

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

MAY 29, 2012

WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Paul Yourchisin, Chairperson
Mr. Michael Zamborik
Mr. Jack Werner

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Grant
Nancy McDanel
Donna Zariczny
Tom Knapp
Arthur Stewart
Mary Ann Paris

Matthew Eernisse
Norbert Kennerknecht
Jim Grosch
Matt Jones
Jim Miller
Mike Kiehl

Jim Young
Paul Leach
Claudia Solinko
Ben Klein (WTO)
Josh Cotton (WTO)
Melissa McLean
Other members of the public

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:29 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 Planned Instruction Revisions – Tech Ed Grades 6, 7, and 8

Discussion: The previously approved planned instructions for these courses include a final exam; however, the general consensus of the instructors is that it would be more

valuable to the students to use the time that it would take for students to prepare for and complete a final exam would be better spent on instruction. The revised planned instructions that were presented have the requirement for a final exam removed.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the revisions to the planned instructions as presented.

3.2 GRANT: 2012-13 Title I, Part A Summary

Discussion: Title I is a federally funded program that the district receives annually in varying amounts that helps educational agencies to provide additional help to students that struggle academically. The program is directed toward children in kindergarten through fourth grade, giving added assistance in reading and/or math. It also promotes parental involvement.

Action: This will be moved to the Board for authorization to proceed with an application for the grant.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to develop and submit a Title I, Part A application to the Pennsylvania Department of Education to provide educational support to eligible students in the Warren County School District for the 2012-13 school year.

3.3 Proposed Classes with Fewer than 12 Students

Discussion: As policy mandates, each year the administration presents a listing of classes that would have fewer than 12 students but would still be offered with the Board's approval. The listing for the 2012-13 school year was presented. Most of the classes are for special education needs, but others are for providing academic rigor and learning opportunities. It was asked what the difference is between Corrective Reading and Read 180. It was explained that Corrective Reading is intensive instruction with small groups, whereas Read 180 is to develop comprehension skills and can be administered to larger groups of students. It was requested that the administration produce a list of the classes with fewer than 12 students that are not being proposed, and that the list be included on the agenda for the Board meeting of June 11, 2012. It was mentioned that the district is still identifying some of the special education students. Board members were asked to direct any questions that they may have regarding the listing to the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Learning via email.

Action: This will be forwarded to the Board for approval and will be placed under "Other" on the agenda to allow for further discussion.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the proposed classes with fewer than 12 students for the 2012-2013 school year as presented.

3.4 Mathematics Planned Instructions – Grades 3 and 4

Discussion: The state has adopted the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards, and many of our planned instructions will need to be updated in order to keep the curriculum aligned to the expectations of the standards. Revised planned instructions for math for grades three and four were presented. The administration felt that this was a good starting point for updating the math curriculum as the foundations of math begin in these two grades.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the planned instructions as presented.

3.5 GRANT: 2012-13 Title II, Part A

Discussion: Title II, Part A is a federally funded program that provides supplemental funds to assist in providing continued professional development for teachers to keep them current in their content areas. The amount of the grant has not yet been determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Action: This will be forwarded to the Board for authorization to proceed with an application for the grant.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to develop and submit a Title II, Part A application to the Pennsylvania Department of Education to provide a variety of professional development activities for district staff during the 2012-13 school year.

3.6 Donation of Fire Truck and Related Equipment to the WCCC

Discussion: The Sheffield Fire Department would like to donate a fire truck to the Warren County Career Center (WCCC), and the Warren County Fire Services Committee would like to donate a number of items that would be utilized by firefighters. These donations would facilitate the competencies in the Protective Services curriculum. Repairs to the truck could be done by the Automotive Technology Program at a cost of approximately \$1000 and could be funded through the WCCC Equipment Maintenance budget. The truck would be kept at the WCCC except during the winter, when it would be housed in the Pleasant Township Elementary School garage. There is a WCCC staff member that has a CDL (Commercial Driver's License) and could move the vehicle when needed. The Protective Services budget can be redistributed to cover the costs of insurance, registration, and inspection. There was some concern about the age of the vehicle, but it was noted that the truck has been in service until very recently and has been well-maintained. A board member stated that the hands-on concept was an excellent idea.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors accepts the donation from the Sheffield Fire Department of a 1971 Darley Fire Truck on behalf of the Protective Services Program at the WCCC,

Motion: That the Board of School Directors accepts from the Warren County Fire Services Committee the following items to facilitate Protective Services competencies: fifteen sets of turn out gear; five self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA), including tanks; 400 ft. of 2.5 or 3 inch hose, national standards thread; 400 ft. of 1.5 or 1.75 inch hose, national standards thread; 2.5 inch fog nozzle; two 2.5 inch double male and two double female adapters; four spanner wrenches; hydrant wrench; fire axe; pike pole; and pry bar.

This will be listed as two separate items on the Board agenda.

4. Informational Items

4.1 Monthly Grant Report

A report was provided that depicted the grants for which the district has applied and their status. The Race to the Top application was recently approved with an award of \$91,000.

The committee recessed at 7:08 PM, at which time a Special Board Meeting was held. The committee reconvened at 7:41 PM.

4.2 Discussion of Race to the Top Expectations

Representatives from the Intermediate Unit presented a Power Point regarding Race to the Top. This program is essentially for professional development, to make our teachers better teachers. Concerns were expressed by members of the audience regarding the long-term implications of data that would be collected regarding teacher effectiveness and that this program would be very time consuming for people who don't have any time to spare.

5. Other

- 5.1 Obtaining Courses that Are Not Offered – A Board member asked how a student could obtain a course that is not offered in their school. The response was that courses that have been requested by only a few students are sometimes offered via distance learning, done via Cyber School, or obtained through the Acellus on-line program that is offered within the district. Parents should talk to the guidance counselor or principal to determine if a particular course can be obtained.

- 5.2 Effect of Furloughs – A member of the audience asked how the last set of furloughs is affecting course selections. In response, it was stated that the business courses are being offered at the Warren County Career Center and not in the individual schools, the Honors and Advance Placement courses have not been affected, and some of the electives are being offered on an every-other-year basis. Student schedules will be sent out at the end of June, at which time students will be able to adjust their schedules if needed. Guidance counselors will do their best to meet the students' needs. A Board member expressed interest in knowing what requests cannot be fulfilled.

6. Closing Activities

- 6.1 Next Meeting – June 25, 2012 following the Personnel / Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities Committee meeting at the Warren County Career Center
- 6.2 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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