WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Warren County School District Board of School Directors was called to order by Mr. Mangione, President, at 6:16 p.m. in the Central Office Boardroom, 6820 Market Street, Russell, PA 16345 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. Mary Passinger
Ms. Savanna Cochran Mrs. Stephanie Snell
Mrs. Tammi Holden Mr. Daniel Sullivan
Mr. Kevin Lindvay Mr. John Wortman

Mr. Paul Mangione

Absent:

None

Others Present:

Mr. Gary Weber, Superintendent; Mrs. Taylor Trisket, Board Secretary; Mr. Brian Ferry, Assistant Board Secretary; Mr. Eric Mineweaser, Director of Administrative Support Services; Mr. James Grosch, Director of Business Services; Mrs. Lynn Shultz, Director of Curriculum Instruction & Assessment; Mrs. Liz Kent, Supervisor of Secondary Education; Dr. Patricia Mead, Director of Pupil Services; Mr. Rick Gignac, Supervisor of District-wide Athletics & Co-Curricular Activities; Mr. Mike Kiehl, Transportation Manager and Purchasing; Mrs. Jennifer Dilks, Coordinator of Technology; Mrs. Kylie Harris, Principal; Mrs. Lisa Franklin, Assistant Principal; Ms. Lynette Swab, Special Education Supervisor; Mr. Brian Hagberg, Your Daily Local; and approximately 38 members of the public in attendance.

1.4 Reading of the Mission Statement - Mrs. Tammi Holden

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 & Leadership - Mr. John Wortman

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...

Advocate Earnestly

- Promote public education as the keystone of our commonwealth
- Engage the community by seeking input, building support networks, and generating action
- Champion public education by engaging local, state and federal officials

1.6 Public Comment

Elizabeth Feronti	Youngsville	Ms. Elizabeth Feronti pointed out how dangerous rural roads can be during winter, especially for children riding school buses. Longer bus routes on poorly maintained roads add to the risks, and she urged the board to prioritize student safety in these conditions. Ms. Feronti also brought up school safety following news of a school shooting in California. She stressed the importance of quick police response in emergencies and questioned how prepared law enforcement is to respond in the district's remote schools. She cautioned the board that their decisions about student placement and safety carry serious responsibility.
Troy McFate	Youngsville	Mr. Troy McFate raised concerns about the lack of transparency regarding potential penalties tied to the QZAB loan if Eisenhower were converted to an elementary school. He questioned whether the board had received any updates on this matter. Mr. McFate also compared facilities, noting that Beaty-Warren Middle School, the county's oldest school built in 1929, was extensively remodeled eight years ago due to its central location, which made transporting students elsewhere impractical. He emphasized the safety risks of using rural back roads to transport students, particularly during winter, and expressed concern about the difficult decisions bus drivers face on dangerous routes.
Bill Eaker	Warren	Mr. Bill Eaker, a Warren resident, highlighted safety advantages in Youngsville, with emergency services located just blocks away, compared to Eisenhower, where response times are unclear. Mr. Eaker criticized the inefficiency of spending on upper-level administrative positions, arguing that

		cutting costs should start at the top rather than focusing solely on closing schools or reducing teaching staff. He emphasized that smaller class sizes lead to better education and suggested reallocating funds more effectively. He also criticized the long-term uncertainty caused by discussions of school closures, which he believes creates unnecessary stress for students and their families. Mr. Eaker urged the board to make decisive changes now, rather than prolonging decisions about Eisenhower's future, and to ensure stability in the district for at least a decade.
Barb Lutton	Youngsville	Ms. Barb Lutton, a Youngsville resident, spoke about the potential closure of Youngsville schools, emphasizing its central role in the community and the long-term negative impacts such a decision could have. She questioned how closing Youngsville aligns with the district's goals of equitable education, noting that larger class sizes and increased transportation times would harm students' education and well-being. Ms. Lutton criticized the lack of clear plans for addressing transportation logistics, citing concerns about long wait times for buses and extended commutes for young children. She stressed the importance of stability and community connections for students, arguing that constant uncertainty and upheaval undermine both academic performance and emotional well-being. She also highlighted the district's commitment to trauma-informed education, pointing out that safe, consistent, and engaging environments are key to this approach. Ms. Lutton argued that closing schools and disrupting communities contradict these values and could deter families from moving to the area. She urged the board to consider the broader impact on students, families, and the community before making any decisions.
Zach Sanford	Youngsville	Mr. Zach Sanford addressed concerns about the proposed school consolidation plan, focusing on the potential elimination of five teaching positions. He questioned the validity of comparing this plan to past school closures, which typically involved

Wendy Doneyhue	Warren County	simpler transitions (e.g., elementary-to-elementary or middle-to-middle schools), unlike the more complex restructuring currently proposed. Mr. Sanford highlighted the challenges faced by elective and special subject teachers who already work with both middle and high school students, raising concerns about where cuts might occur. He argued that reducing core teaching positions would undermine the plan's goal of improving educational outcomes. He also pointed out that the proposed student-to-teacher ratios for core subjects like math, social studies, English, and science would lead to uneven class sizes, potentially exceeding 30 students in some cases due to scheduling inefficiencies. Mr. Sanford emphasized the importance of smaller class sizes for effective education. He thanked board members who had visited the high school and encouraged them to return during school hours to experience the building's atmosphere when filled with students.
Trendy Doneynuc	Trairen County	time to Mrs. Barb Lutton

1.7 Agenda Adoption

Agenda Adoption Approved 9-0-0 **MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors adopts the agenda dated December 5, 2024.

Motion by John Wortman, second by Cody Brown.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

1.8 Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes Approved 9-0-0 **MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approves the regular meeting minutes dated November 4, 2024.

Motion by Cody Brown, second by Kevin Lindvay.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

1.9 Financial Reports

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the Financial Reports and authorizes the release of funds in payment of the listing of bills; further, that a copy as presented be submitted for audit.

Financial Reports Approved 8-0-1

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by Cody Brown.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

Abstain: John Wortman

2. President's Statement

- 2.1 Reports & Information
 - 1. IU5 Mr. Paul Mangione

There was no update.

2. PSBA Liaison - Mrs. Mary Passinger

There was no update.

3. Career Center Advisory - Mr. John Wortman and Mr. Daniel Sullivan

The WCCC Student Activities Club provided Thanksgiving dinners for four families, with each shop contributing items. They also awarded incentives for students achieving perfect attendance and honor roll. WAEC hosted their annual Halloween Parade, including a walkthrough of the WCCC, where the Protective Services program managed traffic and safety.

On November 4, the WCCC/STEM/STRIVE program conducted a mock election to illustrate the differences between electoral college and popular voting. Higher Education will resume PA State Inspection classes in the building, and arrangements are being made for students to take the course for free in Corry, thanks to a Corry instructor. Additionally, the Auto Body Collision program toured Utegg Auto Collision on November 13.

2.2 Important Dates

As approved at the Organization Meeting.

- 2.3 Announcements
- 2.4 Other

3. Superintendent's Reports and Recommendations

3.1 General Comments - Mr. Gary Weber

Mr. Gary Weber addressed the recent decision to announce an early school closure due to weather, which allowed for advanced planning. While such early notifications are rare, they were deemed necessary in this case. For future weather events, decisions will continue to be made early in the morning, with road checks beginning at 5 a.m. to ensure safety.

Mr. Weber noted that the next school building tour is scheduled for December 10th. Board members and directors will visit while students are in class to experience the school environment during a typical day.

Future board meetings will feature student recognitions, including nominations for the Northwest PA Class Act program. This initiative celebrates students from each high school who demonstrate leadership, strong character, and good citizenship. Recognized students will be honored at the end of the school year, showcasing their positive contributions to their schools and communities.

Mr. Weber provided an update on the Tidioute Charter renewal process stating that two groups have already visited the school, with a final group scheduled for late December or January. The visits have been productive, with reports and recommendations exchanged. The board is expected to review the matter in the spring.

- 3.2 Committee of the Whole Report
- 3.3 Other

4. New Business - Consent Agenda

Items removed for separate action:

- 4.3 Support Personnel Report Mrs. Stephanie Snell
- 4.8 Kinzua Wrestling Club Facility Agreement Mrs. Tammi Holden
- 4.1 Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda Approved 9-0-0 **MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approves the consent agenda.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

4.2 Certificated Personnel Report - PACCA

Certificated Personnel Report Approved 9-0-0 **MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approves the Certificated Personnel Report, as presented.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

4.3 Support Personnel Report

Removed for separate action.

4.4 Volunteer Report - PACCA

Volunteer Report Approved 9-0-0 **MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approves the Volunteer Report, as presented.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

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4.5 New Position Request - Itinerant Special Education Instructor - PACCA

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the new position as Itinerant Special Education Instructor for the Warren County School District, as presented.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

4.6 Affiliation Agreement (Social Work) PennWest University - PACCA

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the affiliation agreement between PennWest University and the Warren County School District, as presented.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

4.7 Co-Curricular Supplemental Contracts and Resignations - PACCA

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the Co-Curricular Supplemental Contracts and Resignations, as presented.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

4.8 Kinzua Wrestling Club Facility Agreement

Removed for separate action.

4.9 Athletic Supplemental Contracts and Resignations - PACCA

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the Athletic Supplemental Contracts and Resignations, as presented.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

4.10 Lifetouch Picture Agreements for 2025-2026 - CIT

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the Lifetouch Picture Agreements for 2025-2026, as presented.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden New Position Request – Itinerant Special Education Instructor Approved 9-0-0

Affiliation Agreement (Social Work) PennWest University Approved 9-0-0

Co-Curricular Supplemental Contracts and Resignations Approved 9-0-0

Athletic Supplemental Contracts and Resignations Approved 9-0-0

Lifetouch Picture Agreements for 2025-2026 Approved 9-0-0 4.11 Jostens Yearbook Agreement with Warren County Career Center - CIT

Jostens Yearbook Agreement with Warren County Career Center Approved 9-0-0 **MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approves the Jostens Yearbook Agreement with Warren County Career Center, as presented.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

4.12 Thaddeus Stevens Agreement - CIT

Thaddeus Stevens Agreement Approved 9-0-0 **MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approves the Thaddeus Stevens Agreement, as presented.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

4.13 Renewal of HMH Read180 for 2026-2028 - CIT

Renewal of HMH Read180 for 2026-2028 Approved 9-0-0 **MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approves the Purchase Order/Quote and the associated Terms and Conditions with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, as presented, and authorizes their electronic acceptance.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

4.14 Social Studies Planned Instructions - CIT

Social Studies Planned Instructions Approved 9-0-0 **MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approves the Social Studies Planned Instructions, as presented.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

4.15 Personal Finance Planned Instruction - CIT

Personal Finance Planned Instruction Approved 9-0-0 **MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approves the Personal Finance Planned Instruction, as presented.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

4.16 Physical Education through Activity Planned Instruction - CIT

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the Physical Education through Activity, as presented.

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Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden Physical Education through Activity Planned Instruction Approved 9-0-0

PowerSchool

Enrollment

Approved 9-0-0

4.17 PowerSchool Enrollment

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves PowerSchool Annual License and Subscription Fees for Enrollment quote Q-949974-1, service term January 1, 2025- December 31, 2025, in the amount of \$17,255.71, as presented.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

4.18 PowerSchool eSchoolPLUS Customization

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves PowerSchool Annual License and Subscription Fees for eSchool Customization quote Q-986182-1, service term January 1, 2025- December 31, 2025, in the amount of \$645.56, as presented.

PowerSchool eSchoolPLUS Customization Approved 9-0-0

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

4.19 PowerSchool eFinancePlus, eSchoolPlus and Special Programs

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the annual PowerSchool license and subscription fees for eFinancePlus, eSchoolPlus, and Special Programs, as presented.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

4.20 IU5 Contract - Behavior Consultant Services

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the IU5 Contract - Behavior Consultant Services, as presented.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden PowerSchool eFinancePlus, eSchoolPlus, and Special Programs Approved 9-0-0

IU5 Contract – Behavior Consultant Services Approved 9-0-0 4.21 GRANT: 2024-25 PAsmart Career & Technical Education Planning Grant

GRANT: 2024-25 PAsmart Career & Technical Education Planning Grant Approved 9-0-0 **MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to apply to the PAsmart Career & Technical Education Planning Grant to support K-9 STEM educational efforts in district schools.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

5. Items Removed for Separate Action

5.1(4.3) Support Personnel Report - PACCA

Support Personnel Report Approved 8-0-1 **MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approves the Support Personnel Report, as presented.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by Tammi Holden.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

Abstain: Stephanie Snell

5.2(4.8) Kinzua Wrestling Club Facility Agreement - PACCA

Kinzua Wrestling Club Facility Agreement Approved 9-0-0 **MOTION:** That the Board of School Directors approves the Kinzua Wrestling Club Facility Agreement, as presented.

Motion by Cody Brown, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

6. Future Business for Committee Review

6.1 Mrs. Tammi Holden expressed concerns about teacher shortages, particularly in relation to class sizes and safety, referencing an email from a teacher at Beaty-Warren Middle School. She emphasized the risks in science classes, questioning whether it's better to risk potential lawsuits from safety issues or hire additional teachers to address the problem.

Mr. Weber stated he is collaborating with Mr. Mineweaser to address the substitute teacher situation discussed in the last meeting. They will update the board on teacher-related issues within the building, either openly or within a committee, depending on the context. They are prepared to provide updates and facilitate discussions as needed.

Mrs. Holden expressed concern that teachers are overwhelmed trying to meet everyone's needs, and having 30 students in a classroom is unmanageable. She warned this could lead to high teacher turnover, ultimately harming the students.

Mr. Weber acknowledged the concerns about class sizes at Beaty-Warren Middle School and the need for long-term plans to address staffing priorities. He intends to bring the issue to the committee for further discussion.

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7. Other

7.1 Budget Transfer - \$3,494,964.07 - FIN

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the Resolution and Budget Transfer in the amount of \$3,494,964.07, as presented.

Motion by Kevin Lindvay, second by John Wortman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

7.2 Agreement WCSD & Staab School Psychology Services

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the Agreement WCSD & Staab School Psychology Services, as presented.

Motion by John Wortman, second by Daniel Sullivan.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

7.3 Policy 10110, titled - Student Attendance - First Reading

<u>MOTION:</u> That the Board of School Directors approves revisions to Policy 10110, titled - Student Attendance on first reading, as presented.

Motion by John Wortman, second by Cody Brown.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Cody Brown, Savanna Cochran, Kevin Lindvay, Paul Mangione, Mary Passinger, John Wortman, Stephanie Snell, Daniel Sullivan, Tammi Holden

8. Closing Activities

8.1 Public Comment

Bill Wencil Grand Valley Bill Wencil raised concerns about the Mr. potential over-consolidation of schools, referencing research from the National Rural Education Association that shows consolidation can negatively impact student health, wellness, and academic performance. Drawing from personal experience, highlighted the detrimental effects of long bus rides, particularly for students in rural areas, emphasizing that extended travel times are both impractical and harmful. He also advocated for the benefits of smaller schools, such as Tidioute, which succeed due to personalized education and lower student-to-teacher ratios. Mr. Wencil

Budget Transfer -\$3,494,964.07 Approved 9-0-0

Agreement WCSD & Staab School Psychology Services Approved 9-0-0

Policy 10110, titled – Student Attendance – First Reading Approved 9-0-0

questioned the district's plans for the YHS building if it is closed, asking whether it would be sold, maintained, or become a financial burden. He urged the board to clarify the future of the building and its potential impact on the district. Mr. Wencil proposed a freeze on pay raises for individuals earning above the median household income of \$73,170 in Warren County. He argued that, given the district's financial challenges and recent pay raises, it would be reasonable to pause increases for higher earners until the financial situation improves. He urged the board to carefully consider these points and their implications for the community.

8.2 **Executive Session**

There was no executive session.

8.3 Adjournment

MOTION: It was moved by Kevin Lindvay that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor M. Trisket, Board Secretary