

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

OCTOBER 25, 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:

Jeff Lockett
Mary Anne Paris
Thomas Knapp
John Wortman
Brandon Hufnagel

Norbert Kennerknecht
James Grosch
Sue Turner
Matt Jones
Brian Collopy

Claudia Solinko
Darlene Albaugh
Brian Ferry – WTO
Josh Cotton – WTO
Melissa McLean
2 others

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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 WCCC General Advisory Committee and Occupational Advisory Committee

Discussion: The committee members need to be approved annually. The lists of tentative members were presented to the committee. It was asked how the General Advisory Committee members are chosen. The response was that they are chosen from the Occupational Advisory members and from secondary representatives.

Action: A Board member asked that this be placed under “Other” on the Board agenda.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the lists of the 2011-2012 members for the General Advisory Committee and the Occupational Advisory Committee for the Warren County Career Center as presented.

3.2 GRANT: 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Discussion: This is a federal grant that comes through the Pennsylvania Department of Education. It is intended to assist in the establishment of community learning centers that would be available after school hours and during the summer months. Students would receive help with homework, tutoring in reading and math, physical activities, enrichment activities in arts and music, and snacks. The centers would also be available to students that attend charter and non-public schools in the area. Some services, such as literacy instruction, may also be made available to parents. Additional positions that would be necessary would be funded through the program. The administration is considering an after school program for grades three through five at elementary schools in each attendance area plus another program in the month of July. Transportation would not be an issue during the school year but may need to be provided during the summer. The amount of the grant could range from \$50,000 to as much as \$500,000 for up to three years.

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

Motion: That the administration collaborate with community partners to develop a project for submission to the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant, offering an after school program for students in grades 3-5 in the following schools: Sheffield Elementary, Sugar Grove Elementary, Youngsville Elementary/Middle, and Warren Area Elementary Center.

3.3 GRANT: Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Program

Discussion: This is a grant that is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education with the expectation for it to continue for five years. The purpose of the program is to promote the development of good independent reading habits. The administration is considering using “The 100 Book Challenge”, which requires 30 minutes of at-home reading and 30 minutes of in-school reading daily. The Challenge is aligned to reading and assessment tools and is based on the Common Core Standards. Specific guidelines and the application have not yet been released but are expected sometime in November 2011, with a due date for the application by the end of December 2011. It was being presented to the committee at this time in case the application and guidelines are released at a time that falls between CIT meetings. If approval is given to proceed, the guidelines can be brought to the Board in December to determine if the Board would approve filing the application.

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

Motion: That the administration prepares a submission to the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Program to fund a program, such as the 100 Book Challenge, that will promote literacy and reading skills among the students of the Warren County School District.

4. Informational Items

4.1 Discussion Regarding Student Board Representatives

The discussion touched on many different subjects concerning Student Board Representatives: whether the student representatives should attend both committee and board meetings, whether they should sit with the board/committee members or in the audience, the establishment of a policy that would provide specific guidelines regarding student representatives, rotating the representatives from one committee to another every three months, how student representatives would collect information to be presented, and others. This issue will be discussed further at the next CIT meeting.

It was decided that the student representatives should be recognized for their participation. This will be done at the next Board meeting.

4.2 Electronic School Board Update

The program has not been working optimally. A formal testing of the program has been scheduled and will be done at Central Office. It will also be necessary to do testing with the Board and their computers. Further updates will be presented at the next CIT meeting.

4.3 2011 PSSA Results and Comparisons

The PSSA results show that there has been academic growth and overall percentages are good, and the district needs to continue this growth. The reading curriculum needs to be evaluated at the elementary level. Middle level students in general seem to have difficulty making AYP, but ours are doing well – the middle level concept seems to be working. Consistency is needed at the high school level, and scheduling issues and common planning should be addressed. The data that we have received evaluate student performance that compares groups rather than evaluating growth. Data that allow the district to look at progress over a period of time would be more valuable.

5. Other

There were no other items.

6. Closing Activities

6.1 Next Meeting – November 21, 2011 at the Warren County Career Center, following the Personnel / Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities Committee meeting.

6.2 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ms. Lisa Niedzialek, Recording Secretary

Dr. Paul Yourchisin, Chairperson

Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Committee