

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
**MINUTES**

OCTOBER 27, 2008  
WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. David Wortman, Chairperson  
Mr. Arthur Stewart

Mrs. Kim Angove  
Ms. Amanda Hetrick

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mrs. Amy Stewart

Mrs. Rosemarie Green

OTHERS PRESENT:

Thomas Knapp  
Katherine Oudinot  
Jack Martin  
Kirsten Turfitt  
Jeff Lockett

Robert Terrill  
Karen Pascale  
Diane Martin  
Matt Jones  
Brian Collopy

Gary Weber  
James Evers  
Debra Young  
Eric Mineweaser  
Virginia Barrett

Lydia Cottrell - WTO  
Debra Bosko  
Lisa Niedzialek

1. Opening Activities

1.01 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 PM by Mr. David Wortman.

1.02 Public Comment

There were no public comments.

2. Old Business

2.01 Board Goals

**Discussion:**

It was previously suggested that Board Goal updates be presented at each CIT meeting. The updated Board Goals were presented to the committee members. These goals are updated weekly by the administration. The CIT Committee was reminded of the goals for which they are responsible.

3. New Business

3.1 PA Required School Improvement Plan for BWMS

**Discussion:**

The corrective action plan that has been written is a continuation of the plan from last year. Professional development has been provided for the teachers. The integration of language arts, especially writing, has been changed. The process of teaching writing has started with the beginning of the school year. Advanced students are being offered NovaNET and SuccessMaker for acceleration purposes. There is a possibility that guest speakers may be brought in to talk to the advanced students or clinics may be offered for a more formal process of education. Acellus may be offered for math and Rosetta Stone may be offered for world language. If it is found that the plan is not working well at mid-year, the framework will need to stay the same, but changes can still be made.

**Action:**

This will be forwarded to the Board for approval.

**Motion:**

That the Board of School Directors approves the plan written by the Beaty-Warren Middle School staff for submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education by November 14, 2008.

3.2 Automatic Calling System

**Discussion:**

The district has an opportunity to try out a rapid communication system for free for a period of six (6) months. This type of system has been a very effective communication tool in other school districts. It would enable the district to send out messages to parents en masse or by specific groups. This system would be in line with the Board goal regarding communication. If it is decided that the district would like to utilize the system after the trial period, the cost would be \$1.80 per student per year. The district's solicitor is reviewing the confidentiality statement.

**Action:**

This will be forwarded to the Board for approval.

**Motion:**

That the Board of School Directors directs the administration to employ the Global Connect automatic calling system for a six (6) month free trial period, pending a satisfactory recommendation by the solicitor regarding the confidentiality statement.

4. Informational Items

4.1 Handwriting Curriculum Cost Estimate

**Discussion:**

A cost estimate was presented as requested. The system chosen is in line with the Language Arts program that is in place. The total cost of implementation would be less than \$20,000.00

4.2 Full Day Kindergarten Report Using DIBELS Scores

**Discussion:**

A report was provided to the committee that depicted the differences in grade 1 DIBELS scores for the year before full day kindergarten and the year after the program began. It was very obvious that the full day kindergarten program has been very effective in advancing student progress, and that the immediate implementation of the program was a good decision.

4.3 Middle School Committee Progress Report

**Discussion:**

At the middle school level, it is important to address not only the academic needs of the students but also their rapid developmental needs. Middle school principals presented their progress toward the implementation of the Middle School Philosophy that was developed in previous years. A book, titled This We Believe, is being used to help teachers know how to teach this age group. Ms. Amanda Hetrick has copies of this book in her office for anyone who is interested in reading it.

A handout was provided that gave scheduling options for the Middle School level. It was mentioned that the Middle Level students would be isolated from the High School level students in both Eisenhower Middle/High School and Sheffield Area Middle/High School.

Another handout was provided that was a compilation of the ideas set forth by the Middle Level Administration Team, which included the following:

- The addition of a foreign language component, allowing students to take the first year course for a foreign language in eighth grade, thus allowing more time in their high school schedules for other electives.
- Longer core subject classes, thus allowing advanced students the opportunity to go into more depth regarding a subject while at the same time allowing students who are struggling to obtain one-on-one assistance.
- Advisory periods for the students, allowing advanced students to explore activities that were previously not available or struggling students to acquire the help they need without taking away from core subject time, thereby providing an opportunity to reach individual students at their own level.
- Common planning time for the teachers, allowing them to work together to incorporate subject areas across the curriculum; for example, a Reading teacher may be able to provide tips to a Social Studies teacher for teaching reading in the Social Studies class.

A member of the committee said that he would like to see an analysis of data to determine if the program is working.

#### 4.4 Requiring the Taking of the AP Exam

**Discussion:**

As was requested, a report regarding AP Exam scores for comparison was presented. No conclusions were drawn.

#### 4.5 Grant Update

**Discussion:**

The district has purchased Smart Boards for 16 teachers throughout the district. There were over 50 teachers who had requested a Smart Board through an application process. The Smart Boards were distributed according to the results of the applications. If the district is awarded the EETT grant, a similar process may be used to determine which teachers in grades K-8 would receive Smart Boards from those funds.

**Action:**

This will be addressed again at the next CIT meeting.

#### 4.6 NovaNET

**Discussion:**

NovaNET is being used by 519 students in the school district. Over 3000 lessons have been completed so far this year. The district has the capability to design the courses to align with our district's planned instructions. The program is used for tutoring, credit recovery, summer school, remediation, enrichment, and also in working with Hi-Ed in connection with the diploma program. It is also used to supplement language and Advanced Placement courses. It was asked that the district be permitted to purchase 40 more licenses. This would allow 133 students to be working on NovaNET at any given time.

**Action:**

This will be forwarded to the Board for approval.

**Motion:**

That the Board of School Directors approves the NovaNET licensing renewal agreement at the cost of \$4,000.00.

5. Other

5.1 Welding Program at WCCC

**Discussion:**

At the Physical Plant and Facilities meeting, questions arose concerning the Welding class at the WCCC. At the CIT meeting, the administration was charged with determining what needed to be added to the current planned instruction to make it align with the new standards. The CIT Committee members would also like to know how many students who were interested in taking the Welding course were turned away for lack of space and equipment.

**Action:**

The administration will gather the requested information and present it at the Board meeting of November 10, 2008.

6. Closing Activities

6.01 Next Meeting – Monday, November 24, 2008, at 6:00 PM at the Warren County Career Center

6.02 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ms. Lisa Niedzialek, Recording Secretary

Mr. David Wortman, Chairperson

Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Committee