

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JULY 10, 2006

1. Opening Activities

1.01 Call to order

The regular meeting of the Warren County School District Board of School Directors was called to order by Mr. Kevin Freestone, Vice President, at 7:05 p.m. in the Board Room of the Warren County Career Center, 347 East Fifth Avenue, Warren, Pennsylvania.

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Freestone led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Roll Call

1.03 Roll Call

Board Members Present:

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

Mr. Nathan Lindberg
Dr. Jack Martin
Mrs. Jennifer Wortman

Board Members Absent:

Mrs. Jacki Nuttall

Mr. John Schwanke

Others Present:

Dr. Robert Towsey, Interim Superintendent; Dr. J. Hugh Dwyer, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. John Sechriest, Executive Director of Learning Opportunities; Mr. Joseph Tassone, Director of Instructional Services; Dr. Norbert Kennerknecht, Director of Buildings and Grounds Services; Mrs. Amy Stewart, Director of Technology/Information Management; Mr. Petter Turnquist, Business Administrator and Board Treasurer; Mr. Arthur Stewart, Solicitor; Mrs. Ruth Huck, Board Secretary; Mr. Brian Ferry, Times Observer; Mrs. Ruth Nelson, Principal; Ms. Ann Buerkle, Principal, Mr. James Miller, Principal; Ms. Sandy Wilks, Lead Special Education Supervisor; Ms. Maryann Mead, Principal; Mrs. Diane Martin, Special Education Supervisor and approximately 20 unidentified members of the audience.

1.04 Reading of the Mission Statement - Jennifer Wortman

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.

Agenda
Adoption
Approved
6-0-0

1.05 Agenda Adoption

MOTION: It was moved by Roger Dunham and seconded by Thomas Knapp that the Board of School Directors adopts the agenda of July 10, 2006, as presented on BoardDocs.

The result of the vote was: Unanimous

1.06 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

June 12, 2006
Minutes
Approve
6-0-0

1.07 Approval of the Minutes - June 12, 2006

MOTION: It was moved by Thomas Knapp and seconded by Roger Dunham that the Board of School Directors approves the regular meeting minutes of June 12, 2006.

The result of the vote was: Unanimous

June 29, 2006
Special
Meeting
Minutes
Approved
6-0-0

1.08 Approval of Special Meeting Minutes - June 29, 2006

MOTION: It was moved by Roger Dunham and seconded by Jennifer Wortman that the Board of School Directors approves the Special Meeting Minutes of June 29, 2006.

The result of the vote was: Unanimous

Financial
Reports
Approved
6-0-0

1.09 Approval of Financial Reports

MOTION: It was moved by Roger Dunham and seconded by Thomas Knapp that the Board of School Directors approves the 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.

Roll Call:

Voting Yes: Mr. Dunham, Mr. Freestone, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Lindberg,
Dr. Martin, Mrs. Wortman

The result of the vote was: Unanimous

2. President's Statement

2.01 Reports and Information

1. I.U. #5 - Mr. John Schwanke

There was no report.

2. PSBA - Mr. Thomas Knapp

There was no report.

3. Career Center Advisory - TBA

There was no report.

2.02 Important Dates

	Date	Time	Committee	Location
1.	July 31, 2006	6:00 p.m.	Curriculum, Instruction & Technology Committee	Warren County Career Center
2.	August 1, 2006	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee	Warren County Career Center
3.	August 1, 2006	Following Finance Committee	Personnel/Athletics & Co-Curricular Activities Committee	Warren County Career Center
4.	August 14, 2006	7:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting	Warren County Career Center

Mr. Freestone announced that a Special Board meeting would be held on July 17, 2006, 6:00 p.m., at the Curwen Building to interview and vote on a candidate to fill the Region III vacancy as well as deal with any other business that may come before the Board.

3. Superintendent's Reports and Recommendations

3.01 General Comments - Dr. Robert B. Towsey

Dr. Towsey stated that he has set a line of communications through email and telephone. The following items have been communicated:

- PSBA has indicated an interest in providing a workshop for the Board, and each Board member has received information via email. Pamela Price has previously conducted an in-service for the Board and there are currently one or two Board members who participated in that. Several Board members indicated this as an interest, and Dr. Towsey asked the Board members to consider either two evenings or one Saturday for this in-service. Board members will be contacted regarding which dates they have available and the arrangements will be made with Pamela Price. This will be specifically for setting goals for the Board and establishing what the role of the Board is, as well as, the role of the administration.
- Arthur Stewart had indicated via email that there is an issue regarding the reassessment appeal from Ellwood, formerly National Forge. Also, the Warren Mall decision has been appealed, and briefs will be filed within the next few weeks.
- The Oz Gas case concerns taxes paid by oil and gas owners to various municipal bodies. Warren County School District is a joint participant with the Forest Area School District and Warren County. For years oil and gas companies were assessed by counties across the State where oil and gas were located. Many times the constitutionality of the tax has been tested and reaffirmed. Three years ago a case challenged the constitutionality of that tax again and it went to the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth and to the surprise of many the court reversed itself and held that the oil and gas tax was unconstitutional. The question

then became, do the municipalities that received the tax owe a rebate of the tax to the entities that paid in the oil and gas tax on the assessment? Warren County School District has elected to participate in the litigation defending against a claim for rebate; that claim has been brought by the Oz Gas Company. Special counsel has been hired from the Knox Firm to represent the District among others. The action was won in the Court of Common Pleas. The Oz Gas Company filed an appeal to that and it went to the Appellate Court in Pennsylvania where the case was reversed. Now a petition has been filed to have the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to hear the case and determine which decision is correct. Duane Vicini, Superintendent of the Forest Area School District, would like to know, with the new administration, if there is a desire by the administration and Board of School Directors to change course and does the Board intend to support this litigation through to its conclusion. It is Arthur Stewart's firm recommendation that the District stay its course. If the Board agrees with no action needs taken. Dr. Towsey will speak with Mark Mioduszewski concerning the case, and if he feels the Board should not proceed, the Board will be notified within 24 hours. Mr. Stewart will notify Duane Vicini of the Board's desire.

- The Warren County Career Center received a review of programs from the Bureau of Career and Technical Education, a division of the Department of Education. The report indicates there are some minor shortcomings according to the building principal. They will be readily addressed prior to his departure. Actions will be put into place to address the problems for his successor to deal with immediately.
- The Warren County School District has been solicited to have the Beaty-Warren Middle School participate in the Pennsylvania Department of Education and PA State Youth Wide Tobacco Survey (YTS) for the fall of 2006. The information provided by the students will not be identified nor will the school be identified in the survey results. The District will receive the results, and the State will use the information relevant to the cessation of advertising and tracking students to participate in smoking and use of tobacco products. Dr. Towsey will discuss this with the middle school administration and ask for their opinion. If everything is in line and they endorse it, I will proceed with permission to do that.
- Central Office administrators have been asked to contact Dr. Towsey if they get queries from Board members, so that he is aware of Board concerns and can in turn address them.
- Administrative retirements/Central Office Vacancies – As the Board is aware, several key personnel will be retiring. Dr. Towsey asked the Personnel Committee to consider doing a search as soon as possible to fill these positions. The committee must determine the responsibilities of these positions. There is a possibility of combining responsibilities in offices and possibly reducing responsibilities of three offices to two or maybe two to one. This would be a cost benefit and very efficient for the operation of the District.

- Supplemental Administrative Contracts – A copy of a correspondence from the Solicitor's office to Dr. Martin was received, and he had inquired relevant to supplemental contracts for administrators. The concern was relevant to Board approval being required, and the answer is absolutely yes. Current status was questioned, who has the contracts now and were procedures followed as prescribed in the Act 93 agreement. The Central Office staff responded to the inquiry by Dr. Towsey, and he reported that the Board has approved the supplementary contracts historically and for the 2005-2006 school year; however, the Board has not approved the 2006-2007 school year. This is fine because that is another issue for the Personnel Committee to get involved in.

3.02 Other

4. New Business

4.01 Administrative Assignments

Dr. Martin made a motion seconded by Mr. Dunham to table the motion for administrative assignments until after Executive Session.

The result of the vote was: Passed Unanimously

Mr. Freestone announced that an executive session would be held to discuss personnel issues at 7:40 p.m. and action would be taken following executive session.

Table Motion Until After Executive Session Approved 6-0-0

5. Future Business for Committee Review

No items were addressed.

6. Other

No items were addressed.

7. Closing Activities

7.01 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7.02 Executive Session

The meeting reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

MOTION: It was moved by Thomas Knapp and seconded by Nathan Lindberg that the Board of School Directors directs the administration to implement the recommended administrative assignments as amended for the 2006-2007 school year and that Debra Young's administrative assignment at Youngsville Elementary/Middle School will begin immediately, July 11, 2006, with a prorated 260-day contract.

Administrative Supplementals Approved 4-2-0

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Yes: Mrs. Wortman, Mr. Freestone, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Lindberg

Voting No: Mr. Dunham, Dr. Martin

The result of the vote was: Pass

7.03 Adjournment

MOTION: Nathan Lindberg made a motion, seconded by Thomas Knapp that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth A. Huck, Board Secretary

Jacqueline L. Nuttall, Board President