

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014

1.0 Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The special meeting of the Warren County School District Board of School Directors was called to order by Mr. Stewart, President, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Warren County Career Center, 347 East Fifth Avenue, Warren, Pennsylvania.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Stewart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Roll Call

Present:

Mr. Thomas Knapp
Mr. Paul Mangione
Mrs. Marcy Morgan
Ms. Mary Anne Paris
Ms. Patricia Rosenstein

Mr. Arthur Stewart
Mr. John Werner
Mr. Michael Zamborik
Mrs. Donna Zariczny

Roll Call

Others Present:

Dr. William Clark, Superintendent; Mrs. Amy Stewart, Director of Instructional Technology/Communications; Dr. Norbert Kennerknecht, Director of Buildings & Grounds; Mr. James Grosch, Director of Business Services; Mr. Gary Weber, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Mrs. Ruth Nelson, Interim Director; Mrs. Ruth Huck, Board Secretary; Mr. Josh Cotton, Times Observer; Mr. Michael Kiehl, Transportation/Purchasing Manager; Mr. Paul Leach, Technology Specialist; Mr. Matthew Jones, Coordinator of Grants & Foundation Development; Mrs. Rhonda Decker, Principal; Ms. Maryann Mead, Assistant Principal; Mrs. Louise Tharp, WCEA President, and approximately 40 members of the public in the audience.

1.4 Reading of the Mission Statement - Mrs. Donna Zariczny

The mission of the Warren County School District is to educationally empower all students to think critically and solve problems through a rigorous curriculum that will provide them with the skills necessary to graduate and pursue a career of their interest.

1.5 Reading of the WCSD/PSBA Standards for Effective School Governance and Code of Conduct - Mr. Zamborik

TO PROMOTE STUDENT GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT, AN EFFECTIVE SCHOOL BOARD ...

Models responsible governance and leadership by: Staying current with changing needs and requirements by reviewing educational literature, attending professional development

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opportunities prior to board service and continuously during board service and preparing to make informed decisions.

1.6 Public Comment

Matt Madigan	Teacher BWMS	Mr. Madigan spoke to the option for a modified middle level program at BWMS and offered an alternative option. Board members were given a handout. Teachers would like discussion on the models presented before a decision is made.
Lynn Schultz	Teacher BWMS	Ms. Schultz stated that she and fellow science teachers are concerned about the 7 th grade science instructional time being cut by 20 minutes. It would be difficult to teach the entire curriculum with those cuts.
Nicole Bonnell	Teacher BWMS	Ms. Bonnell stated she has been a special education teacher for fourteen years, and she is concerned how the changes will affect the intensive classes. She encouraged the Board to look at a variety of models keeping the students best interest in mind.

2.0 New Business

2.1 Budget Deliberations

The Board of School Directors waived Roberts Rules of Order by common consent to begin a dialogue on the 2014-2015 budget as proposed by administration.

Mr. Stewart called for a five minute recess at 7:30 p.m. to get the administration's presentation set up. The meeting reconvened at 7:37 p.m.

Dr. Clark began the presentation with comments on the proposed budget, its deficits and looking to the future for where the Board may want to go.

- Mr. Grosch presented the timeline for approving the preliminary and final budgets.
- Mr. Grosch also explained how the budget figure was determined in light of estimated funding and estimated expenditures for the 2014-2015 school year.
- Dr. Clark presented the scoring sheets for additions and deletions to the proposed budget. Administration explained each line item and answered questions from the Board. He commented that there are several areas where he would recommend that the Board set aside designated funds for expenditures that are looming on the horizon; they include PSERS at \$1, 000,000; Capital for WAHS renovation and debt at \$500,000; and tech/server farm at \$500,000. Additionally, administration included monies to continue staffing levels at YEMS and YHS for the AS/ES programs.
- Dr. Kennerknecht explained that due to the severity of the weather and increased utilities costs there is a need to shore up those accounts.
- Technology monies will cover wireless access points, replacements of smartboard, computers and the server farm.
- In order to start the 21st Century program at the beginning of the school year and before the monies from the state arrive, monies are included to get it underway.

- A figure was included for the potential Russell move. Dr. Kennerknecht will make an in-depth presentation on Monday of the estimated costs for moving the LEC, Central Office and any modification needed to the facility. The Board members will tour the Russell Elementary facility at 5:15 p.m.
- Expansion of programming at WCCC will require equipment, and monies have been included in the budget.
- Additional funds will be needed to move furniture to the new buildings with the closing of schools and also to hire substitute custodians when needed.
- Band uniforms, delivery truck, and Weatherbug curriculum was included. There may be grant funds available for the Weatherbug piece.
- Middle Level Programming was discussed with regard to scheduling.

Mr. Stewart observed that he did not see enough cuts on the list nor could the board raise enough taxes to balance the budget and requested that administration come back with additional cuts to allow the Board to balance the budget.

Mr. Stewart called for a recess at 9:05 p.m. in order to email and post on ESB for Board members the proposed cuts list from last year's budget. The meeting reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

It was determined that administration would review and make further recommendations to the additions and deletions list for the May 12, 2014, board meeting.

Roberts Rules of Order was reinstated by common consent.

2.2 Other

3.0 Closing Activities

3.1 Executive Session

Mr. Stewart announced an executive session at 9:40 p.m. to discuss matters of personnel with no action to follow.

3.2 Adjournment

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Paris and seconded by Mr. Knapp that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth A. Huck, Board Secretary