

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

August 22, 2011  
WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Arthur Stewart  
Mary Ann Paris  
Donna Zariczny  
John Grant  
Tom Knapp  
Jeff Lockett

John Wortman  
Dr. Robert Terrill  
Michael Kiehl  
James Grosch  
Brian Collopy  
James Miller

Matthew Jones  
Delores Berry  
Darlene Albaugh  
Melissa McLean  
5 others

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 PM by Dr. Paul Yourchisin.

1.2 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Old Business

There was no old business.

3. New Business

3.1 Traverse Climbing Wall at SSEL

**Discussion:** The Highmark Healthy High 5 School Challenge Grant has awarded a sum of money to the South Street Early Learning Center that is designated for equipment that promotes good health. The school is using the funds to purchase a Traverse Rock Climbing Wall and a Railyard Fitness Course. There are no insurance issues with this equipment as users travel from side to side on the climbing wall, keeping the activity at ground level. The cost of this equipment, primarily the shipping

cost, exceeds the grant monies, resulting in the administration's request to apply to the Community Foundation for the remaining funds. If the funds are not awarded, the grant writer will attempt to pare down the costs, but any remaining costs will be funded through existing school district funds.

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

**Motion:** That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to submit a grant application to the Community Foundation of Warren County for the amount of \$1,008.69, with funds being used to cover expenses beyond the awarded Highmark grant.

### 3.2 Accountability Block Grant (ABG) Summary

**Discussion:** Additional state funding was received to supplement the ABG Grant Program. The funds can be used for any of the areas for which it was used during the last school year. The administration is requesting that the Board approves using the funds to pay for the salaries and benefits for as many full-day kindergarten teachers as possible. A committee member was concerned about what will be done if we do not receive ABG funds in future years. She asked if there was something else for which the ABG funds could be used so that we aren't relying on that money to pay teacher salaries. An administrator mentioned some other things for which the money could be used.

**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 Accountability Block Grant application to the PA Department of Education for the amount of \$498,547, with funds being used to provide full-day kindergarten teachers for the 2011-12 school year.

### 3.3 Oil and Gas Grant, Community Foundation of Warren County

**Discussion:** It was previously proposed to add an oil and gas program to the curriculum of the Power Equipment and Technology class at the Warren County Career Center. A Board member noted that there will be approximately 75,000 new jobs in Pennsylvania for this field within the next few years. The use of approximately \$26,000 of Perkins Grant funds to initiate this program is now being proposed; however, additional funding for the purchase of equipment would be very beneficial to the program. The administration would like to submit a grant request to the Community Foundation of Warren County for these additional funds. A planned instruction would be brought to the Board at a later date. It is planned to begin this program in the 2011-2012 school year.

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

**Motion:** That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to submit a grant request for the amount of \$10,000 to the Community Foundation of Warren

County for the purpose of establishing an oil and gas curriculum, for roustabouts and well tenders, at the Warren County Career Center.

#### 4. Informational Items

##### 4.1 Keystone Exams Update

The Keystone Exams, which are aligned to the Common Core Standards, are being developed for eight courses. Field tests began in the 2010-2011 school year and are expected to be offered for the same subject areas again in the spring of 2012. Initially it was planned that students graduating in the 2015 and 2016 classes would need to be proficient in four of the eight topics, and those who graduate in subsequent years would need to be proficient in six of the eight topics. The other option available to the students would be to meet locally developed equivalencies.

The state budget process for this year has suspended funding for the development of the Keystone exams, but the state is still involved in national consortiums that are developing similar exams.

At this point, it is expected that juniors in high school will still be required to take the PSSA assessments.

The PA Department of Education is continuing the development of the Standards Aligned System. Classroom Diagnostic Tools, which are aligned to the Common Core Standards and give immediate feedback, will be available online to help teachers assess students' needs.

#### 5. Other

There were no other items.

#### 6. Closing Activities

##### 6.1 Next Meeting

September 26, 2011 at the Warren County Career Center following the Personnel and Athletics/Co-Curricular Activities Committee meeting

##### 6.2 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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