

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
**MINUTES**  
JANUARY 28, 2013  
WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Mr. Gary Weber  
Mrs. Patricia Hawley-Horner  
Mrs. Amy Stewart

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Grant  
Thomas Knapp  
Donna Zariczny  
Mary Ann Paris  
Nancy McDanel  
Jim Grosch  
Norbert Kennerknecht

Misty Weber  
Michael Kiehl  
Brian Collopy  
Sue Turner  
Matt Jones  
Jim Miller

Ruth Nelson  
Ruth Huck  
Melissa McLean  
Claudia Solinko  
Josh Cotton (WTO)  
Approximately 8 unidentified others

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

Ms. Nicole Peterson of Warren, PA spoke to the committee about the possible closing of South Street Elementary Center (SSEL) for the 2013-2014 school year and moving those students to the Warren Area Elementary Center (WAEC). She stated that she has a child that is presently in second grade at WAEC, and that the school is already very crowded. She feels that the district should present a plan that would show that closing SSEL at this time would not negatively impact the students.

2. Old Business

2.1 Alternative Education

**Discussion:** The administration would like to move forward with a program for Alternative Education that would meet the requirements from the state that the district no longer serve expelled students and students that are returning from placement can no longer be placed in the Alternative Education Program before returning to their home school. The program could allow students to enter Alternative Education as an intervention prior to being expelled. If an

expulsion is necessary, possibilities for educating expelled students are full-time cyber school or home schooling. A recommendation for which course to follow would be included in the adjudication for each student that has been expelled. The policy regarding Alternative Education is currently being revised and will be presented to the Committee and Board with recommended changes. A Board member stated that the policy revision should include steps that would avoid expulsion whenever possible. Later in the meeting, another Board member stated that a program that meets the needs of the students, possibly offering multiple approaches that would address specific needs, that could possibly be taught in the same classroom, should be presented before the policy is rewritten.

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

**Motion:** That the Board of School Directors approves changes to the Alternative Education Program to meet state requirements.

## 2.2 Dental Services Agreement

**Discussion:** The Dental Services Agreements had previously been approved by the Board, but it was found that the educational component needed some revisions. The newly revised agreements were presented for consideration, and these revisions must be approved by the Board.

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

**Motion:** That the Board of School Directors approves the Dental Services Agreements as presented.

## 2.3 Renaming of Applied Math IV Planned Instruction

**Discussion:** This was brought to the CIT meeting in October, but the committee felt that the Applied Math IV course name being changed to Mathematics of Finance, as was suggested at that meeting, did not seem suitable for the course content. The administration is now suggesting that the course be named Money Management; however, the administration would like to pull this item from the agenda and review course sequence and certifications.

**Action:** This item was pulled from the agenda.

## 3. New Business

### 3.1 Mathematics – Grade 1 Planned Instruction Revision

**Discussion:** The Mathematics - Grade 1 Planned Instruction has been realigned to reflect the Common Core State Standards, with a change in scope and sequence.

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

**Motion:** That the Board of School Directors approves the Mathematics - Grade 1 Planned Instruction revision as presented.

3.2 GRANT: PE4Life/Speed Stacks Sport Pack Grant

**Discussion:** Speed stacking is considered a sport at the elementary and middle school levels. This grant will supply the District with the equipment needed to provide speed stacking experiences. A teacher at the Sheffield Elementary School is interested in applying for this grant.

**Action:** This will be forwarded to the Board for authorization to submit an application.

**Motion:** That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to assist interested district physical education instructors in completing and submitting an application to PE4Life for supplies necessary to establish a Sport Stacking program in their school.

3.3 GRANT: C-MITES Summer Camp Grant for the Learning Enrichment Center

**Discussion:** The Learning Enrichment Center (LEC) would like to again offer a summer program which is sponsored by the Carnegie Mellon Institute for Talented Elementary and Secondary Students (C-MITES) to identified gifted students. The course being offered is titled “Explorations in Science”. Students would explore careers in paleontology, geology, ecology, and medical technology. The program is scheduled for July 8-12, 2013, being held at the LEC daily from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. The cost of the program is \$390 for students who have taken the C-MITES EXPLORE test or \$465 for those students who have not tested. Financial aid is available if needed. The administration requests permission to submit a grant request of \$4,725 to the Community Foundation of Warren County to fund a majority of the program costs, which would allow \$315 for each of 15 students. Parents would be responsible for the remaining costs.

**Action:** This will be forwarded to the Board for authorization to submit an application.

**Motion:** That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to apply to the Community Foundation for Warren County for funding of the C-MITES program in the summer of 2013.

3.4 GRANT: Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh Equipment

**Discussion:** This society is offering grants of up to \$2,500 toward equipment used in classrooms where spectroscopy (the use of a spectrum to determine chemical composition and physical properties of molecules, ions, and atoms) is taught. A physics teacher at Youngsville High School is interested in this opportunity.

**Action:** This will be forwarded to the Board for authorization to submit an application.

**Motion:** That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to apply to the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh Science Equipment Grant for an award of \$2,268.20 to purchase supplies related to the teaching of spectroscopy lessons in a physics class at Youngsville High School.

3.5 GRANT: ING Unsung Heroes – Rewarding Excellence in America’s Schools Program

**Discussion:** This grant is being offered to teachers that propose new teaching techniques to improve learning. Interested teachers would submit an application that describes a project, and

ING would then score each submission based on its merits. One hundred finalists would receive \$2,000. There would be additional first-, second-, and third-place awards of \$25,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000 given to three of the finalists.

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

**Motion:** That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to publicize the ING Unsung Heroes program to all district teachers and assist with the development and submission of eligible proposals.

#### 4. Informational Items

##### 4.1 Middle School Report

The Board of Directors had requested that the administration prepare a report on the state of middle schools throughout the District. Reports from each middle school were made available. All middle schools follow basically the same type of schedule, with common core classes, advisory, and exploratory. Differences occur in how the classes are being delivered. Cross-curricular activities and team planning activities may also be different in each building. Principals participate in team meetings and meet with each one of the team leaders on a weekly basis. Mentoring is encouraged. There has been county-wide middle level planning in some instances.

##### 4.2 Sixth Grade Return to Beaty-Warren Middle School for the 2013-2014 School Year

The building will be ready for the Sixth Grade to move back in the fall. The administration is beginning to work with the principals to plan the sixth grade return to Beaty-Warren Middle School for the next school year. Ongoing progress reports will be brought to the committee.

##### 4.3 Closing of South Street Early Learning Center

At the present time, it is the district's intention to close South Street Early Learning Center and move those students to the Warren Area Elementary Center beginning with the 2013-2014 school year. A committee member asked the administration to respond to the comments that were made during the Public Comment period. The administration responded by stating that a detailed plan would be presented at the next committee meeting. A Board member asked that a schedule be made available that would depict the events that would need to occur in order to proceed with this move. Another Board member reminded the Board members and administration that some of the cost savings that would occur by closing South Street Early Learning Center have already been utilized in the 2012-2013 budget and could not be included when developing the 2013-2014 budget.

##### 4.4 Review of Policy 9530 – Minimum Class Size Policy – Grades 6-12

The administration is planning to review this policy to determine if the minimum number of students needed to offer a class should be changed. There have been instances of classes that had the required twelve students at the time of scheduling, but many of them significantly dropped in enrollment when school started, leaving classes with few students. (It is important to remember that the number of students in a class is not the only deciding factor as to whether a class will be offered.) It is the administration's intent to present a revised policy at the next committee meeting.

#### 4.5 Virtual Learning Network (VLN)

Information provided by this company was presented that depicted the District's rising costs of cyber schools and the cost savings to the District if it offered its own full-time cyber school program with a seven credit course load that would be developed using the District's curriculum. This program could also be used as a resource for new teachers. This would be a proactive solution to keep students in our district, help with homebound instruction, and serve as a back-up for distance learning if there would be an equipment failure. Butler County has been using VLN for four years, and they have had favorable results.

#### 5. Other

- 5.1 Michael Zamborik referred to an article written by Board Secretary Ruth Huck and published in the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) magazine. He commended her on her dedication to the Warren County School District and the PSBA.
- 5.2 Gary Weber commended the teachers and planners involved in the most recent professional development day. He stated that it was one of the best and most productive days that he has seen.
- 5.2 At the Board meeting of January 14, 2013, there was discussion regarding the concern that the District would be losing control of the Warren County Career Center by hiring a Director under contract rather than having that position filled by a District employee. It was stressed that the new position would be under the control of the District, and that the new operating and management structure would not supplant what is already in place; there would be no loss of control. A committee member stated that he would like more information about this issue, possibly an organizational chart, to put people's minds at ease.

#### 6. Closing Activities

- 6.1 Next Meeting: February 25, 2013 at the Warren County Career Center, following the Personnel/Athletics & Co-Curricular Activities Committee meeting.
- 6.2 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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