

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

APRIL 27, 2009

WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Jack Martin, Chairperson  
Mr. Arthur Stewart  
Mrs. Katherine Oudinot for Mr. David Wortman

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. David Wortman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kim Angove	Petter Turnquist	Patty Horner	Stephanie Hamm (WTO)
Jeff Lockett	Karen Pascale	Debra Young	Debra Bosko
Tom Knapp	Matt Jones	Stacey Ludwig	Lisa Niedzialek
Kirsten Turfitt	Paul Giannini	Darlene Albaugh	1 other
Robert Terrill			

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 PM by Dr. Jack Martin.

1.2 Public Comment

Pat Zapel, a math teacher at Eisenhower Middle/High School, spoke regarding concerns about the number of different class preparations that would be necessary for some of the teachers in the next school year, both at the middle and high school levels.

The committee asked that Amanda Hetrick, Director of Secondary Education, bring back a recommendation for how to solve the problem.

2. Old Business

2.1 Alternative Education and Discipline Code

**Discussion:**

A two-tier Alternative Education program is being considered.

Students who are mildly disruptive could be enrolled into an alternative education program that would be district-based, either by voluntary entry or assignment by adjudication. The intent of this tier would be to help the student become more successful.

Another tier could be made available for students for which expulsion has been necessary due to major infractions. These students could be placed in a program separate from the district. This tier would be more punitive in nature.

The Discipline Code was not discussed.

**Action:**

The administration will develop a rough proposal that will include approximate costs for a two-tier system. This will be addressed at the next CIT meeting.

2.2 WCCC Consultant

**Discussion:**

In a search for a consultant to develop recommendations as to what courses should be offered at the Warren County Career Center, only one firm has shown interest. That firm, MGT, has offered four options and quoted a cost for each.

**Action:**

This item will not be considered at this time, but will be readdressed at a later date.

3. New Business

3.1 Proposed Language Arts Textbook Selection

**Discussion:**

The Language Arts staff members in the district have agreed that the Language Arts materials from Pearson-Prentice Hall Publishers for grades 6-12 are the most suitable.

**Action:**

A price is being negotiated. When a price has been agreed upon, this item will be forwarded to the Finance Committee for presentation to the Board.

3.2 Proposed 2009-2010 Classes of Fewer than 12 Students

**Discussion:**

Listings were provided that depicted the classes of fewer than 12 students and the combined classes of fewer than 12 students that the administration feels should be offered in the 2009-10 school year. Also, a listing was provided that depicted the classes of fewer than 12 students for which the administration feels it is not necessary to offer for the 2009-10 school year.

It was mentioned that, in the future, it may be necessary to eliminate the offering of French. The trend has been that few students pursue the language after the first year.

For some of the classes that are not being offered in the 2009-10 school year, students may have the opportunity to take these classes when and if they are offered for the 2010-11 school year.

**Action:**

The listings for the classes of fewer than 12 students and the combined classes of fewer than 12 students that the administration feels should be offered in the 2009-10 school year will be forwarded to the Board for approval after some minor revisions dealing with students' taking classes at Warren Area High School rather than their home school.

**Motion:**

That the Board of School Directors approves that the attached listings of classes with fewer than 12 students be offered in school year 2009-2010.

### 3.3 Cyber Services Contract with IU5

**Discussion:**

The new contract for Cyber Services with Intermediate Unit #5 has a minimal increase of \$500.00.

**Action:**

This item will be forwarded to the Board for approval.

**Motion:**

That the Board of School Directors enters into the Cyber Services Agreement with Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5 for July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 in the amount of \$8000.00

### 3.4 GRANT: 2009-10 Perkins Grant

**Discussion:**

This grant would provide funding for programs at the Warren County Career Center. This grant was awarded for the present school year in the amount of \$94,107. The amount to be awarded for the 2009-10 school year is not yet known.

**Action:**

This will be forwarded to the Board for approval.

**Motion:**

That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to submit an application to the 2009-10 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Grant to support programs and activities at the Warren County Career Center.

### 3.5. GRANT: 2009-10 PA-Pact

**Discussion:**

This grant encompasses the former Accountability Block Grant, the Educational Assistance Program (tutoring), and the Basic Education Funding Grant, all of which have been previously awarded to the district. The funding provided by this grant would be used in the same manner as the previous grants. The amount of the award is not known at this time but could possibly be the same as was awarded for this school year (\$1,778,765).

**Action:**

This will be forwarded to the Board for approval.

**Motion:**

That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Education PA-Pact Grant to support a variety of programs in support of education in the Warren County School District.

### 3.6 GRANT: Tax Incentive Rebate Program with Ellwood National Forge

**Discussion:**

Ellwood National Forge participates in the state tax incentive rebate program, which allows businesses to designate a portion of the taxes paid to the state to be used for local projects. Ellwood has provided support to the Warren County Career Center through this program.

An application must be submitted to Ellwood in order to receive continued funding from this program. If the application is approved, the Career Center will be contacted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, informing them of the amount of the award.

**Action:**

This will be forwarded to the Board for approval.

**Motion:**

That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to apply to Ellwood National Forge for a portion of the tax rebate monies it designates for local use in Warren County. Any such rebate would be designated to support Warren County Career Center programs.

4. Informational Items

4.1 Middle School Evaluation

**Discussion:**

The district is using the “Schools to Watch Self-Study and Rating Rubric” provided by The National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform as a starting point in the development of the Middle School Concept. This is an ongoing procedure.

**Action:**

If any of the Board members have input regarding a middle school evaluation mechanism, they should email their ideas and/or questions to Amanda Hetrick by Wednesday, May 6, 2009.

4.2 Board Committee Charges – An attachment was provided and was self-explanatory. This item was not discussed.

4.3 Goals 2, 3, and 7

**Discussion:**

An article from the “Erie Times-News” was shared with the committee. In the article, a teacher named Jim Brinling stated, “The teacher doesn’t become the sole source of information...The teacher becomes the person who facilitates learning.” A teacher needs to teach a student how to learn.

This is connected to Goals 2 and 3, the use of technology in the classroom (with the teacher being the facilitator). It could be recommended to the Finance Committee that something be put in next year’s budget to fund staff requests for specific technology that would best suit their individual needs. In each request, the staff member would need to identify how the technology would fundamentally change the way they teach or change how the students react, and how the impact of using that technology will be measured after it has been in use for six months to a year.

It was mentioned that a professional development workshop where teachers could come together and share ideas of how best to use the technology may be beneficial.

**Action:**

This will be forwarded to the Board for assignment to the Finance Committee.

**Motion:**

That the Board of School Directors directs the Finance Committee to consider a \$250,000 line item in the 2009-2010 budget in support of staff members’ requests for new technology in their classrooms. No more than 10% of the budgeted amount could be used for staff development.

4.4 Smart Boards – This item was not discussed and will not be included on the next CIT agenda as the item above will encompass the need.

5. Other

5.1 IDEA and Title Stimulus Applications

**Discussion:**

Jeff Lockett, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, spoke to administrators regarding the status of the stimulus applications. Mr. Lockett acknowledged the mid-May application deadline for both the Title I and IDEA stimulus grants.

6. Closing Activities

6.1 Next Meeting – Monday, May 26, 2009 at 6:00 PM in the Board room of the Warren County Career Center

6.2 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ms. Lisa Niedzialek, Recording Secretary

Dr. Jack Martin, Chairperson

Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Committee