

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 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 8:05 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. John Anderson
Mr. Thomas Knapp
Mr. Paul Mangione (via Skype)
Ms. Mary Anne Paris

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

Roll Call

Absent:

Mrs. Marcy Morgan

Others Present:

Dr. William Clark, Superintendent; Dr. Norbert Kennerknecht, Director of Buildings & Grounds; Mrs. Amy Stewart, Director of Administrative Support Services; 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. Brian Collopy, Technology Coordinator; Mrs. Suzanne Turner, Human Resource Supervisor; Mr. Matt Jones, Coordinator of Grants & Foundation Development; Mr. Rick Gignac, Coordinator of District-wide Athletics & Co-Curricular Activities; Mrs. Melissa McLean, Secretary to the Director of Buildings & Grounds; Mr. Eric Mineweaser, Principal; Mrs. Liz Kent, Assistant Principal; Mrs. Louise Tharp, WCEA President, and approximately 8 members of the public in the audience.

1.4 Reading of the Mission Statement - Mr. Jack Werner

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.

The Warren County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or employment practices and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to Mrs. Amy Stewart, Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator at 589 Hospital Drive, Suite A, Warren, PA 16365 or (814) 723-6900.

- 1.5 Reading of the WCSD/PSBA Standards for Effective School Governance and Code of Conduct - Mrs. Donna Zariczny

In order to maintain a free and strong country, our civic obligation to the community, commonwealth, and nation is to maintain free and strong public schools in the United States of America, without surrendering our responsibilities to any other person, group, or organization. Accordingly, the community should be provided with information about its schools and be engaged by the board and staff to encourage input and support for the school system.

- 1.6 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

- 1.7 PSBA Leadership Conference

- Mr. Stewart shared that he, Mrs. Zariczny, Dr. Clark, and Mrs. Huck attended the annual PSBA Leadership Conference in Hershey. As with every year he came back energized and enthusiastic about public education. He highlighted that the first day was for voting on PSBA's legislative platform and bylaws. The legislative changes were very significant. In the past there have been 110 platform issues, and the legislature made it clear it cannot maneuver with that many issues out there. PSBA has come back with a very laser like focus. The delegates voted to forward four legislative priorities for the next two years – 1) the pension crisis; 2) enact meaningful charter school reform to remove inequities within the system; 3) reform the charter school formula for special education; 4) provide adequate and fair funding. The delegates then adopted a larger legislative platform that speaks the mind of PSBA and its members. Mr. Stewart offered a small change to one of the principals regarding taxation, which calls upon the state to make up the difference for districts adversely affected by a substantial reduction in assessed valuation, market value, or loss of revenue due to bankruptcy. Bankruptcy being a federal element, Mr. Stewart requested that this be included "federally owned land" as one of the factors for consideration, because the Allegheny National Forest impacts the district greatly. Once Mr. Stewart made the motion, it was discussed favorably by another school district from Gettysburg, where the park there does the same thing to their school district. It was one of the few amendments that passed with a 75 percent to 25 percent vote and has been included in the platform.
- Dr. Clark and Mr. Stewart attended the legal sessions on the second day. One thing Mr. Stewart gleaned from the information was a different way of voting for officers at the organization meeting. In the past one or two names would be offered, and the Board would vote the first name on the slate up or down and then go to the next. An alternative to this would be to put all of the names on the slate for consideration, and each member would name the candidate he/she is voting for thereby causing no advantage to being the first candidate nominated. If the Board concurs, this method could be implemented at the December 4th organization meeting.
- Mr. Stewart had an interesting conversation with representatives from BoardDocs, the District's former provider for paperless meetings. Mr. Stewart was very interested in the video component available which allows the public to see what happened during the school board meeting. Other districts are utilizing video with the capability of indexing it so that one can go right to a motion or section of the agenda of interest and view the proceeding. He noted it would help wrap the community into the process, and those utilizing it have received positive feedback.
- Mrs. Zariczny reported that she attended a "mini" seminar with BoardDocs and a PSBA Policy representative. In talking with the policy representative, she found out that because the District subscribes to the PSBA Policy News Network, it is eligible to

have its policy uploaded in the PSBA system at no cost with a link on the District's website. Part of the service includes PSBA linking the District's policy to corresponding links to legislation pertaining to the policy. There is also a whole new search feature that not only lets someone search within the District's policy, but it also allows someone to do a meta-search which gives everyone access to 900 other district's policies who also subscribe to BoardDocs. The PSBA policy is built into the BoardDoc menu to easily access during the meeting. Navigation and seeing agenda content is available on one screen rather than using drop down menus to move to different items in the agenda. The BoardDocs representative also explained if meetings are videoed, there is a feature which allows linking the video to each specific agenda item to actually see what took place during the discussion. There is a voting feature also. Mrs. Zariczny stated that she feels it is something the Board should take a look at and consider it as an option for e-governance. Mr. Stewart will send a link to Mrs. Huck to forward to the Board members to see how three different districts are utilizing BoardDocs and the video component for their meetings.

- Mrs. Huck reported she attended a sessions with the Auditor General's representative who laid out a new format for how audits will be conducted in the future. Their office has had significant cutbacks in auditing staff and instead of auditing every two years, they are going to a four or five year cycle. Each district will be scored as a low, medium, or high priority based on certain criteria which will then determine the areas in which the auditors will concentrate their work.
- Dr. Clark reported that he did "Tweet" out information as legislative representative, Mr. Stewart offered an amendment at the legislative voting meeting, and it passed.
- Also offered at the law sessions was a discussion of branding and copyrights for mascots. There are companies which will put local mascots on clothing or other items and make a profit by selling them at the local Walmart. Dr. Clark will have the district solicitor take a look at this to determine what the district needs to do to protect itself.
- A variety of other legal issues were discussed from around the commonwealth. Dr. Clark also attended a session on cyber bullying, and students creating fake accounts, posing as someone else. There was a session on setting up foundations, and he will share information with Mr. Jones. He also attended BoardDocs and encouraged the Board members to take a look at it.
- On Thursday, Dr. Clark attended a presentation where a colleague received the Penn State Award for Educational Leadership, Dr. Martin Hudacs, who was nominated by Dr. Clark.
- Dr. Clark reported the visitation scheduled for Eisenhower Elementary School will need to be rescheduled due to the fact that Mrs. Madigan and some of her staff will be out of the building.
- Congressman Glenn Thompson is scheduled to be in Warren on October 30th. He will be at the Warren County Career Center at 1:30 p.m. An invitation was extended to Board members to attend.
- Dr. Clark also reported there are three students going to the State meet for Cross Country on October 31. The students are Blake Ristau and Max Pearson from Warren Area High School; and Booklyn Messinger from Youngsville High School.
- Dr. Clark noted that there are more students attending Board meeting, and they are from Warren Area High School taking Mrs. Becker's government class.
- Dr. Norbert Kennerknecht stated there is an invitation to visit schools in Montour School District, Bethel Park School District, and Penn Hills School District as well as

Butler County Area Vocational Technical School. He asked the Board to decide on a date, so he can make the arrangements to visit. The Board decided that November 19th will be the tentative date for the visit to these schools.

2.0 New Business

2.1 Approval for Payment of WCSD Invoice #2014CP1 - Payment of Sequestration Funds

Payment of
Sequestration Funds
Approved
8-0-0

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Knapp and seconded by Mr. Zamborik that the Board of School Directors authorizes the payment of WCSD Invoice #2014CP1 - Payment of Sequestration Funds, in the amount of \$96,137.13, to be paid from the 2011 QZAB bond and deposited into the General Fund.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Yes: Mrs. Zariczny, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Mangione,
Ms. Paris, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Werner, Mr. Zamborik

Voting No: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Mrs. Morgan

The result of the vote: passed unanimously.

2.2 Approval for Payment of WCSD Invoice #2014CP2 - Capital Projects Balance

Payment of Capital
Projects Balance Due
WCSD
Approved
8-0-0

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Paris and seconded by Mr. Knapp that the Board of School Directors authorizes the payment of WCSD Invoice #2014CP2 - Payment of Capital Projects Balance due Warren County School District, in the amount of \$404,537.94, to be paid from the 2011 QZAB bond and deposited into the General Fund.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Yes: Mr. Zamborik, Mrs. Zariczny, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Knapp, Mr.
Mangione, Ms. Paris, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Werner

Voting No: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Mrs. Morgan

The result of the vote: passed unanimously.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Zariczny and second by Ms. Paris that Items 2.3 and 2.4 be approved as presented.

2.3 Budget Transfer 2013-2014

Budget Transfer
\$900,571.47
Approved
8-0-0

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the Resolution and Budget Transfer in the amount of \$900,571.47

2.4 Budget Transfer 2014-2015

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the Resolution and Budget Transfer in the amount of \$1,510,360.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Yes: Mr. Werner, Mr. Zamborik, Mrs. Zariczny, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Mangione, Ms. Paris, Mr. Stewart

Voting No: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Mrs. Morgan

Budget Transfer
\$1,510,360.00
Approved
8-0-0

The result of the vote: passed unanimously.

2.5 Life Insurance

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Paris and seconded by Mr. Knapp that the Board of School Directors approves the attached Life Insurance agreement with MetLife effective November 1, 2014.

AMENDMENT: Ms. Paris amended the motion to include, “with the provision that the solicitor works with MetLife to give the Board a satisfactory definition of the word spouse.” Mr. Knapp agreed to the amendment.

FINAL MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Paris and seconded by Mr. Knapp that the Board of School Directors approves the attached Life Insurance agreement with MetLife effective November 1, 2014, with the provision that the solicitor works with MetLife to give the Board a satisfactory definition of the word ‘spouse.’

Life Insurance
Agreement –
MetLife
Approved
8-0-0

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Yes: Mr. Stewart, Mr. Werner, Mr. Zamborik, Mrs. Zariczny, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Mangione, Ms. Paris

Voting No: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Mrs. Morgan

The result of the vote: passed unanimously.

3.0 Closing Activities

Mr. Stewart announced that the Board held an executive session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, and it would be reconvening the executive session at 8:36 p.m. to continue discussion on personnel matters.

3.1 Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth A. Huck, Board Secretary