

**PHYSICAL PLANTS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

February 24, 2025

6:00 P.M.

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, BOARD ROOM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Stephanie Snell, Chairperson Pro tempore

Ms. Tammi Holden

Ms. Savanna Cochran

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Cody Brown, Chairperson

Mr. Daniel Sullivan

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Kevin Lindvay

Mr. Paul Mangione

Ms. Mary Passinger

Mr. John Wortman

Mr. Gary Weber

Mr. Eric Mineweaser

Mr. Mike Kiehl

Ms. Patricia Hawley-Mead

Ms. Liz Kent

Ms. Lynn Shultz

Ms. Taylor Trisket

Mr. Rick Gignac

Ms. Jennifer Dilks

Mr. David Undercoffer

Mr. Brian Hagberg, Your Daily
Local

Ms. Monica Keller, WTO

Mr. Adam VanOrd

Ms. Amy Stimmell

Ms. Betsy Sobkowski

Ms. Julie Murphy

Ms. Kendra Darr

Ms. Kim Yourchisin

Ms. Kylie Harris

Ms. Lacey Schuler

Mr. Matt Madigan

Ms. Nova Holeva

Mr. Shawn Bedow

Ms. Shelly Wagner

Approximately 32 members of the public present.

1.0 Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.2 Public Comment

Annie Cook	Sheffield	Ms. Annie Cook criticized the Warren County School Board for a lack of transparency, especially regarding budget issues. She accused some members of ignoring parents' concerns about student safety and mismanaging funds, prioritizing larger schools over smaller ones like Sheffield. She highlighted that despite a budget deficit, the central office increased staff and salaries while taking over a school building, diverting funds from smaller schools. She opposed closing Sheffield High to save money, arguing that cutting central office expenses would be a better solution. Ms. Cook also raised concerns about Sheffield students moving to Warren High, citing declining grades, bullying, and overcrowding. She accused the board of systemic bias against smaller schools, leading to losses in teachers, extracurriculars, and courses. She also worried about Youngsville students' safety traveling dangerous roads to Eisenhower High School. She criticized the current leadership for failing to uphold the district's mission statement.
Walter Cook	Sheffield	*Mr. Walter Cook donated his 3 minutes of time to Ms. Annie Cook.
Wendy Wilcox	Youngsville	Ms. Wendy Wilcox proposed consolidating two schools into a K-12 facility, suggesting the high school as the best option due to its larger classrooms, labs, gym, cafeteria, and football field. While relocating playgrounds might be necessary, she believed this plan would be more practical than a \$25 million upgrade. She argued that the master facility plan's cost estimates were inflated by long-term improvements and admitted she was behind on reviewing the plan. She also mentioned energy savings grants for HVAC upgrades that could help reduce expenses. She urged the school board to seek alternative funding, including community fundraising, to avoid extra costs. Ms. Wilcox questioned why Youngsville High had been overlooked for renovations since 2015-2016 while other schools received significant upgrades. She also asked the board to reconsider the \$50,000 planned for Youngsville Elementary's PA and clock system, suggesting the money would be better spent on the high school if moving to a K-12 model. Ms. Wilcox stressed the need for a sustainable school that ensures equal educational opportunities for all Warren County students and urged the board to base decisions on what's best for the children.

Wendy Doneyhue	Youngsville	Ms. Wendy Doneyhue seconded what Ms. Wendy Wilcox had commented.
----------------	-------------	--

1.3 Presentation- Proposal Substance Use Prevention and Education

Executive Summary- Dr. Patricia Hawley- Mead

"On September 18, 2024, the district hosted a program to promote awareness about substance use and education. Stephen Hill, public speaker, presented the First Choice & A Second Chance program to our high school student body. The program began with an introduction video aimed at knocking down the stigma attached to substance use disorder, educating the audience on the current drug epidemic, and setting the stage for a powerful, honest and heartfelt story.

This program gave a Sheffield Area High School senior, Jessie Horning, the inspiration to share his voice and vision to promote awareness about substance use and prevention in our school community.

Jessie Horning shared his vision with administrators, the district's school nurse department head, Family Services of Warren County drug and alcohol counselor, and district safety officers. Through a collaborative effort Jessie's vision became the bases to develop a proposal.

We are pleased to present a proposal for implementing comprehensive Substance Use Prevention and Education Services within our schools. The increasing prevalence of substance use among young people poses significant risks to their health, academic success, and overall well-being. Early prevention and education efforts have been shown to reduce substance use, improve student decision-making, and create a safer, more supportive learning environment.

This initiative will provide students, teachers, and parents with education, information about tools and community resources, and intervention strategies to equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to support healthy choices. By fostering collaboration between educators, parents, and community partners, we aim to address this critical issue proactively, ensuring our students have the support they need to thrive.

We seek your approval and support in implementing these services to safeguard our students and strengthen our school community."

Dr. Patricia Hawley-Mead shared that she and Jessie Horning have been meeting monthly to develop a substance use prevention initiative. Jessie was inspired after attending a district program in September that raised awareness about substance use. He collaborated with administrators, counselors, and safety officers to create a proposal focused on prevention and education.

The initiative aims to address rising substance use among students by providing education, resources, and support for healthier choices. Research shows early intervention improves decision-making and overall well-being. The proposal seeks approval to implement these services to protect students and strengthen the community.

Jessie Horning, a student at Sheffield Area High School, shared his personal journey with addiction and recovery, emphasizing the need for substance use education and Narcan availability in schools. He spoke about his struggles and the stigma surrounding addiction, stressing that even if the program helps just one person, it will be worth it. Jessie hopes to use his experience to prevent overdoses, teach students about recovery, and create a safer school environment.

2.0 Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Open-ended Electrical Agreement

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the Independent Contractor agreement authorizing Blackhawk Neff to Perform Electrical services for the District subject to the restriction that the total amount paid shall not exceed \$100,000, as presented.

Action: This motion will go to the March 10th consent agenda.

Discussion: There was no discussion

3.2 Youngsville Elementary School Rauland Hybrid TCU Paging System Purchase and Installation

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves a quote from Open Systems for the purchase and installation of a Rauland TCU paging system for Youngsville Elementary School in the amount of \$51,866.00 through C-Stars #040-E23-225, upon review and approval by solicitor.

Action: This motion will go to the March 10th consent agenda.

Discussion: Mr. David Undercoffer explained that the purchase and installation of a new PA system at Youngsville Elementary School was needed due to the current system being 25 years old and the parts are obsolete. Ms. Tammi Holden asked if the data drops are already in place for a new PA system. Mr. Undercoffer said yes, it is in our MDF room which makes it very accessible. Ms. Holden then asked if there is a software support agreement that goes along with this. Mr. Undercoffer said there isn't an agreement. The company stores it directly on a device with each system and we have access to their website that's free of charge. Mr. Gary Weber asked if the PA system could be moved to another location if the School District decided to move in a different direction. Mr. Undercoffer confirmed that the PA system could be moved and installed into another location.

3.3 Other

There was no other to discuss.

4.0 Informational Items

4.1 Work Order Reports

4.2 Utilities Reports

4.3. Other

There was no other to discuss.

5.0 Other

There was no other to discuss.

6.0 Closing Activities

6.1 Next Meeting Date – March 24, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

6.2 Executive Session – There was no Executive Session.

6.3 Adjournment at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Josephson, Secretary
Physical Plant and Facilities Committee