

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

October 26, 2009

WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Jack Martin, Chairperson
Mr. Arthur Stewart
Mr. John Grant

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kimberly Angove	Jeff Lockett	Janet Peterson	Darlene Albaugh
Katherine Oudinot	Robert Terrill	Randy Peterson	Debra Bosko
Kirsten Turfitt	Karen Pascale	Jen Gesing	Colin Kyler, WTO
Donna Zariczny	Matt Jones	Stacey Ludwig	10 others
Thomas Knapp	Paul Giannini		

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 PM by Dr. Jack Martin.

1.2 Public Comment – There were no public comments.

2. Old Business – There was no old business.

3. New Business

3.1 Science Planned Instructions – Middle and Secondary Levels

Discussion:

New planned instructions for the Science curriculum were presented. Janet Peterson, the Science Curriculum Coordinator, has worked with a number of teachers to develop the new planned instructions. She was present at the meeting to answer questions.

A committee member asked if there was a way to determine if the planned instruction would meet the academic needs to prepare our students to compete globally. In response, it was pointed out that the curriculum is based on the standards set by the state of Pennsylvania, and that the Warren County School District is presently requiring more science courses than many other districts and requiring a Physics course for seniors. The new curriculum is more inquiry-based to allow students to solve problems instead of simply memorizing facts. The courses that are to be taught at the Middle School level

will better prepare students for high school level courses by presenting things to students multiple times at multiple levels. Our district also offers many science electives that other districts do not.

The aforementioned committee member challenged the administration to think about the concept of continual improvement in all aspects, but especially in the writing of planned instruction. He stated that an Executive Summary that would highlight the items that were just talked about, with the emphasis on continued improvement, would help Board members to better understand the reasoning behind the choices that are being made.

A committee member asked the administration to look into the possibility of using electronic textbooks and workbooks as a money-saving endeavor. He stated that the rigor and effectiveness of a course depends more on the teacher's delivery than on the textbook.

Action:

This item will be forwarded to the Board for approval. An Executive Summary will be drafted for presentation at the Board meeting. It was asked that the line item Budget Unit Number and Account Number be mentioned in the Board item.

Motion:

That the Board of School Directors adopts the planned instructions as presented, with textbook titles to be inserted when books are adopted by the Board in the spring of 2010.

3.2 GRANT: Eighth Grade Career Day/Learning for Life

Discussion:

The school district has been participating in the Learning for Life Career Education Program for many years. Eighth grade students complete a career interest survey, and the results are provided to the guidance counselors, who in turn provide the information to the School-to-Work office.

Action:

This will be forwarded to the Board for authorization to apply for the grant.

Motion:

That the Board of School Directors approves the submission of a grant proposal of \$1,000 to the Warren/Forest Higher Education Council School to Work Partnership to support the 2009-10 Learning for Life Program.

3.3 GRANT: YHS Seminar Days

Discussion:

Youngsville High School teachers have developed Seminar Days for their students, when professionals from the community will be invited to the school to discuss a variety of issues related to the workplace, such as appropriate dress, communications, and etiquette. The staff would like permission to apply for up to \$1,500 from the School to Work grant program to fund the event.

Action:

This will be forwarded to the Board for authorization to apply for the grant.

Motion:

That the Board of School Directors authorizes the district administration to work with Youngsville High School staff to submit a grant request of up to \$1,500 to the School to Work grant program to fund the YHS Seminar Days.

3.4 GRANT: Agriculture & Rural Youth Grant**Discussion:**

This grant is intended to provide funding for projects that increase the knowledge and awareness of agricultural and rural issues in Pennsylvania. Proposals for this grant are being accepted and evaluated and, if awarded, could provide up to \$2,500 in direct grants or up to \$10,000 in matching grants.

Action:

This will be forwarded to the Board for authorization to apply for the grant.

Motion:

That the Board of School Directors authorizes the district administration to work with interested district buildings in developing an appropriate project for the PA Department of Agriculture's Agricultural & Rural Youth Grant for 2009-2010.

3.5 School Based Behavioral Health Team**Discussion:**

The Community Care Behavioral Health Organization (CCBH) has asked the district to participate in a pilot program that would provide support for children in the community, both regular education and special education students. The benefits to this program would include support not only during the school day but also at home, and help to develop better lines of communication between school, home, and service providers. Staffing and services costs would be the responsibility of CCBH. The district would provide a work room, telephone accessibility, internet accessibility, and conference room space to meet with families when needed. A committee member asked if there was a means of assessing the success of the program. (He added that when any new program is being introduced, the means of assessment should be included in the presentation.) The committee was assured that student confidentiality was being addressed.

Action:

More information will be provided at a later date. There is no recommendation at this time.

3.6 Alternative Education Program for 2009-2010

Discussion:

The administration strongly believes that the program needs to be restructured. The committee asked the administration to determine how the program would be delivered if it was made up of two tiers, one for students who have committed severe offenses, and one for students who have committed minor offenses or simply need a different learning environment than is offered in the regular classroom. The administration would prefer to house the latter group within the school system as is presently being done. The first group would be housed outside of the district's buildings.

A proposal was introduced by Beacon Light to provide services for an Alternative Education Program. Jen Gesing, representing Beacon Light, was present to answer questions.

Action:

This item will be readdressed at the next CIT meeting under Old Business. The administration will map out how a two-tiered program could be most effectively delivered.

4. Informational Items

4.1 Board and Committee Charges Update

A chart depicting the charges to the administration that the Board and Committees have made and the status of those charges was provided. There was no discussion.

4.2 Thurston House Programming

Discussion:

Thurston House in Meadville, PA, funded by the state, makes two programs available to students in the school district; the Pregnant and Parenting Teen Program and Education Leading to Employment and Career Training (ELECT). Both programs provide assistance to teen parents. There is no cost to the district to participate in these programs. The district has participated in this consortium in the past. The Board needs to approve the continuation of participation.

Action:

This item will be forwarded to the Board for approval of continuation in the consortium.

Motion:

That the Board of School Directors continues the agreement to participate in services to pregnant and parenting teens and the ELECT program as administered by Thurston House.

5. Other – There were no other items.

6. Closing Activities

6.1 Next Meeting – November 23, 2009 at 6:00 PM at the Warren County Career Center

6.2 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ms. Lisa Niedzialek, Recording Secretary

Dr. Jack Martin, Chairperson

Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Committee