

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

May 26, 2009

WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Jack Martin, Chairperson
Mr. Arthur Stewart
Mrs. Kirsten Turfitt for Mr. David Wortman

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. David Wortman, Mrs. Rosemarie Green

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kim Angove
Jeff Lockett
Tom Knapp
Donna Zariczny
Katherine Oudinot

Chris Byham
Robert Terrill
Karen Pascale
Petter Turnquist

Matt Jones
Brian Collopy
Ruth Nelson
Eugene Casasanta

Sandy Wilks
Stacey Ludwig
Lisa Niedzialek
1 other

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:22 PM by Dr. Jack Martin.

1.2 Public Comment – There were no public comments.

2. Old Business

2.1 Excuses for Student Absence – This item was not discussed. This item will be tabled until the next CIT meeting, at which time an update will be available.

2.2 Discipline Policy 10510 and Alternative Education

Discussion:

Regarding Policy 10510, after some discussion of possible changes, it was decided that the policy would be addressed at the Policy Committee Meeting of May 27, 2009.

Three options for a two-tiered Alternative Education Program were presented. The second tier would be more punitive in nature.

- Option 1 is to have a two-tier program in which the students that have committed serious infractions would continue to attend Alternative Education classes that would be offered at the Warren Area High School facility. The students that have committed more heinous infractions would attend classes through Beacon Light. These classes would be held at the Central Avenue Beacon Light facility.
- Option 2 is to have a two-tier program in which the students that have committed serious infractions would continue to attend Alternative Education classes that would be offered at the Warren Area High School facility during the daytime. The students that have

committed more heinous infractions would attend classes at the Warren Area High School facility in the evening, using district instructors.

- Option 3 is to have a two-tier program in which the students that have committed serious infractions would continue to attend Alternative Education classes that would be offered at the Warren Area High School facility during the daytime. The students that have committed more heinous infractions would attend classes in a facility outside the Warren County School District area.

Action:

This item will be forwarded to the Board with the recommendation of approving Option 2, adding the cost of the program to the motion so that the Finance Committee will be aware of the funding that will be needed.

Motion:

That the Board of School Directors approves Option 2 for a second tier for the Alternative Education Program for the school district, with an additional cost of \$35,000 for the 2009-2010 school year.

3. New Business

3.1 GRANT: Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities

Discussion:

This grant has historically been for over \$20,000, but a definite amount for the new grant has not yet been established. Other than a possible change in the amount of the grant, there have been no changes in the grant.

Action:

This item 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 Safe and Drug-Free School and Communities Grant to provide Student Assistance Program services for district students.

3.2 Special Education Plan

Discussion:

This plan is still in phase one and is a working document. Feedback will be coming from the state. One document, titled "Assurance for the Operation of Special Education Services and Programs", needs approval at this point.

Action:

This item will be forwarded to the Board at the Special Board Meeting of May 26, 2009.

Motion:

A motion was not presented at this CIT meeting. The motion will be decided upon at the Special Board Meeting.

3.3 Approval to Apply for Title I and Title IIA Grants

Discussion:

Application for these grants has been made in previous years. These are federal monies that are delivered through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Action:

This item will be forwarded to the Board for approval.

Motion:

That the Board of School Directors approves the application for the Title I and Title IIA grants.

4. Informational Items

4.1 Acellus Update

Discussion:

A handout was provided regarding the classes with fewer than 12 students that had been approved for the present school year. The handout depicted the number of students that had registered for the classes, the classes that ended up not being offered, and the number of students that actually took the classes. This handout was informational only and was not discussed.

An attachment to the agenda provided information regarding the Acellus program, the goals for using Acellus in the present school year, a timeline for its implementation, the results of the implementation, and the goals for the next school year.

It was asked how the Acellus program differs from the NovaNET program that is also being used in the district. In response to the query:

- Acellus adapts to the individual student's strengths and weaknesses; NovaNET does not.
- Acellus has a teacher actually teaching the class; NovaNET has no on-line teacher and requires a lot of reading.
- Acellus courses are more rigorous than NovaNET courses – Acellus may not be as suitable for a student who struggles academically.

4.2 Board Committee Charges – A list of the charges was provided as an attachment to the agenda. This item was self-explanatory and was not discussed.

4.3 Poll Everywhere – This item was to provide information regarding the use of this program which utilizes students' texting on cell phones in response to teacher questions, giving instantaneous feedback. It was not discussed at this time.

4.4 Board Goals 2, 3 and 7 – Updates to these Board Goals were attached to the agenda and were self-explanatory. This item was not discussed.

4.5 PDE Ruling on Distance Learning

Discussion:

It was briefly discussed whether additional research should be done to determine whether it is necessary to have a teacher present in a distance learning classroom that is certified in the subject area being taught. It was agreed upon that additional research should be done.

Action:

Chris Byham will conduct the research.

4.6 Middle School Evaluation – This item was not discussed. Principals will complete the evaluation process in June, and it will be posted on the next CIT agenda.

5. Other

6. Closing Activities

6.1 Next Meeting – Pending the scheduling of a July Board Meeting, the next CIT meeting will be held on Monday, June 29, 2009, following the Physical Plant and Facilities Committee Meeting at 6:00 PM.

6.2 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ms. Lisa Niedzialek, Recording Secretary

Dr. Jack Martin, Chairperson

Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Committee