

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

March 28, 2011
WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

none

OTHERS PRESENT:

Thomas Knapp	Dr. Robert Terrill	Ann Buerkle	Denny Bonace
Jeff Lockett	Norbert Kennerknecht	Rhonda Decker	Melissa McLean
John Grant	Matthew Jones	Gary Weber	Debra Bosko
Donna Zariczny	Mike Kiehl	Mary Ann Mead	Ben Klein, WTO
Arthur Stewart	James Grosch	Paul Leach	Kara White, WTO
Mary Ann Paris	Jeanette Walter	Stacey Ludwig	Lisa Niedzialek
	Justin Tech	Darlene Albaugh	7 others

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by Dr. Paul Yourchisin.

1.2 Public Comment

There were no public comments.

2. Old Business

There was no old business.

3. New Business

3.1 GRANT: Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Mini-Grant

Discussion: There are still funds available through the 2009-2010 Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant. The state has informed the district that funds will be available using the mini-grant process. The district would like to apply for \$2000.00 to fund Student Assistance Program training for district staff. The training session is scheduled for early in May 2011. If no award is received, the training will be paid through the existing budget.

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 Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Mini-Grant to provide Student Assistance Program (SAP) training for district staff.

3.2 GRANT: Reading Apprenticeship Grant Participation

Discussion: The Reading Apprenticeship model helps to develop the skills and self-confidence needed for students to successfully engage with challenging texts. The program has been shown to produce a dramatic and positive effect on students in regards to their literacy and learning across all academic areas. The study will begin in the summer of 2011 and end with the 2013/2014 school year.

Teachers must teach regular education courses that cover content that is assessed by the Keystone exams to be eligible for participation. A brief monthly survey will need to be completed by the teachers. They may have to submit lesson plans or be observed occasionally. Each participating teacher will receive a stipend of up to \$5000.00, to be paid with grant funds.

Researchers will work with the schools and teachers to administer brief student surveys and assessments, the results of which will be shared with all participating schools.

Some substitute teacher time may be necessary to cover teachers that attend professional development. The cost to the district will be confirmed prior to the Board meeting.

Action: This will be placed on the April 2011 Board agenda under “Other” for further discussion.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to work with interested district high schools to develop applications to participate in the Reading Apprenticeship study.

3.3 Library Information Literacy Curriculum Updates

Discussion: The new planned instructions include the Common Core standards and the American Association of School Libraries standards. The curriculum has remained basically the same, but the method of retrieving information is quite different than in the past. Many more electronic resources are available, and the students must be taught how to use these resources to their advantage. No textbooks would be required.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the Library Information Literacy Courses as presented.

3.4 Jefferson DeFrees Contract

Discussion: This is a renewal of an existing contract for the Jefferson DeFrees Family Center to provide after-school child care at a number of schools in the district. These services have been well-received by parents, and other daycare providers have seemingly not been negatively affected. The reimbursement to the district will be \$100.00 per month per site. This amount covers the district's overhead expenses.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the contract with Jefferson DeFrees Family Center to conduct a licensed Child Care After School Program at the following schools; Beaty-Warren Middle, Sugar Grove Elementary, Youngsville Elementary/Middle, and possibly Allegheny Valley School (pending adequate enrollment).

3.5 GRANT: Summer Food Service Program

Discussion: The Pennsylvania Department of Education has contacted the district to see if there is any interest in providing a summer food service program (SFSP). Meals would be provided to eligible children at no cost in schools where the Free and Reduced Lunch enrollments are high. Reimbursement would be based on the number of meals served and the costs incurred. The district is working with the Community Foundation for Warren County as a potential partner to help cover the costs above the reimbursement amounts. These additional costs have not yet been determined. The goal is to develop a program that would be of no cost to the district. Intermediate Unit 5 has offered a program such as this and will be contacted to obtain their opinions and methods regarding this type of program.

Action: This will be placed on the April 2011 Board agenda under "Other" with additional information.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to work with Aramark to develop a summer food service program to operate in the Youngsville, Clarendon, and Sheffield communities in summer 2011. Any proposed program will partner with an outside funder to address costs above and beyond those available to the district via reimbursement from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

3.6 GRANT: Rural Utility Service (RUS), Distance Learning, & Telemedicine (DLT) Grant

Discussion: This grant is being made available to rural and economically disadvantaged locations to assist in the development of distance learning. It could be used for electronic equipment, the purchase of educational hardware and software, and technical assistance. The amount of the award would be between \$50,000.00 and \$500,000.00. Matching funds of 15% are required. This requirement might be met with purchases that have already been planned; this will be determined prior to the April 2011 Board meeting.

Action: It will be determined if this grant would be educationally and fiscally useful for the district. If a positive outcome is reached, this will be placed on the Board agenda under “Other” with additional information.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to determine if there is an eligible distance learning project for the RUS DLT funding and, if so, attempt to develop and submit a proposal for consideration.

3.7 GRANT: GO Teach Mini Grant

Discussion: The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is offering this mini-grant to teachers who have completed one of their GO Teach workshops. The funds may be used to buy or rent equipment related to the workshop which they attended, toward field trips, or for further training in the workshop subject area.

The administration is proposing a hiking workshop on one of the professional development days being held this coming fall. The workshop would be made available for all district Health and Physical Education teachers; however, some of the teachers may not need to attend. The intent is to provide the teachers with ideas to promote hiking as a fun activity that helps to develop healthy attributes. The district would pay any registration fees that are not covered by the grant at the rate of \$25.00 each with a maximum of \$125.00.

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 GO Teach Mini-Grant for funding to provide district Health and Physical Education instructors with access to training to effectively promote hiking to students as a fun and valuable lifestyle activity.

4. Informational Items

4.1 Monthly Grant Report

A report was made available that depicted the grants for which applications have been submitted and the results of the awards of said grants. Matthew Jones, the grant writer, was thanked for his good work. A Board member asked that a column for local costs be added to the report and that the ABG and EAP grants be broken down into line items.

4.2 Possible Reconfiguration of Grade Levels at Allegheny Valley School and Sheffield Elementary School

As the curriculum and budget are being reviewed, a reconfiguration of the grade levels being taught at the two aforementioned elementary schools is being considered to make team planning/teaching possible as well as being able to share materials for grades 3, 4, and 5. One of the schools would become an early childhood center, much the same as South Street Early Learning Center. The reconfiguration would also allow considerable

savings with the elimination of five teaching positions rather than the two positions that would be eliminated without the reconfiguration. Transportation costs would rise but not significantly. This will be discussed further at the Budget Team Committee Meeting.

4.3 Resolution Opposing Senate Bill 1

This bill is regarding the establishment of a voucher system in Pennsylvania. A resolution from the Benton Area School District opposing the bill was presented to the committee to promote discussion regarding this issue. Some felt that the public school system stands to lose funding for students who use their vouchers for private schools and yet will still be responsible for maintaining the same number of classrooms and teachers, which would be detrimental to public education. Others felt that there was not enough information given regarding the ramifications and the advantages of this bill to determine whether the bill was deserving of support, and would oppose it as it stands due to lack of information. There was also concern that private schools would not need to adhere to state standards, possibly resulting in their students not receiving a good education. A resolution opposing the bill will be drafted and placed on the April Board agenda for consideration.

4.4 Administrative Responses to Questions Regarding the Proposed Kindergarten Classes at Beaty

This item is in response to a directive from the Board of School Directors. A summary of the survey was presented to the committee. The costs of moving kindergarten classes to Beaty-Warren Middle School and keeping South Street Early Learning Center (SSEL) open and the costs of reopening the Pleasant Township Elementary School and closing SSEL need to be compared to determine which project would require fewer funds.

5. Other

5.1 All-County Musical

The musical “Once Upon a Mattress” will have performances at the Library Theatre on March 31, April 1, and April 2 at 7:30 PM and on April 2 at 2:00 PM.

5.2 Class Rank / Dual Enrollment

Members of the audience inquired about the results of meetings that have been held in regards to the class rank of dual enrollment students and of students that attend the public high schools. A director reported that two meetings have been held and that a tentative agreement has been reached. An explanation was given as to what the tentative agreement entailed. The director offered to meet with the interested parties after the meeting. This issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

6. Closing Activities

6.1 Next Meeting

April 25, 2011 at 6:00 PM at the Warren County Career Center

6.2 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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