

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

SEPTEMBER 24, 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:

Mary Ann Paris  
Nancy McDanel  
John Grant  
Arthur Stewart  
Tom Knapp  
Jack Werner

Cody McGraw – Student Board Rep.  
Brandon Hufnagel  
Norbert Kennerknecht  
Mike Kiehl  
Jim Grosch  
Roger Tubbs

Claudia Solinko  
Louise Tharp  
Melissa McLean  
Jacob Perryman – WTO  
Josh Cotton – WTO  
Other members of the public

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 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 GRANT: Support Grant for Spain/Italy Student Trip

**Discussion:** A teacher in the district has had a field trip to Spain and Italy previously approved by the Board. There are sixteen students total from three high schools that will be going on the trip. There have already been a number of fundraisers to help defray the cost of approximately \$4,000 per student. The administration is asking that the district apply for a grant to the Community Foundation of Warren in support of this trip. This organization has supported such efforts in the past. There is no specific dollar amount being requested; the organization would be asked for assistance in an amount that they would determine. Any monies received would be divided evenly amongst the students that are going.

**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 to the Community Foundation of Warren County to support the Board approved trip to Spain and Italy.

3.2 GRANT: Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant

**Discussion:** California Casualty offers a grant of up to \$3,000 per school to support athletics equipment needs. Each school would determine their needs and develop a project and then apply for the grant.

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

**Motion:** That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to work with the athletics directors of each high school in the Warren County School District to develop and submit a funding request to the Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant. Grants will support program needs as determined by each high school.

3.3 GRANT: Pets in the Classroom Grant

**Discussion:** A teacher in the Learning Enrichment Center would like to apply for a grant to help defray the costs of keeping a small pet in the classroom. The purpose of having the pet is to serve as a science project and also to teach children how to care for pets responsibly. The grant would either provide a rebate for purchases toward the pet and its upkeep or would be a coupon that would be redeemable by a participating retailer. The administration would make certain that all restrictions and guidelines developed by the PA Department of Education regarding animals in the school would be followed.

**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 application to the Pets in the Classroom Grant for a classroom pet as deemed appropriate by the requesting WCSD instructor.

3.4 Request for Charter School Student to Attend LEC

**Discussion:** A student from the Tidioute Community Charter School (TCCS) would like to attend the Learning Enrichment Center's (LEC) 8<sup>th</sup> Grade program. This program operates one day per week. If granted permission, the charter school would adjust its days of membership billing to the district accordingly. The parents would be responsible for transportation. The student involved would be receiving only gifted support which would not qualify for a special education billing rate.

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

**Motion:** That the Board of School Directors approves the request for a TCCS student to attend the LEC for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade program as indicated in the attached letter of support.

3.5 Planned Instruction for Algebra I - College Preparatory

**Discussion:** The planned instruction for Algebra I has been revised to reflect the state's Common Core Standards.

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

**Motion:** That the Board of School Directors approves the Algebra I College Preparatory planned instruction as presented.

3.6 GRANT: Association of American Educators Classroom/Scholarship Grants

**Discussion:** The Association of American Educators is offering grants of up to \$500 to individual teachers to assist in obtaining a wide range of classroom supplies for a project or to help defray costs of professional development, such as tuition, books, registration fees, or travel expenses. The projects chosen by the applying teachers would first be approved by the building principal and the Central Office administration. The administration is asking for authorization to assist teachers in applying for this grant.

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

**Motion:** That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to assist interested teachers in submitting grant applications to the Association of American Educators to support classroom supply needs and/or scholarships for professional development opportunities.

3.7 Request for Cyber Charter School Student to Attend WCCC

**Discussion:** The PA Leadership Charter School has a special education student that would like to attend the Warren County Career Center for a half day. The letter of request has not yet been received but will be attached to this item when it is placed on the Board agenda. The letter will address the appropriate reduction of days of membership costs to the district. If the district will be transporting this student, the charter school will be responsible for the costs.

**Action:** This item will be placed under "Other" on the Board agenda.

**Motion:** That the Board of School Directors approves the request for a PA Leadership Charter School student to attend the Warren County Career Center as indicated in the attached letter.

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.

5. Other

- 5.1 A Student Board Representative presented a handout and PowerPoint presentation regarding Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement (AP) Courses. He spoke about the benefits of a strong AP Program in high schools, even if the students don't take the AP Exam. He noted areas in our school district's AP Program that he felt were problematic and offered some

possible solutions. He stated that he felt that Dual Enrollment should be an option, but it should not be an alternative to the AP Program. He mentioned that students from all four high schools would be willing to travel to one location if it meant that the courses could be offered.

- 5.2 The superintendent stated that the Governor and the Secretary of Education have publicized some disturbing statements about the reasons for lower PSSA scores throughout the commonwealth. One statement is that increased security measures and cutting down on cheating by teachers has caused scores to decline. The superintendent commented that our district's teachers deserve congratulations because our students performed well above the state average. He stated that if cheating by teachers was curbed, that would account for only a very small percentage and would not have much of an impact on test scores. He feels that the increased standards and the amount of money cut from the education budget, causing larger classes, fewer course offerings, less tutoring, and less intervention, had the biggest impact on scores. The superintendent is proposing that the School Board offers a resolution to the state, saying that they support our teachers and the work that they do, and that we as a district believe that it is the funding cuts that have led to the drop in PSSA scores statewide. A Board member pointed out that a correlation should be established between an increase in funding producing higher test scores and a decrease in funding producing lower test scores; if there is no correlation found, it will be difficult to make a case that the funding cuts had an impact. The administration will draft a resolution for the next Board meeting.

6. Closing Activities

- 6.1 Next Meeting – October 29, 2012, 6:00 PM, Warren County Career Center

- 6.2 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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