

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2011

1.0 Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The special meeting of the Warren County School District Board of School Directors was called to order by Mrs. Zariczny, Vice President, at 7:04 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, in the Board Room of the Warren County Career Center, 347 East Fifth Avenue, Warren, Pennsylvania.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Zariczny led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

1.3 Roll Call

Mrs. Kimberly Angove
Mr. John Grant
Mr. Thomas Knapp
Mr. Jeff Lockett
Ms. Mary Anne Paris

Mr. Arthur Stewart (by conference call)
Mr. John Werner
Dr. Paul Yourchisin
Mrs. Donna Zariczny

1.4 Public Comment

Jennifer Gesing	Beacon Light	Ms. Gesing addressed the Board concerning the Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems Alternative Education Program and its benefits to the students of the Warren County School District.
Terry William (Letter read by Ruth Huck)	Youngsville, PA	Mrs. Williams expressed concern that the District is focusing too much concern on maintaining four high school buildings and not enough on the educational opportunities in those buildings.

1.5 Reading of the Mission Statement - Mr. Lockett

The mission of the Warren County School District, where today's student is our future, is to equip all students with the educational skills necessary to achieve their unique personal potential.

1.6 Reading of the WCSD/PSBA Standards for Effective School Governance and Code of Conduct - Ms. Paris

Boards of School Directors share the responsibility for ensuring a "thorough and efficient system of public education" as required by the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Accordingly, School boards must balance their responsibility to provide educational programs with the need to be effective stewards of public resources.

2.0 New Business

2.1 Report from the Special Budget Committee

Dr. Terrill reported that the budget team completed its work. This work was done with the aim of reducing the budget without hurting the students. Mr. Grosch, Director of Business Services and Mr. Conrad, Business consultant, presented an overview of the compilation of the report which contained: initial planning for revenue shortfalls; challenges faced by the district; team formation and charges given by the board; process for compiling and categorizing potential reductions; progress of budget team to date; summary of reductions identified; discussion of the master facilities plan; five-year projected budget; and initial reductions the team decided not to forward to the Board. The figures in the report are aggressively tight and leave little room for unexpected contingencies. There are overlapping areas and the committee tried to identify them by color coding them in the report.

- The governor's budget reduces state aid to the district by \$4.6 million which equates to 11.6% of the district's state aid.
- Local and federal revenues are down; overall revenues are down 7.1%.
- Inflationary costs need to be considered.
- Estimated beginning fund balance is \$4.229 million.
- Estimated local and federal revenues are \$65 million including 0.96 mill increase.
- Estimated expenditures are almost \$73 million.
- Projected ending fund balance with no cuts is negative \$3.8 million and with the cuts the estimated ending fund balance would be approximately \$3.4 million.
- The 0.96 mill increase is included because that is the amount the state will allow the district to increase taxes without a referendum. Any increases not made this year will impact the amount of taxes that will need to be raised for next year.

The team began its work in March and was divided into groups to begin analyzing specific areas of the budget. No ideas were left unturned. Cuts were then prioritized by the team. The Board was kept apprised of the work of the committee. A booklet was distributed with the final work of the budget team for the Board's review.

Mr. Bonace spoke as a member of the budget team regarding the master facilities plan because the group assigned to analyze this portion of the budget could not come to a consensus. Two opinions were written, one by Mr. Cochran and Mr. Peterson, and one by Mr. Bonace and Mrs. Williams; both are contained in the booklet, and Mr. Bonace addressed his recommendations at the meeting.

2.2 Budget Team Report

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Grant and seconded by Mr. Lockett that the Board of School Directors acknowledges receipt of the budget team's final report and sincerely thanked the team for the hours and hours of work in preparing the report.

Budget Team Report Received 9-0-0

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

The result of the vote: passed unanimously.

2.3 Tentative Ending Fund Balance

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Grant and seconded by Dr. Yourchisin that the Board of School Directors establishes a tentative ending fund balance of five percent for budget year 2011/2012, for the purpose of building the preliminary budget for said year.

Tentative Ending Fund Balance Approved 8-2-0

The result of the vote: passed with Mr. Lockett and Mrs. Angove voting no.

2.4 Complete Spreadsheet

Mrs. Zariczny recessed the meeting at 9:40 p.m. for the Board members to complete the process of ranking the proposed budget cuts.

The meeting reconvened at 9:55 p.m. Mrs. Zariczny announced the rankings would be compiled and sent to the Board members via email.

2.5 Other

Mrs. Zariczny announced a letter was received from the democratic leadership in the state legislature trying to put funding back into the governor's budget for education. The letter asked Board members and constituents to contact their legislators requesting the monies be restored to education.

Closing Activities

3.1 Adjournment

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Lockett and seconded by Mrs. Angove that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth A. Huck, Board Secretary