

**Warren Hills Regional
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
April 8, 2014**

The Warren Hills Regional Board of Education met in Regular Meeting on April 8, 2014 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, Linda Feller, Kristin Fox, Donna Golda, Kathleen Halpin, Richard Havrisko, Lisa Marshall and Donna Sbriscia. Also present were Thomas Altonjy and Maureen Joyce.

Minutes

Moved by Lisa Marshall and seconded by Kristin Fox to approve the Minutes of the Regular and Executive Session meetings of March 18, 2014.

Ayes 7 Nays 0
Abstain 1 (Sbriscia)

Comm.

Communications: None.

Citizens Part

Citizens Participation:

Mrs. McKelvey asked for an explanation of the bid rejection for the Middle School Boiler project.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Altonjy reported on the following:

1. The **Warren Hills Regional Archery Club** won the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) State Championship for the second year in a row! Twenty-five students competed in the championship and took first place in the High School Division. Katie Cunningham and Thomas Chabbal were the highest scoring male and female in the state! They both will receive a silver bow for their accomplishment.

2. Opinion Editor of our high school newspaper, *The Streak*, Michael Mancuso, has been selected to represent the State of New Jersey at the **AI Neuharth Free Spirit Journalism Conference** this summer in Washington, DC. This is a competitive annual conference requiring an essay, portfolio of published work, and letters of recommendation. Most significantly, only one student is selected from each state annually, and this year, that student is one of our very own! A special note of thanks and recognition to Mrs. Giamoni, for preparing Michael well in debate, and to Mrs. Ioffredo for promoting the Free Spirit Conference application to the attention of advisor, Mrs. McKinney.

3. Thank you to our PTSA for all their efforts in hosting a very successful first annual **Tricky Tray** on 22 March. Over 300 people attended and won nearly 200 prize baskets, which raised over \$13,000 to fund Making All Great Ideas Count (MAGIC) grants. The PTSA is in receipt of 18 applications and will be announcing the recipients later this month.

4. The recent **International Club's Middle School Festival** brought close to 200 students out for the many activities available, and the enjoyment of sampling a variety of dishes from cultures around the world, music, dance, and karaoke in the cafeteria; open gym time for basketball and volleyball; and a movie in the library. Thank you to the many staff members (including high school teachers!), club members, and their advisor, Mrs. Zamora, for their contributions to a wonderful afternoon celebrating diversity and friendship. Another new tradition has begun!

5. We have had several **guest speakers** recently visit our schools! Ms. Patrucker, our middle school French teacher, hosted a Senegalese guest speaker in the Middle School to answer student questions about learning French, her own cultural experiences, and her perceptions of travel in the U.S. Mrs. Kim Eilenberger featured Sandra Polsky, a guest Zumba presenter to work with her students while learning about personal fitness. Staff was invited to attend and to participate in this high energy, healthy activity, and the students in class experienced a new and upbeat way to be active.

6. Several Film Design students were honored for their short films at the **Kent Place Film Festival**. Twelve students received awards for their films being accepted and screened at the festival. These students include: Kevin Kapral, Alan Helimsky, Sarah Brouhle, Joe Misener, Fahad Syed, Phil Koskoff, Carrie Callahan, Julianne Kimble, Wyatt Mayes, John General, Tom Fama, and Peter Despres. John General won the 1st place Jury Award for his film, "Broke and Famous." John received a trophy along with the crystal goblet; a goblet which is intended to be passed from winner to winner at every annual festival. His film also won first place in the Montclair Film Festival, Greater Lehigh Valley Film Festival, and the New Jersey's PTA Reflection's Program earlier this year. John's film was screened at the Garden State Film Festival in Atlantic City this past weekend.

7. High School Health and Physical Education teacher Kim Eilenberger made two presentations at the **65th Annual Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) Conference** in Baltimore, MD on 18-20 March. Her presentations were entitled "Development of Peer-to-Peer Media Interventions for Increasing Self-Awareness: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly about Violence Prevention in the High School" and "Me, Myself and You: Cyber Bullying As A Dangerous Hobby Among Rural High School Students in the 21st Century." Her work was based on needs assessments that were contributed to by Warren Hills Regional students. This work was recognized by an audience of officials from the FDA, the CDC, State Health Departments, as well as epidemiologists, university professors, and health practitioners. Congratulations to Mrs. Eilenberger for her excellent work and wonderful representation of Warren Hills Regional!

8. Forty-two students attended the **2014 Warren County Teen Arts Festival**, presented by the Warren County Cultural and Heritage Commission and hosted by Warren County Community College on 13 & 14 March. Our Warren Hills students participated in workshops related to digital filmmaking processes, sculptural heads, theatrical audition preparation, creative writing techniques, lithography and silk screen print making, Impressionistic style landscape painting, blues guitar, bookbinding, song-writing, conducting, computer 3D modeling with Blender, multimedia with Adobe Flash, and Stage Combat. Critique sessions were conducted to provide participants with one-on-one supportive feedback in the various arts including theater, vocal and instrumental music, creative writing, poetry and prose, painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, and film.

9. Under the creative direction of Mrs. Roost, the **Warren Hills Regional High School yearbook**, *Lamaton*, has been included in "Ideas That Fly," which is a collection showcasing great yearbook work from coast to coast. Thousands of yearbook staffs will use this book as a resource for their own creative ideas in future publications. Inclusion in this national book is a great honor, and Herff Jones provided an award

certificate along with a copy of the book to be showcased.

10. Mathematics and Science **cluster articulation meetings** have occurred during the last several weeks, with grades Six to Nine represented. Mr. Steele, Supervisor of Mathematics and Science, held a mathematics articulation on 20 March. Discussion topics included the 6th grade placement tests, computer-based skills for PARCC, and the upcoming PARCC field tests. On 27 March, Mr. Steele held a science articulation meeting and featured topics included the Next Generation Science Standards website and the standards progression chart. Mr. DeBoer, Ms. Brown, and Mr. Dennison will be facilitating cluster articulations meetings within the coming weeks.

11. On 28 April, our high school environmental science teacher, Mrs. Helle, and her students will travel to Stephens State Park to release the trout they have raised in the classroom in conjunction with the State of NJ program "**Trout in the Classrooms.**" They have been very successful thus far and hopefully the fish will continue to thrive and grow until the release date.

12. The first evening sessions of **GirlsCodingWithGirls**, in which our high school girls teach middle school girls how to program a computer, occurred recently. The middle school girls were excited to learn, and the high school girls were great mentors. Mentors included Adesola Sanusi, Nikki Schott, Annie Topeleski, Emily Rother, Joelle Dowling, Katarina Martucci and Jackie Farkas.

13. Forty-six students were inducted into the **National Honor Society** on 7 April. The current officers spoke about the four pillars and the keynote speaker was English teacher, Mrs. Chiara – a graduate and member of the NHS when she attended Warren Hills Regional High School! Congratulations to these students who have demonstrated scholarship, service, leadership, and character and thank you to advisor, Mrs. Laws, and the Faculty Council comprised of Mrs. DeVivo, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Hogan, Mr. O'Brien, and Mrs. Trifiletti.

14. We returned to a former "tradition" with the **Middle School Winter Sports Awards** that was held during the day on 24 March. Coaches, student athletes, and parents enjoyed the highlights shared of the very successful basketball and wrestling seasons!

15. Congratulations to members of the **Middle School Forensics Club** for placing third overall in the 6th Annual Kiwanis and 16th Annual Warren County Invitational Forensics Tournament. The following individual awards include:

- Individual Oral Interpretation of Poetry:
First Place – Kit Frascella Second Place – Alyssa Appleby

- Original Television Duo Commercial Announcing:
Fourth Place - Cody Jackson and Sara Silva
- Duo Dramatic Interpretation of Literature:
First Place –Kyli Engle Dorathy Johnston
Third Place - Alysia Wojcik and Ymoni Geller
- Lincoln-Douglas Policy/Value Debate:
Second Place – Samantha Monico and Maria Martucci (Affirmative)
Second Place – Owen Donnelly and Ronni Hom (Negative)
Third Place – Gigi Ali and Shannon Vitale (Affirmative)
Third Place – Jason Teets and Edwin Mathew (Negative).

Warm thank you to our high school students who helped out as judges:
Saina Yadlapall, Michael Mancuso, Aubrey Holzman, Jayden Geiser,
Jovannah Perrot-Boyd, Samantha Salvemini, Jenna Henderson, and
Kathryn Terressa

16. The **orientation for the incoming 7th graders** – the class of 2020 – was held Tuesday night, 1 April. The program was very well attended! Students and parents were introduced to some general information and the plans for the evening together in the gym; they then engaged in separate “Transition to Middle School” presentations conducted by our peer leaders (students) and Mrs. Hetrick (parents), along with self- guided tours of the building and our clubs/sports/activities offerings and then enjoyed some light refreshments. We hope this was a very positive step in the transition for families into our district.

17. Congratulations to the middle school’s **Builder’s Club**, facilitated by advisor Ms. Bartek. They led the fundraiser, “Pennies for Patients” and donated over \$600.00 to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The winning 7th grade homeroom with over \$100.00 in donations was Mrs. Paulus’s and the winning 8th grade homeroom with almost \$200.00 in donations was Mrs. DeYoung’s!

18. Ms. Schmidt, one of our high school mathematics teachers, reports that five of our seniors – Mike Teddick, Kyle Watt, Ray Odi, Billy Docker, and Justin Wiggins – participated in this year’s **Moody's Mega Math Challenge**, which is a national competition for scholarship money funded by SIAM (Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics). The students worked for 14 hours on Saturday, 8 March to submit a solution to a real world problem. Out of 1,152 teams from across the nation, our team was one of 200 that made it to the second round of judging. This is only the second time since Warren Hills Regional has participated that we've had a team make it this far! Judging is still going on, so our team has a chance to progress even further!

19. Our **High School March Students of the Month** are:
Devora Russ

Amar Peco
Samantha Wright
Rachael Dabkowski.

20. Our **Ninth Grade Academy March Students of the Month** are:

Male: Cameron Duncan
Female: Paris Boucher
Athlete: Michal Breslin
Artist: Sachi Rodriguez
Pillar: Mave Carroll.

21. During the weekend of 22 & 23 March, eleven Warren Hills Regional High School students competed in the HACKBCA. This was a 24-hour **computer hackathon** hosted by the Bergen County Academy. Each team of students was required to design (hack) a computer software program. Congratulations to Warren Hills' students Chris Flannery, Derrick Anton, Nic Branco, Danny Robbins and Kevin Young whose game placed in the top 20 at the competition!

22. Our **high school robotics team** – Team 219 – had an amazing season. The team discovered that there are some real powerhouse teams out there, and that they have to be perfect even for the chance to be able to compete with them. We all have reason to be proud of our team's accomplishments, as they built a robust and functional robot with a good deal of style, and persevered through some difficult situations. Overall the season was a notable success, even despite the fact that the team finished just outside the regionals qualifying group. The team and advisor, Mr. Eisner, remain undeterred and are outfitted with a better understanding of what it will take to succeed next season.

23. The **KIDZ CONNECTION** organization in the middle school, under advisors Ms. Heslin and Mrs. Flanery, are doing a fine job with our new club. The students, both special education and general education, have shared some activities. The enrollment continues to grow! A trip to the High School Best Buddies was also organized. We are getting wonderful feedback from students and parents!

24. **PARCC Field Testing** is complete. At the high school two sections of Geometry and four sections of Algebra II were tested. At the middle school, two sections of 8th grade Math, and three sections of 7th grade language arts were tested. The teachers of these classes served as “test administrators.” Students worked diligently and took the test seriously. Ms. Russo (District Test Coordinator), Mr. DeBoer, (District Technology Coordinator), Mrs. Rader (HS Test Coordinator), and Mr. Smith (MS Test Coordinator) worked together for planning and implementation purposes. Additionally, the Technology staff, Mrs. Curto, Mr. Fox, and Mrs. Rhoads, were instrumental in working through the process in regard to the technological aspect. The entire team was

consistently present at all administrations. Although there are certainly aspects of the test administration and implementation that need to be worked on and adjusted by PARCC, the field test experience at Warren Hills Regional was a success!

25. **Junior College Planning Night for Parents** was an evening informational session offered to parents recently. This presentation was new this year and was introduced by the guidance department in an effort to keep parents informed, and help ease the stress that can come with going through the college selection process. The evening was well attended and a lot of positive feedback was given. The guidance department looks forward to continuing this invaluable connection with and communication to parents on an annual basis.

26. As we are in the process of planning for the 2014-2015 school year, the two October **college fairs** that visit the high school have been scheduled. One important change to be noted is that one of these dates has been scheduled to take place in the evening this October, as opposed to two sessions during the school day. This was done in an effort to afford parents the opportunity to attend as well. Additionally, it gives students more time to explore the various colleges and universities represented.

27. **Master scheduling meetings** amongst the administration has begun. The first round of administrative meetings focused on the determination of the number of course sections to run based on requests in both the high school and middle school for each department. The supervisors of each department then used the determined number of sections to construct a proposal for teaching assignments, which is in the process of being presented and discussed during the second round of administrative meetings. Additionally, while working on these proposed assignments, supervisors are placing significant importance on the preferences identified by each individual member in their department, communicated via a questionnaire submitted by each teacher to their supervisor.

28. The **SAT Prep Course** has begun. 53 students are participating. Classes are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30-3:30PM for the next few weeks leading up to the 3 May SAT administration at Warren Hills Regional.

29. On 24 March, the **GPA committee** presented a proposal and rationale at both the high school and middle school faculty meetings. This is being followed by a survey in an effort to obtain feedback and input. Earlier this evening, the committee presented to the Board of Education's Education & Policy Committee with an update of their proposal, and tomorrow to the Middle States Steering Committee. Stay tuned for the latest development!

30. **Random Mandatory Drug Testing** at the high school has been ongoing throughout the year. The high school has tested 103 students to date with 101 students testing negative, and two students testing positive. The **Random Voluntary Drug Testing** program at the middle school has tested 25 students. All students have tested negative.

31. Congratulations to the Warren Hills Drama Club for their production of *Once Upon a Mattress*. The cast and crew presented an excellent production! Thanks to our director, Dr. Lubrecht and honorary producer, Mrs. Brown along with Mrs. Voight (vocal director), Mr. Graf (orchestra director), and Ms. Moninghoff (choreographer) for helping our students shine!

32. The **Healthy Options for Today and Tomorrow (H.O.T.T.) club** continued with wellness initiatives for the school and community. Among the items that were, and are available through the club are “zumba” classes in the High School for the community and a “Weight Watchers” group comprised of staff members.

33. After a challenging winter, **spring sports** have started playing their respective games, meets, and matches. Varsity Boys’ Lacrosse opened their season with a 9-3 victory over Phillipsburg while the Varsity Baseball team opened the season with two victories over Somerville and Voorhees. Boys’ Tennis and Softball also recorded victories early in the season.

Comm.
Reports

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Feller reported that Ed & Policy Committee met tonight. She also discussed that Ed & Policy met with the GPA Committee. The results will be discussed at the Middle States meeting tomorrow.

Mr. Havrisko reported that the Wall of Fame Committee met. He also reported that Facilities Committee will meet on April 24th at 5 p.m. at the Middle School Library.

Mrs. Marshall reported on proposed legislation requiring panic alarms for security. She also attended the SBA “Walk in the Paarc” workshop regarding PAARC testing and requirements, including consortium for bandwidth and NJTRAX.

Dr. Altonjy recommended all personnel items.

I. PERSONNEL

Field

Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Daniel Brundage to

Experience approve Ms. Rebecca Camp, Centenary College student, to complete observation hours during the spring semester as part of her field experience under the supervision of Mr. Clymer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Field Experience Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Daniel Brundage to approve Ms. Katelyn Pysker, Penn State University student, to complete observation hours during the spring semester as part of her field experience under the supervision of Mr. Clymer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Parent Volunteer Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Daniel Brundage to approve Mrs. Suzanne Pollack as a parent volunteer for the 2013-2014 school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

II. EDUCATION AND POLICY

Calendar Revision Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by Lisa Marshall to approve a revision to the 2013-2014 school year calendar to reflect Wednesday, May 21st, as an early dismissal day for students to allow for professional development p.m. session for staff, originally scheduled for February 5th.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Calendar Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by Lisa Marshall to approve the 2014-2015 school year calendar per attached.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Policies Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by Lisa Marshall to approve the first 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:

- 0142** Board Member Qualifications, Prohibited Acts and Code of Ethics
- 0146** Board Member Authority
- 0171** Duties of Board President and Vice President
- 0173** Duties of Public School Accountant
- 4219** Commercial Driver Controlled Substance and Alcohol Use Testing
- 3431.1** Family Leave
- 4431.1** Family Leave
- 3431.1** New Jersey's Family Leave Insurance Program
- 4431.3** New Jersey's Family Leave Insurance Program
- 5306** Health Services to Nonpublic Schools

- 5307** Nursing Services Plan
- 5308** Pupil Health Records
- 5310** Health Services

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nayes 0

Policies

Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by Lisa Marshall 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:

- 2431** Athletic Competition – Regulations only
- 3218** Substance Abuse + Regulations
- 4218** Substance Abuse + Regulations
- 4250** Hours and Days of Work
- 4352** Sexual Harassment + Regulations
- 4425.1** Modified Duty Early Return to Work Program + Regulations

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nayes 0

HIB
Cases

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

HS-13-14 – 022

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nayes 0

Field Trip
Requests

Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by Lisa Marshall to approve the following Field Trip Requests.

Requested by:	Trip	Location
Heather Heslin	MS Best Buddies end of year picnic w/high school	Meadow Breeze Park, Washington, NJ
Jason Graf	WHR Marching Band to Broadway Show	New York, NY
Nicole Silvis	N.J. Association of Student Councils Spring Conference	Great Adventure, Jackson, NJ
Cedric Hickerson	DECA student to DECA International Conference	Atlanta, GA
Maggie Devine	MS Horizons to Robotics Tournament	Lopatcong Township Middle School

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nayes 0

Travel &
Conference

Moved by Linda Feller and seconded by Lisa Marshall to approve the following Travel and Conference Requests.

NAME	TITLE	LOCATION	COST
Ari Eisner	AP Annual Conference	Philadelphia, PA	\$455. Regist. + Lodging, incidentals & Mileage
Jesse O'Neill & Patrick O'Brien	AP Annual Conference	Philadelphia, PA	\$140. Regist. [each] + Mileage
Maureen Joyce	NJASBO Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	\$150. Regist. + Lodging, incidentals & Mileage

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nayes 0

III. BUDGET AND FINANCE

Tuition Contract Moved by Donna Sbriscia and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to approve a Special Education Tuition Contract for Student 36-14 to attend Warren County Special Services School District for the 2013-2014 school year, commencing March 13, 2014, at a tuition rate of \$12,819.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nayes 0

Joint Transportation Moved by Donna Sbriscia and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to approve a Resolution for Participation in Joint Transportation with Sussex County Regional Cooperative for the 2014-2015 school year, including a 4% administration fee.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nayes 0

Food Services Moved by Donna Sbriscia and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to approve food service account transactions for the months of January through March, 2014.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nayes 0

Boiler Bids Moved by Donna Sbriscia and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to reject all bids for the Boiler Replacement at the Warren Hills Regional Middle School per attached Resolution.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nayes 0

Citizens Part. Citizens Participation: None.

Executive Session Moved by Lisa Marshall and seconded by Daniel Brundage 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 7:23 p.m.

Reconvene Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Daniel Brundage to reconvene into open session at 9:49 p.m.

Ayes 8 Nays 0

Adjournment Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Kristin Fox to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

Ayes 8 Nays 0

Maureen Joyce
Business Administrator/Bd. Sec'y.

dmg