

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

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006

1. Opening Activities

A. Call to Order

The special meeting of the Warren County School District Board of School Directors was called to order by Mrs. Nuttall, President, on Monday, April 3, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Curwen Building, 185 Hospital Drive, Warren, PA.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

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

C. Roll Call

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Mr. Roger Dunham
Mr. Kevin Freestone
Mr. Thomas Knapp
Mr. Nathan Lindberg

Dr. Jack Martin
Mrs. Jacki Nuttall
Mr. John Schwanke

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Richard Lyle

Others Present:

Mr. John Grant, Superintendent; Mrs. Ruth Huck, Board Secretary; Mr. Robert Seiden, Kinzua Broadcasting; Mr. Allen Seybert, Times Observer; Mr. John Shea; Mrs. Jennifer Wortman; Dr. Paul Boger; Mr. Lawrence Laughlin; Mr. Alan Kiser and approximately six unidentified members of the audience.

D. Reading of the Mission Statement - Mr. Kevin Freestone

Mr. Freestone 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. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. New Business

Mrs. Nuttall thanked the candidates for applying for the Region I vacancy.

A. Interview Region I Applicants

1. Mr. John Shea

Mr. Shea read a statement concerning the circumstances that lead to him applying for the Region I vacancy. His son-in-law, David Wortman, came to him in September with the news that he was going to be deployed to training camp in Wyoming and eventually to Iraq. He asked his father-in-law if he would fill the board seat vacancy that would be created in his absence, and Mr. Shea said he would be willing since he had served as a board member. Mr. Shea stated, "David Wortman is an elected member of this board and he should have a say. He is an elected veteran of the Gulf War and also a participating veteran in Iraq. He is a voting member of this board and should have a say, and he has already cast his vote, and he has requested me to fill his spot until September.

Mr. Grant asked for a point of clarification regarding other open positions. He stated the other open seats were bona fide open positions. Have we ever had a temporary seat?

Mr. Seidon responded he has been reporting since 1966 and this is the first time there has been a temporary open position.

Mr. Grant thanked Mr. Seidon and stated "We have a very unique situation."

2. Mrs. Jennifer Wortman

Mr. Freestone asked, "What committees have you served on in the district, since that was listed in your application?"

She responded that she served on the committee that chose the location for the new elementary center.

Mr. Dunham asked, "Who do you think would be better to serve in this position, you or your father?"

Mrs. Wortman responded, "I think that either one of us would make a good replacement; yes, my father has 8 years of doing this, but I would represent the views of my husband the best."

Mr. Schwanke asked her to tell the Board a couple of things that she would like to see the Board accomplish.

Mrs. Wortman said, "I spend a lot of time in the school, and I want to see change for the better. I want to see better education. I want to see more for these kids. There is no reason why we cannot compete with the best schools in the county.

She was asked where her children attend school; to which she replied, "I have one at Beaty, one at South Street and one at the new elementary."

Mr. Freestone asked, "Do you have an idea of what you would consider 'better' for the school district? Do you have any specific ideas?"

The idea of losing AP classes is a concern. The elementary students are better for having a new school. I want those things for all of the kids. The way they are structuring the teaching is good. The better teachers are specialized in certain areas and the students are categorized in areas where they need more help and they are getting the instruction that they need. Those are all changes for the better, but it may not always mean consolidation.

Mrs. Nuttall asked if she had a general statement to make.

Mrs. Wortman replied, "David wanted his vote to be represented by his opinion, and I think or my dad can do that. We are very committed to this community, and I go to the school and volunteer, and his opinion will be best expressed by what we know we want for our children."

3. Dr. Paul Boger

Mrs. Nuttall thanked him for his application.

Dr. Boger was asked where his children attended school to which he replied, "St. Joseph's, and Warren Elementary Center. His child at St. Joes attends second grade.

Mr. Freestone asked, "What will you bring to the school district?"

Dr. Borger replied, "Not having served on this board before, I have a serious concern for the kids of the district. I have a strong work ethic and was concerned and put my name in, because I did not know if anyone would. I have probably a strong concern for education particularly for the kids in Warren County.

He was asked, "Are there some specific areas that it can be improved?"

Dr. Boger replied, "I think that the high school level is one of my biggest concerns. That is where I would like to see continued focus. The idea of changing curriculum got my attention. Kindergarten through elementary is extremely important. The high school is of paramount importance. As a former graduate I have strong feelings that the preparation we give the kids has to be broad based and high quality.

I am assuming everyone has read my application, and I care very deeply about the schools, and not only because I attended in the Warren County School District, but also attended community college and up through ivy league schools. I feel strong about getting a good education. I would certainly try my best to hold the position while it is needed.

4. Mr. Lawrence Laughlin

Thank you for being here and for your application.

John Schwanke asked, "What do you think could be accomplished in the district?"

Mr. Laughlin replied, "I have no great expectations, but I will give you 37 years of experience in business and management. I don't think that I am sitting here with any individual goals for achievements. You are aware that I stated in my application that there is not a need for more emphasis on 'bricks and mortar' but on a better education for our students that are not going to college. I was quoted that the system is broken. At United we have to interview 400 people to find 100 that can pass an eighth grade test. We need to strengthen the curriculum for students. If kids are applying for jobs, a graduate should be able to pass an eighth grade test. I threw my hat into the ring so that you would have a choice. If you live in a community, you must give back to the community. Get involved and do something about it."

5. Mr. Alan Kiser

He was asked if he has students in the district. He replied that he had three at Beaty and one at the high school.

Mr. Freestone asked, "Like we have asked the others, what do think you would bring to the board?"

Mr. Kiser replied, "I have no hidden agenda. I would like to put out an appeal for Mrs. Wortman with what she said. If she is not selected, then I am here to seek the seat. I know her husband was elected, and her and my views may be different, but she should be given the chance."

Mr. Freestone asked, "If you were chosen what improvements would you like to see?"

"There should be no cuts to curriculum. The basics of education are very important, the mission statement of the school board is important and no better way to learn. The three 'R's' are very important. Concentrate more on reading, writing, arithmetic."

"I think I relate well to people. I am a common man and know the concerns and values of the common man. I have run for positions in the past, and I have a very strong commitment to a constitutional mandate to do the best for the students and provide the best tools to go on to college and would take the job very seriously."

Mrs. Nuttall again thanked the candidates and advised them that the final decision would be made at the April 10 Board meeting. If the person is in attendance, he/she can be sworn in at that time.

Mr. Grant invited them to call him if they had any questions.

Mrs. Nuttall also shared with the candidates that all of the Board material for Monday evening is available on BoardDocs, and they should come prepared to make decisions that evening.

Mrs. Nuttall announced an executive session at 6:35 p.m. to discuss the Fact Finder's Report.

The meeting reconvened at 6:56 p.m.

B. Fact Finder's Report

Mr. Freestone made a motion seconded by Mr. Dunham that the Board of School Directors approves the Fact-Finder Report (case number Act 88-06-7-W) submitted by Marc A. Winters, Fact-Finder, on March 23, 2006.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Yes: Dr. Martin

Voting No: Mr. Dunham, Mr. Freestone, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Lindberg, Mrs. Nuttall, Mr. Schwanke

Fact Finder's
Report
Fails
1-6-0

3. Closing Activities

A. Adjournment

Mr. Freestone made a motion seconded by Mr. Dunham that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth A. Huck, Board Secretary

Jacqueline L. Nuttall, Board President