

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

May 31, 2011

WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mrs. Diane Martin

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mary Ann Paris
Tom Knapp
Arthur Stewart
John Grant
Jeff Lockett
Donna Zariczny
Dr. Robert Terrill
Matt Jones
Mike Kiehl
Jim Grosch
Barb Cook

Jim Miller
Gary Weber
Amy Beers
Jeff Flickner
Misty Weber
Delores Berry
Ann Buerkle
Brian Collopy
Leslie Collopy
James Morrison
Claudia Solinko

Stacey Ludwig
Darlene Albaugh
Jen Dilks
Anna Peterson
Clara McKotch
Cindy Nyquist
Eric Tichy – WTO
Brian Ferry – WTO
Deborah Bosko
Denny Bonace
Lisa Niedzialek
5 others

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 PM by Dr. Paul Yourchisin.

1.2 Public Comment

There were no public comments.

2. Old Business

2.1 Getting Results – WAHS and SAMHS

Discussion: Two district schools have been placed under “Warning” as a result of the Adequate Yearly Progress report generated from the PSSA data. These schools are required to submit a plan for growth. The staff members from each school worked as teams to develop the plans. Both schools’ plans were available for review.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the submission of the Getting Results Plan for Warren Area High School with implementation to occur in the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the submission of the Getting Results Plan for Sheffield Area Middle/High School with implementation to occur in the 2011-2012 school year.

3. New Business

3.1 Application for Title I and Title IIA Grants

Discussion: Applications for these grants are submitted on an annual basis. Approximate amounts for the grants were provided, but it was mentioned that the dollar amounts may change.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the application to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for Title I and Title IIA grant monies.

3.2 GRANT – Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA) Project Stream Grant

Discussion: This grant is made available to fund art projects. Eligibility will be determined through the application. There is one teacher in the district that has expressed interest in applying for funds. Others may still be forthcoming.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to work with interested district teachers to develop and submit arts-related projects to the 2011-2012 Pennsylvania partners in the Arts Project Stream Grant.

3.3 GRANT – Perkins Grant for the Warren County Career Center

Discussion: This federal grant is offered annually. The amount has decreased from over \$88,000 last year to \$81,000 this year. It is to be used solely for the Warren County Career Center.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to submit a Perkins Local Plan Grant application to support academic, career, and technical programming at the Warren County Career Center in the 2011-2012 school year.

3.4 GRANT – Vernier 30th Anniversary Technology Grant

Discussion: This grant is for the awarding of \$10,000 worth of Vernier scientific technology equipment. One district teacher is interested in applying. There are a total of only 30 grants available nationwide.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to work with interested district schools to develop and submit a Vernier 30th Anniversary Technology Grant application.

3.5 GRANT – 2011 Ultimate Collision Education Makeover Grant

Discussion: This \$50,000 grant, funded by donations from the collision industry, will be awarded to a school that has been doing an outstanding job of educating students in the field of collision repair but needs assistance to improve the program with teaching materials and equipment. If awarded to our district, the monies would be used to enhance the Auto Collision Technology class at the Warren County Career Center.

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 2011 Ultimate Collision Education Makeover Grant to support the equipment needs of the collision repair program at the Warren County Career Center.

3.6 Textbook Selections for Social Studies Curriculum

Discussion: Textbook selections must be made for the Social Studies Planned Instructions that were adopted for implementation in the 2011-2012 school year. Social Studies textbooks were last purchased in 2003 and are badly in need of replacement. Quotes for new textbooks that would align with the common core standards were presented. These proposed texts would also include electronic resources. The administration was careful to retain enough funds to make this purchase from the 2010-2011 budget. A committee member noted that we are in the business of educating, and we need to provide up to date materials.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the purchase of social studies textbooks for grades 6-12.

3.7 WCSD “WhyTry” Program

Discussion: “WhyTry” has proven to be a successful early intervention program that holds students’ interest. The program stresses attendance, academics, and behavior. A handout, which will be on the Board agenda, was provided. The administration would like to implement this program district-wide in the 2011-2012 school year for students

in grades three through eight as a beginning to the development of a drop-out prevention plan. Money that is left over from the stimulus funds will pay for the program. District personnel will be trained to be trainers for professional development so that there will be no ongoing expenses incurred.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves a budgetary expenditure not to exceed \$33,000 for the implementation of the WhyTry program in elementary and middle schools.

3.8 Dual Enrollment Agreement between WCSD and Penn State/Behrend

Discussion: An agreement between the Warren County School District and the Behrend campus of Penn State University was presented. A determination will be made at a later date as to which courses would qualify for dual enrollment status. There will be no cost to the district for any courses that a district student may take at the university.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the Dual Enrollment Agreement between the Warren County School District and Penn State/Behrend as presented.

3.9 Communication and Study Skills Planned Instruction

Discussion: The material from this proposed planned instruction is already being presented to special education students, but this planned instruction will provide consistency and more rigor to the contents. Implementation of the planned instruction will not require any additional staff.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the Communication and Study Skills Planned Course.

3.10 Tax Incentive Rebate Program

Discussion: This program is offered by the state. It allows businesses to designate to local projects a portion of the state taxes that they pay. The principal of the Warren County Career Center will work with local businesses and the state to acquire the rebate funding. There is no guarantee that the district will receive the funding, but support has been awarded for the past three years, so the chances may be good that we will again receive the funds. If funding is awarded, businesses will have some input as to how their dollars will be spent.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration of the Warren County Career Center to solicit support from local businesses through participation in the Tax Incentive Rebate Program.

3.11 Kindergarten and Grade 1 Report Card Revisions

Discussion: Kindergarten and first grade teachers have worked together to revise report cards to reflect the new common core standards that have been developed by the state. The proposed changes are few, but the terminology is aligned to that of the standards, making it easier for parents and teachers to communicate effectively.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the implementation of the revised kindergarten and first grade report cards beginning with the 2011-2012 school year.

3.12 Oil and Gas Production Program at the WCCC

Discussion: This program, which has been in planning for two years, would be included in the Power Equipment Technology class at the Warren County Career Center. It was developed by the Power Equipment Technology instructor and the Advisory Committee. There would be no certification available to students that take the course, but they would be acquiring hands-on experience with equipment and materials related to the oil and gas industry. Students would be drilling an actual well; for safety reasons, it would be a water well. There have been a number of local businesses that support this program and have offered to loan equipment. The businesses have also offered to donate some of the funding needed to begin the program. Fundraising continues still. There are district funds remaining in the superintendent's 2010-2011 contingency fund that could assist in the start-up of this program. If there is a large amount of student interest in the program, it could possibly become a separate Program of Study in the future.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration and staff to offer Oil and Gas Production as a component of the Power Equipment Technology program beginning in the fall of 2011.

4. Informational Items

4.1 Monthly Grant Report

This report is presented monthly to inform the Board members of the status of grant applications. The grant writer tries to find grant monies that fit the needs of the district. It was reported that the district has been awarded all six of the Highmark grants for which applications were submitted.

5. Other

There were no other items.

6. Closing Activities

6.1 Next Meeting

June 27, 2011 at the Warren County Career Center, following the Personnel/Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities Committee meeting

6.2 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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