

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

October 25, 2010
WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Kimberly Angove, Chairperson
Mr. Jack Werner
Dr. Paul Yourchisin

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Arthur Stewart	Jeff Lockett	Matthew Jones	Debra Bosko
Thomas Knapp	Robert Terrill	Delores Berry	Lisa Niedzialek
Mary Anne Paris	Brian Collopy	Jeffrey Flickner	1 other
Donna Zariczny	Paul Giannini	Colin Kyler, WTO	

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:42 PM by Mrs. Kimberly Angove.

1.2 Public Comment

There were no public comments.

2. Old Business

2.1 Student Assistance Program – Therapist

Discussion: In November 2009 a School Based Mental Health Therapist was added to the Student Assistance Program to support students who need services beyond what is provided by the Student Assistance Liaisons. Last year approximately 50 students benefited from having this therapist available. It was stated that the district has been very pleased with the services that have been received, and it is desired that this service be continued. It will be funded through the Accountability Block Grant. A copy of the contract was presented.

Action: This will be forwarded to the Board for approval.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the continuation of the Beacon Light Contract for a School Based Mental Health Therapist to support the Student Assistance Program.

3. New Business

3.1 International Field Trip Request

Discussion: A Spanish teacher at Eisenhower Middle/High School requested that she be permitted to take some of her students on a field trip to Costa Rica in June 2011. Information regarding the request was presented. Insurance is provided by the travel agency; however, the administration will consult with the solicitor to be certain that the school district will not be liable for the students while they are on the trip. Graduated seniors will not be included in the roster as they would no longer be considered students of the school district. No district funds will be expended.

Action: This will be forwarded to the Board for approval.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the field trip to Costa Rica as presented.

3.2 Data Center Preliminary Proposal

Discussion: A PowerPoint presentation was shown that provided information regarding the first phase of the Data Center upgrade project. This presentation is available for viewing on the agenda for this meeting. It was noted that instructional needs are driving the technological solutions.

Action: This is still in the preliminary stage; options and pricing will be brought back to the committee at a later date. The new system should be totally implemented by the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year. This item will be forwarded to the Finance Committee.

4. Informational Items (Items 4.1 and 4.2 are actually New Business items and were treated as such.)

4.1 GRANT: Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC) Transportation Grant

Discussion: The TREC is offering mini-grants of up to \$500.00 to help defray the cost of transportation for schools that would like to visit the center. So far five teachers have shown interest.

Action: This will be forwarded to the Board for authorization to proceed with applications for the mini-grants.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to work with interested teachers to submit Tom Ridge Environmental Center grants applications for qualified field trip proposals.

4.2 GRANT: Pennsylvania Middle School Association, Northwest Region Grant Program

Discussion: The Pennsylvania Middle School Association is offering three grants to the district of up to \$500.00 each to support projects and/or activities that would benefit middle school students. Youngsville Elementary/Middle School has already expressed interest in applying for this grant.

Action: This will be forwarded to the Board for authorization to proceed with applications for the grants.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to work with interested WCSD middle schools to submit appropriate applications to the PA Middle School Association, Northwest Chapter Mini-Grant Program.

4.3 Chapter 4 Regulations and Keystone Exams

Beginning in the present school year, the state is going to start phasing in the use of the Keystone Exams to determine whether a student is ready to graduate. A program overview was presented as an attachment. There are a total of eight exams. As part of the phasing in process, the district expects to administer Keystone Exams for Algebra I, Literature, and Biology beginning this spring. Students graduating in 2015 and 2016 will be required to demonstrate proficiency on four of the eight exams. Students in the graduating class of 2017 school year and beyond will need to demonstrate proficiency in six of the eight exams in order to graduate. The state is planning to seek permission for the Keystone Exams to replace the PSSA for grade 11. If this comes about, the Keystone Exams results would be used in the determination of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the district. There is an option for the district to develop its own assessments, and these assessments would need to have norms set by professionals and approved by the PA Department of Education. The administration will gather more information and bring a recommendation to the Board, following the timeline that is set by the state.

5. Other

5.1 Project Ignition

Discussion: This is a grant that focuses on teen driver safety. A team of students from Youngsville High School, under the direction of a teacher, will work with the local police department to create an effective program that will be entitled “Keep Your Eyes on the Prize...Staying Alive”. These students may also be contacting government officials to encourage them to lobby for tougher laws, especially for inexperienced drivers. Teachers may opt for using portions of the program in the classroom, and some students may make activities related to this program part of their senior projects.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to apply for the Project Ignition grant.

5.2 Video

A video that was shown at a PSBA meeting was presented to the committee early in the meeting. It stressed the importance of using the technological tools of today and the future to teach students in order to stay in competition with the rest of the world. A link to this video will be provided on the school district's website.

5.3 Rachel's Challenge

Rachel's Challenge is a program established in memory of Rachel Scott, a student killed at Columbine. The program is designed to help students develop a positive culture in their schools. Some of the students in the district have taken field trips to Erie, PA to attend this program, and now the program is going to be offered at Beaty-Warren Middle School and Eisenhower Middle/High School. A family presentation will be offered at Eisenhower Middle/High School on Friday, October 29, 2010 at 7:00 PM, and all who were present were invited to attend.

6. Closing Activities

6.1 Next Meeting – November 22, 2010 at the Warren County Career Center at 7:00 PM

6.2 Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ms. Lisa Niedzialek, Recording Secretary
Mrs. Kimberly Angove, Chairperson
Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Committee