

**Warren Hills Regional  
Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
March 10, 2015**

The Warren Hills Regional Board of Education met in Regular Meeting on March 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Richard Havrisko, 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 John Bell, Daniel Brundage, Linda Feller, Kristin Fox, Kathleen Halpin, Christopher Hamler, Richard Havrisko and Lisa Marshall. Also present were Thomas Altonjy and Maureen Joyce.

Minutes

Moved by Lisa Marshall and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to approve the Minutes of the Regular and Executive Session meetings of February 10, 2015.

Ayes 8      Nays 0

Comm.

Communications:      None.

Citizens Part

Citizens Participation:      None.

Student Report

Student Report:

Both student council representatives reported on:  
NHS

Blood drive hosted by Key Club  
Band and Chorus Prism Concert  
Debate Team – Harvard Model Congress  
DECA has 3 representatives going to Nationals  
Meghan McGaha named NJ Journalist of the Year  
Student Council Chipotle fundraiser  
Student Council Color Run on May 16<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Mr. Warren Hills  
Middle School – National Go RED Day

Supt's  
Report

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Altonjy reported on the following:

1. The **PARCC PBA administration** began at the high school on Monday, 2 March. Despite running on a delayed opening schedule, the first day of administration was a success! Overall, the weather has not cooperated, but necessary adjustments have been made. Although the first week of PARCC testing consisted of two delayed openings and one inclement weather closing, five days of planned testing have now been completed successfully at the high school!

2. High School **Students of the Month** for February:

Paige Bechtle  
Katarina Martucci  
Alexandra Tamburro  
Kenneth Wilson.

3. Annie Topoleski has won an National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) **Aspiration Award** for the New Jersey Affiliate. The Aspiration Award is for recognition of women in computing. Annie is one of 17 award winners for the state. She will be honored at an upcoming banquet for all award winners. Katarina Martucci and Sarah Fontana were runner-up award winners. All three girls have been instrumental in continuing our GirlsCodingWithGirls program.

4. Congratulations to the Warren Hills Political Science and Law **Debate Team** on their accomplishments at the 2015 Harvard Model Congress held on 19 – 22 February in Boston, MA. Seven students were recipients of the HMC 2015 Scholarship Award, a financial and merit-based award. The recipients are: Antonia Adalakun, Alyssa Appleby, Joelle Dowling, Samantha Monico, Alexandra Tamburro, Anne Marie Ward, and Kenneth Wilson.

5. Congratulations to the following members of the **high school band** for the following accomplishments:

New Jersey All-State Wind Ensemble – Kaeli Lange  
Susquehanna University Honor Band – Rebecca Prisco

North Jersey Region I Junior Band – Joseph Basile, Kieran Bonsignore, Grace Sweet, Allison Weissman.

6. Dr. William R. Fernekes, retired Supervisor of Social Studies of Hunterdon Central Regional High School, made a generous **donation** of 452 books on the Holocaust, general social studies topics, and education and pedagogy to both the high school and middle school. Mrs. Maggie Devine, Mrs. Nancy Nelson, and Mr. Keith Dennison are grateful to Dr. Fernekes for his gift to our district's libraries.

7. **Cluster articulation meetings** continue to be held.

- At the February Social Studies Articulation meeting, the assembled teachers shared best practices involving the use of digital tools, social media, and other electronic learning tools. Further, the teachers began a discussion on how to recalibrate assessment in social studies so it is more meaningful to the students and thereby authentically demonstrates students' skill and content mastery, while at the same time engaging them in exciting social studies learning activities. Additionally, useful teacher-researched and teacher-developed assessment materials related to the Domains of Knowledge (DOK) were shared.

- On 12 February, the cluster World Language group met and discussed recommendations for Intermediate Spanish Exploration, strategies for teaching in the target language, and topics for upcoming projects.

- On 9 February, the cluster Health and Physical Education group met and reviewed 8<sup>th</sup> grade health materials and discussed best practices on dance, along with the *FitnessGram* program for tracking student fitness and topics for upcoming meetings.

8. Congratulations to the **Jazz Ensemble** for their performance at the Steel Stacks Jazz Band Showcase on Sunday, 22 February. The band received an "Excellent" rating and the award for "Best Saxophone Section." Seamus Ronan was awarded "Best Woodwind Soloist" and John Scovell was awarded "Best Brass Soloist."

9. The week of 23 – 27 February was designated as **FFA Week** in the high school. The FFA Club, under the direction of Agri-Science teacher Mrs. Siano, conducted various activities to promote agriculture and agricultural education.

10. The middle school hosted **Family STEM Night** on 26 February. There was a terrific turnout of over 150 people – our best showing ever! Students in grades 5-8 and their families were invited to learn more about the district's focus on science, technology, engineering and math. Thank you to ALL the staff in attendance who contributed to a great evening – Mr. Steele, Mr. DeBoer, Mr. Detrick, Mr. Eisner, Mr. Slack, Mr. Irzinski, Mrs. Muroski, Mrs. Nugent, Mrs. Burstein, Ms. Feldman, Mrs. Becker, Ms. Gibbs, Mrs. Hoffman, and Mr. Cascio. Thank you to the HS students

who shared their project FIRST robot, computer programming skills, and the GirlsCodingWith Girls program. We also want to thank our middle school students for sharing their science experiments, their “Think Big” math projects and for helping with the various games going on throughout the event (chess, Rubik’s Cube, etc.). We know our community learned a great deal about the importance of and fun in the areas of STEM!

11. The Builders Club sponsored a **Valentine’s Dance** on 6 February at the middle school, where over 100 students enjoyed the evening socializing, dancing /listening to the DJ’s music and enjoying some snacks. A good time was had by all!

12. Congratulations to the MS Student Council for earning the **NJASC Honor School Award** for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Congratulations are in order for their advisor, Mrs. Silvis, who earned recognition for her dedicated service to the organization as advisor for 10 years! Mrs. Silvis has been actively engaged in Student Council beginning with her involvement when she was a student at Phillipsburg High School! Our students are fortunate to have her guidance, experience and leadership.

13. Congratulations to 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, Daniel Blackwood, who won first place in Warren County in this year’s **VFW Patriots Pen essay contest**. He then went on to represent Warren County in the state competition.

14. **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy News:**

- Congratulations to the MS January/February Students of the Month:

**Academics:**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Kharissa Muhammad, Owen Wisneski

8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Madison Warmuth, Robert Finke, Matthew Hame

**Athletics:**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Brooke Motzer, Joe Wallace

8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Paola Bennevides, James Fox

**The Arts:**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Nirvani Mangru, Christopher Casella

8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Darmia Wimmer, Skylar Allen

**Perseverance:**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Olivia McCurdy, Kyle Smith

8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Ava Anderson, Jaysin Fernandes.

- The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy ran the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual School-wide Student Recognition/Spirit Rally with the help of the Student Council and Mrs. Silvis on Friday, 13 February. Students were recognized for their accomplishments to date, engaged in games to earn points for their class and won “spirit” prizes (WH gear!), while also enjoying the music of our talented band and chorus. Congratulations to the 8th grade class who

earned the spirit trophy (and won the right to “toilet paper” their favorite teacher – Mr. Nordmark!) and thank you to all who helped to make the event a success, especially our wonderful custodial and maintenance staff, who made it all possible!

15. Congratulations to the following MS students who were recognized in the **annual PTA Reflections Program**:

Visual Arts: Daria Wimmer and John Torkos

Literature: Isaac Porras

Photography: Spencer Wharburton.

16. Congratulations to the winners of the middle school’s annual **Student Council Spelling Bee**:

First Place: Veronica Hom

Second Place: Jamison Piatt.

17. **Athletic News:**

- The Women’s Bowling team placed second in New Jersey Group II and were led by Abby Laws who scored a single game score of 257 in the second game of a 3 game series.

- The Men’s Swim Team 200 Meter Freestyle team competed in the Meet of Champions. The relay team, consisting of Hunter Page, Liam Breslin, Micha'l Breslin, and Ethan Smith, finished 18<sup>th</sup> in the state of New Jersey out of the 141 teams that qualified for the event. The Men’s Swim team again won the Raritan Division of the Skyland Conference by going undefeated in conference meets. The team has now won 35 straight meets in the Raritan Division.

- The Men’s Basketball Team defeated North Warren to reach the Hunterdon Warren Sussex County Tournament Semi finals.

- Wrestlers Maxwell Nauta at 132 pounds and Andrew Pacheco at 285 pounds each won their weight class at the Region 1 wrestling tournament held at Walkkill Valley High School. Each wrestler won their region for the second time and advanced to compete in the NJSIAA individual finals at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City this past weekend.

18. The following **DECA** students placed in the state DECA competition held earlier in Cherry Hill, NJ. They competed against hundreds of students from other schools around the state. Those who placed in the top three are eligible for the International DECA conference in Orlando:

1st Place - John Rosenblum - Advertising Campaign (created for Donaldson farms)

2nd Place - Tyler Henning - Business Financial Services

3rd Place - David Maxson - Accounting

Top 10 - David Blyd – Hospitality.

19. The following students have been selected to have their films screened at the **2015 Kent Place Film Festival**. Congratulations to Frankie Schriels for his film, “Road to Cali,” William Rios for his film, “3 Musketeers” and Brady DeAngeles for his film, “Spirit Bane.” All three films will be screened at the festival on 27 March at 7:00pm in the Kent Place Theater located in Summit, NJ. In addition, the following two students were selected by the PTA and the county to their films forwarded to State for the PTA Reflections Program. Kaitlin Andreas for her film, “Rabbit” and Peter Despres for his film, “Life Could be Simple.” Congratulations also go out to former student, Tom Fama. Tom’s film, “Life is But a Suite” was produced last year and selected as one of only 12 films to be presented at the 2015 Derek Freese Film Festival in Philadelphia, PA. Tom is currently a student at SUNY Purchase College and has been selected for an interview by the college’s Film Conservatory to join the film program and become a BFA major.

20. This past weekend, our high school **Robotics Team** competed at Mount Olive High School. Thanks to Sarah Fontana for keeping us up to date! Sarah reported “...After the first day our team ranked first. On the second day of the competition, our team made it all the way to the finals along with our alliance mates, MORT and Terrier Byte Bots. Our alliance lost by just a few points thus coming in 2nd. Our team won two awards including one for being a finalist and the other for Innovation in Control. The award was sponsored by Rockwell Automation and celebrates our teams ability to create an innovative control system or application of control components – electrical, mechanical, or software – to provide unique machine functions. We are very proud of all of our accomplishments!”

Please check out the following video that the team produced:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/395tgtz89cjeg8n/RobotVideo2015MantisSymphonica.avi?dl=0>

21. The following is an update regarding the finalized 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 February:

Cases	January 2015			February 2015		Total District Cases 2014-2015
	MS	HS		MS	HS	
Total Cases Investigated	4	0		0	0	13
Cases resulting in: NO HIB	2	0		0	0	5 (38%)
Cases resulting in: HIB	2	0		0	0	8 (62%)

Comm.  
Reports

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Marshall stated that Ed and Policy met tonight:

- 12 policies up for second reading
- Strauss Esmay abolished domestic partnership Policy #1555 because it is law
- Completed 59 policies this year
- Policies on Gifted and Talented

The next meetings are April 14<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Havrisko reported that Facilities Committee met on the Long Range Facilities proposals. He also reported that Wall of Fame Committee met. Letters will be going out to 8 nominees so far.

Dr. Altonjy recommended all personnel items.

**I. PERSONNEL**

Retire R. Kuebler                      Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Linda Feller to accept, with regret, the retirement of Mrs. Rosemary Kuebler, effective July 1, 2015.

ROLL CALL VOTE:              Ayes 8              Nays 0

Retire S. Leh                      Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Linda Feller to accept, with regret, the retirement of Mrs. Sherry Leh, effective July 1, 2015.

ROLL CALL VOTE:              Ayes 8              Nays 0

Employ N. Jenkins                      Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Linda Feller to approve employment of Ms. Nancy Jenkins as a maternity leave replacement Business Education teacher at the high school with a per diem salary of \$253.59, effective March 11, 2015 through an ending date to be determined.

ROLL CALL VOTE:              Ayes 8              Nays 0

Employ K. Yapaola                      Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Linda Feller to approve employment of Ms. Kimberly Yapaola as a leave replacement guidance counselor at the middle school with a per diem salary of \$283.97, effective March 11, 2015 through an ending date to be determined.

ROLL CALL VOTE:              Ayes 8              Nays 0

Change Status                    Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Linda Feller to approve a change in degree status for Mrs. Teresa Fahy, Step J-10, M, with annual salary of \$69,043, prorated, retroactive to February 1, 2015.

ROLL CALL VOTE:            Ayes 8            Nayes 0

Substitute Custodian                    Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Linda Feller to approve employment of Mr. Sean Wallace for addition to our substitute custodians list.

ROLL CALL VOTE:            Ayes 8            Nayes 0

Student Observation                    Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Linda Feller to approve Ms. Samantha Mauro, Warren County Community College student, to complete 15 hours of observation under the direction of Mr. Earl Clymer and Mr. Keith Dennison for the 2015 spring semester.

ROLL CALL VOTE:            Ayes 8            Nayes 0

Student Observation                    Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Linda Feller to approve Ms. Sarah Magnuson, East Stroudsburg University student, to complete 40 hours of observation under the direction of Mr. Earl Clymer and Mr. Jeffrey Steele for the 2015 spring semester.

ROLL CALL VOTE:            Ayes 8            Nayes 0

Parent Volunteers                    Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Linda Feller to approve the following individuals as middle school parent volunteers:

Cindy Rogalsky	Marjorie Bundschuh	David Brown
Elizabeth Christian	Raymond Meza	Tracy Smith
Anthony Ross	Susan Yerega	Carlee Busardo
Olivia Romero	Dawn Rosamilia	Jill Haas

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

Volunteer Coaches                    Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Linda Feller to approve the following Volunteer coaches for the 2014-2015 spring season:

Larry Cascio	Girls Lacrosse
Adam Slack	Boys Lacrosse
Vicki Rhinehart	Softball
Robert Carroll	Track
Aubrey Legreide	MS Softball
Greg Gormly	Boys Tennis

ROLL CALL VOTE:            Ayes 8            Nayes 0



**II. EDUCATION AND POLICY**

School Calendar Moved by Christopher Hamler and seconded by Lisa Marshall to approve a change in the school year calendar to reflect Thursday, April 9, 2015 and Friday, April 10, 2015, as regular school days.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Policy Moved by Christopher Hamler and seconded by Lisa Marshall to approve the second and final reading of the following revised policy and regulations for inclusion in the district’s policy manual, as recommended by the Education and Policy Committee and the Superintendent:

- 2622** Student Assessment
- 6210** Fiscal Planning + regulations
- 6230** Budget Hearing
- 6320** Purchases Subject to Bid + regulations
- 6340** Multiple Year Contracts + regulations
- 6421** Purchases Budgeted + regulations
- 6422** Budget Transfers + regulations
- 6440** Cooperative Purchasing
- 6471** School District Travel + regulations
- 6630** Athletic Fund
- 6640** Cafeteria Fund
- 6700** Investments
- 6740** Reserve Accounts + regulations

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

HIB Moved by Christopher Hamler and seconded by Lisa Marshall to affirm the administrative decisions regarding the following HIB cases:

- MS – 14-15 – 011-013
- HS – 14-15 – 004

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Travel & Conference Moved by Christopher Hamler and seconded by Lisa Marshall to approve the following Travel and Conference Requests:

NAME	TITLE	LOCATION	COST
Kim Eilenberger	Self Defense Instructor Certification	SUNY New Paltz, NY	\$350. Registration + meals & mileage

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Field Trip  
Requests

Moved by Christopher Hamler and seconded by Lisa Marshall to  
approve the following Field Trip Requests:

<b>Requested by:</b>	<b>Trip</b>	<b>Location</b>
Cynthia Laws	National Honor Society to facilitate Special Olympics	Fairleigh Dickinson University
Maggie Devine	HS Horizons to academic competition	North Hunterdon Regional High School
Maggie Devine	MS Horizons to Warren County Robotics Tournament	Lopatcong Middle School
Sharon Fretz	Outdoors Unlimited Club	Blue Mt. Ski Area, Palmerton, PA
Kristen Chiara	Key Club to Key Club Convention	Long Branch, NJ
Adam Slack	Robotics Team Competition	Mt. Olive High School
Adam Slack	Robotics Team for STEM Education	Seneca HS, Tabernacle, NJ & No. Brunswick High School
Adam Slack	Robotics Team for STEM Education	Stabler Arena, Bethlehem, PA
Lauren Voight	Advanced & Select Choir to participate in festivals	Somerville High School & Newark Cathedral

ROLL CALL VOTE:           Ayes 8           Nayes 0

### **III. BUDGET AND FINANCE**

Tuition  
Contract

Moved by Lisa Marshall and seconded by Kristin Fox to approve a Special Education Tuition Contract for Student 35-15 to attend East Mountain School for the remainder of the 2014/2015 school year, commencing February 6, 2015, at a tuition rate of \$317.17 per diem [\$28,228.13].

ROLL CALL VOTE:           Ayes 8           Nayes 0

IDEA  
Grant

Moved by Lisa Marshall and seconded by Kristin Fox to approve IDEA Grant Amendment 1 [carryover of non-public funds].

ROLL CALL VOTE:           Ayes 8           Nayes 0

Donation

Moved by Lisa Marshall and seconded by Kristin Fox to accept a donation of books to our libraries at both the middle school and high school on the Holocaust, general social studies topics and education and pedagogy from Dr. William R. Fernekes, retired Supervisor of Social Studies of Hunterdon Central Regional High School.

ROLL CALL VOTE:           Ayes 8           Nayes 0

Citizens Part.                    Citizens Participation:                    None.

Executive Session                    Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by Lisa Marshall to go into Executive Session as indicated by items **a. and i.** 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 7:21 p.m.

Reconvene                    Moved by Lisa Marshall and seconded by John Bell to reconvene into open session at 9:35 p.m.

Ayes 8                    Nays 0

Adjournment                    Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by Christopher Hamler to adjourn at 9:38 p.m.

Ayes 8                    Nays 0

Maureen Joyce  
Business Administrator/Bd. Sec'y.