Warwick School District

Lititz, PA 17543

January 19, 2016

A meeting of the Warwick Board of School Directors of the Warwick School District convened in the District Board room on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Quinn, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

The Board Secretary called the roll of the Board: Dr. Timothy Quinn, Millard P. Eppig, Jr., Michael R. Landis, Leslie Penkunas, Nelson L. Peters, Todd L. Rucci, Benedict R. Sahd, Scott A. Shaub, and Debra J. Wenger, were present. Abigael Weit, Student Representative, was absent.

Others attending the meeting: Dr. April Hershey, Superintendent; Dr. Robin Felty, Assistant Superintendent; Melanie Calender, Assistant to the Superintendent; Nathan Wertsch, Business Manager; Mark Leidich; Kevin Martzall; Lori Zimmerman; Fred Griffiths; Karen Miller; Dr. Ryan Berardi; Jennifer Murphy; Dr. Ryan Axe; Laurie Knowles of Lancaster Newspapers/Lititz Record Express; Laura Sahd; Samanta Smith; Lee Walter; and Lisa Hochreiter.

BOARD RECOGNITION

The meeting opened with Dr. Hershey thanking the School Board Members for their countless hours volunteering, at meetings, events, workshops, and in thought and prayer over the Warwick School District, as part of the National School Directors Recognition Month. Dr. Hershey acknowledged the gifts of appreciation from each of the buildings - the "Messages in a Bottle" from students provided by the Elementary Schools, the Library book donation by the Middle School, and High School Principal, Dr. Ryan Axe, personally noted that we are "blessed for their support".

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

Lisa Hochreiter, WEA – thanked the School Board Members for their service.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Eppig moved, Mrs. Wenger seconded, the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed 9-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Regular meeting of December 15, 2015)

Mr. Eppig moved, Mr. Peters seconded, the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of December 15, 2015.

Motion passed 9-0.

TREASURERS REPORT

Mr. Landis presented the Treasurer's Report. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. The Treasurer's Report was accepted 9-0 by the Board.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

The following bills were presented for payment by Mr. Landis. A copy of the bills with wire transfer information is attached to these minutes.

General Fund \$1,158,240.38 Wire Transfers \$3,087,071.39

Construction Fund None Cafeteria Fund \$160,546.14 Middle School Fund \$2,005.00 High School Fund \$14,086.49

Mr. Landis moved, Mr. Peters seconded, the motion to approve payment of the bills as presented.

On roll call vote:

Ayes: Dr. Quinn, Mr. Eppig, Mr. Landis, Mrs. Penkunas, Mr. Peters,

Mr. Rucci, Mr. Sahd, Mr. Shaub, and Mrs. Wenger

Abstain: None Nays: None Absent: None

COMMUNICATIONS

Communication was received electronically from Mr. Don Gallagher, community member, on concussions, and was forwarded to all Board members. A copy of the correspondence has been attached to these Minutes.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. **PERSONNEL**

A. Resignations

It was recommended that the Board approve the resignation of the following individuals:

Education Committee

Priscilla Stoner as a community member of this committee, effective December 14, 2015.

Non-Instructional

Julie Caracci as a Learning Support Assistant at John Beck Elementary School effective January 4, 2016.

Lindsey Brenner as a Secretary at Warwick High School, effective January 20, 2016.

Cheri Manz as a Secretary at Warwick High School, effective December 16, 2015.

Alisa Goldsborough as a Special Needs Assistant at Warwick High School, effective January 20, 2016.

Extra-Duty/Extra Curricular

Alyson Kernion as an Assistant Softball Coach at Warwick High School, effective January 4, 2016.

Tammy Mill as Musical House Manager at Warwick High School, effective August 14, 2015.

Mr. Eppig moved, Mr. Peters seconded, the motion to approve the resignation of the individuals named above.

On voice vote:

Ayes: Dr. Quinn, Mr. Eppig, Mr. Landis, Mrs. Penkunas, Mr. Peters,

Mr. Rucci, Mr. Sahd, Mr. Shaub, and Mrs. Wenger

Abstain: None Nays: None Absent: None

B. Elections

It was recommended that the Board approve the election of the following individuals subject to all preemployment requirements and clearance checks:

Instructional

Kendra Pinkosky as a Math Teacher at Warwick Middle School, at the annual salary of \$47,224.00, effective January 25, 2016. Ms. Pinkosky is replacing Betsy Kemper who retired.

Instructional – LTS

Deborah French as a Long Term Substitute (LTS) Art Teacher at Warwick Middle School, at the annual salary of \$47,224.00, effective on the first day of the second semester of the 2015-2016 school year. Ms. French is replacing Melissa Reifsnyder who has extended her childcare leave through the end of the third marking period of the 2015-2016 school year.

Robert Muehlbach as a Long Term Substitute (LTS) Math Teacher at Warwick High School, at the annual salary of \$47,224.00, effective January 28, 2016. Mr. Muehlbach is replacing Rob Sperry who will be on sabbatical.

Non-Instructional

Lisa Winters as a Learning Support Assistant at John Beck Elementary School, 2.0 hours/day, at the hourly rate of \$11.25, effective pending receipt of the appropriate paperwork. Ms. Winters is replacing Kathy Sozzi who received a change of status.

Jacob Buckwalter as a Special Needs Assistant at Warwick High School, 5.5 hours/day, at the hourly rate of \$11.25, effective January 20, 2016, pending receipt of the appropriate paperwork. Mr. Buckwalter is replacing Alisa Goldsborough who resigned.

Extra-Duty/Extra Curricular

Matt Bomberger as Senior High Track Assistant Coach at Warwick High School, at the annual salary of \$3,497.00, effective for the 2015/2016 school year. Mr. Bomberger is replacing Ed Nixdorf who resigned.

Connie Hilliar as Musical House Manager (50%) at Warwick High School, at the annual salary of \$668.70, for the 2015-2016 school year. Ms. Hilliar is replacing Tammy Mill who resigned and will be sharing this position with Jennifer Jerchau.

Jennifer Jerchau as Musical House Manager (50%) at Warwick High School, at the annual salary of \$668.70, for the 2015-2016 school year. Mrs. Jerchau is replacing Tammy Mill who resigned and will be sharing this position with Connie Hilliar.

Independent Volunteers

It was recommended that the Board approve the election of the individuals listed below as independent volunteers, effective January 20, 2016, until they submit their resignations or have their active status changed by the district.

Amanda Bitner	Sonya Heisey	Melissa Jeanes
Sherry Bomberger	Stephanie Hench	Sarah McDevitt
Alicia Gochnauer	Sarah Hummer	Lance Taylor
Michael Heisey	Bonnie Ingraham	Marji Worrell

Volunteer Coaches

It was recommended that the Board approve the election of the individuals listed below as volunteer coaches, effective January 20, 2016, until they submit their resignation or have their active status changed by the district.

Michael Hess Austin Maguire Troy Keebler Kristy Szobocsan

District Approved Photographers

It was recommended that the Board approve the election of the individuals listed below as district approved photographers, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, pending receipt of the appropriate paperwork, until they submit their resignation or have their active status changed by the district.

Satyajit Banerjee Crystal Bryan Elaine Pfeil

Mr. Eppig moved, Mrs. Wenger seconded, the motion to approve the election of the individuals named above.

On voice vote:

Ayes: Dr. Quinn, Mr. Eppig, Mr. Landis, Mrs. Penkunas, Mr. Peters, Mr. Rucci, Mr. Sahd, Mr. Shaub, and Mrs. Wenger

Abstain: None Nays: None Absent: None

2. CHANGE OF STATUS

It was recommended that the Board approve the change of status requests for the following individuals:

Non-Instructional

Melissa Aslin from a Special Needs Assistant at John Beck Elementary School, 5.5 hours/day, to a Special Needs Assistant at Lititz Elementary School, 5.5 hours/day, effective November 23, 2015. This change of status is needed to meet student needs.

Kathy Sozzi from a Special Needs Assistant/Learning Support Assistant, at John Beck Elementary School, 3.5 (SNA)/2.0 (LSA) hours/day, to a Learning Support Assistant, at John Beck Elementary School, 5.5 hours/day, effective January 21, 2016. Mrs. Sozzi is replacing Julie Caracci who resigned.

William Jacobus from a Special Needs Assistant at John R. Bonfield Elementary School, 5.5 hours/day, to a Learning Support Assistant at John R. Bonfield Elementary School, 5.5 hours/day, effective December 21, 2015. Mr. Jacobus is replacing Valerie Dorosz who received a change of status.

Deborah Marks from a Special Needs Assistant at Lititz Elementary School, 4.0 hours/day, to a Special Needs Assistant at John R. Bonfield Elementary School, 5.5 hours/day, effective December 21, 2015. Ms. Marks is replacing William Jacobus who received a change of status.

Mr. Eppig moved, Mrs. Wenger seconded, the motion to approve the change of status request of the individuals as presented.

On voice vote:

Ayes: Dr. Quinn, Mr. Eppig, Mr. Landis, Mrs. Penkunas, Mr. Peters,

Mr. Rucci, Mr. Sahd, Mr. Shaub, and Mrs. Wenger

Abstain: None Nays: None Absent: None

3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST

It was recommended that the Board approve the following leave of absence requests:

Instructional

Melissa Reifsnyder is requesting an extension of her previously approved Child Rearing Leave, continuing through the end of the third marking period of the 2015-2016 school year. Mrs. Reifsnyder is anticipating returning to work on April 11, 2016.

Jessica Schieber is requesting an extension of her previously approved Family Medical Leave of Absence, to add unpaid Child Rearing Leave, continuing through the end of the third marking period of the 2015-2016 school year. Mrs. Schieber is anticipating returning to work on April 11, 2016.

Non-Instructional

Steven Studholm is requesting an extension to his previously approved Unpaid Leave of Absence, which

began October 5, 2015, and continuing through February 29, 2016, due to not being released by his doctor. Mr. Studholm is anticipating returning to work on March 1, 2016, pending release by his doctor.

Mr. Eppig moved, Mr. Peters seconded, the motion to approve the leave of absence requests as presented.

On voice vote:

Ayes: Dr. Quinn, Mr. Eppig, Mr. Landis, Mrs. Penkunas, Mr. Peters,

Mr. Rucci, Mr. Sahd, Mr. Shaub, and Mrs. Wenger

Abstain: None Nays: None Absent: None

4. TEACHER TENURE

The following teachers have met the teacher tenure requirements as set forth by the Pennsylvania School Code and were recommended for tenure, effective January 20, 2016:

Middle School

Lee Walter Science

Lititz Elementary School

Faith Siegrist Grade 3

Mr. Eppig moved, Mr. Rucci seconded, the motion to approve the teacher tenure as presented.

On voice vote:

Ayes: Dr. Quinn, Mr. Eppig, Mr. Landis, Mrs. Penkunas, Mr. Peters,

Mr. Rucci, Mr. Sahd, Mr. Shaub, and Mrs. Wenger

Abstain: None Nays: None Absent: None

5. BOARD POLICY REVISIONS – FIRST READING

It was recommended that the Board approve, as a first reading, the following existing policy revisions (Policies 004, 011, 115, 317, 610, 806, and 916) and new policies (Policies: 824 and 831), per **ATTACHMENT #1.**

Mr. Eppig moved, Mr. Peters seconded, the motion to approve the Board Policy Revisions, as a first reading, as presented.

On voice vote:

Ayes: Dr. Quinn, Mr. Eppig, Mr. Landis, Mrs. Penkunas, Mr. Peters,

Mr. Rucci, Mr. Sahd, Mr. Shaub, and Mrs. Wenger

Abstain: None Nays: None Absent: None

6. **BOARD COMMITTEE ELECTION**

It was recommended that the Board approve the election of the following individuals for the Board Committees listed below, effective January 20, 2016:

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Education Committee
Jill Lutz

Student Activities Committee Marisa Tocci Mr. Rucci moved, Mrs. Wenger seconded, the motion to approve the Board Committee appointments, as presented.

On voice vote:

Ayes: Dr. Quinn, Mr. Eppig, Mr. Landis, Mrs. Penkunas, Mr. Peters, Mr. Rucci, Mr. Sahd, Mr. Shaub, and Mrs. Wenger

Abstain: None Nays: None Absent: None

(from Supplemental Agenda)

7. E-SIGNATURE RESOLUTION

It was recommended that the Board approve the Resolution for E-Signature with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, as outlined in **ATTACHMENT #3**.

Mr. Eppig moved, Mr. Peters seconded, the motion to approve the Resolution for E-Signature, as presented.

On voice vote:

Ayes: Dr. Quinn, Mr. Eppig, Mr. Landis, Mrs. Penkunas, Mr. Peters, Mr. Rucci, Mr. Sahd, Mr. Shaub, and Mrs. Wenger

Abstain: None Nays: None Absent: None

Information from the Superintendent

Dr. Hershey reported the following:

- Great restart following the holidays.
- Budget planning for 2016-17 has been ongoing and will continue over next couple months.
- Executive team met with Senator Aument.
- Friday, January 29th is a floating in-service day which could change pending weather.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Representative

The student representative, Ms. Abigail Weit, was unable to attend this meeting, but Dr. Hershey shared her report as follows:

Kissel Hill Elementary -

Kissel Hill's 2016 is already off to a great start. They began January with their second wave of student growth measures. The process, known as "A Team," takes a look at the specific reading and math skills students possess as well as areas that educators can focus upon for targeted instruction. Dr. Berardi explained this process recently at a PTO meeting and reminded community members that education is a mixture of art and science, with both quantitative and qualitative measures that are talented professionals use to make instructional decisions. Through this data, as well as taking time to examine the effective needs of individuals, they are able to serve each student holistically.

On January 7th, Kissel Hill held their local spelling bee. Four sixth grade students are excitedly waiting to participate in the district spelling bee on January 20th. Lastly, Kissel Hill's music educators look forward to their winter concert to be held on January 21st.

Lititz Elementary-

January brings routine back to students and staff after a wonderful holiday break. Mid-year benchmark assessments are occurring in reading and math for students K-6 and collaborative grade level meetings will occur. The entire elementary team will be welcoming their kindergarten parents of 16-17 to the Kindergarten Expo and the school psychologist will be participating in early intervention transition

meetings. The PTO will be sponsoring the LE Talent Show and the 5th and 6th grade students were also busy preparing for the Orff and Choral Concert on Thursday, February 4th.

John Beck's

mid-year assessments are being administered at the start of the month to determine student progress in the areas of Language Arts and Math.

John Beck is gearing up for Spirit week the week of January 25th. They will be holding a Pep Rally, cheering on the boys basketball team, and participating in other school-wide activities.

Kids on the Move and a Swim Party at the Ephrata Rec are just a couple of activities being offered in the month of January to promote student wellness!

Warwick Middle School

will held their first annual Geography Bee on Wednesday, January 13. In addition, they will host their annual district spelling bee on Wednesday, January 20.

Warwick High School -

In December our Chorus was invited to sing for all of the PDE employees in Harrisburg for their Holiday luncheon. Pedro Rivera, the Director of Education, thanked Warwick personally at the event.

Aevidum/ASAP Basketball Double Header: On Friday, January 15th- Aevidum and ASAP were at the Warwick/Ephrata boy-girl double-header games. They ask to please come out and support two great causes!

WHS Musical: Disney's The Little Mermaid will be presented by the Warwick High School Music Department. Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories and the classic animated film, Disney's The Little Mermaid is a beautiful love story for all ages. This fishy fable will capture your heart with its irresistible songs including "Under the Sea", "Kiss the Girl" and "Part of Your World". The show will run on March 11th and 12th @ 7:30 PM and on March 13th @ 2:00 PM in the Performing Arts Center. Tickets will go on sale in February. More information will be on our school website in the coming month.

Fire and Ice Dance: UNITE for Mini-THON will sponsor a FIRE AND ICE dance for HS students on Saturday, February 13th from 7:00 PM- 10:00 PM in the HS cafeteria. Come have a great time during this special weekend in Lititz! Casual attire. The cost is \$10 and all proceeds go to the Four Diamonds Fund to fight pediatric cancer!

District Wide Talent Show: Saturday, February 27th @ 7:00 PM in the WMS auditorium. Tickets are \$7.50 for presale and \$10 at the door. Proceeds benefit the Four Diamonds Fund. Information will be shared with students in all of our schools in the district.

Building and Property Committee

The Building & Property committee met on Monday, January 11 and completed its annual non-repetitive maintenance tour. The committee does not have any recommendations at this time.

Education Committee

The Education Committee met on Monday, January 11, 2016. Ms. Abigael Weit, student representative, offered a summary of student activities occurring throughout the district. Mrs. Ann Ahlers, Ms. Sherry Kline, and Mr. Tim Thompson presented the new elementary (K-6) Instrumental Music curriculum. Dr. Felty reminded the committee that the elementary (K-6) Handwriting curriculum presented last month received full recommendation and would be placed on the January agenda for voting. Mrs. Melanie Calender and Dr. Robin Felty shared information about the district's work to implement another Comprehensive Plan goal – the provision of a district wide stakeholder survey to gather information for future planning. Dr. Felty shared that a new member will be joining the committee in February. The Committee made the following recommendations to the Board.

1. It was recommended that the Board approve the request for the adoption of the new elementary (K-6) Handwriting curriculum to be implemented during the 2016-2017 school year.

Mrs. Wenger moved, Mrs. Penkunas seconded, the motion to approve the adoption of the new elementary (K-6) Handwriting curriculum, as presented.

On voice vote:

Ayes: Dr. Quinn, Mr. Eppig, Mr. Landis, Mrs. Penkunas, Mr. Peters, Mr. Rucci, Mr. Sahd, Mr. Shaub, and Mrs. Wenger

Abstain: None Nays: None Absent: None

2. It was recommended that the Board approve the request for the adoption of the new elementary (K-6) Instrumental Music curriculum to be implemented during the 2016-2017 school year.

Mrs. Wenger moved, Mrs. Penkunas seconded, the motion to approve the adoption of the new elementary (K-6) Instructional Music curriculum, as presented.

On voice vote:

Ayes: Dr. Quinn, Mr. Eppig, Mr. Landis, Mrs. Penkunas, Mr. Peters,

Mr. Rucci, Mr. Sahd, Mr. Shaub, and Mrs. Wenger

Abstain: None Nays: None Absent: None

Finance and Legal Committee

The Finance & Legal committee did not meet in January, however, there was one recommendation for Board approval:

1. It was recommended that the Board approve the 2016-17 Lancaster County Career & Technology Center budget as presented on **ATTACHMENT #2**.

Mr. Landis moved, Mr. Eppig seconded, the motion to approve the 2016-17 LCCTC Budget, as presented:

On voice vote:

Ayes: Dr. Quinn, Mr. Eppig, Mr. Landis, Mrs. Penkunas, Mr. Peters,

Mr. Rucci, Mr. Sahd, Mr. Shaub, and Mrs. Wenger

Abstain: None Nays: None Absent: None

Student Activities Committee

The Student Activities Committee met on Thursday, January 14, 2016. The student representative, Ms. Abigail Weit, provided an overview of student activities across the district. Dr. Judy Drager-McCoy and Ms. Dianne Skilling provided information about the Warwick Adult Education Program. Mr. Ryan Landis shared information about his plan to develop parent group guidelines. Dr. Robin Felty presented the requests for facility use and overnight/out-of-state field trips. The committee had the following recommendations to make to the Board at this time.

- 1. It was recommended that the board approve the following Sunday Use Requests.
 - a. The Five Star Swim Club to use the MS cafeteria- Dining Area only for an Ice Cream Social/Awards Banquet on April 3, 2016 from 3:30-6:00 p.m.
 - b. Warwick Girls' Softball to use HS large gym for a PIAA District Umpire Meeting on March 13, 2016 from 1:00-2:30 p.m.

c. Warwick Football to use running track field 12 and multipurpose field 3 for flag football from April 3, 2016 through May 1, 2016 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Mr. Rucci moved, Mr. Sahd seconded, the motion to approve the Sunday Use facilities requests as presented.

On voice vote:

Ayes: Dr. Quinn, Mr. Eppig, Mr. Landis, Mrs. Penkunas, Mr. Peters, Mr. Rucci, Mr. Sahd, Mr. Shaub, and Mrs. Wenger

Abstain: None Nays: None Absent: None

- 2. It was recommended that the board approve the following Overnight/Out-of-State Trip Requests.
 - a. HS/MS students and staff to New York City on May 19, 2016. Students will visit various New York City educational sites. The trip corresponds with the district enrichment curriculum.
 - b. HS students and staff to Altötting, Germany from June 17, 2016 to July 8, 2016. Students will experience a real life view of the culture and have the opportunity to use their German language skills.
 - c. HS students and staff to Cozumel and Grand Cayman from April 11, 2016 to April 16, 2016 on a performance based cruise for show choir, an auditioned group selected in fall 2015.

Mr. Rucci moved, Mr. Sahd seconded, the motion to approve the overnight and out of state field trip requests as presented:

On voice vote:

Ayes: Dr. Quinn, Mr. Landis, Mrs. Penkunas, Mr. Peters, Mr. Rucci, Mr. Sahd, Mr. Shaub, and Mrs. Wenger

Abstain: None Nays: Mr. Eppig Absent: None

Executive Session/Personnel Committee

Dr. Quinn announced that there would be a meeting immediately following this Board meeting.

Labor and Management Committee

It was reported that a meeting is to be held Thursday, January 21, 2016.

Lititz Recreation Center Representative

The committee met today. During this meeting, the Board was recognized and it was noted that January is grand opening and open house following construction.

Legislative Committee

The following was reported:

- The House was in session last week and adjourned until January 25.
- The Senate returned today.
- Gov. Wolf set to give 2016-17 budget address on February 9.
- House amended and passed the fiscal code bill, amended version of HB 1327 bill is returned to the Senate now.
- PlanCon reimbursement provision was added to fiscal bill.

IU Representative

It was reported that a meeting was held last Wednesday, and included the following:

• Fast Facts provided on IU due to new board members.

- IU received \$15M in special education funds with another \$20M in state money.
- Heard presentation on software program.
- Legislative breakfast coming up in March.

Lancaster County Career and Technology Center Representative

It was reported that a meeting is to be held next Thursday.

Lancaster County Academy Representative

This committee section will be removed as Warwick no longer has students participating in this program.

PRIOR BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

INFORMATION

None.

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS OR CITIZENS

Dr. Quinn thanked everyone for coming out and encouraged those to continue to come. Samanta Smith addressed the Board regarding 4th grade class size next year at John Beck. Lisa Hochreiter informed the Board there was a treat in the back in recognition of their service. Lee Walter thanked the Board for approval of his tenure and for all his time with the District.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Eppig moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sahd seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Wertsch, Board Secretary

Subject: FW: Communications / Reporting Of Correspondence Received **Date:** Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 11:28:48 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: Hershey, April

To: Timothy Quinn, Todd Rucci, Mike Landis, Scott Shaub, Eppig, Millard P., Ben and Beth Sahd, Deb

Wenger, Nelson Peters, Leslie Penkunas

CC: Boyer, Janice, Felty, Robin, Calender, Melanie, Leidich, Mark, Wertsch, Nathan

Forwarding at the request of Mr. Gallagher.

Janice, please include under the communications portion of the minutes.

Thank you.

April M. Hershey, Ed.D. Superintendent Warwick School District 301 W. Orange Street Lititz, PA 17543 (717) 626-3734 ex. 3715 ahershey@warwicksd.org

Knowledge Skills Values

From: "duke-stamp@juno.com" <duke-stamp@juno.com>

Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 11:24 AM **To:** April Hershey ahershey@warwicksd.org>

Cc: "Landis, Ryan" < rlandis@warwicksd.org >, "Wertsch, Nathan" < nwertsch@warwicksd.org >

Subject: Re: Communications / Reporting Of Correspondence Received

April Hershey, Ed.D., Superintendent Warwick School District 301 W. Orange Street Lititz, PA 17543

tel. (717) 626-3734 <u>ahershey@warwicksd.org</u>

Dear Dr. Hershey,

Please forward this correspondence to the elected members of the Warwick Board of School Directors, include a copy to be archived with the minutes of this month's school board meeting, and be announced as Communications.

As you know, I have written to you in the past about concussion injuries in athletics. This past weekend, Sunday, January 17, 2016, the lead article in the "Perspective" section of the Lancaster *LNP Newspaper* was titled,

"American Football / Hit 'em Hard / The evidence is clear: Tackle football is too risky for children." It was written by John R. Gerdy. The author can be reached at JohnGerdy@aol.com. To view the full content of the article online, see also:

http://lancasteronline.com/opinion/columnists/the-evidence-is-clear-tackle-football-is-too-risky-for/article_be364cc6-bae2-11e5-9910-8f0f38338202.html.

As more and more evidence mounts, it is reasonable to think that some wealthy school district will be sued for promoting participation in activities that are dangerous to students in their care. If you were to poll your taxpayers, I predict they would urge you <u>not</u> to get dragged into court.

This is a sea change in thinking about sports, I know. But I plead with you to consider the consequences of continuing to do what you've always done. It is bad policy for a public school.

Those interested in continuing to sponsor contact sports should create their own organizations and facilities for training and competition. This is no longer an aspect of education that the Warwick School District should be engaged in.

I urge you to stop favoring continued expenditures for these school sports programs, and devote those funds instead to learning that is clearly beneficial to all students... creating more promising futures, and fostering good health.

Sincerely,

Don Gallagher, founder & chair *Warwick Bright Torch*38 Green Acre Road
Lititz, PA 17543-8770
ph. (717) 626-3038 (home) duke-stamp@juno.com

<u>Cc</u>: Mr. Ryan Landis, Athletic Director Mr. Nathan Wertsch, Business Manager

Warwick Bright Torch ~ volunteers forming a district taxpayer, student & alumni civic work group

Just booked your vacation?

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