

POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009
WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER
347 EAST FIFTH AVENUE, WARREN, PA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Kimberly Angove
Mr. Thomas Knapp
Mr. Jeff Lockett

Dr. Jack Martin
Mrs. Kirsten Turfitt

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mrs. Katherine Oudinot
Mr. Arthur Stewart

Mr. David Wortman
Mrs. Donna Zariczny

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Robert Terrill
Mrs. Amanda Hetrick
Mrs. Rosemarie Green
Mr. Brian Collopy
Mr. Paul Giannini
Mr. Dean Wells, WTO
Ms. Linda Deeter

Mrs. Amy Stewart
Mrs. Diane Martin
Mrs. Ruth Huck
Mr. Chris Byham
Mr. Jack Werner
Mrs. Louise Tharp

1. Opening Activities

1.01 Call to Order

The Policy Committee meeting of the Warren County School District Board of School Directors was called to order by Mrs. Angove, President, at 5:35 p.m. in the Board Room of the Warren County Career Center, 347 East Fifth Avenue, Warren, Pennsylvania.

1.02 Public Comment

Mrs. Louise Tharp WCSD Employee	Mrs. Tharp introduced Mrs. Linda Deeter from the Pennsylvania Department of Health who serves as the Northwest Region's School to Health Consultant. Mrs. Deeter will be available to answer the Board's questions regarding the policy on administration of medications.
Mr. John Grant, 500 Fourth Ave., Warren, PA	Mr. Grant stated that he has been reading policies on the web and commended the Board for its work and making it accessible and easy to find. He specifically addressed Policies 9742 and 9743. Mr. Grant commented that the district is competing on the world stage all of the time. In one of the points of competition, when school districts are compared and ranked in performance on the exam for Advanced Placement, the criteria for excellence is the percentage of a graduating

	<p>class that has passed an AP exam. AP is a copyrighted program of the College Boards. The District's AP curriculum was approved by the Board of Education and was approved by College Boards. It is not what gets taught that AP needs to measure, it is what gets learned. Mr. Grant is concerned with the statement in both policies that says, 'students enrolled in Honors, AP and Dual Enrollment classes will have value added to their adjusted grade point average,' and he does not find this a problem. But what does concern and confuses him is the sentence, 'AP students may opt to take the AP exams,' because unless students take the AP exam, there is no evidence they are AP students. AP credit comes from the exam, not the course. Anyone can walk in and take an exam and get credit from AP whether they take a course or not. GPA adjustments should come when the AP exam is passed. GPA adjustment should come when Dual Enrollment is taken and college standards are met. These are outside standards. If the District is not going to have an outside standard for an AP course or Dual Enrollment program, he believes the District has just another Honors program with local control. It is Mr. Grant's recommendation that not only students who sign up for AP courses take the exam, he also suggests that it is a critical element of the Board of Education to support the AP exam and pay for it for the students. He acknowledges that it is an additional expense, but he believes AP opportunities touch on the total effort for gifted and talented students.</p>
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2. Old Business

2.01 Policy 10930, titled – Behavior Management

Discussion:

Mrs. Martin stated that this policy was approved on first reading, and it is being requested that the policy be forwarded for second reading.

Action:

The committee forwarded this Policy 10930 to the Board meeting on April 13, 2009.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves on second reading Policy 10930, titled – Behavior Management.

2.02 Policy Number 11301, titled – Visitors to School

Discussion:

Mrs. Martin stated that this policy was approved on first reading, and it is being requested that the policy be forwarded for second reading.

Action:

The committee forwarded this Policy 11301 to the Board meeting on April 13, 2009.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves on second reading Policy Number 11301, titled – Visitors to School

2.03 Policy 9301, titled – Special Education Programs

Discussion:

Mrs. Martin stated that this policy was approved on first reading, and it is being requested that the policy be forwarded for second reading.

Action:

The committee forwarded this Policy 9301 to the Board meeting on April 13, 2009.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves on second reading Policy 9301, titled – Special Education Programs.

2.04 Policy 7220, titled – Discipline & Corporal Punishment

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

Action:

The committee forwarded this Policy 7220 to the Board meeting on April 13, 2009.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves on second reading Policy 7220, titled – Discipline & Corporal Punishment

2.05 Policy 10510, titled – Discipline Code

Discussion:

Mrs. Hetrick presented changes to Policy 10510 from last month's meeting. Dr. Martin asked for an explanation of line 35 on page 2. He specifically wanted to know how the discretionary piece would be administered across the District and if it was really needed. He stated that the District relies too much on law enforcement and that a procedure should be drafted that puts more responsibility on the District, and calls to law enforcement should be for more serious incidents.

On lines 1-12 of page 10, Dr. Martin commented that illegal absences were out of proportion in some of the schools and asked if it was because of the discretionary latitude given to the principals. He also requested that there be a follow-up on absences at the end of the year.

Action:

The committee forwarded this policy to the CIT Committee Meeting on April 27, 2009, and it will be reviewed in combination with the Alternative Education information.

2.06 Policy 10613, titled – Administration of Medications

Discussion:

Mrs. Linda Deeter from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, who serves as the Northwest Region's School to Health Consultant, addressed the Board and answered questions regarding Policy 10613 – Administration of Medications. Mrs. Deeter clarified that students can only self medicate if they have proper paperwork on file with the school nurse. The committee asked that on page 2, lines 2-6 insert "Department head nurse." The current version of the policy is not compliant with the law and the committee wants to look at using licensed health room assistants when nurses are not available in the schools. Administration will research who, among the support staff, may meet the qualifications of a health room assistant.

Action:

The non-compliant parts of the policy will be removed, and it will be sent back to the Policy Committee in April. The Board requested a list of medications that are part of the standing orders from the school physician.

Motion:

There was no motion.

3. New Business

3.01 Policy Number 4020, titled – Annual Operating Budget

Discussion: .

There was no discussion.

Action:

Since Mr. Turnquist was not available for the meeting, this agenda item was moved to the April 28, 2009, Policy Committee meeting.

Motion:

There was no motion.

3.02 Policy Number 9742 & 9743 – Class Rank/Honors Credits (Dual Enrollment Credit)

Discussion:

These policies were discussed at the Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Committee meeting and forwarded from that committee for first reading.

Action:

There was no action from the Policy Committee.

Motion:

There was no motion.

4. Closing Activities

4.01 Next Meeting Date – April 28, 2009, 5:30 p.m. – Warren County Career Center

4.02 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth A. Huck, Board Secretary
Kimberly J. Angove, Chairperson
Policy Committee