

**WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**  
**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023**

**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 Mr. Mangione, President, at 7:50 p.m. in the Central Office Boardroom and via Zoom meeting.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Mangione led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Roll Call

Present:

Mr. Cody Brown	Mrs. Marcy Morgan
Mr. Joseph Colosimo	Mrs. Mary Passinger
Mr. Jeffery Dougherty	Mr. Arthur Stewart
Mr. Kevin Lindvay	Mrs. Donna Zariczny
Mr. Paul Mangione	

Others Present:

Mrs. Amy Stewart, Superintendent; Mr. Gary Weber, Director of Administrative Support Services; Dr. Patricia Mead, Director of Pupil Services; Mr. James Grosch, Director of Business Services; Mr. Eric Mineweaser, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Mrs. Ruth Huck, Board Secretary; Mrs. Taylor Trisket, Assistant Board Secretary; Mr. Rick Gignac, Supervisor of District-wide Athletics & Co-Curricular Activities; Mr. Michael Kiehl, Transportation and Purchasing Manager; Mr. Matt Jones, Coordinator of Grants and Foundation Development; Mrs. Jennifer Dilks, Coordinator of Technology/Information Management; Mr. Brandon Deppen, Safety & Security Coordinator; Mrs. Leslie Bloomgren, Supervisor of Pupil Services; Mr. David Undercoffer, Operations Manager; Mr. Brian Ferry, WTO; Mr. Brian Hagberg, Your Local Daily; and approximately 86 members of the public in attendance.

1.4 Reading of the Mission Statement - Mr. Joseph Colosimo

*The mission of the Warren County School District is to support the personal and intellectual success and wellness of every student, every day.*

1.5 Reading of the WCSD/PSBA Principles of Governance and Leadership - Mrs. Donna Zariczny

Pennsylvania school boards are committed to providing every student the opportunity to grow and achieve. Our actions, as elected and appointed board members, ultimately have both short- and long-term impact in the classroom. Therefore, we pledge that we 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 Mr. Gary Weber, Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator at 6820 Market Street, Russell, PA 16345 or (814) 723-6900.

Communicate Clearly

- Promote open, honest and respectful dialogue among the board, staff, and community
- Acknowledge and listen to varied input from all stakeholders
- Promote transparency while protecting necessary confidential matters
- Set expectations and guidelines for individual board member communication

1.6 Public Comment

Stephanie Snell		Ms. Snell stated it was a very interesting meeting, and it has raised some questions. She asked if the Board was in a hurry to pass this (school reconfiguration) along and vote in May. Was your goal to implement this in the upcoming school year? She would like that addressed. If that is the case there should be a budget in place. They have been told there has not been a financial study regarding the bussing for any changes including the routes. She finds it hard to believe a budget could be put together without that information. Do you have the studies and are they just being withheld? We learned tonight, it has been preached and preached at every meeting the class sizes will not increase, but with the ESSER funds ending, there will be class size increases. What are you gaining for giving false information? There is no way to sugar coat it; we are being misled, and it should be addressed. What you are gaining from that; there is only animosity and mistrust. Along with the transportation costs we know will increase, is there any additional money set aside for the school board to pay for the kids that will choose cyber? When the survey goes out, it is important to know what costs are associated with each option; and when will that be disclosed? It is very difficult to propose a budget if you do not know what your receiving and equally as hard if you do not know what you are spending. Again, which leads me to believe we are being misled. With the clarification we will be losing teachers with the ESSER funds gone, class sizes will increase, along with teacher prep-time. I have to ask if this Master Facility Plan is just so Sheffield and Youngsville can be the sacrificial lambs, so the other schools don't lose? The communities deserve to know.
Tom Holden	Sheffield	Mr. Holden stated he does not envy the task the Board has. Obviously, there is a lot of work that goes into all of this. When the public comes at you, I know it feels like a personal attack, that is how we are feeling right now. Our communities need our schools. The communities have been having meetings to revitalize and have had several business representatives that are working towards revitalizing Sheffield. They will be buying properties and fixing them up so there are usable homes for people to move into town. There was a meeting with a business owners moving their businesses to town, and they will be bringing students with them. All this haste to consolidate is not going to help us grow our communities. If we want to leave room to grow in Warren County, we need to build

		<p>up all of our communities and all of our schools. I don't know when the last time was, in our outlying schools, that things weren't taken away, or when things were given back. There have got to be ways to do that. Mr. Holden clarified the borders that were proposed, and would like the board to sit down with them in the meetings to discuss it. Not all of Pleasant would have to go to Sheffield, but there are busses that go up Mohawk Avenue. Drive time from Sheffield High School from the intersection of Mohawk to Warren High School is very similar when considering traffic. There are options. In talking with Youngsville people, and they can provide more details, the exit ramp where Betts Park is or Scientific Drive to Youngsville and possibly to Preston Rd and to the left towards Youngsville would work, and these numbers do not have to be equal in all the schools, it just has to make the school operational and make your life easier when trying to fill classrooms. We are building up our communities. Youngsville has been in a five-year process building their community. When you take these schools out, who is going to want to move there? If you move the high school kids to Warren, where are the people going to migrate? They are going to follow them. When mom and dad must drive to Warren from Barnes because their child forgot something at school or the child got sick, that is not an inconvenience, that is a hardship. He spoke to a teacher stating it would be a shame to take the school away because he had four wrestlers that made All-stars, and the teacher said there would be many positives, but it would be very inconvenient for him to drive back and forth to watch his athletes participate. It is not an inconvenience for us to have kids in Warren, it's a hardship. It's not just about community, it's about location. How do expect grandma and grandpa to do this or that in Warren. The graduation rate at Sheffield is 98%, and he attributes that to community and seeing the kids in trouble and lifting them up. He believes that some of the trouble kids in Warren would benefit from being sent outward to a smaller school with more hands-on people. He would like to sit down with some of the Board members to show them what their communities are trying to do. The Board can help us make a difference.</p>
Tom Eaton	Clarendon	<p>Mr. Eaton thanked the board members for their service. The problem with closing schools is all about budget. The budget is \$93,000,000 and there are roughly nine buildings in the district so that is 10,000,000 per year, \$850,000 per month, per building. He believes that is way too much, and there is too much fat in the school district that could be cut to take care of the loss of ESSER money. We need to keep all the teachers we can. There are hardly any electives left in the school district. Looking on BoardDocs really opens your eyes up. There are forty some administrators in the district, really? That is a lot of chiefs for a very few Indians. If you get rid of two administrators at \$125,000 or</p>

		<p>whatever they make, you can get two school teachers. We could close central office. We have all of these administrators, let's push them to the outside areas where they can be onsite. The district hands out emergency certifications like it is ice water, let's take the administrators and let them fill in as substitutes; that would save some money. Whenever the ESSER teachers go away, they will need to be replaced, and class sizes will be way over 40 students per classroom. The center of Warren County is just east of Youngsville. Let's close Warren High School and push them to the outlying areas. It could be an hour and forty minutes for students in the southwestern part of the county to go to Eisenhower. That is three hours out of a kids life and five days a week which is 15 hours a week. There was a study done a few years ago, it suggested possibly closing Warren High School and pushing students to the outlying areas. If you look at Sheffield and Clarendon, one third of the county could go to Sheffield from the Glade Bridge, and Mead Twp. and all the kids from Starbrick go to Youngsville. He feels it was a bad move to keep Eisenhower open; it did not make much sense. He stated he would be back.</p>
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## 2. New Business

### 2.1 Northwest Bank Real Estate Tax Appeals Settlement Agreement

Northwest Bank  
Real Estate Tax  
Appeals Settlement  
Agreement  
Approved  
9-0-0

**MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approves the Stipulations to Settle real estate tax appeals with Northwest Bank, as presented.

Motion by Arthur Stewart, second by Donna Zariczny.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Joseph Colosimo, Jeffery Dougherty, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Mary Passinger, Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny

### 2.2 Social Media Class Action Litigation

Social Media Class  
Action Litigation  
Approved  
9-0-0

**MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors authorizes the District to enter into an Attorney-Client Fee Contract with the Frantz Law Group, ALPC, 402 West Broadway, Suite 860, San Diego, California, 92101, for the commencement of a legal action against social media companies and other Defendants, including but not limited to Facebook, Snap, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube and others. Said action shall be for the purpose of claiming money damages for the necessary funding for School Districts to provide prevention education and mental health services for students subjected to harmful and exploitative content that encourages disordered eating, unhealthy social comparison and cyberbullying leading to anxiety, depression and other mental health issues.

The Attorney-Client Fee Contract shall provide for a Contingent Fee of Twenty-five Percent (25%) of any recovery. Expenses needed to fund the litigation shall be advanced by Frantz Law Group, APLC, and deducted from any recovery. The District shall not be responsible for any fee or cost reimbursement in the event that there is no recovery in the action. The School Board President and/or District Superintendent are authorized to sign the Attorney-Client Fee Contract, as presented.

Motion by Arthur Stewart, second by Mary Passinger.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Joseph Colosimo, Jeffery Dougherty, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Mary Passinger, Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny

2.3 eRate Switch Replacement

**MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approves the purchase of Cisco switches from ePlus Technology Inc. utilizing eRate reimbursement, as presented.

Motion by Mary Passinger, second by Donna Zariczny.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Joseph Colosimo, Jeffery Dougherty, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Mary Passinger, Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny

eRate Switch  
Replacement  
Approved  
9-0-0

2.4 eRate Wireless Replacement

**MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approves the purchase of Meraki wireless access points from Link Computer Corporation utilizing eRate reimbursement, as presented.

Motion by Mary Passinger, second by Arthur Stewart.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Joseph Colosimo, Jeffery Dougherty, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Mary Passinger, Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny

eRate Wireless  
Replacement  
Approved  
9-0-0

2.5 OnCourse - CIT - Mr. Joseph Colosimo

**MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approves the purchase of OnCourse Systems for Education in the amount of \$45,532.00, as presented.

Motion by Mary Passinger, second by Arthur Stewart.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Joseph Colosimo, Jeffery Dougherty, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Mary Passinger, Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny

OnCourse  
Approved  
9-0-0

2.6 Energy Education Foundation Mobile Energy Learning Program - CIT - Mr. Joseph Colosimo

**MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approves the contract for the Energy Education Foundation Mobile Energy Learning Program, as presented.

Motion by Mary Passinger, second by Arthur Stewart.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Joseph Colosimo, Jeffery Dougherty, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Mary Passinger, Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny

Energy Education  
Foundation Mobile  
Energy Learning  
Program  
Approved  
9-0-0

**3. Closing Activities**

3.1 Adjournment

**MOTION:** It was moved by Arthur Stewart and seconded by Donna Zariczny  
that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Ruth A. Huck, Board Secretary