

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

The Warren Hills Regional Board of Education met in Regular Meeting on March 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 Star Gazette," "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, Donna Golda, Kathleen Halpin, Theresa Iacobucci, Lisa Marshall and Donna Sbriscia. Also present were Thomas Altonjy and Maureen Joyce.

Minutes

Moved by John Bell and seconded by Lisa Marshall to approve the Minutes of the Regular meeting of February 19, 2013.

Ayes 8 Nays 0

Comm.

Communications:

Warren County School Boards Assoc. will be offering a STEM 101 presentation on April 17th for Board Members.

Citizens Part

Citizens Participation: None.

Supt's Report

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Altonjy reported on the following:

1. Mr. Kavcak facilitated a Cluster Science Articulation meeting and presented comparative state testing data and the NJDOE's draft of the Next Generation Science Standards.
2. Mrs. Moore surveyed high school students to obtain their feedback on the Honors/Advanced Placement summer assignment and readings. Results will be shared and discussed with the Summer Assignment Committee on 14 March.
3. S.A.V.E. members presented a Library Showcase on 28 February. For the past two months, S.A.V.E. has been participating in the national UNLESS contest run by the Philadelphia Zoo. The object of the competition is for student-run teams to create an awareness-raising campaign within their respective schools and communities on the issues of energy consumption and global warming and their effects on the populations of polar bears and butterflies. The showcase presenters elaborated on how individuals can make a difference in the effort to reduce energy consumption and curb global warming.
4. The 2nd Annual Student Recognition/Spirit Rally was held on 15 February at the middle school. Many accomplishments of our students so far this year were celebrated, including awards for participation in clubs, commendable attendance, reading initiatives, and engagement in School Based Youth Services. This “new” tradition has become a favorite among staff and students!
5. Our latest *Rachel's Challenge* recognition awards go to:
 - All of the volleyball teams that participated in the tournament last week for showing great sportsmanship.
 - Joe Otto and Allyson Stejakoski for helping with the Character bulletin board near the Guidance office.
 - David Sturtz for having patience, understanding and perseverance.
 - Manny Hounsa for helping without being asked.
 - The members of Connor McCormick's volleyball team for showing great caring and character when playing other teams during the tournament and for their assistance in cleaning up after the tournament.
6. Congratulations to the middle school winning student volleyball team consisting of Connor McCormick, Vincent Andoldi, Thomas Begane, Neil General, Michael Studlack and Justin Wepprecht! They were the winners of the Student/Staff volleyball tournament held on 26 February, beating the teachers' team two games to one! This fundraiser raised \$350.00, which will be used by peer leaders to prepare “Bluestreak Backpacks” containing Bluestreak gear for students who are new to our school throughout the school year to welcome them and encourage them to develop school spirit and school pride. Over 60 staff members

volunteered to play on the staff team and/or assist in some manner. Everyone had a great time, including the many student spectators who stayed to cheer on their friends (and occasionally their teachers)!

7. The following is an update regarding the number of incidences of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying. 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 2013			February 2013		Total District Cases 2012-2013
	MS	HS		MS	HS	
Total Cases Investigated	1	0		0	0	31
Cases resulting in: NO HIB	0	0		0	0	14 (45%)
Cases resulting in: HIB	1	0		0	0	17 (55%)

8. The SAT Prep class will begin the week after Spring Recess. It will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30-3:30 for 4 weeks leading up to the Saturday, 4 May SAT administration here at Warren Hills Regional. The cost to the student will be \$50 which will include the SAT book used for the class.

9. The scheduling process at the high school has begun. At this point the counselors have met with all Juniors. The scheduling process is underway at the middle school as well. Counselors have been inputting course selections into *Infinite Campus*.

10. Today was the first day of HSPA testing for all Juniors. Our ninth and tenth grade students are also engaged in district testing and our twelfth graders are engaged in a variety of assemblies and activities. It is a busy and important week at the high school and staff and administration are raising the awareness of the importance of the testing, while recognizing the stress of the high-stakes testing. To that end, and for the first time ever, the Peer Leaders planned and sponsored an HSPA pep rally yesterday afternoon prior to the first day of testing. The pep rally consisted of games, motivational clips, and some words from Mr. Clymer and Ms. Russo.

11. On 28 February, Best Buddies hosted a high school library showcase to focus on keeping the “R” word (retarded) out of our school. This was a great experience with an important message.

12. Congratulations to the Girls Basketball team for their first round win in the State playoffs.

13. Exciting news from our film students! Congratulations to the following students for their achievements at this year's Kidz Shortz Montclair International Film Festival:

GRAND PRIZE – Solo Project

Painted Love – The Tale Of A Free Artist
John General

2ND PLACE – Solo Project

(Tie for Second Place with a film from England)
How Great I Am
Ryan Callahan

GRAND PRIZE – Class Project

Fat Man
Tom Fama
Ryan Mulvihill
Adam Cole

2ND PLACE – Class Project

Doppelganger
Tom Kaspereen
James Freeman
Will Monahan
Kevin Kapral.

In addition, two students won their categories at the Derek Freese Film Festival held at Temple University recently. John General won Best Experimental Film and Ryan Callahan won Best Cinematography. The festival attracted over 90 submissions from all over the country (mostly Boston, NYC, Seattle, and Baltimore) and was scaled down to 26 finalists. WHRHS exhibited 3 films and won in two categories.

Finally, John General will receive an Award of Excellence for Film Production in the Senior Division of the NJ State *Reflections* program based on the theme: "The Magic of a Moment." His film, *Painted Love* will be forwarded to the National PTA for judging. Out of all the counties in New Jersey, John is the ONLY student to receive an award of excellence in the Senior Division for Film Production. John's work will be featured at the NJPTA Convention on 8 & 9 March in Long Branch, NJ. Furthermore, John will be invited to show his film at the NJ State Student Art Show on 15 June at Princeton Day School in Princeton, NJ. Congratulations to all these students and Mr. Corey.

14. Congratulations to Athletes of the Week: Wrestlers Max Nauta, Andrew Pachaco and Joe Kratochvil. All three were District 1 Wrestling Champs.

15. High School Students of the Month for February are:

Louis Vitti
Tess Edwards
Nicole Schott
Abigail Jeffries.

16. During the weekend of 24 & 25 February, 19 students from the Warren Hills High School DECA Chapter competed in the DECA State Leadership Conference (SLC) in Cherry Hill, NJ. The conference was attended by over 1,600 of the brightest business students from all over the state. In order to attend the SLC, students had to place in their subject at the DECA regional competition that was held in January or create and present a detailed marketing plan. Students took a 100 question written test in their business subject and participated in two business situation role plays. During these role plays, students were given a business situation and had ten minutes to assess the situation and develop a plan to overcome the conundrum. Students presented their ideas to, met with, and are ranked by a live ‘judge’ from the business world.

The top 10 students in each category are selected to compete in the finals. In the final round, students compete in a final role play against the top 10 students in the category and one judge. This along with the written test helps to determine the top winners. This year, Warren Hills had two state finalists, Adesola Sanusi in Accounting and Karl Meier in Sports Marketing. Karl won second place in the State and qualified to attend the International DECA competition in Anaheim, California.

Two of our DECA alumni also placed last week in the college DECA competition. Bryan Begane, who attended Nationals as a Warren Hills Junior in 2011 and earned Top 10 in the Nation won 1st place in the South Carolina collegiate DECA. He is a founding member of the DECA chapter at the University of South Carolina. Kayla Sisco attends Johnson & Wales University and won 2nd place at the collegiate DECA competition in North Carolina.

17. The Warren Hills Regional High School Concert Band hosted their annual “Prism” concert on Wednesday, 27 February. The students in the concert band took the lead in putting the program together. This year’s theme was *Around the World* and over one hundred students participated! Congratulations to all the students, Mr. Graf, Mrs. Voight, and Mr. Platt for a wonderful evening of music that highlighted cultures from around the world.

18. Congratulations to the Warren Hills Political Science and Law Debate Team on their bold accomplishments at the 2013 Harvard Model Congress held on 21 – 24 February in Boston, MA.

Harvard Model Congress is a well-respected competition that our school has attended for approximately sixteen years. This year's competition hosted over 1,500 students from every region of our nation. The debates at this competition provide our students with the opportunity to research issues facing our nation, develop an opinion about how to resolve them, and then defend their positions in both written and oral form in front of audiences of their peers and judges. Debate Team Advisor Mrs. Giamoni reported that throughout the competition, our students proudly represented Warren Hills Regional. Harvard sets strict standards for professional attire and demeanor and Harvard University repeatedly expressed their compliments on our students' decorum, understanding of parliamentary procedure, and their general behavior.

Eight students were recipients of the HMC 2013 Scholarship Award. The HMC 2013 Scholarship Award is a financial and merit-based award. Students were required to write several essays and provide examples of their leadership and passion for politics and government. The HMC 2013 Scholarship Award Recipients are: Brooke Bodine, James Duffy, Lucy Finnegan, Brian Hepp, Jillian Heymann, Alex Holzman, Jacqueline Sesholtz, and Louis Vitti. These students were honored at a HMC Scholarship Award Reception on Saturday, 23 February and were able to meet Harvard Professor Roger Porter, who served as Director of the White House Office of Policy Development in the Reagan Administration and as Executive Secretary of the President's Economic Policy Board during the Ford Administration.

19. Finally, tonight I am joined by members of the administrative team, as we present the 2013-2014 budget highlights. This presentation will be posted on the district website and Mrs. Joyce and I will provide another budget overview at the public hearing on Tuesday, 26 March.

Budget

Budget Presentation:

Dr. Altonjy, Mrs. Joyce and the school administrators reviewed the proposed 2013/2014 budget via a power point presentation.

Comm.
Reports

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Feller reported on the Ed and Policy Committee meeting including the Sick Bank Policy.

Mrs. Golda reported that the Finance Committee met twice regarding the proposed 2013-2014 budget.

Mrs. Marshall attended and reported on NJSBA sessions regarding Common Core State Standards and using data to improve student achievement.

Mrs. Golda reported that Administrator's Negotiations Committee, the Climate Committee and DEAC Committee met.

Dr. Altonjy recommended all personnel items.

I. PERSONNEL

Leave of Absence Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Donna Sbriscia to approve a Maternity/sick leave of absence for Mrs. Tammy Muffley effective P.M. of May 17, 2013 through June 30, 2013. Tammy plans to return at the beginning of the 2013/2014 school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Employ J. Rhinehart Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Donna Sbriscia to approve employment of Mr. John Rhinehart as a part-time custodian at the middle school at an hourly rate of \$12.75/hour for 4 hours per day.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Volunteer Assistant Coaches Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Donna Sbriscia to approve the following individuals as Volunteer Assistant Coaches for the 2013 spring season:

Boys' Tennis	Alexandra Kuebler
Softball	Victoria Rhinehart

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Classroom Observation Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Donna Sbriscia to approve East Stroudsburg University student, Kienda Phillips, to complete a teacher interview [Mr. Detrick] and classroom observation field experience at the high school under the direction of Mr. Clymer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Classroom Observation Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by Donna Sbriscia to approve Temple University student, Victoria Tamburro, to complete her classroom observation field experience at the high school under the direction of Mr. Clymer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

II. EDUCATION AND POLICY

Policies Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by John Bell to approve the second and final reading of the following new and revised selected policies for inclusion in the district's policy manual, as endorsed by the superintendent and Education and Policy Committee:

2468 Independent Educational Evaluations [New]
3412 Placement on Guide Column [Revised]

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Progress Targets Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by John Bell to approve the 2012-2013 Progress Targets Action Plan application.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Travel & Conference Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by John Bell 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 John Bell to approve the attached list of Field Trip Requests. [attached]

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Grant Application Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by John Bell to approve submission of the NJEA Frederick L. Hipp Foundation for Excellence in Education grant application as coordinated and requested by Ms. Alexandra Kuebler.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Teacher Survey Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by John Bell to approve Ms. Noelle Baldwin, high school special education teacher, to survey our teachers in fulfillment of her graduate course requirements.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

III. BUDGET AND FINANCE

Budget Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by John Bell to approve submittal of the preliminary tentative 2013/2014 budget to the Executive County Superintendent for advertising and compliance review with QSAC and Core Content Standards as follows:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
Current Expense	\$32,389,169	\$19,031,621
Capital Outlay	\$ 1,684,189	
Special Revenue	\$ 476,500	
Debt Service	<u>\$ 2,123,021</u>	
Total Base Budget	\$36,672,879	

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Title II-A Grant Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by John Bell to allocate \$15,030 of existing salary of Mrs. Deborah Post to the Title II-A grant.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Therapy Services Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by John Bell to approve an Independent Contractor Agreement with Programs for Little Learners, LLC for ABA therapy services for the 2012/2013 school year at a rate of \$100.00 per hour.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Citizens Part. Citizens Participation:

Mrs. Nelson asked about the repair of the Middle School gym floor and some loose tiles in the 700 wing.

A resident asked about what information will be presented at the public hearing, the two new supervisors and their responsibilities.

Executive Session Moved by John Bell and seconded by Theresa Iacobucci to go into Executive Session as indicated by item c. 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 9:15 p.m.

Reconvene Moved by Theresa Iacobucci and seconded by John Bell to reconvene into open session at 10:33 p.m.

Ayes 8 Nays 0

Adjournment Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to adjourn at 10:35 p.m.

Ayes 8 Nays 0

Maureen Joyce
Business Administrator/Bd. Sec'y.

dmg