

4/2/24 COW and Special Voting

The meetings began with two fantastic student presentations:

1. The Future Cities team presented their vision of Sydney, Australia that took a 3rd place NATIONAL title in the future city competition this year.
2. Students that just returned from a trip to Costa Rica led by the Warwick Spanish teacher Sra. Rivera shared their favorite parts of the trip and thanked the district for approval of this trip.

The **Special Voting Meeting** included staffing updates that can be viewed in the meeting agenda or forthcoming meeting minutes on the district website.

- A public comment before the meeting included dissatisfaction with the choice to hire outside the district for the position of head girls basketball coach and suggested that a conflict of interest for administration influenced the hiring process
- A board member later motioned to separate the vote for the basketball coach from the broader group of staffing votes, which all passed unanimously.

(The vote to separate the basketball coach item passed with a single no vote)

- Board members then described community outreach by email and in person that raised concerns about the hiring process.
- They also described a swift response from the district to share how the hiring process was conducted.
- One board member noted that discussion with admin and other board members about this issue took up 6 hours of his day recently.
- Several board members stated clearly that the response they received from the district eliminated any concerns that a policy violation or conflict of interest was present in the hiring process.

Ultimately, the hire was approved with a vote of 7 yes and 1 no.

One board member abstained from the vote, citing a conflict of interest but did not elaborate further.

The open community representative spot on the Student Activities Committee was filled.

From there, the board returned to **Committee of the Whole** agenda:

The architectural firm and construction management firm for the field house project presented information about the final costs of that project and the change orders associated with it.

The district's Special Education Plan was presented and will be available on the district website for 28 days to gather feedback before the board votes on it in May. Be sure to check it out.

The district's budget was reviewed both in COW and in the **Finance & Legal committee** prior to it.

- Cindy attended Finance & Legal, noting that advisors from Raymond James presented to that committee and the district's credit rating has Warwick in a good position to handle its debt related to construction projects.
- A slight tax increase of .75% is anticipated, but the proposed budget will not be voted on until June.
- The district's contribution to the IU13 budget was recommended for approval.

Two policies were discussed

715 Naming & Honoring Rights:

- A board member indicated a plan to making a suggestion to remove the criteria that honorees are non-living but acknowledged that the overall board may not support that.
- A process to establish some type of 'Circle of Honor' that is outside this policy is apparently in the works and will be discussed in Building & Property Committee.
- Board members would like to evaluate that process before considering changes to policy 715.
- A related public comment was made at the end of the meeting on behalf of the Derr family in support of naming the turf field for Coach Derr without further delay.

903 Public Comment at Meetings:

- The board heard from the district on the impact of posting meeting recordings. An evaluation of current process among other schools within the IU was shared showing a spectrum of streaming and recording among other schools.
- Discussion centered around a plan to maintain recordings for 1 month via a YouTube channel for the district that is capable of closed captioning.
- The solicitor's input will be sought on that plan before it is voted on.
- The board continued to discuss management of public comments via this policy.
- Several board members are strongly opposed to limiting comments that may be defamatory despite the policy specifically calling out defamation as a cause to end a public comment.
- The board will discuss communicating expectations for public comments, but otherwise, no changes to that part of the policy seem to be under way.

April Committee Meetings

April Committee meeting wrap-up (for more detailed minutes head to official minutes on the district site):

Student Activities Committee was held 4/4/24 and attended by Cindy:

One board representative on the committee was present, plus an additional board member in the audience.

The meeting was brief and the overnight trips for students involved in track and Science Olympiad listed on the agenda were recommended for board approval

Building and Property Committee was held last night and attended by Cindy:

Both board representatives were present

The main agenda item was to begin development of a way to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the district, beyond the naming of facilities.

- Possible titles for the program were listed, as well as criteria for the recognition, and various ways and places the names of honorees could be displayed.
- Further discussion will be held at the May COW meeting.

An update on the HS renovation was reviewed, including a positive change order!

Education Committee was also last night and attended by Kimberly:

Both board representatives on the committee were present, plus an additional board member in the audience.

Several curriculum updates were reviewed and recommended for approval at the upcoming Voting Meeting.

Board members were asked at the end of each discussion item if there were any concerns about moving the item forward to the voting meeting.

The recommended updates are:

- Elementary and Secondary Science curriculum updates needed to meet new state requirements due by the 25/26 school year.
 - By starting these updates for next school year the district hopes to be well-prepared to meet the new state requirements the following year.
 - The updates will help build on Science concepts in 5 core areas from year to year in grades K-5 with less repetition and more opportunity for cross-curriculum learning in ELA
 - No textbook changes were requested
- An update to the elementary SEAD curriculum was reviewed with emphasis on career-ready skills and responsible citizenship.
 - The format of SEAD delivery won't change from the current short daily homeroom lessons paired with occasional counselor-led lessons.
 - The theme of lessons in some months will change or be renamed.
 - No textbook changes
- An Essentials of Art virtual course was proposed that would replace an online course that is currently purchased for HS WVA students but is not considered to be up to Warwick standards despite meeting state standards in art. This new course will be developed by Warwick staff and include hands-on learning in art.
- Updates to AP US Government were reviewed to incorporate updates made by the college board for this course and to help prepare students for the AP exam.
 - No textbook changes

- Updates to the Honors Civics and US government course were reviewed to reverse the order of the last 3 units and make the Summer reading assignment more manageable.
 - No textbook changes
- Sociology course updates were reviewed
 - The changes to course organization are proposed to allow for better delivery of the Youthcourt portion of the class in which students train to review select minor infractions incurred by their peers (tardiness, dress code violations, phone use in class).
 - Students are referred by administrators with permission of BOTH the student AND the parent.
 - Youthcourt was previously approved for a pilot that took place in the 21/22 school year.
 - The program aims to blend discipline with development of skills or understanding to prevent reoccurring infractions.
 - The students in class hear about the infraction, examine what is contributing to the issue and then issue a disposition that is an alternative to traditional discipline like detention.
 - The disposition provides an opportunity for the student to accept responsibility AND make changes that prevent reoccurrence through understanding.
 - The handbook for Youthcourt was previously approved so it is not requested but newer editions of other texts for this course are being requested. Head to the comments for info on how to review those materials.
- Updates to the 7th and 8th grade social studies courses were reviewed that were limited to some re-ordering of the units and alignment of the tests with the trimester cycle rather than a mid-term and a final.
 - No text book changes

April Voting Meeting - ILC

All board members were present:

The meeting opened with a moment of silence for retired Warwick educator Dr. Gail Ekstrand who passed away March 22, 2024. Dr. Ekstrand was a dedicated member of Warwick's administration for over a decade and served as principal for Lititz El.

WGAL attended the meeting, and LNP covered it as well due to concerns raised about the Board President and Vice President meeting with Independence Law Center last week.

Board members were noticeably more reserved and quiet throughout the meeting compared to recent meetings where lengthy discussions and questions from board members have been common.

Several community members spoke out about concerns with the board members meeting with ILC again but the only response to concerns from the board was that discussion about that meeting can be expected at the May Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for

May 7, 2024 at 7pm

Staffing: Look for a full list of staffing updates in the meeting minutes or agenda on the district site

- Retirement for Director of Student Services, Colleen Heckman effective Aug. 30, 2024, was approved.
- We wish Mrs. Heckman well in her retirement and know she will be missed by many across the district.

Policy readings were approved, including updates to Policy 903: Public Comment at Board meetings were approved

A professional coaching contract in the amount of \$3,500 was approved.

The proposed budget for next year was approved unanimously, including a **0.75% tax** increase. The final budget won't be voted on until June.

A change order to address sewer maintenance in the HS renovation project was approved.

Recommendations from the Education Committee, Finance & Legal Committee, and Student Activities Committee were all approved (they are listed above or meeting minutes are available via the district website).

Learn as much as you can about the ILC. There is plenty of information out there about their operation in other districts and costly outcomes.