

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2016

1. 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 Mrs. Zariczny, President, at 7:05 p.m. in the Board Room of Central Office, 6820 Market Street, Russell, Pennsylvania.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Zariczny led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Roll Call

Present:

Mr. Joseph Colosimo
Mr. Thomas Knapp
Mr. Paul Mangione
Mrs. Marcy Morgan

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

Roll Call

Absent:

Mr. John Anderson Mr. John Werner

Others Present:

Dr. William Clark, Superintendent; Mrs. Amy Stewart, Executive Director;
Dr. Norbert Kennerknecht, Director of Buildings & Grounds Services;
Mr. James Grosch, Director of Business Services; Mr. Gary Weber, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Ms. Patricia Hawley, Director of Pupil Services; Mrs. Rhonda Decker, Supervisor of Elementary Education; Mr. Chris Byham, Solicitor (via conference call); Mr. Brian Ferry, Times Observer; Mrs. Melissa McLean, Information Specialist; Mr. Michael Kiehl, Transportation/Purchasing Manager; Mr. Matt Jones, Coordinator of Grants and Foundation Development; Mr. Brian Collopy, Technology Coordinator; There were no members of the public in attendance.

1.4 Reading of the Mission Statement - Mr. Arthur Stewart

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 Principles of Governance and Leadership - Mrs. Marcy Morgan

Pennsylvania school boards are committed to providing every student the opportunity to grow and achieve. The actions taken by the Board ultimately have both short and long-term impact in the classroom. Therefore, school directors collectively and individually will...

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 6820 Market Street, Russell, PA 16345 or (814) 723-6900.

Govern Effectively

- *Adhere to an established set of rules and procedures for board operations*
- *Develop, adopt, revise and review policy*
- *Align decisions to policy*
- *Differentiate between governance and management, delegating management tasks to administration*
- *Allocate finances and resources*
- *Ensure compliance with local, state and federal laws*

1.6 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

1.7 Appoint Secretary Pro-Tempore

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors appoints Melissa McLean as secretary pro-tempore for the April 18, 2016, special meeting.

Motion by Thomas Knapp, second by Joseph Colosimo.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Joseph Colosimo, Thomas Knapp, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Arthur Stewart, Michael Zamborik, Donna Zariczny

Secretary Pro-Tempore
Approved
9-0-0

2. New Business

2.1 Policy Number 9950, titled - Technology and Internet Safety - Second Reading

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves on second reading revision to Policy Number 9950, titled Technology and Internet Safety.

Motion by Thomas Knapp, second by Marcy Morgan.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Joseph Colosimo, Thomas Knapp, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Arthur Stewart, Michael Zamborik, Donna Zariczny

Policy #9950 –
Technology &
Internet Safety
Second Reading
Approved
7-0-0

2.2 Internet Access Amendment - Zito Media Communications

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the amendment from Zito Media Communications to provide upgraded internet speeds at the rate of 3000 mbps for the Warren County School District, at a monthly cost of \$4,650 through June 30, 2016.

Motion by Michael Zamborik, second by Marcy Morgan.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Joseph Colosimo, Thomas Knapp, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Arthur Stewart, Michael Zamborik, Donna Zariczny

Internet Access
Amendment
Zito
Communications
Approved
7-0-0

2.3 Appointment of Special Counsel for Tax Assessment Appeal

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors appoints Attorney Tim Zieziula of the Knox Firm to serve as special counsel to the District with respect to the tax assessment appeal for Parcel WN-576-447.

Motion by Arthur Stewart, second by Michael Zamborik.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Appointment of
Special Counsel for
Tax Assessment
Appeal
7-0-0

Yes: Joseph Colosimo, Thomas Knapp, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Arthur Stewart, Michael Zamborik, Donna Zariczny

2.4 Budget Timeline

Mr. Grosch explained the budget timeline for May and June. Incorporate in this document he has built in possible special meetings to help facilitate completing the preliminary budget. If the Board chooses to pass the preliminary budget on May 9th there is the option of changing the budget before the final budget is approved.

2.4 Budget Discussion

Mrs. Zariczny asked the Board to relax Roberts Rules to have a discussion on the budget material. By common consent the rules were set aside.

The following items were reviewed by administration:

- A. The five Year plan for technology
 - a. The plan is reflective of the need to continue to update the technology
- B. The five year plan for textbooks
 - a. The plan has been adjusted as purchases have been made this year, and the \$100,000 could be removed from next year's budget.
 - b. There were concerns the monies in the 5 year plan have been reduced. Administration clarified that the science curriculum is being delayed for a year so it can be coordinated alternately with the technology expenditures and recommitted dollars can help in subsequent years.
- C. B & G Capital Reserve
 - a. It was requested funding be reduced by \$100,000 with possible additional reductions due to the fact Dr. Kennerknecht has not been able to fully develop what will be needed for capital reserve expenditures because of being tied up with current renovation projects.
 - b. It was requested that administration look at the length of warranties left on building roofs in the district to help guide this budgeting area. The potential for roofing all of Beaty-Warren Middle School will have the biggest impact in 2016-2017 budget.
 - c. Administration cautioned, as the document stands currently, additional expenditures will need to be deferred further into the future.
- D. PSERS Impact
 - a. The state mandates the contribution amount the employer has to make into the retirement systems and a portion is reimbursed at a later date.
 - b. The net impact for on the 2015-2016 budget is \$3.1 million dollars. With an estimated 1% increase in salaries, it will escalate to a \$4.8 million dollar net impact. Historically there has been a 458% increase in the district's contribution rate since 2011, going from 5.61% to 25.84% this year. The rates are not projected to decline until 2035.
 - c. Even with a full mil tax increase over the next 20 years, netting \$8 million dollars, the district would still see \$9 million dollars deficit just with PSERS.
- E. Working Budget Draft
- F. Revenues

- a. Mr. Grosch reviewed revenues and subsidies including basic education funding, pupil transportation, PlanCon reimbursement, Ready-to-Learn Block grant, social security reimbursement, retirement reimbursement, etc.
- b. Federal funding is flat.

G. Potential Reductions

- a. Budget cuts were reviewed in three different levels: probable cuts, willing to cut, difficult to discuss, don't want to discuss but have to consider.
- b. Big cuts will require programmatic changes.

H. Adds List

- a. The adds list was reviewed and included additional FTE's to help impact the K-2 classrooms
- b. Additional services for students – mental health, guidance counselors, etc.

There were no changes to the reduction sheet. It will be sent out by the end of the day on Tuesday; board members will be prepared to turn it in on April 25th.

The "adds" sheet will be prioritized in three tiers and sent to board members.

Mrs. Zariczny requested that administration relate the items on the add sheet to the items on the reduction sheet that make sense from a balancing standpoint.

There was discussion regarding consolidating at the high school level. Members were cautioned that it is too far into the budget process to discuss it for this budget year, but with high school reform on the horizon, there is room and opportunity to have a healthy dialogue, and if the board is truly interested in it, then goal setting would be the opportunity to bring the idea forward.

Mrs. Stewart reminded the board that the school resource officer funding was committed this year, but because of the turnover in the Commissioners' Office this did not happen. She asked if the Board wants to keep funding in the budget. Also there is an equipment grant for the WCCC coming up which requires matching funds from the District, this adds another layer to the budget conversation.

Mrs. Zariczny reinstated Roberts Rules of Order.

2.6 Other

There were no other items to discuss.

3. Closing Activities

3.1 Adjournment

It was moved by Mrs. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Zamborik that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa McLean, Secretary Pro-Tempore