

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

December 15, 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:

Norbert Kennerknecht
Arthur Stewart
Ruth Huck
Matt Jones
Tom Knapp
Jim Grosch

Rick Gignac
Melissa Mclean
Marcy Morgan
Mike Kiehl
Josh Cotton (WTO)
Approx. 6 Members of the Public

John Anderson
Josh Falconer
Mary Anne Paris
Brian Collopy
Misty Weber

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM by Mr. Jack Werner.

1.2 Public Comment - None

2. Old Business -None

3. New Business

3.1 Math Planned Instruction Grades 3,4, and 5

Discussion: The planned instructions for Math Grades 3,4, and 5 have been updated. There will be a number of updates to other planned instruction coming to the January Board meeting. All changes in planned instruction need completed for inclusion in the course description booklet and sign-up sheets for student scheduling in January.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the revisions to the Mathematics planned instructions as presented.

3.2 Grant: Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Competitive Grant

Discussion: The LSTA grant is for projects that create programs and services to support communities and meet one or more of the LSTA Grants to States priorities. The district could receive as much as \$50,000 if awarded this grant. The EMHS Media Specialist is interested in applying to create an after school program. This is due December 17th.

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

Motion: The Board of School Directors instructs the administration to work with the Eisenhower Middle/High School Library Media Specialist to develop and application to the LSTA grant competition for funding of an afterschool makerspace program.

3.3 Grant: AASA/NJPA Helping Kids Urgent Mini Grant

Discussion: The schools receiving this award may use the funds to purchase necessities such as food, medication, clothing, eye glasses and more. WCSD is a member of both organizations. An application will be submitted to help with the backpack program.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors instruct the administration to submit an application to the AASA/NJPA Helping Kids Urgent Mini-Grant to support the activities of the Warren County Backpack Program.

4. Informational Items

4.1 Secondary Class Size

Mr. Weber provided an update on class size including clarification of class numbers and how class size is determined by master scheduling.

- There are classes that fall under the numbers (AP, reading, etc.) or classes might have more than the number but periods cannot be balanced.
- The smaller schools have smaller class sizes due to scheduling requirements.
- This seems more of a scheduling issue than an enrollment issue.

Mr. Weber suggested that the Board could approve the initial staffing and then give the Superintendent the power to approve smaller classes. The Board would approve the staffing and personnel in the spring and then a report would be provided to the Board by administration in the fall. Mr. Weber will work with Chris Byham and bring forth a revision to the policy in January. Mr. Anderson asked what the staffing numbers are based on. Mr. Weber stated that this has been discussed with Amy and they have used the same report for at least 12 years and it is driven by the number of students that have signed up for a class. Mr. Anderson stated that when drafting the policy administration should use words “average per course”. Mr. Stewart stated that this has to do with high school reform. He feels the board is still in the dark about how that is progressing and asked how this fits in to high school reform and how does it address this issue. He further stated that the Board has in mind a longer term solution when dealing with high school reform. Is high school reform taking a look at this problem? Before it gets too far down the road, is there an opportunity for Board involvement in High school reform?

4.2 Cyber Charter School

Mrs. Weber presented information to the Board on outside Cyber Charter Schools. She stated that she is hoping for Cyber Charter Reform from the State. Twenty-three percent of all new enrollments in cyber charter students are special education students. Every Cyber Charter school has received a failing score on the School Performance Profile. The average score is 48%. The growth rate for students enrolling in online education is 21%. Mrs. Weber stated that cyber popularity is growing. There has been an influx in the WCSD program. The schools and especially the guidance offices are sending the students to the WCSD Cyber program when they identify a need. She stated that we have to work on selling what we have.

Mr. Weber stated that outside Cyber Charter Schools are targeting a specific group of students. These are the Special Education students specifically that are being recruited in our community. Mr. Werner asked if there is something we can do. Mrs. Weber stated that she needed time and periods for virtual teachers to teach and meet with their students. Right now they have a supplemental and they can only do so much. We have the technology to do the virtual conferences but it requires scheduling and it takes time. Mr. Weber stated time is consuming for the teacher to plan appropriately for an AP course for instance. Mr. Stewart stated that good news is that we're treading water and holding our own. It would however cost less to educate those students in the buildings. It would be worth spending money if you were serious about bringing students back into the schools. He also stated that if there are things that can be brought to the Board to look at they might get a more receptive idea of the issues at hand.

4.3 Virtual Academy 2014-2015

Mrs. Weber provided an update on the Virtual Academy for the 2014-2015 school year. This is the second year WCSD has operated without the IU and with district teachers backing virtual courses. She stated that this provides students with flexibility. Teachers can use these courses with their actual classes as well. Courses are equivalent to college prep courses and there are some honors courses and AP courses. Attendance and progress is tracked by WCSD. All courses are NCAA approved this year also. The virtual program offers blended learning as students can attend the WCCC or take electives within their normal school day. They can come take part in programs that they like in the school.

Mrs. Weber talked about the possibility for revenue if the district chose to expand the program. Seneca school district offers their virtual academy courses out to other schools. Looking at the electives, we have really good electives that other districts would love to use. Mr. Weber stated that you can get the courses approved by PDE. The GradPoint courses are already approved by PDE. Mrs. Weber added that the courses are more complicated than electives due to testing. Seneca school district is offering their courses to the entire state. Local school districts around us may be interested in our courses. Mr. Mangione asked if we need to look at where we are positioned. We have a lot of smaller districts that can't do this on their own. We could pull 10-15 students from each of the surrounding districts. Mr. Stewart asked if we can offer something on the website about these courses. Kim Angove (public) asked if we have a lot of kids with success stories, if they are going to do a commercial and could they have these kids do it. Mr. Werner asked to have some information and move forward. Kim Angove (public) stated her oldest is doing blended and it is been very good for him to work at his own pace and do it in the school. She would encourage the Board and Administration to think about why people are running away and often they think they have nothing better to go to. She stated you have a positive program, but there are a few things that could be tweaked.

5. Other

- 5.1 Mike Zamborik spoke to Dr. Jaskolka about a health program that will be coming from the state in January.

6. Closing Activities

- 6.1 Next Meeting – January 26, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the Central Office
- 6.2 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.