

**WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2011

1. Opening Activities

- 1.1 Call to Order
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.3 Roll Call

Present:

Mrs. Kimberly Angove
Mr. John Grant
Mr. Thomas Knapp
Mr. Jeff Lockett

Mr. Arthur Stewart
Mr. John Werner
Dr. Paul Yourchisin
Mrs. Donna Zariczny

Absent:

Ms. Mary Anne Paris

Others Present:

Dr. Robert Terrill, Superintendent; Mrs. Amanda Hetrick, Director of Secondary Education; Mrs. Rosemarie Green, Director of Federal Programs; Dr. Norbert Kennerknecht, Director of Buildings & Grounds Services; Mrs. Amy Stewart, Director of Instructional Technology/Communications; Mrs. Diane Martin, Director of Special Education; Mr. James Grosch, Director of Business Services; Mr. Chris Byham, Solicitor; Mrs. Ruth Huck, Board Secretary; Mr. Brian Ferry, Times Observer; Mr. Michael Kiehl, Transportation/Purchasing Manager; Mr. Brian Collopy, Technology Coordinator; Mr. Paul Giannini, Technology/Information Systems Specialist; Mr. James Miller, Supervisor of District-wide Athletics & Co-Curricular Activities; Mrs. Suzanne Turner, Human Resource Supervisor; and approximately 100 unidentified members of the audience.

- 1.4 Reading of the Mission Statement - Mrs. Angove

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.

- 1.5 Reading of the WCSD/PSBA Standards for Effective School Governance and Code of Conduct - Mr. Werner

We, as members of our local board of school directors, representing all the residents of our school district, believe that our fellow residents have entrusted us with the advocacy for and stewardship of the education of the youth of this community.

Accordingly, devoting time, thought and study to our duties and responsibilities as school board members is critical for rendering effective and credible service; and school boards must balance their responsibility to provide educational progress with the need to be effective stewards of public resources.

1.6 Public Comment

Ann Farrell	Russell, PA	Ms. Farrell stated she is against consolidating because of the negative impact on the community.
Paul Boger	Warren, PA	Mr. Boger thanked Mr. Stewart for his article in the Warren Times Observer. He said we need to provide the best education that money can buy.
Lily Renniger	Warren, PA	Ms. Renniger is in favor of consolidating sports. She wants to consolidate to educate.
Nicole Peterson	Warren, PA	Mrs. Peterson stated this is the board's opportunity to unite the community. Economics have changed and education must be put first. She wants the master facilities plan reopened.
Francis Brennan	Warren, PA	Ms. Brennan is concerned about education and cutting teachers which has the greatest effect on students and education.
Darlene John	Russell, PA	Ms. John is concerned about community and doing the right thing. She feels everyone should get along.
Gene Wilston	Sugar Grove, PA	Mr. Wilston is concerned about the safety of students in regards to sports and consolidation. The numbers in the budget need to be fully vetted. There are issues with busing. He would like each school to manage their own athletic budgets and let the boosters make up the difference.
Michelle Betts	Warren, PA	Ms. Betts proposed that all parents should bear a greater financial responsibility with fees for activities, and let the booster groups subsidize the activities.
Dorothy Knapp	Sugar Grove, PA	Mrs. Knapp cited statistics from the feasibility study that showed 87% of Eisenhower students participate in sports, the highest percentage in the district and the Northern Attendance Area has made AYP every year since 2004. She asked if

		the Board could see the connection. She also asked how anyone could question their seriousness regarding a good education for their children.
Jake Gorton	Sheffield, PA	This student reminded the Board of the mission statement. He stated that eliminating teachers, increasing class sizes, and splitting the calendar will not fulfill the mission. He is in favor of the four-day school week.
Jordon Sanders	Sugar Grove, PA	He thanked Mr. Stewart for his article in the paper. He requested that the Board keep the money in the Master Facilities Plan. He suggested that the coaches volunteer and booster contribute more money. He asked that the Board vote the conscience of the constituents.
Jeanne Straight	Sugar Grove, PA	Ms. Straight is concerned about the consolidation of the sports programs. Children learn important things while participating. If consolidation takes place the children in the outlying areas will suffer the most and not be able to take part. She asked the Board to reconsider its decision.
Shane Stanley	Russell, PA	Mr. Stanley is concerned about the master facilities plan. He believes the schools should be renovated.
Matthew Scott	Warren, PA	He stated that small schools are at a disadvantage and popularity is not leadership.
Henry Borger	Russell, PA	Mr. Borger believes the master facility plan figures are flawed and needs to be looked at and he reminded the board not to put faith in the QZAB, it is not free money.
Emmie Berger	Warren, PA	Ms. Berger stated she wants a quality education, and she feels students will be able to get along. She believes consolidation should take place.
Denise Keppel	Russell, PA	Ms. Keppel stated the DeJong study was not that far off. She asked the Board to take a look at the cost of the LEC, look at the cost of the War Memorial Field, get volunteers to work the gates, and get rid

		of the athletic trainers. The extras are not needed.
Mark Davis	Warren, PA	Mr. Davis stated he will be the sixth generation to be buried in Warren County. He knows the county well and he has taught in every school building. He is proud to be a citizen of the county, and it has been picked as one of the best places to live, however, the citizens are growing in age, and we are losing population and revenue. We must save our county and work as a whole. We must live within our resources, and provide the best education for our children.
Marcie Morgan		Ms. Morgan suggested that attendance boundaries be changed back to their original places to bring students back into the outlying areas. Close Beaty and move the students to Eisenhower. She also stated that it is easy to talk about making sacrifices when you are the ones not having to make any.
Parent		This parent is against consolidation. She wants four schools, four sports, and four days.
Parent		She stated teachers should not bear the burden, and cuts should be made at Central Office.
Terry Williams	Youngsville	Ms. Williams asked the Board to look at all the options and to reach out to the teachers.

Suspension of
Robert's Rules
Approved
8-0-0

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Angove and seconded by Mrs. Zariczny to suspend Robert's Rules of Order to discuss the reports.

The result of the vote: passed unanimously.

2. New Business

- 2.1 Administrative Report on Budget Item Inquiries
- a) history of vote on furlough of tenured teachers
 - b) substitute teacher recommendation details
 - c) administration reorganization
 - i) savings analysis

- ii) educational impact
- d) teacher retirements and furloughs
 - i) savings analysis
 - ii) educational impact
- e) student population data
- f) kindergarten and first grade at SSEL
- g) financial impact of dual enrollment legal opinion
- h) All-Clean contact recommendation
- i) extra-curricular consolidation:
 - i) savings analysis
 - ii) implementation strategies and implications
 - iii) marching band
- j) projection if Sheffield Elementary were closed after first semester
 - i) savings analysis
 - ii) timeframe/process
- k) budget restoration recommendations (assuming additional funding or concessions)
- l) revised budget spreadsheet

Mr. Stewart recessed the meeting at 9:03 p.m. for a short break.

The meeting reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

2.2 2011-2012 School Calendar

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Angove and seconded by Mr. Knapp that the Board of School Directors directs administration to keep the 2011-2012 school calendar as presented at the February 2011 board meeting for the 2011-2012 school year.

No Change to the 2011-2012 School Calendar Approved 5-3-0

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Yes: Mrs. Angove, Mr. Grant, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Lockett, Mr. Werner

Voting No: Mrs. Zariczny, Mr. Stewart, Dr. Yourchisin

2.3 Oil and Gas Production Program at the WCCC - CIT - Dr. Paul Yourchisin

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Zariczny and seconded by Dr. Yourchisin that the Board of School Directors directs 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.

Oil & Gas Program Fails 8-0-0
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Roll Call Vote:

Voting Yes:

Voting No: Dr. Yourchisin, Mrs. Zariczny, Mrs. Angove, Mr. Grant,
Mr. Knapp, Mr. Lockett, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Werner

2.4 Athletic Programs

Athletic Programs
Implemented with
\$471,000
Budgetary
Savings
Approved
7-1-0

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Werner and seconded by Mr. Knapp that the Board of School Directors directs administration to prepare for consideration an alternative form of providing athletic programs whereby funds would be allocated in a proportional manner to each high school and at the schools' discretion athletic programs would be implemented with the budgetary savings remaining at \$471, 000.

Public Comment

George Sanders	Sugar Grove, PA	Mr. Sanders spoke regarding team consolidation and how many more coaches it would require.
David Bauer	Sugar Grove, PA	Mr. Bauer thinks this should be approached much more simply. He invested his own money to supply uniforms and equipment. Allow parents as a booster group to additionally fund athletic programs.
Denise Keppel	Russell, PA	Ms. Keppel said it is her feeling that gate workers, game managers, and others do not need paid but should volunteer for these services. She would like students with senior projects, boosters, and parents to get involved as volunteers. Warren rents War Memorial field, but they could use one of the other fields in the county at no cost.
Shane Stanley	Sugar Grove, PA	Mr. Stanley has heard that the district pays Warren General Hospital \$100,000 to provide ambulance service for sporting events. He would like the district to use the 911 system instead.
Gene Wilston	Sugar Grove, PA	Mr. Wilston stated that, as the president of the Wrestling Boosters, they are currently buying uniforms and wrestling equipment and supporting a lot of activities already. Boosters are prepared to take this on and make it work to keep the program in place.
Nicole Peterson	Warren, PA	Mrs. Peterson feels these statements are being made in an effort to stop consolidation. In other districts not every school has a football team or volleyball team and they must look to other ways of

		providing an opportunity to play. So much effort is being expended on this issue and yet her daughter will not be able to take Spanish next year because of cuts and everyone is losing focus on what is truly important the education of students. The district should go with what is going to save the most money and if consolidation will reduce program cuts then it should be considered.
Bobby Bower	Youngsville, PA	Mr. Bower said he is willing to work harder and raise money to help pay for sports so that middle school can keep its sports programs.
Wendy Trumble	Lottsville, PA	Ms. Trumble stated her daughter participated in a softball league where only two practices were held in the Sugar Grove area, and she wants the sports left where they are.
Michele Betts	Warren, PA	Mrs. Betts' children have attended in both the Eisenhower area and the Warren area and they acclimated quickly. She asked that the decisions be based on what is best now and in the future for education.
Mark Berger	Warren, PA	Mr. Berger stated he had a problem with the budget and what the focus is. Is it education or sports? He suggested that the distribution of money should be proportional and linked to the number of students and central attendance area money is flowing to outlying areas to support sports and at the same time teachers are being sacrificed.
Ann Farrell	Sugar Grove, PA	Ms. Farrell reminded everyone that there are still four high schools and it is in the best interest of those students to keep the sports in those high schools. She wants the boosters to come up with a plan as to what they can afford.

The result of the vote: passed with Mrs. Zariczny voting no.

Mr. Stewart reviewed the 'crumb list' that administration will be asked to review and provide input for the Special Meeting Monday, June 27, 2011.

- 1) Alternate ways to offer low attendance courses (e.g. courses at one school, career center to Erie, etc.)

- 2) Priority of tutoring vs. other items on list to reinstate (St. Bonaventure, Pay to play)
- 3) Dual enrollment pro rata follow up
- 4) Technology capital reserve and proposed expenditures

2.5 Classes With Less than 12 Students

Approval for Classes
with Less than 12
Students
Rescinded
Approved
5-3-0

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Zariczny and seconded by Dr. Yourchisin that the Board of School Directors rescinds the motion relating to the approval of the list of proposed classes with fewer than 12 students for the 2011-2012 school year, which was adopted by the board as item 4.19 of the consent agenda at its May 9th meeting and that the administration come back to the Board with a new motion once administration knows how they will support the students in those classes.

Mr. Stewart thanked the administrative staff for their hard work and effort to have the information ready for the meeting. He noted it has been a herculean task with the many hours spent over the past three months preparing and analyzing budget information.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Yes: Dr. Yourchisin, Mrs. Zariczny, Mr. Grant, Mr. Knapp,
Mr. Stewart

Voting No: Mr. Werner, Mrs. Angove, Mr. Lockett

Mr. Stewart clarified for those in attendance that the Board has passed a preliminary budget as set by state law and also requires passage of the final budget by June 30th. He stated it is difficult to pass the budget without knowing what the final State funding will be. The governor's budget must be passed by the State Senate and House before it becomes law and an actual budget. The law permits the district to postpone the establishment of the District's final budget until 15 days after the State passes its actual budget. The scheduled date to pass the final budget for the District is June 27th.

3. Closing Activities

3.1 Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Lockett and seconded by Mr. Knapp that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth A. Huck, Board Secretary