

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

**FEBRUARY 23, 2009
WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Jack Martin, Chairperson
Mr. Arthur Stewart
Mr. David Wortman

Mrs. Amy Stewart
Ms. Amanda Hetrick
Mrs. Rosemarie Green

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kim Angove
Jeff Lockett
Thomas Knapp
Donna Zariczny

Katherine Oudinot
Kirsten Turfitt
Robert Terrill
Diane Martin

Karen Pascale
Gary Weber
Debra Young
Paul Giannini

Stacey Ludwig
Brian Ferry – WTO
Debra Bosko
Lisa Niedzialek

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 PM by Dr. Jack Martin.

1.2 Public Comment

There were no public comments.

2. Old Business

2.1 Policy 9190 – Middle Level Course Sequence

Discussion:

In addition to an attachment that was provided on ESB, a handout was provided that addresses some of the goals of the Middle Level Program that is being developed, the implementation of the program, methods of evaluating the program, and when a report/evaluation could be presented to the Board. (The committee members felt that the format of the handout was laid out well and could be used in evaluating other programs in the future.) Amanda Hetrick would welcome any other input.

The focus of the Middle Level Program is on the core subjects, integrating all four curricular areas. The blocks of time in the schedule allows for flexibility to adapt to special needs of middle school students.

Another handout was provided that compared the Middle School schedule to the Senior High schedule, showing how the scheduling would allow middle school students who are excelling to attend some of the high school classes.

There was some concern that the proposed program would not be beneficial to the students. Input was received from the Language Art Curriculum Coordinator and the Beaty-Warren Middle School (BWMS) principal that addressed the concern. Their statements indicated that

teachers at BWMS, where this type of scheduling has been in place, feel that the proposed scheduling would be beneficial across the curriculum. Parents are also becoming more involved in their children's schooling, with more incidents of parents' communicating with the school staff than in the past. The students seem to be more settled with considerably fewer behavioral problems. Behavior referrals have gone from approximately 1600 per year previously to approximately 400 for this year. Parent surveys have been instrumental in determining strengths and weaknesses in the program.

Methods of evaluation will continue to be on the CIT agenda until there is a consensus on how to evaluate this program.

Action:

The drafted revision of this policy will be forwarded to the Board for approval.

Motion:

That the Board of School Directors approves the proposed revisions to "Policy 9190 – Middle Level Course Sequence" on second reading.

2.2 Language Arts Curriculum Grade 6-8

Discussion:

A new planned instruction for Language Arts Grades 6, 7, & 8 was presented. This was a single planned instruction that addresses all three grade levels and incorporates all subject areas in the Language Arts curriculum. Adopting textbooks for this planned instruction would come at a later date and is budgeted for the current school year.

Action:

This will be forwarded to the Board for approval.

Motion:

That the Board of School Directors approves the planned instruction, titled "Language Arts 6, 7, 8" with textbook adoption to follow later in the Spring.

3. New Business

There was no new business.

4. Informational Items

4.1 Tutoring Budget

Discussion:

A Tutoring Budget Report and an outline for Tutoring Planning for 2009-2010 were provided on ESB. The Budget Report explained that the daytime tutoring funds have been expended, but the daytime tutoring can be continued at Youngsville Elementary/Middle School and Warren Area Elementary Center with Title I funds as these two schools are in AYP Warning status. The Tutoring Planning for 2009-2010 was briefly discussed but was largely self-explanatory.

Next school year, tutoring eligibility will be determined by using only PSSA data; 4Sight data will no longer be permitted in determining eligibility. It may be possible to provide tutoring, using district funds, to students whose 4Sight scores indicate a need, even though PSSA scores did not.

4.2 Title I Program Overview

Discussion:

An overview of the Title I Program was provided. There were questions regarding the Title I funding for the next school year. This will be addressed at the next CIT meeting and possibly at a Finance Committee meeting.

4.3 LEC Summer School Opportunity

Discussion:

A Summer School program is being offered through the Carnegie Mellon Institute for Talented Elementary and Secondary Students ((C-MITES). It is specifically for gifted students; however, a student who is not identified as being gifted can take an exam developed by Carnegie Mellon to see if they qualify.

A Board member asked if there are any similar summer offerings for the regular education students.

Action:

The administration will look for programs for regular education students and present their results at the next CIT meeting.

4.4 2008 AYP Status of Tutored Students – A report was made available on ESB regarding the AYP status of tutored students. This report was self-explanatory and was not discussed.

4.5 Goals 2 and 3

Discussion:

It was requested that the information on the status of the goals be more definitive. This item will be kept on future agendas so that it can be discussed further. The annual report that was presented contained information regarding student and district-wide performance that could add to future discussions. Committee members were encouraged to read this document and be ready to present any suggestions.

4.6 Goals Updates – Goal updates were provided.

5. Other

5.1 Global Connect Automated Calling System

Discussion:

This system has given the district a six month free trial. It was approved at a previous time that the district would take advantage of this offer.

Each student may have many phone numbers listed in their contacts in the district's database system. A letter went home to the parents/guardians, identifying the phone numbers that would be called in the event of an emergency, for verification.

The district is already in the Global Connect system, and a test call will be performed in the near future. There was concern that the system is going to be in place for only a few months before the end of the school year, and that the short period of time may not be sufficient to determine if the system is something to which the district should subscribe.

6. Closing Activities

6.1 Next Meeting – Monday, March 30, 2009 at 6:00 PM, Warren County Career Center

6.2 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ms. Lisa Niedzialek, Recording Secretary

Dr. Jack Martin, Chairperson

Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Committee