

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

**OCTOBER 28, 2103
WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Mr. Gary Weber
Mrs. Ruth Nelson
Mrs. Amy Stewart

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Arthur Stewart
John Grant
Marcy Morgan
Donna Zariczny
Thomas Knapp
Mary Anne Paris
Dr. William Clark

James Grosch
Dr. Norbert Kennerknecht
Brian Collopy
Suzanne Turner
Michael Kiehl
Matthew Jones
Philip Knapp

Jennifer Dilks
Jeweline Rozanski
Ruth Huck
Melissa McLean
Louise Tharp
Josh Cotton (WTO)
13 members of the public

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

Two students and a parent spoke on behalf of a number of people, some of which were in attendance, about a proposed policy regarding the awarding of added value to Advanced Placement and Honors courses and Dual Enrollment courses, showing concern that the policy may be unfair to the students that are taking those classes, and that students may be deterred from taking the classes if the added value is not high enough to be worthwhile. They were informed/reminded that an administrator would be talking to students and principals in the high schools to gather input in an attempt to make the policy as fair as possible before it is finalized. The students in attendance were thanked for their interest and input and were assured that their information and opinions were important and very valuable and would be taken into consideration.

2. Old Business

2.1 Policy 9741 Class Rank/Honors Credits – Class of 2014 through 2016

Discussion: This policy was recently revised; however, it was noticed that the headings for the additional value in the policy had not been updated. Corrections were made, and language was also included to address weight for the Pittsburgh University at Bradford courses that are being taught in Warren County School District classrooms by district instructors.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves on first and second reading the revision to Policy 9741, titled “Class Rank/Honors Credits – Class of 2014 through 2016” as presented.

2.2 Policy 9744 Class Rank/Honors Credits

Discussion: Language was added to the draft policy to address the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford courses that are being taught in the district schools by district instructors. Statements made during the Public Comment portion of the meeting will be taken into consideration. More input from students and principals will be gathered before this policy is be finalized.

Action: An administrator will be meeting with principals and students to gather more information and opinion. A new draft will be presented at the next CIT meeting.

Motion: None at this time.

3. New Business

3.1 Field Trip to Peru in 2015

Discussion: If approved, this will be the fourth trip to a Spanish-speaking country that has been offered by this instructor. This trip would be a service and learning tour. The instructor was present to address the committee and answer questions. A committee member cautioned that the world situation needs to be watched and considered. The tour company will issue a refund if there is a safety concern.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the field trip to Peru in June 2015 as presented.

3.2 Grant: Beef and Veal in the Classroom Grant

Discussion: This grant is being offered by the Pennsylvania Beef Council to provide support for the use of beef and veal in the Family and Consumer Science classes. The amount of the award would be up to \$100 per building. There are five interested teachers.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Beef Council for each Warren County School District building with a Family and Consumer Science instructor interested in receiving beef and/or veal products for use in instruction.

3.3 Grant: Pets in the Classroom Grant (BWMS)

Discussion: This grant provides funds to help defray expenses incurred by the keeping of a pet in a classroom. There is a specific list of pets that are allowed by the grant. A teacher at Beaty-Warren Middle School would like to apply for the grant so that a new habitat can be provided for the classroom's pet rat.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to submit an application to the Pets in the Classroom Grant for a new pet habitat.

3.4 Grant: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Youth Programs (SAMHS Envirothon)

Discussion: This grant provides \$1,500 in funding for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) projects. Sheffield Area Middle/High School would like to apply for this grant to fund the Envirothon competition.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to submit an application to the Venango Training and Development Center for a 2013-14 TANF Youth Program Grant in the amount of \$1,500 to support SAMHS participation in the annual Envirothon competition.

3.5 Grant: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Youth Programs (SAMHS JETS/Science Olympiad)

Discussion: Sheffield Area Middle/High School would like to submit an additional application for \$1,500 from this grant to fund a JETS competition and Science Olympiad.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to submit an application to the Venango Training and Development Center for a 2013-14 TANF Youth Program Grant in the amount of \$1,500 to support SAMHS participation in the JETS competition and Science Olympiad.

3.6 Erie Business Center (EBC) Articulation Agreement

Discussion: In the past, the district has had an agreement with EBC that would allow specific high school courses to count as credit for EBC courses. The center is asking to renew the agreement for the 2013-2014 school year. The administration will work with District teachers and the center to revise the agreement.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to develop an Articulation Agreement between the Erie Business Center and the Warren County School District for the 2013-2014 school year.

3.7 Study Island Writing and Science

Discussion: The administration would like to purchase Study Island licenses for students at the elementary and middle school levels for the subjects of Writing (composition) and Science, which will become part of the Performance Profile. A quote was provided. A summary of how Study Island is presently being used was given. This additional software would serve as practice which could be assessed by the classroom teacher and would help students develop the fundamentals in these subject areas.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the purchase of Study Island licensing for Writing and Science for the elementary and middle schools in the district, as per the attached quote.

3.8 GradPoint Courses

Discussion: A number of proposed planned instructions for courses that would be offered through GradPoint were provided. These cyber courses are intended to be offered for credit recovery (not remediation) in an effort to prevent students from dropping out of school. They would carry ¼ to ½ credit per course.

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

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

3.9 Grant: School Police Officer/School Resource Officer Targeted Grant

Discussion: This is a competitive grant of which the district was just recently made aware, and, if awarded, it would provide funds to help defray the costs of hiring a School Resource Officer or a School Police Officer. The officer would be hired as an independent contractor, not an employee of the district, on an hourly basis. Certain qualifications would apply. The Youngsville schools' administrators and the Youngsville Police may be interested in participating. Others outside the District have also shown interest. The district must agree to fund the position for at least two years and would be eligible for up to 50% of the costs for subsequent years without reapplying, provided that the General Assembly continues the funding. There is concern that the district may not be able to fund this program. The administration will investigate further to determine whether it should be recommended for approval. A determination will be made prior to the next Board meeting. Some Board members voiced approval for the program if it is affordable, stating that it has a positive influence on students and gives them a chance to see an officer in a little different light.

Action: Pending the administration's review and recommendation, this will be forwarded to the Board for authorization to apply.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to submit an application to the School Police-Resource Officer Targeted Grant to provide a School Police or Resource Officer to serve in the Warren County School District.

4. Informational Items

4.1 Discuss WCSD Cyber School Planned Instruction

The courses that are available to students through the Warren County School District Cyber School were introduced. The planned instructions will be brought to the next CIT meeting.

4.2 Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment Information

As was requested by committee members, reports were provided. These reports included summaries of Advanced Placement (AP) class counts and exam participation, AP exam results, AP and Dual Enrollment classroom grades, and SAT results. It was asked that these reports be sent to the Board members electronically.

4.3 SSEL/CAEC Consolidation Report

A report was provided that included feedback from teachers as to how the consolidation of the two schools is working. There were many positive comments, and there are still some concerns, particularly cafeteria issues. The report is accessible on the district's website at www.wcsdpa.org under ElectronicSchoolBoard; October 28, 2013; Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Committee; Item 4.3. The administration would like to further investigate issues regarding the cafeteria at CAEC and address them at the next CIT meeting, presenting some ideas to resolve the situation.

4.4 Monthly Grant Report

A report was provided that depicted the grants for which the district has applied, their status, and how the funds are being used.

5. Other

- 5.1 A Board member that acts as a representative to PSBA attended a session in regards to school-wide assessment and raised the question of whether a student's expiring during their senior year would be reflected in the drop-out rate. The response was that it should not affect the drop-out rate, and it could be disputed if it inadvertently did affect the rate.

6. Closing Activities

- 6.1 Next Meeting – November 18, 2013 in the large conference room at the Warren County Career Center, following the Personnel/Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities Committee Meeting.

6.2 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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