

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

**MARCH 31, 2014
WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. John Werner, Chairperson
Mr. Michael Zamborik
Mr. Paul Mangione

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mary Anne Paris
Patricia Rosenstein
Thomas Knapp
Donna Zariczny
Dr. William Clark
James Grosch
Norbert Kennerknecht

Dr. Darrell Jaskolka
Michael Kiehl
Suzanne Turner
Brian Collopy
Matthew Jones
Eric Mineweaser
Philip Knapp

Rhonda Decker
Mary Ann Mead
Julie Eckstrom
Ruth Huck
Melissa McLean
Josh Cotton (WTO)
Approximately 50 others

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mr. Jack Werner.

1.2 Public Comment

Steve Morris, a member of the of the Youngsville Borough Council read from a letter regarding concerns about situations at Youngsville High School (YHS) and Youngsville Elementary/ Middle School (YEMS). A copy of the letter was left with the Superintendent of Schools. The superintendent responded, stating steps that have been taken to remedy the situations and to handle similar situations in the future. He asked the public to call the Central Office if they had concerns as there is a lot of misinformation in the public sector. He is open to meeting with groups for their input. With the addition of staff, the thought is that things are going better.

A Board member asked if law enforcement has the final say when a lockdown situation is turned over to them. The response was that the police generally tell the district staff what to do.

Additional comments by members of the public regarding YHS and YEMS:

- An unidentified member of the public whose daughter had to leave Eisenhower Middle/High School (EMHS) to receive support at a Youngsville school feels that the district is discriminating against the Special Education students, that her daughter should have been able to receive support at EMHS.
- Gordon Fitzgerald – Teachers are threatening to leave to teach at another school because of all the disruptive students coming to Youngsville; parents won't want their children to go to this school; the Special Education students should be split up throughout the district.
- Jennifer (last name was inaudible) – Some parents of pre-school children are considering moving so their children will not have to attend YEMS; in the floor plan of the school, it appeared that the refocus room for disruptive students was directly across the hall from regular kindergarten classrooms, exposing other children to disruptive episodes, so the room should be moved.
- Kelly Johnson – She feels that the Board has created a problem by housing the most disruptive students in a single building. She has heard that the district was looking at the possibility of setting up mental health rooms in both YHS and YEMS. She referred to Chapter 14, stating that these students are to be incorporated into the mainstream. She feels that it would be unfair to isolate these students; she also wondered who made the final decision as to where the Special Education program is located. The superintendent responded, saying that the final decision is presented as a recommendation from the administration to the Board, and the Board must vote on the proposal. The motion would be based on staffing and the administration's recommendation.
- Scott Nelson – Many parents are actively seeking another type of education; he feels that equal opportunity is no longer available at YEMS and YHS, that students at those schools are not receiving the same education as students in other schools.
- Barbara Young – As the parent of a student who was pulled from the Youngsville school and is now in the PA Charter School, she said that their child's life was threatened multiple times, but nothing could be done because of the status of the student who was threatening her. She feels that the district will continue to lose children and families if the district continues on this track.
- Chris Myers – She feels that there are double standards – a child is expected to go to school even though she is being threatened and there is no safety net for her, and because of a learning disability, another student is not disciplined for making threats. The superintendent explained the series of steps that the administration follows to quell situations like this.
- Dale Johnson – He had questions regarding how many times the police could have been called to YEMS. The principal of the school responded, saying that each case and situation is recorded and evaluated individually and that he felt comfortable with the times that the police were called and the times that they were not called. Mr. Johnson also asked a question regarding a past disciplinary incident at YHS, to which the superintendent responded, and Mr. Johnson delivered a negative personal comment. He then asked the superintendent a question of a personal nature to which the superintendent responded.

- An unidentified member of the public felt that the principals cannot do their job under the circumstances which they have been put, that the Board members should spend some time at the schools to see what they're going through, that Youngsville deserved to be looked at seriously. The committee chairperson thanked this person for her honesty and concern, and stated that the conditions at the schools will be given proper consideration.
- Barb (last name inaudible) – She had questions about the safety policies in the schools.
- Misty (last name inaudible) – She feels that her children are not getting a good education due to the situations at the Youngsville schools. She wondered if putting the large number of Special Education students into the West Attendance Area was worth the money it saved.
- An unidentified member of the public questioned whether there were established plans for calling for a lockdown and if the students know what to do when a lockdown is called. The superintendent assured this person that plans are in place.

2. Old Business

There was no old business.

3. New Business

3.1 “Smile” Program

Discussion: The goal of this program is to reach children who, for any reason, do not get proper dental care. Space would be set up in the schools, where a dental team could provide basic dental care to identified students with no cost to the district. All care is done during the school day, is performed by local dentists, and would require parental permission. A Board member said that a contract would be needed for Board approval.

Action: This will be forwarded to the Board for authorization to utilize this program.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes our Nursing Department to schedule the Smile Program for each of our attendance areas.

3.2 Schoolwide Positive Behavior Support

Discussion: The Pennsylvania Schoolwide Positive Behavior Support System is a longstanding proactive program that promotes appropriate student behavior. Support is tailored to the individual student's needs. An introduction to the program was provided along with an agreement. The administration would like to implement this program at Youngsville Elementary/Middle School and Youngsville High School.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the fidelity agreement for the program of Schoolwide Positive Behavior Support at YEMS and YHS.

3.3 Equipment for the Career Center

Discussion: Warren County Career Center would like to purchase a robotic welder, a tire changer, a wheel balancer, and air lifts to enhance programs within the school. Bids for the equipment were gathered and presented. These items would be purchased using appropriated building funds and grant monies.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the bid from R. N. Goss Gas Products for a robotic welder in the amount of \$73,961.12, and the bid from Barnhart-Davis for a tire changer, a wheel balancer, and air lifts in the amount of \$18,535.00 as presented.

3.4 GRANT: Snapdragon Book Foundation Grant

Discussion: This grant is being offered to school libraries that serve disadvantaged youth with a goal to help develop children's literacy.

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 Snapdragon Book Foundation for new books for any interested school library of the Warren County School District.

3.5 GRANT: Trout in the Classroom

Discussion: This program, which is in partnership with the PA Fish and Boat Commission and is supported by the PA Dept. of Education, allows students to raise native trout from eggs to the fingerling stage. The fish will be released into approved waterways at the end of the program. This is an existing program at the Learning Enrichment Center (LEC). A teacher at the LEC would like to submit an application for the grant. The only cost to the district would be for part of the cost of a field trip, which would come from the LEC building's budgeted funds.

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 Council of Trout Unlimited under the Existing Program format for a program at the Learning Enrichment Center.

3.6 GRANT: S. Knox Harper Environmental Education Grants

Discussion: This grant is being offered by the Northern Allegheny Conservation Association to assist with expenses for projects related to the environment. In previous years, the funds from this grant have funded field trips related to birding, conservation projects, and others.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to work with interested WCSD teachers to submit applications to the S. Knox Harper grant program.

3.7 GRANT: Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC) Transportation Grant

Discussion: The district has been utilizing this grant for a number of years. It provides funds to pay for transportation to schools that would like to visit the center.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to work with interested teachers to submit Tom Ridge Environmental Center grants applications for qualified field trip proposals.

3.8 GRANT: Target Arts, Culture, and Design in Schools Grant

Discussion: Target stores provide grants to fund arts programs with the goal of expanding student creativity. The funds could provide such things as performances, workshops, and an artist-in-residence.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to work with interested WCSD classroom teachers to submit applications to the Target Arts and Culture grant competition.

3.9 GRANT: Highmark Creating Healthy School Environments

Discussion: Highmark is offering funds to help create healthier and safer environments for students. This grant would require significant evaluation and reporting. There are four specific areas to be addressed, and the district would have to choose one from that list. The entire district would be involved if this grant is awarded to our district.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to work with interested parties to develop an application to the Highmark Creating a Healthy School Environment grant benefiting the Warren County School District.

3.10 GRANT: Team Nutrition Mini-Grants

Discussion: Funding made possible through the PA Dept. of Education is being offered on a competitive basis to schools to help fund a variety of projects to improve the nutritional environment, encouraging students to make healthier choices.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to work with interested buildings and staff to submit applications to the Team Nutrition Mini-Grant.

3.11 CASE Study

Discussion: The CASE Survey is designed to provide feedback that helps to develop changes in the schools that will result in improved student performance. Beaty-Warren Middle School has previously received training for the study, and the “Breaking Ranks” component is the most comprehensive school improvement plan that the administrator has seen. “Breaking Ranks” wrote and produced the Schools to Watch program, which our district has used at the middle level. This program has proven to align very well with our district. A description of the survey and the invoice were provided. (Beaty-Warren Middle School participation would be free, so it was not included on the invoice.) The administration recommends that this survey be utilized to fulfill the Board goal of high school reform. A survey would go out to students, parents, and teachers from all high schools and middle schools.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the utilization of the CASE Survey for the Warren County School District during the 2014-2015 school year at the cost of \$4250 for five schools participating.

3.12 Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Career and Technical Education E-Signature Resolution for Use with eGrant Submissions

Discussion: Beginning with the next school year, the PA Dept. of Education (PDE) will be using electronic signatures for the eGrant system. This will improve the timeliness and efficiency for eGrants, and it will save copying and postage costs for the district. The district will need to adopt a resolution that identifies and authorizes an individual to sign electronic agreements. A template for the resolution, provided by PDE, was available.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves a resolution identifying Dr. William A. Clark, Superintendent of the Warren County School District, as the authorized individual for e-signature of electronic agreements with the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Bureau of Career and Technical Education.

4. Informational Items

4.1 Update on the WCCC Health Care Program

A handout was provided. Health care is a high demand occupation, and the Warren County Career Center is hoping to offer a program that would create a platform for students to learn about career options in the field of health care. The goal is to offer this program, starting with the 2015-2016 school year. Articulation agreements will be sought so that students will be able to earn college credits for this course. Instruction would include both classroom curriculum and clinical experiences. Grant funds can help with some of the expenses involved with the program. The remaining costs will be included in the district's budget.

4.2 Chapter 4 Revisions

Every student will be required to be proficient in the subjects of Literature, Biology, and Algebra I to graduate. A PowerPoint presentation regarding the revisions is being developed and will be posted on the district's website for public viewing when completed.

4.3 Update on District Assessment Data

Handouts were provided. The handouts were regarding PSSA and Keystone data. Study Island is being used to measure student progress over time. Success Maker (SM) has proven to be a very valuable resource to teachers as the scores in SM correlate to the scores on the PSSA's, allowing them to determine where an individual student needs extra help. A report regarding student achievement data is being developed and will be posted on the district's website when completed.

4.4 Beaty-Warren Middle School Open House

An Open House will be held on May 19, 2014 for current and past district employees. Another Open House for the whole community will be held on May 27, 2014. This second Open House will include concerts, an ice cream social, a geo-thermal presentation, student displays and artwork, and a video. Other civic groups will be given private tours.

4.5 Hybrid Learning Update

A handout was provided. The Pennsylvania Hybrid Learning Institute presents a nontraditional means of instruction that starts with a needs assessment. Classes can target a subject area or a grade level, starting small and letting it grow. Traditional,

cooperative, and digital teaching methods would be blended, delivering small group instruction to students, rotating them among different classrooms/learning stations. Some government funding would be available. The superintendent is contacting other superintendents and the Intermediate Unit to see if they would like to form a partnership, which would reduce the initial base price, and then submit a letter of intent and apply for the grant. The initial phase would be funded with grant dollars that are allocated for professional development and technology. The program could be exited at any time.

4.6 Update Regarding Co-op Students at Warren County Career Center (WCCC)

Last year, due to the economic downturn, the number of students participating in co-op went down. By the end of the current school year, there will be between 20 and 25 students in the program.

5. Other

- 5.1 A Board representative of the WCCC stated that two primary needs in the occupational field are for trained medical personnel and machinists. He added that some jobs that had been sent overseas are coming back.

6. Closing Activities

- 6.1 Next Meeting – April 28, 2014 at 6:00 PM in the large conference room at the WCCC.

- 6.2 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ms. Lisa Niedzialek, Recording Secretary
Mr. John Werner, Chairperson
Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Committee