

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

February 1, 2011
WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Jack Werner

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Grant	Barb Cook	Kelsey Angove	Drew Lang
Jeff Lockett	Delores Berry	Nicole McClement	Jeffrey Zariczny
Donna Zariczny	Deborah Doyle	Brooke Shaffer	Colin Kyler WTO
Mary Ann Paris	Stacey Ludwig	Susan Andersen	Debra Bosko
Brian Collopy	Joseph Yaegle	Emily Andersen	Lisa Niedzialek
Matt Jones	Megan Tubbs	Paul Sherer	

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Dr. Paul Yourchisin.

1.2 Public Comment

A group of students who are enrolled in the St. Bonaventure University (SBU) Dual Enrollment Program, represented by speakers Joseph Yaegle, Megan Tubbs, and Kelsey Angove, attended the meeting to express their appreciation for the educational opportunity that has been made available and to voice their concerns regarding negativity toward SBU students in their home schools in relation to the establishment of class rank.

The administration has been working with the students to search for ways to remedy the situation. A committee member assured the students that the Board will do all it can to alleviate the problem.

2. Old Business

There was no old business.

3. New Business

3.1 GRANT: Transportation Grant for Student Field Trip

Discussion: This grant would provide transportation for field trips to participating organizations that offer programming that is aligned with the PA Academic Standards. Youngsville Elementary/Middle School and the Learning Enrichment Center have proposed field trips to Tamarack Wildlife Rehab and Education and Penn State/Erie, both of which are participating organizations.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to submit an application to the Transportation Scholarship Program of the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit on behalf of the Learning Enrichment Center and Youngsville Elementary/Middle School.

3.2 GRANT: Artist in Residency Grant at Russell Elementary

Discussion: Russell Elementary School is requesting an artist-in-residency program for May 2011. The artist being considered is the Box of Light Theatre group, which would work with the students for a period of four weeks. The Arts Council of Erie and the Community Foundation of Warren County have expressed interest in funding the project.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to apply to the Community Foundation of Warren County and the Arts Council of Erie for funding the Box of Light Theatre artist-in-residency program proposed for Russell Elementary School in May of 2011.

3.3 GRANT: Prevention Education Mini-Grant

Discussion: This grant is being provided to offer educational programs regarding the prevention of sexually transmitted disease and pregnancy. The district would like to provide a program called “Focus on Kids” to all ninth grade students.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Education Bureau of Teaching and Learning for a \$5,000 Prevention Education Mini-Grant to deliver the “Focus on Kids” program to district ninth grade students.

3.4 GRANT: 2011 Trout in the Classroom Start-Up Grant

Discussion: The Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Grant is offered to organizations that deal with conservation. A local organization would work with a teacher to implement the program. The district would have to provide \$350 toward the start-up and maintain the equipment in subsequent years. The district would also need to provide a 55 gallon aquarium and lid in which to raise the trout to the fingerling stage. The program has applications in science, social studies, math, language arts, fine arts, and physical education. Most programs end with the release of the trout into a state-approved waterway. A teacher at Beaty-Warren Middle School is interested in starting this project. This program is supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited for 2011 Trout in the Classroom Start-Up Grant for a classroom at Beaty-Warren Middle School.

3.5 GRANT: Carnegie Mellon Institute for Talented Elementary and Secondary Students (C-MITES) Summer Program

Discussion: The C-MITES Summer Program is for gifted students in grades three through five. Applications are available to all students, and Carnegie Mellon Institute selects students based on their application. The course being offered this year is “Harry Potter’s Science Adventure”. The cost per student is \$390 for students who have taken the C-MITES EXPLORE test and \$460 for students who have not taken the test. Financial aid is available. The course will be held at the Learning Enrichment Center.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to apply to the Community Foundation of Warren County for funding of the C-MITES program in the summer of 2011.

3.6 Proposal for Temporary Suspension of Policy 9135

Discussion: A proposed suspension of “Policy 9135 – Curriculum Review Cycle” was presented to the Committee as an attachment to the agenda. The proposed suspension would provide time that is needed to incorporate the state’s newly-adopted Common Core standards into the curriculum, thereby allowing students to be better prepared for the Keystone Exams. The suspension would also allow for a one-time cost savings for textbooks and materials as these costs would be spread over a two-year period for this proposal.

A Board member thought that it may be a good idea to look at revising the policy to allow leeway in the established timeline, or possibly make the curriculum review a plan rather than a policy. He felt that this issue should be addressed every few years. The

committee members agreed that this should be addressed through policy and the administration.

Action: The original motion will be amended and forwarded to the Board.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors allows the administration to temporarily suspend the implementation of the existing Policy 9135 while the policy is reviewed and suggestions for revision are gathered for presentation to the Board.

3.7 Science Curriculum Revision (Grade 5 and 6)

Discussion: Teachers have requested that the curriculum be revised because it didn't fully express the incorporation of the new science materials. The proposed revisions contain additional verbiage; none was removed.

Action: This will be forwarded to the Board for approval

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the revised fifth and sixth grade science planned instructions.

3.8 2011-2012 School Calendar Proposal

Discussion: The proposed calendar was developed by a committee comprised of representatives from the School Board, school district staff, and the community. A survey, which was posted on the district's website, provided additional input. The proposed calendar seems to meet the needs of the community and meets attendance requirements established by the state.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors adopts the 2011-2012 School Calendar as presented.

3.9 Draft Agreement between Jamestown Community College and Warren County School District as per WCSD Policy 9742

Discussion: As per Policy 9742, an agreement with Jamestown Community College (JCC) is being proposed to allow certain courses in which district students are or may be enrolled to be credited as dual enrollment courses, earning credit toward graduation from the Warren County School District (WCSD). The courses that would be approved by the WCSD are listed in the agreement. The district's solicitor has reviewed the agreement. The agreement is pending the approval of JCC.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the agreement between the Warren County School District and Jamestown Community College as presented, awarding students taking JCC courses dual credit.

4. Informational Items

4.1 WCCC Civil Rights Audit Information

A summary of the Civil Rights Audit that was conducted in November 2010 was provided to the committee as an attachment to the agenda. The Warren County Career Center (WCCC) was in compliance, there were no violations, and a few recommendations were made for going forward.

4.2 WCCC Program Approval Audit Report

A summary of the Program Approval Audit that was conducted in November 2010 was provided to the committee as an attachment to the agenda. As a whole, the audit went fairly well. There were some findings that will need to be addressed in order to have the Warren County Career Center achieve compliance. These were outlined in the summary. Responses to the audit will be submitted within two weeks, and the principal will be contacted as to whether the responses are accepted or more needs to be done.

One issue that was mentioned as needing to be addressed is the availability of academic courses to Career Center students. The fact is that academic courses are offered to students, but the students must take these courses at the Warren Area High School (WAHS). Some of the students whose home schools are not WAHS choose to refuse the opportunity.

4.3 WCCC Occupational Advisory Recommendations

The Occupational Advisory Committee, compiled of representatives of local business and industry employees, makes recommendation for program improvements at the Warren County Career Center. Although the Board is not obligated to comply with these recommendations, the state requires that they be presented to the Board for consideration. A spreadsheet as an attachment was provided to help establish priorities. The information is also useful in establishing the budget for the WCCC.

4.4 New PDE Graduation Requirements for Class of 2015 and Beyond

New information regarding graduation requirements was provided in a PowerPoint presentation. The district's policy for graduation requirements will need to be revised within the next couple of months to be compliant with the new regulations. The state is still making some modifications, so an administrative recommendation cannot be made until the state has made their final decisions. The administration has been attending workshops and training sessions whenever available, and the curriculum coordinators have discussed the regulations at length to prepare for a professional development workshop on February 21, 2011. The ideas and opinions of the staff will be presented to this committee for consideration in the development of a revised graduation requirement policy.

4.5 Restructuring Special Education for Students with Complex Support Needs Grant

A grant is being offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education that would pay the costs of developing a partnership between the Intermediate Unit (IU) and up to three member districts to explore the means by which to restructure educational services provided to students with complex support needs. Our school district has indicated its interest to the IU and is waiting for a response from them. The Board will receive an update once the district has heard the plans and determines whether it would be beneficial to participate.

5. Other

5.1 Policy Number 9742, titled – Class Rank/Honors Credits

This policy needs to be addressed. Students would like to know how class ranks are established and how those ranks affect them when seeking scholarships and enrolling in college. The administration needs to gather information from colleges, students, parents, and student Board representatives, and then a committee can be formed to work on the policy with the administration.

The possibility of eliminating the awards of Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Historian and instead using Highest Honors, High Honors, and Honors was suggested. This would allow for all high-achieving students to be recognized, regardless of whether they were dual enrollment students or not. A committee member mentioned that over half of the high schools in the United States no longer report or award class rank.

6. Closing Activities

6.1 Next Meeting

February 28, 2011 at the Warren County Career Center, following the Physical Plant and Facilities and Personnel/Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities Committees

6.2 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ms. Lisa Niedzialek, Recording Secretary
Dr. Paul Yourchisin, Chairperson
Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Committee