

**Warren Hills Regional
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
March 4, 2014**

The Warren Hills Regional Board of Education met in Regular Meeting on March 4, 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 John Bell, Daniel Brundage, 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 John Bell to approve the Minutes of the Regular and Executive Session meetings of February 18, 2014.

Ayes 7 Nays 0
Abstain 1 (Brundage)

Comm.

Communications: None.

Citizens Part

Citizens Participation: None.

Supt's Report

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Altonjy reported on the following:

1. The film students have been in the process of entering some of their creations into film festivals. **John General received two awards for his films** at a screening ceremony on 27 February 2014 at Montclair University. John tied for the Grand Prize for his film “Broke and Famous,” and he also received an Honorable Mention for another film entitled “Greener Grass.” General's film imagines a boy making a drum set out of cardboard boxes. "I never do films for applause. I do them for me, but winning prizes like this tells me that I'm going in the right direction. It gives me that boost," General said. General is a repeat winner who won last year with his film "Painted Love.”
2. The **Prism Concert** was held on 26 February 2014. The concert featured the talents of band and choir students in various ensembles. The theme for the evening was “Under the C.” Everyone enjoyed the evening!
3. **WINGS held its annual showcase** in the high school library to provide a program about the opportunities to expand student business experiences. The showcase was run by Mr. Hickerson and several upperclassmen and featured a video about the WINGS Program.
4. Congratulations to the Warren Hills **Political Science and Law Debate Team** on their bold accomplishments at the 2014 Harvard Model Congress held on 20 – 23 February 2014 in Boston, MA.

The highlights of the conference include:

All twelve students attending were recipients of the HMC 2014 Scholarship Award. The HMC 2014 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 2014 Scholarship Award Recipients are: Antonia Adalakun, Joelle Dowling, James Duffy, Brian Hepp, Michael Mancuso, Megan McGaha, Adesola Sanusi, Rob Servilio, Jacqueline Sesholtz, Anne Marie Ward, Kenneth Wilson, and Saina Yadlapalli.

Students earned the following achievements through vigorous debate requiring their ability to understand the issues, develop arguments, and present them in both oral and written form to audiences ranging in size from 20-700:

- James Duffy and Saina Yadlapalli received “Outstanding Delegate Performance in the Supreme Court” Awards.
- Rob Servilio received “Outstanding Delegate in the Senate” Award for his contributions in the Senate Committee of Environment and Public Works.
- Michael Mancuso received an “Award of Excellence” for his contributions in the Constitutional Convention Special Program.

- Jacqueline Sesholtz received an “Award of Excellence” for her journalistic contributions in the Harvard Model Congress Media Special Program.
- Adesola Sanusi co-authored a bill about education reform, specifically with on-line education and school infrastructure in the Presidential Cabinet Special Program.
- Brian Hepp created the structure of the executive branch in the Constitutional Convention Special Program.
- Antonia Adelokun, Joelle Dowling, and Kenneth Wilson presented friendly amendments and were Signatories for a drug mentoring program that would teach Afgan police officials how to effectively implement drug law enforcement. This bill passed in the Full House.
- Anne Marie Ward co-authored a bill that provided incentives for states that encouraged the use of wind power.
- Megan McGaha authored a bill entitled the “Hands Off” Cryptocurrencies Act that would allow the crypto-currency market to remain private while still monitoring it. She also authored the “Education Reconstruction Act” that provided state incentives for education in both trade and college-bound students in order to strengthen the workforce.

5. **The high school counselors have met with 8th grade students from both the Middle School and Oxford.** Parents were invited to these individual scheduling meetings as well to be part of the milestone transition to the high school. The guidance department hoped to convey that parent input and involvement is welcome, necessary, and important for a successful transition to and experience in the high school! Additionally, the counselors have begun individual meetings with the Juniors. Following the Juniors, they will hold individual scheduling meetings with the Sophomores, and then Freshmen. As implemented last year, and in an effort to promote parent communication and involvement, the counselors send home a hard copy of the students’ course selections requiring a parent signature verifying that the parent has reviewed and agrees with the recommendations of the teacher and elective choices of the student.

6. This week, the **High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA)** is being administered to the Juniors. This will be the last administration of the HSPA to the Juniors as a class as we move into the new PARCC model of statewide testing.

7. Congratulations to **SAVE** members Erica Schaumberg and Jessica Feinstein for their community outreach and contributions for the NJ Flower and Garden Show youth exhibit, "Save our Seas and Shores." As Green Team Leaders, they completed portions of the Warren Jr. Gardeners Educational Youth display about protection and restoration of the dunes.

The exhibit included a sand dune scene, painting by Jessica, signs, text, and a sea turtle design, with a table top display providing dune plant info and dune wildlife handouts. It was displayed at the NJ Convention & Expo Center in Edison through 16 February.

Congratulations to another contributor, Rachel Kohansby, for her research as part of her internship through her Agriculture course. The exhibit received two Top Show ribbons, "First Place" and "Best in Show" for a Youth Educational Exhibit. The exhibit has been requested for display at the NJ Clean Communities State Teen Awards Event on 21 May 2014 and the Garden Club of NJ's State Annual Meeting in June.

An individual High Honor was received by Erica Schaumberg for photography, winning "First Place" in her Teen Photography category with one of the highest scores being awarded, a "Best In Show" ribbon for the Youth Crafts Division.

8. The Warren Hills Regional **Robotics team**, led by captains Kyle Watt and Billy Docker, successfully completed construction of its robot for the F.I.R.S.T. Robotics competitions upcoming in March. The dedication and drive displayed by the team members was truly inspirational. The solutions they conceived and the adversity they overcame are testament to how the program provides them an opportunity to develop real world problem solving skills. The robotics team would like to thank the Warren Hills Regional Board of Education, the Warren Hills High School Administration, custodial staff and their outstanding parents who gave of their time and knowledge to insure a successful build season. We invite interested community members to attend our next competition on 29-30 March at Bridgewater-Raritan HS. There's no charge for admission, and it's a fun time for the whole family.

9. The Warren Hills business students recently competed in the **DECA** business competition. The competition is comprised of a test in a business area and a real life 'role play' where students are presented with a difficult business situation. The students have 15 minutes to brainstorm ideas and then present their solution to a judge from the business world. Fifteen (15) Warren Hills students earned top honors in their categories and qualified for the state competition in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Pam Rodriguez was awarded a \$44,000 scholarship through DECA to attend Johnson & Wales University. She will join past DECA scholarship winners Tony Marra, Riva Haas, Melissa Blanchard, Kayla Sisco, and Nicole Maione.

10. **Go Red Day**, a campaign for Women's Heart Health, was held at the high school on 21 February. The faculty and staff raised \$220 to be donated to the American Heart Association! Thanks to all who participated!

11. The middle school Peer Leaders and their advisor, Ms. Hollenbeck sponsored the **Student/Staff volleyball tournament** on 18 February after

school. The staff and students had a great time and raised over \$150.00 to purchase “Welcome to Warren Hills” backpacks and WH items to fill them with for students new to the middle school. And it is no surprise, but once again, the students were victorious over the middle school staff! The winning team was made up of the following 8th grade students: Yousef Elmalhy, Nick Haffner, James Jordan, Cooper Gabrich, Noah Cavanaugh, Brandon Humphrey, Kaden Piccione, Jack Knowles and Logan Rettio.

12. The middle school held its 3rd annual **Student Recognition/Spirit Rally** on the snow date of Friday, 21 February. Students were recognized for their achievements in such areas as earning honor roll distinction, character awards, students of the month, good attendance, club and activity participation, essay and other competition/contest winners, spelling bee winners, PTSA Reflections winners, and more! The student council planned competitions for students to engage in with staff and the most spirited students were recognized and rewarded; in addition, random students were selected to receive Warren Hills “spirit gear.” The 7th grade class earned the most “spirit points” and their most spirited student, Jacob Korczukowski, had the pleasure of culminating the event by being given the opportunity to “pie” the teacher representatives with the most spirit: Ms. Feldman and Mr. Nordmark, who were both VERY good sports! Many thanks to all involved – it was truly a collaborative and very worthwhile effort in a winter where we all are feeling an immense sense of “cabin fever!”

13. Thank you to the middle school staff and to Mrs. Lois Amato for taking the initiative to facilitate the collection of jeans in the “**Jeans for Teens**” program. 47 pairs of jeans were collected from the middle school staff and donated to the cause.

14. Thank you to Mrs. Zellner and the middle school staff for their contributions to the **Helping Hands Fund** to assist a family that recently lost everything in a fire. To date, the middle school staff has donated over \$1,000.00 and various items of clothing!

15. Congratulations to the **wrestling** team who won the team title at the District 1 NJSIAA Wrestling tournament. Individual champions from Warren Hills were freshman Matt Valli at 113 lbs, Junior Maxwell Nauta at 132 lbs, Senior Ryan Ostir at 160 lbs, and Junior Andrew Pacheco at Heavyweight (285 lbs). Joining these wrestlers in qualifying for the region tournament as third place winners were Austin Podoto, Kurt Nemeth, Steve Cleaver, and Ryan Witner. Zach Nauta, Anthony Roessner, and Shane Deemer all placed 4th.

This past weekend, Coach Hosbach reported and thanked our district for its support of the wrestlers at regionals and informed us that “all wrestlers had a worthy experience and represented our school with class and pride.” Two wrestlers qualified for the state tournament

(Andrew Pacheco and Maxwell Nauta) scheduled for this weekend in Atlantic City.

16. Five of our boys **swimmers** (Mike Teddick, Mike Allen, Liam Breslin, Hunter Page, and Michael Breslin) competed at the *Meet of Champions* this past weekend in south NJ. They placed 22nd in the state out of several hundred teams!

17. As required twice a year, below are our figures for the **Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System (EVVRS)**:

School	Category	Type	Number of Incidences		
			11-12	12-13	13-14 [Period 1]
Middle School	Violence	Assault	0	0	0
		Fight	2	0	0
		HIB	25	17	1
		Threat	0	1	0
		UNDUPLICATED TOTAL	27	18	1
	Vandalism	Damage to Property	0	0	0
		Theft	0	0	0
		Fire Alarm Offense	0	1	0
		UNDUPLICATED TOTAL	0	1	0
	Weapon	Other Weapon Used in Offense	0	0	0
Possession of Other Weapon		1	0	0	
UNDUPLICATED TOTAL		1	0	0	
Substance Abuse	Use confirmed	0	0	0	
	Possession	0	0	0	
	Distribution	0	0	0	
	UNDUPLICATED TOTAL	0	0	0	
School	Category	Type	Number of Incidences		
			11-12	12-13	13-14 [Period 1]
High School	Violence	Assault	2	7	2
		Fight	3	9	1
		HIB	38	14	1
		Threat	0	2	1
		UNDUPLICATED TOTAL	43	32	5
	Vandalism	Damage to Property	1	3	0
		Theft	2	0	2
		Fire Alarm Offense	0	0	1
		UNDUPLICATED TOTAL	3	3	3

	Weapon	Other Weapon Used in Offense	0	2	0
		Possession of Other Weapon	0	0	0
		UNDUPLICATED TOTAL	0	0	0
	Substance	Use Confirmed	0	2	3
	Abuse	Possession	6	3	1
		Distribution	0	1	0
		UNDUPLICATED TOTAL	6	4	3

In total, the following summarizes the total unduplicated incidences:

Category	Middle School			High School		
	11-12	12-13	13-14 [Period 1]	11-12	12-13	13-14 [Period 1]
Violence	27	18	1	43	32	5
Vandalism	0	1	0	3	3	3
Weapon	1	0	0	0	0	0
Substance Abuse	0	0	0	6	4	3
TOTAL	28	19	1	52	39	11

18. Recently, the New Jersey Department of Education released the annual **School Performance Reports** (formerly known as the state report cards). The reports for both the middle school and the high school will be posted on the district website and sent with my report to the staff, as well. Some thoughts and ideas for consideration:

- According to the NJDOE, "...these reports are not designed for statewide rankings, or to focus on which school is outperforming another school...data is meant to drive reflection, not judgment, and we will do our best to keep the conversation focused on productive dialogue..."
- To that end, these reports have been reviewed by the administration and the dialogue has begun!
- We recognize that there is room for improvement, but remember that we have continuously trended upward in the last several years as has been reported in our mandated assessment report each fall.
- The upward trend is also seen in these reports looking at the progress of our students from middle school to high school.
- Included are the report card narratives for both the district and each school.
- The **middle school performance areas** include *Academic Achievement* (based upon the NJASK), *College and Career Readiness* (based upon the percent of students taking Algebra I and chronic absenteeism), and *Student Growth* (based upon SGP in Language Arts and Mathematics).

- The **high school performance areas** include *Academic Achievement* (based upon the NJHSPA), *College and Career Readiness* (based upon participation levels and success rates on PSAT, SAT/ACT, and AP testing), and *Graduation and Postsecondary* (based upon the graduation and dropout rate).
- We will absolutely use this data as part of further conversations, particularly under the umbrella of our Middle States strategic plan. The reports will surface in department and faculty meetings, as well as when committees meet for Middle States.
- There certainly has surfaced opinions as to the validity of these reports, but if we continue to remember that data can help us to make informed decisions as we plan for the future, then the ongoing review of this data is important and justified.

Comm.
Reports

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Sbriscia reported on the Budget and Finance Committee meeting which included presentations by the Supervisors, Directors and Principals. Preliminary budget requests exceed revenue so we will continue working on it together.

Mrs. Marshall reported on the Ed & Policy Committee review of policies. Next meeting is March 25th.

Mr. Havrisko reported on the Facilities Committee meeting attended by DRG Architects regarding upcoming Middle School project and an HVAC upgrade. Also discussed was the preparation of a Long Range Facilities Plan. Also discussed was future use of the rental house and Project Excel building. Next walk-around of Middle School will be April 24th.

Mrs. Golda reported that Personnel met with the administrators.

Mr. Havrisko reported that Wall of Fame Committee met to plan the Wall of Fame banquet.

Dr. Altonjy recommended all personnel items.

I. PERSONNEL

Employ
A. Slack

Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Donna Sbriscia to approve employment of Mr. Adam Slack as an Industrial Arts teacher for the 2013-2014 school year on Step G-7, B+15, with an annual salary of \$57,318, prorated, effective as soon as practical.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nayes 0

Leave Absence Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Donna Sbriscia to approve a maternity disability leave for Mrs. Meghan McGeehan, effective May 27, 2014 through June 30, 2014. Meghan plans to return to WHR for the 2014-2015 school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Change Leave Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Donna Sbriscia to approve a change in the maternity disability leave for Mrs. Kim Kavcak effective 3/10/14 through 4/15/14 and a Family Leave of Absence, without pay, for the period 4/16/14 through 5/30/2014. Kim plans to return to WHR on June 2, 2014.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Employment Change Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Donna Sbriscia to approve a change in employment for Ms. Lyandra Ross, maternity replacement middle school Social Studies teacher [K. Kavcak] to reflect, Monday, March 10, 2014 as the official start date through May 30, 2014.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Coach Change Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Donna Sbriscia to approve a change in softball coaching positions to reflect Renee Smola as middle school coach and Nicole Cruts as junior varsity assistant coach with the following change in salaries:

Nicole Cruts	Step 1	\$4,218
Renee Smola	Step 4	\$4,835 + \$600 longevity

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Weight Room Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Donna Sbriscia to approve employment of Mr. Rob Cacchio as a weight room co-advisor for the spring season with a stipend of \$1,375.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Stipend Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Donna Sbriscia to approve a \$1,300 travel stipend for Ms. Lourdes Garcia for the first semester of the 2013-2014 school year, per WHREA contract.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Volunteer Coach Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Donna Sbriscia to approve Mr. Jeff Walters as a volunteer baseball coach for the 2013-2014 spring season.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nayes 0

II. EDUCATION AND POLICY

Policies Moved by Lisa Marshall and seconded by Kathleen Halpin 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:

- 2415.05** Pupil Surveys, Analysis and/or Evaluations
- 2417** Pupil Intervention and Referral Services
- 2431.3** Practice and Pre-Season Heat-Acclimation for Interscholastic Athletics
- 2431.31** Summer Athletic Activities
- 2435** NJSIAA Random Testing for Interscholastic Athletics
- 2481** Home or Out-of-School Instruction for General Education Pupils + Regs
- 2700** Services to Nonpublic School Pupils
- 3130** Assignment and Transfer
- 3134** Assignment of Additional Duties
- 3150** Discipline
- 3152** Withholding an Increment
- 3211** Attendance + Regulations [**formerly 3212**]
- 3215** Code of Ethics [**formerly 3211**]
- 3250** Hours and Days of Work
- 3340** Grievance
- 3425.1** Modified Duty Early Return to Work Program – Teaching Staff Members + Regs

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nayes 0

Policies Moved by Lisa Marshall and seconded by Kathleen Halpin 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:

- 3160** Physical Examination
- 4123** Probationary Period
- 4130** Assignment and Transfer
- 4150** Discipline
- 4152** Freezing or Reducing Wages
- 4160** Physical Examiantion
- 4211** Attendance
- 4215** Code of Ethics
- 4340** Grievance

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nayes 0

HIB
Cases

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

MS-13-14 – 011
HS-13-14 – 014-017

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nayes 0

Field Trip
Requests

Moved by Lisa Marshall and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to approve the following Field Trip Requests.

Requested by:	Trip	Location
Shannon McDowell	AU/MD classes – Community Based Instruction	Callies’s Candy & Pretzel Shop & Wendy’s – Cresco, PA & Mt. Pocono, PA
Richard Patricia	Film Design I, II & III classes to film workshops & award ceremony	Jackson, NJ
Maggie Devine	Horizons to Warren/ Hunterdon Academic Meet [WHAM]	North Hunterdon High School
Maggie Devine	Horizons to Environmental Student Summit	Gateway National Recreation Area-Sandy Hook, NJ
Jessica Rader	LD Classes – social skills & team building, character development	Camp Mohican, Blairstown, NJ
Cynthia Laws	National Honor Society to assist with Special Olympics	Fairleigh Dickinson University
Debbie Rokosny	Genocide Class to Human Rights Conference	Kean University
Cynthia Bamford	Key Club District Convention	Long Branch, NJ

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nayes 0

Vandalism
& Violence

Moved by Lisa Marshall and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to accept the Vandalism & Violence Report for the first reporting period of the 2013-2014 school year, as reported by the superintendent.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Nayes 0

Observation Moved by Lisa Marshall and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to approve East Stroudsburg University student, Fred Jennings, to complete his 15 hour public school observation requirement, under the direction of Mr. Earl Clymer, for the period March 17-21, 2014.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Neyes 0

Observation Moved by Lisa Marshall and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to approve Warren County Community College student, Chris Daconzo, to complete his 15 hour public school observation requirement, under the direction of Mr. Earl Clymer, during the spring semester.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Neyes 0

Nursing Plan Moved by Lisa Marshall and seconded by Kathleen Halpin to approve the revised Nursing Services Plan for submission to the Warren County Department of Education.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Neyes 0

III. BUDGET AND FINANCE

Corrective Action Plan Moved by Donna Sbriscia and seconded by Lisa Marshall to approve the NCLB Title I Audit Corrective Action Plan for the Fiscal Year 11-12, based on the findings presented and discussed. [attached]

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes 8 Neyes 0

Citizens Part. Citizens Participation:

Parent, Joanne Harrison, asked about academic eligibility for athletics with regard to failing electives at the middle school which does not affect promotion to the next grade.

Parent, Mike DeFeo, asked a question about the policies regarding Code of Conduct for staff.

Executive Session Moved by John Bell 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 7:37 p.m.

Reconvene Moved by Daniel Brundage and seconded by John Bell to reconvene into open session at 8:20 p.m.

Ayes 8 Nays 0

Adjournment Moved by Kathleen Halpin and seconded by Kristin Fox to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

Ayes 8 Nays 0

Maureen Joyce
Business Administrator/Bd. Sec’y.

dmg