

**Warren Hills Regional  
Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
November 5, 2013**

The Warren Hills Regional Board of Education met in Regular Meeting on November 5, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Donna Golda, President.

President's Announcement: Adequate notice of this meeting in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act has been given by posting one copy of a Notice of Meeting in the Warren Hills Regional Board of Education Office, by mailing copies to "The Express-Times", "The Warren Reporter," "The Star Ledger," and to the municipal clerks in the Borough of Washington and Townships of Franklin, Mansfield and Washington.

Pledge of Allegiance

Our Mission Statement

The Warren Hills Regional School District challenges and empowers a dynamic, diverse student body in a supportive learning environment providing academic and co-curricular opportunities to become successful, productive members of the global community.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Maureen Joyce. Members present were Daniel Brundage, Donna Golda, Kathleen Halpin, Richard Havrisko, Theresa Iacobucci, Lisa Marshall and Donna Sbriscia. Also present were Thomas Altonjy and Maureen Joyce.

Minutes

Moved by Kathleen Halpin seconded by Theresa Iacobucci to approve the Minutes of the Regular meeting of October 15, 2013.

Ayes 6      Nays 0  
Abstain 1 (Havrisko)

Mrs. Feller arrived at 7:02 p.m.

Comm.

Communications:      None.

Citizens Part

Citizens Participation:      None.

Audit

Audit Presentation:      William Schroeder of Nisivoccia and Co. presented the results of the 2012/2013 audit.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Altonjy reported on the following:

1. High School choral teacher, Mrs. Voight, hosted Dr. Ysaye Barnwell, a world famous vocalist, composer, and master teacher/clinician in the field of African American cultural performance this past Friday, 1 November. Our students thoroughly enjoyed this wonderful presentation!
2. Mrs. Henning, high school business teacher, is working on dual enrollment for her Microsoft Office Certification classes through Warren County Community College.
3. Our district was accepted to a highly exclusive distance learning program. Warren Hills Regional High School is one of only three schools accepted to this national program! Congratulations to Mrs. Rokosny, high school social studies teacher, and her curriculum supervisor, Mr. Lapotasky, for pursuing this endeavor! *Rights of the Child* is a civic engagement program that connects students and educators in Thailand and the US through a dynamic curriculum on cultural exchange, human rights, rights of the child, and self-advocacy. The program pairs classrooms in the United States with classrooms in Thailand for one semester (January – June 2014). *Rights of the Child* builds cultural awareness and global citizenship through investigation of the driving question, “How do we, as youth, engage our communities to create positive social change on issues of human rights?” Throughout the program, students engage in intercultural dialogue, explore human rights case studies, utilize technology, and learn how to communicate and share ideas across cultures. By equipping students with these critical 21st century learning skills, *Rights of the Child* fosters leadership and motivation for youth to take positive action in their local and global communities. We certainly look forward to hearing about this exciting opportunity in the future!
4. Congratulations to senior Adesola Sanusi who earned a perfect score of 800 on the math section of the SAT! Adesola earned her score during the 5 October 2013 administration of the assessment. We are all very proud of Adesola and her accomplishments!
5. Congratulations to the Warren Hills Regional Marching Band for their performance in the Neil Boyer Band Festival at Phillipsburg High School. The band received an excellent rating for general effect. Jennika Wimmer and Kaeli Lange were recognized as best Drum Majors.
6. Mr. Quinto, BD special education teacher at the high school, reports that a curricular connection was recently made between language arts and the pro social skills of decision-making and problem solving. Students engaged in a deep conversation about the decisions people make and how choosing the right track is not always easy, but can be rewarding.

The class read Edgar Allen Poe's "The Cask of Amontillado", and discussed Poe and how his life was cut short by some poor decisions. Poe struggled as a youngster and had some ill feelings toward his caregivers. The class then introduced Abraham Lincoln into the conversation and explored his many failures, yet by never giving up, became one of our more celebrated presidents. The class then offered more present day examples of the same successes they are more familiar with, including how Eminem suffered some of the same tragic situations and used his music as a way to "heal" himself by staying on the right track and becoming a success. Mr. Quinto felt the students were expressing they do not want to end up like Poe, but rather battle through setbacks and become more like Lincoln or even Eminem! Furthermore, Mr. Quinto expressed that this is one of many positive outcomes that has taken place during the first marking period in his class.

7. The Warren Hills Chess Club sponsored a Pedals for Progress bike drive that collected 55 bikes, 5 sewing machines and \$600 to help with shipping costs. The bikes and sewing machines will be shipped to Nicaragua where they will help improve educational and employment opportunities. Thanks to all who supported the Pedals for Progress bike drive and made a positive impact on other's lives.

8. Our Ninth Grade Academy October Students of the Month are:  
Male: Kyle Henderson  
Female: Amanda Elbassiouny  
Athlete: Dani Profita  
Artist: Serena Bourne  
Pillar: Jonathan Canada.

9. Our October High School Students of the Month are:  
John General  
Michele Hepp  
Skylar Oliwa  
Amy Slack.

10. Members of the Warren Hills Regional Chapter of the FFA recently attended the Leadership Experience and Development Conference. Stacy Giordano won the State Leadership Pin for the Best President Opening Ceremonies and Peter Mount won the State Leadership Pin for Best Reporter Opening Ceremonies. Congratulations to all for a great conference.

11. Two college fairs were held for Juniors and Seniors in October and were well attended. A few hundred colleges and universities were represented.

12. Our first facilitation of the PSAT on a school day (Wednesday, 16 October) in recent history was a success. Students tested in the cafeteria

monitored by the guidance department staff, and with support of the district supervisors to get testing started.

13. Members of *The Streak's* 2012-2013 editorial staff won two First-Place awards and five Honorable Mentions in a statewide high school newspaper competition sponsored by the Garden State Scholastic Press Association (GSSPA). The winners were announced at GSSPA's annual "Press Day" conference at Rutgers, held on Monday, 28 October and included the following:

Jamie Rosenblum: First Place in Sports Writing for *Coach Kerr Conquers 200*

Gabriella Shriner: First Place in Opinion Writing for *Minimum Wage Threatens Post-Sandy NJ*

Gabriella Shriner: Honorable Mention for Feature Writing for *Alumni Spotlight: Amanda Lance*

Megan McGaha: Honorable Mention for Feature Writing for *Local Artist Draws Seasonal Crowd*

Patrick Foley : Honorable Mention for A & E Review for *The Walking Dead Keeps Fans Running for More*

Marina Grossi: Honorable Mention for Column Writing for *Popular Music Neither Brave Nor New & My Dog is Better Than Yours*

Kylie O'Connor: Honorable Mention for Layout & Design for *Center Spread: Bulletin Board of New Staff Members.*

14. Congratulations to John General as his film, "Painted Love" was screened at the Greater Lehigh Valley Film Festival at the Arts Quest Center at Steel Stacks in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on 31 October through 2 November. Fifteen different films were showcased over the course of five screening blocks. John's film was up for best short and competed against college and professional films from throughout the Lehigh Valley. His film is about a heart-broken graffiti artist who is shocked to find his work come to life and tell the story of his tragic romance after he paints his past away. We embark on a short romance that brings us a visually compelling story behind a broken-hearted artist...a story sure to warm your heart!

15. The guidance department arranged for a speaker from the NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) to present a Financial Aid Night on 24 October. The evening was well attended, and

feedback from parents was positive. HESAA is scheduled for another Financial Aid presentation in the spring.

16. During the week of 21 – 25 October, middle school students engaged in a variety of activities to celebrate Red Ribbon Week and also School Spirit Week. Ms. Hollenbeck, middle school SAC, and Mrs. Silvis, Student Council Advisor, worked with students to develop a plan for student/staff engagement in activities each day as follows:

Monday – “Motivational Monday” (students/staff wore a shirt with a positive quote).

Announcement made by peer leaders about the history of Red Ribbon Week and students read/discussed a short article on this in Language Arts classes.

Tuesday – “Twisted Tuesday” (wearing of something mismatched/ unusual combinations, etc.) and the “Truth About Drugs” video played during lunches.

Wednesday – “Wear Red Wednesday – Red Out” – homeroom wearing the most red received a “peace out to drugs” bracelet.

Thursday – “Throw-back Thursday” (wear clothing from a past decade) and Peer leaders read teen drug and alcohol statistics over the morning announcements.

Friday – “Pink Out for Breast Cancer Awareness” – (wearing of pink t-shirt) and staff bake sale as Breast Cancer Research fundraiser.

17. Congratulations to the following middle school Special Education staff members who received a beautiful thank you letter from the parent of a student who is now at our high school: Ms. Heslin, Mrs. Flanery, and Ms. Smola (along with the Warren County Special Services staff). This parent wrote: “They served (my son’s) needs above and beyond what I believe is expected in any educational environment – let alone one with special needs children.” We are truly blessed to have such special teachers working with our special needs students!

18. The Middle School began its Student Recognition programs recently. Over one hundred students were recognized for the Character Pillar of Respect and the names of students recognized as Students of the Month (Sept./Oct.) will be announced soon.

19. Ms. Bartek and her Builder’s Club students organized the annual “Mix-it-up at Lunch Day” that was held on Tuesday, 29 October so that students would meet new people in order to promote greater tolerance and understanding. Students were given a lifesaver and asked to sit at a table with the colored paper corresponding to the lifesaver they were given.

Students viewed public service announcements on tolerance, engaged with conversation starters that were located on each table and seemed to enjoy the change in their routine, while having the opportunity to break down barriers that may exist between them.

20. The middle school is beginning their first “Staffulty Spotlight.” All faculty and staff names are now included in a drawing and two people are randomly selected to be in the “spotlight.” They will receive a certificate and a small token of appreciation (i.e. – free coffee on Fridays for the month). They will complete a page of information about themselves to include the following:

- Name
- Position
- Hobbies/Interests
- Favorite Book/Movie
- Schools Attended
- People would be surprised to know...
- I love WHRMS because ...

This will be displayed on a bulletin board in the cafeteria hallway, along with a picture(s) of the recipients. This is an effort that came through the Climate Committee and the Middle School Faculty Advisory Committee in an attempt to recognize and get to know the various employees who work so closely with our students on a daily basis and to have some fun along the way! Stop by the middle school to learn more about our wonderful “staffulty!”

21. Thank you to Ms. Smola for organizing some after school fun fitness activities for interested staff. The program began on last Wednesday with “Zumba” and badminton. We encourage any and all staff to attend in the future and to have a few laughs along with us!

22. Congratulations to the Varsity Field Hockey Team as they became the Hunterdon-Warren-Sussex County Tournament Champions in a 1-0 victory over Hackettstown. Nikki Profita scored the winning goal and was named the tournament’s most valuable player! In addition, the team has won fifteen games consecutively to tie the school record!

23. In Football, Justin Iaione set the single season rushing record of 1,428 yards against Summit breaking the previous mark of 1,376 yards by Jordan Blanche in 2000. Congratulations, Justin!

24. Warren Hills Regional JV Soccer Coach Besser and his counterpart, Mr. Mueller of Montgomery, collaborated in a terrific display of sportsmanship recently. A member of the Warren Hills team (who is special needs student) entered the game for only the third time this season. The player, with the support of both teams and coaches, scored a goal which he will always remember!

25. Peer Leadership hosted the annual “Haunted High School” night on Saturday, 26 October. Many attended and a spooky night was had by all!

26. Congratulations to Mrs. Joyce, Mrs. Moore, and Ms. Unangst and all our staff involved in the recent audit return visit from the NJ Department of Education. We were commended for our excellent attention to making the needed adjustments as outlined in our action plan.

27. Congratulations to our district Business office staff and Mrs. Joyce for receiving no recommendations on the annual audit of all the financial operations of the district!

28. The following is an update regarding the number of incidences of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying this school year. Each month I will provide a comparison from the previous month and a cumulative summary for the year in progress. The following is the information for October:

Cases	September 2013		October 2013		Total District Cases 2013-2014
	MS	HS	MS	HS	
Total Cases Investigated	1	0	2	5	8
Cases resulting in: NO HIB	0	0	2	4	6 (75%)
Cases resulting in: HIB	1	0	0	1	2 (25%)

29. Tonight, we are joined by our Excellence By Design (EBD) Middle States facilitator, High School Assistant Principal, Mrs. Rader, and our district team of internal coordinators who will provide us with the latest news regarding the process and the all important district visitation next week.

Comm. Reports

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Halpin reported on the Ed Council meeting where there was discussion of the board goal of community involvement and types of programs to offer such as Family Literacy/Stem Night.

Mr. Havrisko reported that the Wall of Fame met twice and has selected the inductees. April 26<sup>th</sup> will be the Wall of Fame dinner at Flynn's.

Mrs. Golda reported that Ed and Policy met regarding the October alert from Strauss Esmay on Achieve NJ and other policy reviews.

The board members also reported on the various programs they attended at the School Boards Workshop.

Dr. Altonjy recommended all personnel items.

**I. PERSONNEL**

Retire R. Hammer                      Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to accept, with regret, the retirement of Mr. Ronald Hammer, middle school Social Studies teacher, effective July 1, 2014.

ROLL CALL VOTE:              Ayes 8              Nays 0

Retire L. Cioppi                      Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to accept, with regret, the retirement of Mr. Lawrence Cioppi, middle school Special Education teacher, effective July 1, 2014.

ROLL CALLL VOTE:              Ayes 8              Nays 0

Resign L. Andreoli                      Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to accept, with regret, the resignation of Ms. Linda Andreoli, Secretary to the Director of Special Education, effective December 31, 2013.

ROLL CALL VOTE:              Ayes 8              Nays 0

Leave of Absence                      Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to approve a maternity/disability leave of absence for Mrs. Mackenzie Holguin for the period January 13, 2014 through March 14, 2014, and a family leave of absence, without pay, for the period March 17, 2014 through May 30, 2014. Mackenzie plans to return to WHR on June 2, 2014.

ROLL CALL VOTE:              Ayes 8              Nays 0

Abolish Position                      Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to abolish the position of Accounts Payable Specialist.

ROLL CALL VOTE:              Ayes 8              Nays 0

Employ J. Durham                      Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to approve employment of Mrs. Joanne Durham as Accountant for the 2013-2014 school year at a salary of \$57,078, effective November 1, 2013.

ROLL CALL VOTE:              Ayes 8              Nays 0

Employ F. Peticari                      Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to approve employment of Ms. Fay Peticari as a part-time secretary in the Athletic Department for the 2013-2014 school year on Step 1, Column 1,

with an annual salary of \$33,145, prorated to reflect part-time status of 20 hours per week or \$17,898, effective November 11, 2013.

ROLL CALL VOTE:           Ayes 7       Nayes 0  
                                  Abstain 1 (Feller)

Rescind                    Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to  
Advisor                   rescind the August 27, 2013 Board of Education motion approving Ms.  
                                  Amanda Best as middle school Drama Club Advisor for the 2013-2014  
                                  school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE:           Ayes 8       Nayes 0

Co-Advisors              Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to  
                                  approve employment of Ms. Amanda Best and Ms. Tara Paulus as Co-  
                                  Advisors for the middle school Drama Club for the 2013-2014 school year  
                                  with a stipend of \$1,350 each.

ROLL CALL VOTE:           Ayes 8       Nayes 0

Coach                     Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to  
                                  approve employment of Mr. Joseph Blackford as an Assistant Girls'  
                                  Basketball coach for the 2013-2014 school year on Step 3, with a stipend  
                                  of \$5,643.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE:           Ayes 8       Nayes 0

Home                      Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to  
Instructors              approve employment of the following individuals as Home Instructors for  
                                  the 2013-2014 school year at \$41 per hour:

Mary Knapp                Adrienne Harpster        Penny Atkinson

ROLL CALL VOTE:           Ayes 8       Nayes 0

Internship                Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to  
                                  approve an administrative internship for World Language teacher and  
                                  Seton Hall University graduate student, Teresa Fahy, under the direction  
                                  of Mr. Earl Clymer for the spring 2014 semester.

ROLL CALL VOTE:           Ayes 8       Nayes 0

Field                     Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to  
Experience                approve Ms. Erin Fleming, Fairleigh Dickinson University student, to  
                                  complete observation hours as part of her field experience under the  
                                  supervision of Mrs. Hetrick and Mrs. Muffley.

ROLL CALL VOTE:           Ayes 8       Nayes 0

Field Experience Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to approve Ms. Katherine Kerkendall, The College of New Jersey student, to complete observation hours as part of her field experience under the supervision of Mr. Clymer and Mrs. Duryea.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

## II. EDUCATION AND POLICY

HIB Cases Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by Lisa Marshall to affirm the administrative decision regarding the following HIB case for the 2013-2014 school year:

MS-13-14 - 001

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Travel & Conference Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by Lisa Marshall to approve the attached list of Travel and Conference Requests. [attached]

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Field Trip Requests Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by Lisa Marshall to approve the attached list of Field Trip Requests. [attached]

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

## III. BUDGET AND FINANCE

Medical Services Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Lisa Marshall to approve the 2013-2014 contract for medical services provided by Dr. James Goodwin and representatives of the St. Luke's Warren Physician Group with a contract amount of \$4,300 for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

IDEA Amendment Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Lisa Marshall to approve Amendment #1 for the 2014 IDEA Grant. [Funds transferred from professional services to tuition]

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Non-Public Funding Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Lisa Marshall to approve Chapter 192-193 Non-Public Funding for student services for the 2014-15 school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Audit Report

Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Lisa Marshall to accept the 2012-2013 Audit and Management Report and to approve the 2012-2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Corrective Action Plan indicating that there were no audit recommendations and no corrective action required. [attached]

ROLL CALL VOTE:           Ayes 8           Nays 0

Citizens Part.

Citizens Participation:

Mrs. Unangst discussed the recent visit from the state auditors regarding the implementation of the special education corrective action plan.

Executive Session

Moved by Donna Sbriscia and seconded by Lisa Marshall to go into Executive Session as indicated by item **a.** below:

The Board of Education of the Warren Hills Regional School District in the County of Warren will adjourn into a closed meeting to discuss the item (s) which falls within an exception of our open meetings policy and permits the Board to have a private discussion, since it deals with specific exceptions contained in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 b.

**a. Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law or Court Rule**

- b. Individual privacy
- c. Collective bargaining agreements
- d. Purchase or lease of real property if public interest could be adversely affected
- e. Investment of public funds if public interest could be adversely affected
- f. Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting public safety and property
- g. Pending or anticipated litigation
- h. Attorney-client privilege
- i. Personnel – employment matters affecting a specific prospective or current employee

Any discussion held by the Board, which need not remain confidential, will be made public as soon as practical. Minutes of the private session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists. All appropriate persons, who may be discussed in private session, have been adequately notified. Action is not anticipated.

Ayes 8           Nays 0

The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

Reconvene

Moved by Lisa Marshall and seconded by Richard Havrisko to reconvene into open session at 10:00 p.m.

Ayes 8      Nays 0

Adjournment      Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by Richard Havrisko to  
adjourn at 10:03 p.m.

Ayes 8      Nays 0

Maureen Joyce  
Business Administrator/Bd. Sec'y.

dmg