

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

April 27, 2015; 6:00 PM
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, BOARD ROOM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. John Werner, Chairman
Ms. Marcy Morgan
Mr. Michael Zamborik

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ms. Donna Zariczny	Ms. Amy Stewart	Mr. Mike Kiehl
Ms. Mary Anne Paris	Mr. Gary Weber	Ms. Sue Turner
Mr. Paul Mangione	Ms. Ruth Nelson	Ms. Melissa McLean
Mr. Thomas Knapp	Mr. Rick Gignac	Mr. Josh Cotton (Times Observer)
Dr. William Clark	Mr. Brian Collopy	Members of the Public (approx. 15)
Mr. Jim Grosch		

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. John Werner, Chairman.

1.2 Public Comment – None

2. Old Business – None

3. New Business

3.1 Music Planned Instruction

Discussion:

Mr. Weber explained that Planned Instructions in all areas are being reviewed and updated, as some have not been updated in several years. Questions were asked relative to staffing and it was explained that the arts are supported the same way we staff other courses; in some cases there has been a general decline in courses, but there has not been a reduction in support.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the revisions to the Music Planned Instruction as presented.

3.2 Art Planned Instruction

Discussion:

Mr. Weber explained that the review and updates to the Art Planned Instruction is similar to the discussion for Music. There are no major changes.

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

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

3.3 Language Arts Planned Instruction

Discussion:

Mr. Weber noted that the majority of the changes to the Language Arts Planned Instructions are driven by PA Core and State guidelines. The cyber offerings are mirrored to align with changes as the planned instructions are updated.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the revisions to the Language Arts Planned Instruction as presented.

3.4 Letter of Agreement between Beacon Light Behavioral Systems and Warren County School District 7/1/15 to 6/30/16

Discussion:

Mrs. Nelson explained that this agreement supports collaboration with Beacon Light for a staff advisor that works with behavioral health team for some of the services, such as TSS services and mobile therapy.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the agreement with Beacon Light Behavioral Health Services to collaborate in providing best treatment for the clients we mutually serve.

3.5 Agreement with IU5 to Provide Title I Services to St. Joseph School

Discussion:

This is an annual agreement that provides Title I services to students at St. Joseph School.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the agreement with IU5 to provide Title I services to qualified students attending St. Joseph School.

3.6 Memorandum of Understanding between WCSD and WCEA – Summer Learning Opportunities

Discussion:

Mr. Weber explained that this agreement is for summer school and it will be similar to the agreement that was in place last year. Our attorney is working with WCEA to finalize the document and we anticipate having it for the next meeting. There are no major changes expected, only changes to class offerings and supplemental agreements.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the Memorandum of Understanding between the Warren County School District and the Warren County Education Association as presented.

3.7 Highly Gifted Pilot Program

Discussion:

Mrs. Nelson reflected that year one of this program has been a good year, but it has not been without unique challenges. Parents were surveyed and for the most part are pleased with the program. There was one student that returned to the home school. Parents say the children are happy and blossoming socially. The gains in language arts have been phenomenal. Math has presented more of a problem—with gaps that were not anticipated. Discussed that the math may need to have a more elementary focus; a math certificate closer to elementary and middle level. The program was approved for grades 3 through 5 last year; but there were only grades 4 and 5 this year. We would like to recommend considering the program be approved for another year for grades 4 through 6. Data is showing positive growth; PSSA scores are not available yet and we would like to see more data. Recommendation for staffing would be to look at math and also add more music or art time; juggle who is teaching what. The staff has had a year of adjustments. They are not asking for any additional staff or transportation over last year. Currently there are 10 students.

Discussion:

Kim Angove, parent of gifted children, asked to speak about this topic. She said the pilot program is a good idea but feels that additional staff is needed. She has seen changes in services in the gifted program this year; teachers are trying to do too much. It is her opinion that spreading these teachers too thin is negatively affecting the other 170 students in the gifted program.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the continuation of the Highly Gifted Pilot for the 2015-2016 school year.

3.8 GRANT: Wal-Mart Community Grant for PA Business Week

Discussion: This is a grant to support PA Business Week at Youngsville.

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

Motion: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to submit a Wal-Mart Community Service grant application in support of the PA Business Week activities at Youngsville High School for the 2014-15 school year.

4. Informational Items

4.1 Elementary Language Arts and Social Studies Planned Instruction

Mr. Weber indicated that these planned instructions are being updated and will be ready for the Board to act on at the May meeting. This topic will be on the May Board meeting agenda under Other.

4.2 Elementary Language Arts and Social Studies Textbook Purchase

Mr. Weber noted that there will be new resources to buy and we would like to get them to the teachers before school is out so they are available for professional development during the summer. There are fund balance monies committed for textbook purchases. The textbook purchase will also get us various levels of online access for students with simple login. The textbook purchases that will take place this year will fall in line with both the 5 and 7 year plans; slightly manipulating years 1 & 2. The purchase will occur this fiscal year, but still falls in line with the proposal.

There will be two separate motions, one to request the purchase and the other to release committed fund balance to purchase the textbooks. This will be under Other on the May Board meeting agenda.

4.3 Secondary Social Studies Textbook Purchase

Mr. Weber reported that the planned instructions were already approved and textbooks are currently being selected. Motion will be brought forth when available.

4.4 Title I SMART Board Purchase

Mr. Weber reported that they are looking at purchasing new and updating SmartBoards at the elementary level; trying to get all teachers K-3 SmartBoards. Title 1 funding will be used. There will be a motion brought forth at the May Board meeting. This will include the purchase of new SmartBoards, as well as updates. This request will not include installation.

5. Other - None

6. Closing Activities

6.1 Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 26, 2015 following PACCA

6.2 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.