

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

**FEBRUARY 24, 2014
WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Thomas Knapp, Chairperson, for Mr. John Werner
Mr. Michael Zamborik
Mrs. Patricia Rosenstein, for Mr. Paul Mangione

Mr. Gary Weber
Mrs. Ruth Nelson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. John Werner
Mr. Paul Mangione

Mrs. Amy Stewart

OTHERS PRESENT:

Arthur Stewart
Marcy Morgan
Mary Anne Paris
Dr. William Clark
James Grosch
Dr. Norbert Kennerknecht

Michael Kiehl
Brian Collopy
Suzanne Turner
Sandy Wilks
Eric Mineweaser
Shannon Yeager

Philip Knapp
Christine Haslett
Ruth Huck
Budd Mracna
Josh Cotton (WTO)
Melissa McLean
Approximately 45 others

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:52 PM by Mr. Thomas Knapp.

1.2 Public Comment

Eric Mineweaser, Principal at Youngsville Elementary/Middle School, gave a presentation regarding the Special Education programming in the West Attendance Area, explaining the programs that are being offered at the school, what agencies are involved, and the concerns regarding school safety and security. There was much discussion following the presentation, and possible resolutions to some of the outstanding issues were discussed. Additional input was received from the Superintendent, the Special Education Supervisor, and the Interim Director of Pupil Services, among others. It was requested that the informative PowerPoint presentation that was displayed at the meeting be sent to all Board members and placed on the District's website. The floor was then opened to public comment.

One member of the public that has spent a lot of time at the Youngsville Elementary/Middle School stated that an aide in the Kindergarten classroom is a good idea, requested that a listing that has been developed of things that could be done now and things that could be done in the future be made public when it's complete, and also stressed the importance of providing training to all teachers and drivers for how to approach the students with special needs.

Another member of the public noted the importance of communication between the District and the public.

A third person was concerned as to whether one additional aide at Youngsville High School (YHS) was enough. The principal of the high school responded, saying that one aide is sufficient, that the students' transitions to YHS have gone fairly smoothly, and that police calls have increased but not for special education reasons (the number of discipline referrals have been similar to last year's numbers).

Another member of the public voiced concerns regarding the lack of communication between bus and van drivers and the parents, citing an incident in which her child was involved, demonstrating the need for training for the drivers.

2. Old Business

2.1 Policy Number 9355, titled – Students Study Abroad

Discussion: This suggested revision was presented to the Board at the meeting of February 10, 2014, but there were questions regarding the effect that this policy would have on a student's GPA. A committee member mentioned that the district policy regarding class rank stated that a student had to attend school in the Warren County School District for their junior and senior year to qualify for top rank positions. As the courses studied abroad are sanctioned by the District, the student is most likely considered as a District student under these circumstances. The administration will look into whether students that study abroad would be considered inside or outside the District and will report to the Board with clarification before the next Board meeting.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves on first reading the proposed changes to Policy 9355, titled "Students Study Abroad," as presented.

3. New Business

3.1 GRANT: C-MITES Summer Program Support for LEC Students

Discussion: The Carnegie Mellon Institute for Talented Elementary and Secondary (C-MITES) Students Summer Program is being offered to gifted students currently in grades three through six. The program would be held at the LEC from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM from July 7 through July 11, 2014. This summer, students would be involved in a course called Solve a Murder Mystery, in which they would learn about fingerprinting, hair identification, DNA analysis, and evidence collection in an attempt to solve a “crime” in the classroom. Partial funding would be requested from the Community Foundation which would leave a remaining \$150 to be paid by the parent.

Action: This will be forwarded to the Board for approval to submit a grant application.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to apply to the Community Foundation for Warren County for funding of the C-MITES program in the summer of 2014.

3.2 GRANT: YHS Business Week Program Support

Discussion: PA Business Week is a one-week program that has been held successfully at Youngsville High School in the past, and they would like to run the program again this year from April 7-11, 2014. Local employer-based mentors will work with teachers and the students in Grade 11 to develop computer-simulated companies, ending the program with competitions in various areas of business, such as advertising, return on net assets, and trade shows. Grant applications will need to be submitted to funders to support the program.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to submit grant applications to funders as needed in support of PA Business Week activities at Youngsville High School for the 2013-14 school year.

3.3 GRANT: LEGO Competition Support for LEC

Discussion: The Learning Enrichment Center would like to participate in this competition, being held in Erie, PA and sponsored by the FIRST LEGO League (FLL), during the 2014-2015 school year. Each team would build and program a robot using LEGO materials and a Mindstorms “brain.” Team registrations are due this spring, with the tournament to take place in the late fall. The LEC would like to solicit funds from local funders to help support two teams. Students may be asked to pay a participation fee in addition to any funding that can be obtained.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to apply to local funders for monies to establish two (2) FIRST LEGO League teams at the Learning Enrichment Center to compete in 2014-15.

3.4 eRate/IU5 – RWAN Connectivity, PAIU.net & Additional Internet Bandwidth

Discussion: Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5 (IU5) and the districts that they serve have been working toward obtaining a new Regional Wide-Area Network (RWAN) agreement. After careful consideration of proposals from telecommunication providers, the large majority of the districts involved felt that Velocity.net was the best fit, and the IU5 Board of Directors approved their proposal. This connection with the IU5 would allow the District to obtain multimedia support from them. The cost is approximately \$6,000 less than our previous agreement. Funds will need to be included in the budget for the ongoing expenses for a three-year agreement. The proposed agreement with IU5 was presented.

Information regarding the PAIU.net that will connect the Intermediate Units will be forthcoming very soon, and will most likely be included on the next Board agenda under “Other.”

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

Motion: That the Board of Directors accepts the agreement between the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5 (“IU5”) and Warren County School District (“Participating Educational Organization”) which shall be in effect for Three (3) years, beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2017, with optional extensions. The Warren County School District shall pay monthly fees as follows: \$1,385.00 for the RWAN connection, \$49.85 for eRate filing, \$9.92 for contract and RFP management, \$52.43 for maintenance/sustainability and \$500 for 100 mbps of Internet bandwidth. Extended total equals \$1,997.20 per month for the duration of the 3 year agreement.

4. Informational Items

4.1 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.

4.2 21st Century After School Program

The administration is not yet ready to make a recommendation for the continuation of this program but wanted to keep the committee informed of where things stand. A PowerPoint presentation was made by the program manager that described the program that is available to students in Grade 3 through Grade 5 and provided performance data.

In addition to tutoring, the program offers enrichment, such as the arts, bookmaking, cooking, photography, robotics, and physical activity. There are approximately 130 students involved in the program. The administration expects to have a recommendation ready at the committee meeting in April 2014.

4.3 Update on Club Fees

The Board had made a decision to charge students \$5.00 to participate in clubs for which the District paid a supplemental salary to staff. Some of the schools have not been enforcing the collection of these fees for various reasons. An argument was made using the school's Yearbook Club as an example: Students contribute many hours of time to do a service for the school, and then they're expected to pay \$5.00 in addition to all of their service. Most of the clubs take place during the day or benefit the school in some way. The consensus was that the fees for participating in a club be cancelled, and that supplemental salaries be included in next year's budget. The administration will include a motion to this effect on the next Board agenda.

5. Other

5.1 Warren County Career Center

The Board Representative to the Career Center has spoken with the Director about his needs for the school, and the Director said that he presently has everything he needs for the successful operation of the school and that they have the support of the administration.

6. Closing Activities

6.1 Next Meeting – March 31, 2014 in the large conference room of the Warren County Career Center, following the Personnel / Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities Committee meeting

6.2 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ms. Lisa Niedzialek, Recording Secretary
Mr. Thomas Knapp, Acting Chairperson
Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Committee