

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

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012**

**1. Opening Activities**

1.1 Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Warren County School District Board of School Directors was called to order by Mr. Stewart, President, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Warren County Career Center, 347 East Fifth Avenue, Warren, Pennsylvania.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Stewart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Roll Call

Present:

Mr. John Grant

Dr. Paul Yourchisin

Mr. Thomas Knapp

Mr. Michael Zamborik

Ms. Mary Anne Paris

Mrs. Donna Zariczny

Mr. Arthur Stewart

Absent:

Ms. Nancy McDanel

Mr. John Werner

Others Present:

Mr. Brandon Hufnagel, Superintendent; Mrs. Amy Stewart, Director of Instructional Technology/Communications; Mrs. Amanda Hetrick, Director of Secondary Education; Dr. Norbert Kennerknecht, Director of Buildings & Grounds Services; Mrs. Diane Martin, Director of Special Education; Mr. James Grosch, Director of Business Services; Mr. Chris Byham, Solicitor; Mrs. Ruth Huck, Board Secretary; Mr. Josh Cotton, Times Observer; Mr. Michael Kiehl, Transportation/Purchasing Manager; Mr. Paul Leach, Technology Information Specialist; Mr. Matt Jones, Coordinator of Grants & Foundation Development; Mrs. Ruth Nelson, Principal; and approximately 14 unidentified members of the audience.

1.4 Reading of the Mission Statement - Dr. Paul Yourchisin

***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. Michael Zamborik

***TO PROMOTE STUDENT GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT, AN EFFECTIVE SCHOOL BOARD...***

***Ensures that effective planning occurs by: Adopting a financial plan that considers short-term and long-term needs, and adopting a plan for curriculum review and development.***

1.6 Public Comment

Tom Carlson	Warren, PA	Mr. Carlson stated his concern for increased taxes as a self-employed person and the negative effect it will have on his business.
David Bauer	Sugar Grove, PA	Mr. Bauer commented on Governor Corbett's budget warning the district that the State may not allow new construction projects.

Mr. Stewart announced an executive session at 7:07 p.m. to receive advice from the solicitor.

The meeting reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

**2. New Business**

2.1 Budget Presentation

Mr. Hufnagel gave a recap of the preliminary budget and the probable impact of the Governor's budget. The Accountability Block grant is cut in the proposed state budget which funds the District's full-day kindergarten. There is no increase in funding for the hold harmless school districts. The two combined figures would amount to approximately a \$960,000 reduction in funding for the Warren County School District. This dollar amount was not factored into the preliminary budget.

There is an increase in transportation reimbursement and an increase in social security reimbursement which were rolled into a block grant to replace basic education funding. The increases were placed in reimbursable categories and the district is not able maximize the use of the funds due to furloughs. It may look like there is a \$350,000 increase; in reality there is a \$600,000 deficit.

This is just a proposed budget and it must go to the legislature for its input before the district knows the full extent of the impact on the district's budget.

2.2 Master Facilities Plan

Mr. Hufnagel presented information for a master facility plan discussion which included enrollment projections from PDE projecting out to 2020-2021. Different scenarios were presented on school configurations including changes to attendance boundaries, the impact on bussing routes and projected cost savings associated with each.

Mr. Grant thanked the superintendent for his presentation and his future thinking and asked if it might be possible to provide web access podcasting for Board meetings so others have the opportunity hear this information. The more people that can access this information via their computers would be helpful. He further asked that the administration put together an idea of what the cost might be to provide this level of access. When asked, the Board members affirmed they would

be amenable to the administration bringing back information and costs of implementing podcasting the Board's meetings.

Mr. Stewart charged Solicitor Byham with the task of bringing back an outline of what it will take to update the Master Facility Plan and if it would be possible to do some of the work in house to help cut costs.

Mr. Stewart reinstated Robert's Rules of Order.

2.1 Referendum Exceptions

**MOTION:** It was moved by Mrs. Zariczny and seconded by Ms. Paris that the Board of School Directors authorizes the appropriate officers and administrators to take all necessary actions to apply through PDE for the referendum exception relative to retirement contributions.

Referendum Exceptions Application Approved 7-0-0
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Roll Call Vote:

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

The result of the vote: passed unanimously.

2.3 Other

Mrs. Zariczny reminded the Board members that they discussed getting information to the legislature regarding concerns the Board has with State level decisions and how they are affecting this school district. Everyone agreed that it was a legitimate move. She asked how the Board will move forward and what type of plan needs to be implemented to do that. Mr. Stewart asked Mr. Grant as the PSBA Liaison to check with PSBA to see if there is any grassroots campaign where school board members are coming together in Harrisburg to advocate for mutual concerns. Mr. Grant will report on Monday night what he finds out.

Mr. Stewart announced the next board meeting is Monday, February 13, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Hufnagel pointed out that each board member has a letter at their place which gives the itinerary for the building review team and their activities starting this Saturday.

3. Closing Activities

3.1 Adjournment

It was moved by Ms. Paris and seconded by Mrs. Zariczny that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Ruth A. Huck, Board Secretary