  
7-0-0

5) Finance Committee – Mr. Dale Gerbec

- (a) Audit Report

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors accepts the Root, Spitznas & Smiley, Inc. audit report for the District's fiscal year ending June 30, 2004.

Audit Report  
Fiscal Year  
Ending June 30,  
2004  
Approved  
7-0-0

**ITEMS REMOVED FOR SEPARATE ACTION**

1) Physical Plant and Facilities Committee – Mr. Richard Pascuzzi

- (c) Lander Elementary Deed Restriction Removal (attachments pp. 15-30)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors directs Solicitor Stewart to remove deed restriction A, B, and C, on the property formerly known as the Lander Elementary School, in accordance with the Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and at no cost to the Chases.

Lander Deed  
Restriction  
Removal  
Approved  
7-0-0

Motion: Mr. Freestone

Second: Mr. Lyle

Mr. Peterson made a motion to table this motion indefinitely.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

Roll Call on 1)(c)

Voting Yes: Mr. Schwanke, Mr. Shea, Mr. Freestone, Mr. Lyle,  
Mr. Pascuzzi, Mrs. Nuttall

Voting No: Mr. Peterson

Passed: 6-1

3) Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Committee – Mr. Richard Lyle

- (a) Articulation Agreement with Edinboro University of Pennsylvania (attachments pp. 39-41)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the Articulation Agreement Between Edinboro University of

Edinboro Univ.  
Articulation  
Agreement  
Approved  
7-0-0

Pennsylvania and Warren County School District regarding University coursework.

Motion: Mr. Lyle  
Second: Mr. Shea  
Roll Call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Pascuzzi, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Schwanke, Mr. Shea,  
Mr. Freestone, Mr. Lyle, Mrs. Nuttall

Policy 10450  
Interscholastic  
Athletics  
1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Approved  
7-0-0

- 4) Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities Committee – Mr. John Shea  
(a) Policy Number 10450, titled, Interscholastic Athletics (attachments pp. 49-51)  
RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves  
the revisions to Policy 10450, titled, Interscholastic Athletics on first  
reading.

Motion: Mr. Schwanke  
Second: Mr. Peterson  
Roll Call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Pascuzzi, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Schwanke, Mr. Shea  
Mr. Lyle

Voting No: Mr. Freestone, Mrs. Nuttall

Passed: 5-2

**B. Future Business for Committee Review**

- 1) Physical Plant and Facilities – Chapter 5 Facilities Master Plan

Motion: Mr. Peterson

I move that the Physical Plant and Facilities Committee bring to the Board at  
the May 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting a recommendation for Chapter 5 Master  
Facilities Plan.

Second: Mr. Lyle

Passed: Unanimously

PPF Comm.  
will have a  
Recommendat  
ion for  
Chapter 5  
Facilities  
Master Plan  
Consultant for  
May 9, 2005  
Approved  
7-0-0

**C. Other**

- 1) Introduction of New Employee

Mr. Mark Eberl introduced the new Business Manager and his wife to the Board,  
Darin and Ginny Schulz. Mr. Schulz will begin work with the District on June 1.

**V. CLOSING ACTIVITIES**

**A. Public Comment**

Rev. Starr      Warren, PA

Re: Policy 10450 - He is concerned about the  
repercussions that students will face from  
coaches and other players if they do not  
participate in Sunday practices. The floodgates  
are now open for not only championship  
games practices but also local and district  
games that must be made up.



B. Executive Session

Mrs. Nuttall announced an executive session at 8:44 p.m. to discuss personnel issues and litigation with no action to follow.

C. Adjournment

Mr. Lyle made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Mr. Schwanke

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Ruth A. Huck, Board Secretary

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Jacqueline L. Nuttall, Board President

