

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 24, 2018

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Joseph Colosimo, Chair
Mr. Michael Zamborik
Ms. Mary Passinger

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ms. Elizabeth Huffman	Mr. Matt Jones
Mr. Jeffrey Labesky	Mr. Mike Kiehl
Mr. Paul Mangione	Mr. Shane Flannery
Ms. Marcy Morgan	Ms. Melissa McLean
Mr. Arthur Stewart	Ms. Louise Tharp
Ms. Donna Zariczny	Mr. Brian Ferry (WTO)
Ms. Amy Stewart	Ms. Marcia Madigan
Dr. Norbert Kennerknecht	Mr. Glenn Smith
Mr. Gary Weber	Ms. Jennifer Hobbs
Mr. Jim Grosch	Ms. Shelly Wagner
Ms. Rhonda Decker	Ms. Liz Kent
Dr. Patricia Hawley	Mr. James Case
Mr. Eric Mineweaser	Ms. Misty Weber
Mr. Rick Gignac	
Ms. Sue Turner	Approximate Members of the Public - 13

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:25 PM by Chairperson, Mr. Joseph Colosimo

1.2 Public Comment

Ashley Elms, math teacher at Beaty-Warren Middle School, thanked Mary Passinger for bringing to the attention of the Board the expectation of teachers to document their extra eight minutes of planning time. Below is how she used her 50 minutes that she should use for planning:

- 566 emails
- 31 is the number of specially designed instructions she has to print
- 124 students on her roster
- grades 248 paper per week; given a directive to have two grades in the gradebook each week
- sends an email to 6th grade parents, who have given their address, everyday
- has a new math elective with no textbook
- has a club two days per week; the club that she chose to run didn't have enough students, so she is doing a fitness club inside her classroom with no resources
- has to remediate and enrich two days a week during advisory
- feels that everything boils down to trust and teacher's should be trusted to use their time wisely
- does not feel that she should be punished for 1-2 teacher's actions

Diane Groszek – Special Education and English Language Arts teacher at Beaty-Warren Middle School

- has 26 special education students that she case manages
- plans for 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th grade language arts in 50 minutes
- has spent 52 and ¼ hours of overtime at BWMS, which does not include any time at home
- calls parents on Saturdays and tells parents that they can call until 6:00 PM on week days
- feels that teachers give back more than 8 minutes
- teachers are often working on weekends

2. Old Business – None

3. New Business – None

3.1 Gannon University-Northern Pennsylvania Regional College Contract Dual Enrollment Agreement

This is the last dual enrollment agreement coming in for this year.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Action: Forward the motion to the Board meeting on October 8, 2018.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approve the **Gannon University-Northern Pennsylvania Regional College Contract Dual Enrollment Agreement**, as presented.

3.2 STEM 6, 7, and 8 Planned Course Instruction

These planned instruction courses are in coordination with Project Lead The Way. Over the summer, teachers were certified.

Discussion: There was no discussion

Action: Forward the motion to the Board meeting on October 8, 2018.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approve the **STEM 6, 7, and 8 Planned Course Instruction**, as presented.

3.3 English Language Arts Planned Instruction Revision for Grade 9

One novel was removed from the grade 9 English Language Arts Planned Instruction.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Action: Forward the motion to the Board meeting on October 8, 2018

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the **English Language Arts Planned Instruction Revision for Grade 9**, as presented.

3.4 Warren County Career Center General Advisory Committee and Occupational Advisory Committee List 2018-2019

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Action: Forward the motion to the Board meeting on October 8, 2018

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the **Warren County Career Center General Advisory Committee and Occupational Advisory Committee Lists for the 2018-2019 school year**, as presented.

3.5 Hobson – Naviance Platform Purchase

This is an electronic platform utilized to promote college and career readiness and various activities that students are going to do. It focuses on self-discovery, career exploration, academic planning and post-secondary preparation.

Discussion: A Board member inquired as to what the cost was and would it be every year. Administration said that the cost is \$18,500 per year for five years. The first year includes professional development and trainings, which is spread out through out the five years. After that it is approximately \$4.00 per student.

Action: Forward the motion to the Board Meeting on October 8, 2018.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the **Hobson – Naviance Platform Purchase**, as presented.

3.6 GRANT: 2018-19 Rural and Low Income Schools (RLIS)

The amount of this grant is \$82,782. The District meets the qualification for this grant, which can be used for a variety of Title related activities. Administration previously approached the Board to add staff for class-size reduction. Administration is requesting permission to apply for this grant to get the class-size reduction position funded.

Discussion: There was no discussion

Action: Forward the motion to the Board Meeting on October 8, 2018.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the **GRANT: 2018-19 Rural and Low Income Schools (RLIS)**, as presented.

3.7 GRANT: 2018-19 Supplemental Equipment Grant

This is a non-matching funds grant that will help the Warren County Career Center buy equipment used for instruction.

Discussion: There was no discussion

Action: Forward the motion to the Board Meeting on October 8, 2018.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the **GRANT: 2018-19 Supplemental Equipment Grant**, as presented.

3.8 GRANT: 2018-19 PA Association of School Retirees (PPSR) Grant

This is a request to apply for \$150 grants for teachers through the PA Association of School Retirees.

Discussion: There was no discussion

Action: Forward the motion to the Board Meeting on October 8, 2018.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the **GRANT: 2018-19 PA Association of School Retirees (PPSR) Grant**, as presented.

3.9 GRANT: 2018-19 Ready To Learn Block Grant

Administration is requesting permission to apply for a one million dollar plus grant, which the district has used consistently to fund full-time kindergarten teachers.

Discussion: There was no discussion

Action: Forward the motion to the Board Meeting on October 8, 2018.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the **GRANT: 2018-19 Ready To Learn Block Grant**, as presented.

3.10 GRANT: 2018-19 Competitive Equipment Grant

Administration is requesting permission to apply for the Competitive Equipment, which is a 50/50 matching funds grant. The Warren County Career Center has a project involving Power Equipment Technology, which will require a \$19,000 match from the District.

Discussion: There was no discussion

Action: Forward the motion to the Board Meeting on October 8, 2018.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the **GRANT: 2018-19 Competitive Equipment Grant**, as presented.

4. Informational Items

4.1 Educational Reform

Mr. Eric Mineweaser passed out handouts regarding Educational Reform based on recommendations from small group sessions. It is a review of 17-18 and 18-19 school years. It is time to meet again to come up with ideas for the 19-20 school year. The handouts showed the recommendations that were implemented during the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years, as well as the items that are still in progress. Additionally, a slideshow was provided to the Board that displayed the various activities being done in Advisory at the middle and secondary levels. One of the benefits is that students are finding friendships. Advisory time is also being used for remediation in courses, as well. Certified teachers are teaching remediation that takes place at the high school level. Science labs can happen during advisory instead of taking students out of other academics. Advisory is helping students in several areas.

Mrs. Amy Stewart – Something that the Administration is digging into is eSports, where students practice skills and play strategy games in a club after school. It is a collegiate sport. Colleges are giving scholarships for these eSports. There are more kids watching and playing these than the NBA; projected to overcome the NFL. Students are looking for places with high-speed internet to strategize and play. This is something positive that the District is considering.

Ms. Marcy Morgan – Do the kids pick the club they want to be in or are they assigned?

Mr. Eric Mineweaser – Typically, students will pick, but if a club is full, they have to go somewhere else.

Mr. Amy Stewart – Students should be encouraged to speak with their administrators, if they are not happy. Teachers are also encouraged to go to the administrators, if they have needs. One of the big pieces of feedback is the question as to when this should take place, in the middle of the day or at the end of the day.

A Board member asked if each child is required to do a club. Mr. Eric Mineweaser replied that it is highly encouraged. There are structured study hall opportunities. Options for the Warren

County Career Center students from Warren Area High School are being worked out between the principals for specific student needs.

4.2 Honor Flight

Mrs. Misty Weber & Mrs. Amy Stewart – We are partnered with Bradford and connected with Buffalo. An Honor Flight that goes out of Buffalo. The Veterans Affairs are willing to send out information to their vets, but some do not register with them. We are looking for WWII and Korean War Vets for Honor Flight. Honor Flight takes veterans to Washington DC to visit memorials. Schools open their schools and surprise the vets with a parade, serve them lunch, have presentations, tell stories, etc. Honor Flight is in line with Board Goals to give back and encourage some civic responsibility. We are looking for WWII and Korean War Vets for the November Flight. Honor Flight pays for the flight to DC. It does not pay for the hotel the night before and the night after. Next year, 2019, Honor Flight is looking at going to Normandy Beach.

4.3 Policy 9940 – Parents' Curriculum Access Policy

Administration is reviewing and making everyone aware of the parents' curriculum access.

Mr. Joseph Colosimo – Suggests that this policy be an information item at the next Board meeting for review with fellow Board members. Mr. Colosimo received a concern from the public wanting to know why students receive an opt-out lesson for 9/11. They wondered why an opt-out was given in this specific class and not for lessons such as the Holocaust, etc., that might trigger something due to the severity of the event.

Mrs. Rhonda Decker – The opt-out is provided to be sensitive to possible trauma. Parents always have the availability to review the curriculum. There are different resources available to teach the lesson and the standard.

5. Other

Discussion: 5.1 Other

Mr. Mike Zamborik – Attended the Advisory meeting at the Warren County Career Center and feels like a lot of good information came out of it. He gave information to Mr. Joseph Colosimo regarding manufacturer.

Mrs. Louis Tharp – President of WCEA – She feels compelled to speak to the Board on the extra eight minutes teachers received for prep, even though she is not a teacher. We have teachers, who have multiple preps to prepare each day. Teachers have gained eight minutes, but she feels that keeping track of the eight minutes is punitive. Teachers have lost 15 minutes in the morning because the school day is starting earlier. Teachers cannot keep doing what is asked of them with a 40-minute prep. Teachers are spending hours of their own time in the evening and on weekends. To ask the teachers to document eight more minutes of prep time is punitive.

Elizabeth Huffman – Asked if Administration reached out to see what could be done within the confines of the contract. Mrs. Tharp stated that the contract says 40 minutes per day and that is the expectation. According to Mrs. Tharp, no one reached out to teachers to see if the contract

could be revisited. The District has a sub crisis. Teachers are losing their prep to sub a couple times of week and now have to document their parent contact.

Mr. Jeff Labesky – Asked if the union is willing to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding for the eight minutes. Mrs Tharp said the union is always open for discussion. The teachers are being asked to do more and more each year and feels we cannot continue to do so.

Mrs. Elizabeth Huffman – Received some information from the public regarding the Virtual Academy. March 12, 2018, the Board received a presentation on the Virtual Academy program. There were 1 – 2 full time employees working for the academy. Teachers taught classes and then received stipends if they were working beyond their hours. When was the design of the platform changed to require teachers to teach the Virtual Academy during the day besides the classes that they teach at school?

Mrs. Misty Weber – Virtual Academy has been staffing for the last three years. Each year the staffing changes, with needs throughout the District. Virtual is increasing and she has asked for more teachers.

Mrs. Elizabeth Huffman – Do we ever ask teachers if they want to teach the virtual classes or do we assign them?

Mr. Gary Weber – In some cases, both. It depends where the opening are throughout the District. He would agree that some teachers are not a good fit for virtual.

Mrs. Elizabeth Huffman – When and what type of trainings were offered for the teachers this year for the teachers who were emailed that they were going to be teaching virtual courses?

Mrs. Misty Weber – Every teacher had training on Professional Development Day. Two groups of teachers received training based on high school and K-8. She is communicating and checking-in on teachers constantly. There is a professional development day set up for this Thursday to work with them again. Mrs. Weber will send Mrs. Huffman a training agenda from previous years.

Mrs. Huffman – When do we evaluate if a teacher, assigned to a Virtual Classroom, is a good fit? Mrs. Weber – She is communicating with the Directors is constantly monitoring and having additional trainings with teachers that had concerns. Not all teachers are communicating or advocating with Mrs. Weber and that is a concern. If a teacher is struggling or having problems, Mrs. Weber asked that they please see her so she can help them. She works the students, parents, and teachers. She will make sure she supports her teachers and make sure they are comfortable.

Mrs. Donna Zariczny – As a Board member, she encourages parents to follow the chain-of-command. She encourages teachers to do the same thing.

Mrs. Elizabeth Huffman – This discussion is not a complaint, it is a concern. She is concerned as a Board member that we are just pushing our virtual work and assigning it to teachers. She feels that Virtual takes more time than in the classroom.

Mr. Arthur Stewart – Congratulated Mrs. Weber on raising the Virtual Academy numbers. With a number of 400 students, means there is a demand and he, as one Board member, would be receptive to consider the use of contingency dollars.

Mrs. Misty Weber – Would love not to have to train new people every year. It is difficult to start fresh every year with new staff. It is a challenge for the students and the academy.

Mrs. Elizabeth Huffman – Would like a breakdown of everything that is trying to be put into the 30-minute advisory. What are we asking our teachers and students to do in 30 minutes? Would like to evaluate and make sure that advisory is benefiting our students.

Mr. Joseph Colosimo – to the teachers: The Board appreciates you and we understand the time and money that you spend outside the classroom.

6. Closing Activities

6.1 Next Meeting Date – Monday October 22, 2018, 6:00 PM

6.2 Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:31 PM.