



# Warwick School District

## Committee of the Whole

August 6, 2019

Board Room

7:00 p.m.

### *MINUTES*

**Members Present:** Michael Landis, Scott Shaub, Millard Eppig, Debra Wenger, Nelson Peters, Todd Rucci, April Hershey, Nate Wertsch, , Melanie Calender

**Guests:** Jackie Yanchocik; Janice Boyer, Board Secretary; Dr. Ryan Berardi; Lisa Bonfield-Weit; Dr. Kristy Szobocsan; Ryan Landis; Jeffrey Weber; Chief John Schofield; Mark Snavelly; Judi Brinkman; Rachel Horst; Krista Cipalla; Brooke Bucher; Brady Himes; Robert Fitz; Molly Blevins; Wendell Gainer, Sr.; Wendell Gainer, Jr.; Jean Sroka; Steve Sroka; Lauren Leister; Julie Miller; Mae Wolf; Greg Xakelli; Ellsworth Shreiner; Kelly Testa; Michelle Krause; Katie Donmoyer; Emily McGonigal; Paul McGonigal; Mike Brenner; Bruce Miller; Lynn Miller; Pete Carson; Richard Sullivan; Michael Soslow; Michael Riffert; Brenda Barnes; Brenda Nye; Sheila Hershey; Cynthia Kensinger; Donald Scheirey; Don Gallagher; Wendy Hoyer; Bethany Leister; Christine Bossert; Laurence Bisking; April Norman; Jewel Shaub; Tom Shaub; Dan Buch; Thomas Ruckel; Brian Hough; David Kramer; David Hilbert; Alex Geli of LNP; and Laura Knowles of Lancaster Newspapers/Lititz Record Express.

1. Budget Update  
~ Mr. Wertsch

Mr. Wertsch provided information regarding taxes over the course of the past two years. He discussed a current taxable assessed value analysis, along with a historical perspective. Mr. Wertsch shared a debt service analysis and cost of debt. He pointed out that the district is able to absorb the construction costs of the proposed field house without raising taxes. The district has been planning for upcoming proposed projects. Mr. Wertsch shared the districts ratings related to the district's financial health.

2. Feasibility Study and Field House Update  
~ *RLPS Architects*

Erin Hoffman and Craig Kimmel from RLPS Architects provided an update the feasibility study. An overview of the process from 2016 to the present was provided. This process included surveys of existing

conditions, collection of focus group input, enrollment data collection, and educational specifications with relation to district goals. A timeline and review of the public forums and presentations made at Board meetings and public forums were shared. At these meetings, the following were discussed: the various options available, discussion of pros and cons, options and related costs, 21<sup>st</sup> century learning impact, existing conditions, the field house, safety and security, building needs at Kissel Hill, John Beck and Warwick High School. Student safety, physical education instruction, facilitation of multiple athletic teams and the impact on the current space were all part of this study. Ms. Hoffman shared that the project for the Field House was revisited from the original 2008 proposed plans. The previous plans were used as the basis when investigating proposed field house options to meet current needs.

The proposed bid, which was tabled in 2009 was discussed, leading to the current proposal. Mr. Kimmel shared the impact of construction inflation on the current projected costs. In March of 2019, the Building and Grounds Committee discussed the project in more detail. Components of the plan with regards to turfing of fields, additional parking, use of bleachers, official areas, trainer's room, insulated building codes, and concession area were some of the areas reviewed.

Ms. Hoffman shared the areas for projects moving forward at John Beck, Kissel Hill, and Warwick High School with regard to areas in the building that were worked on before and those still in need. He also discussed the athletic areas in the high school and needs with regards to function, safety and security, privacy for students, the impact of the length of the project and time for the proposed construction. Additional refinement is still needed in the proposed planning stages.

#### Public Comments and Questions:

Pete Carson – Shared concerns that his questions were not answered when he previously attended, and the limited amount of time that he is provided for his questions. Feels that information has been withheld and approval is being pushed through quickly. Is seeking information regarding all of the alternatives to the field house. Mr. Carson asked how long it would take to build a new locker room, minus airconditioning? Response from Mr. Kimmel was six months. Mr. Carson feels additional work needs to be done in looking at alternatives. Mr. Carson also inquired about district debt and timeline for paying back. Mr. Carson recommended temporary facilities, industrial fans, etc.

Mike Brenner – Here to support the board in the construction of the field house. He shared his experience at other athletic places and there is a need in the district for a facility like this.

Wendell Gainer Jr. – Asked about enrollment projections. Also wanted a per student spending amount. Requested that financially we not compare Warwick to other districts. He feels that there are better uses for the finances, rather than building a Field House, that would benefit our students' education. Mr. Gainer inquired about the size and cost per square footage. He shared statistics about the

rate of inflation and increase in taxes, especially for those people on a fixed income. There are wants and needs, and this is a want.

Greg Xakelli – Disagrees with this project. Feels the district spends too much money on sports, and could be used in a better manner educating students. Shared how there are other ways to get money through sponsors. Doesn't mind tax dollars for education

Thomas Ruckel – Scholastic sports at all levels has blown out of proportion. Field house is an unnecessary expense and wouldn't bring in enough money to pay for this project. District should not be spending money for this way.

Brenda Barns – Asked meeting attendees to raise hand if in favor or not in favor of the field house. Agreed there are some improvements needed or updated, but we don't need a whole new field house.

Don Krushinski – Absolutely opposed to the field house. Money in the reserve should have come back to the tax payers. Believes we need to hold the line on taxes. Concerned current facilities are not being utilized to capacity. What percentage of students participate in sports?

Sheila Hershey – Spoke about safety issues related to the current facility: lack of ventilation and climate controlled area, access to water on the fields for student hydration, length of trip to the training room if heat related injury, inability for AED machine due to temperature, safe place in the event of inclement weather for all students and event staff.

Katie Donmoyer – This is about student athletes and all students in Warwick. Agrees that we need updates, but can we update vs. construction of a field house? What is the percentage of students who participate in sports? Lets use funds for something that benefits all students. Think outside the box, but we need updates K-12.

Michael Riffert – Reiterated enrollment declining. Feels the district has a spending problem. Feels district is spending money on extravagance.

Judi Brinkman – Shared her experiences growing up. We only need block and mortar.

Brenda Nye – Commented on Mr. Peter's comment about students having to travel to the field house while construction is going on. Also inquired about the number of students participating in sports at Warwick.

Bob Fitz – Came to learn more after researching documents already available. Feels there are things missing in the plan: use of locker rooms, other sports offered. Have there been sponsors sought out to help fund the project vs. tax payers? Can we meet needs with basics? Use by other student groups? Examine big picture, "Biggest bang for the least amount of money."

Dave Hilbert – Feels that this project can be put on hold for now. Continued need to monitor enrollment. Feels like project is just putting locker rooms closer to the football field. Feels we need to improve what we have rather than building a new field house. Also inquired about the cost of the feasibility studies since 2008. Mr. Hilbert also expressed his concern with the costs of the studies, and requested the total cost. He shared his concern about those who are retired.

Michael Soslow – Sons have laptops, STEM projects, Future City projects, also involved with music. Need to look forward at current costs vs. what the project would cost in the future. Warwick does a wonderful job of educating my kids. Not necessarily for or against, but his family enjoys the district and we need to look at the needs of all students and athletes moving forward.

Molly Blevins – Asked if it would be beneficial, comparing what we have now and the renovations vs. a new field house to provide another option.

Ryan Landis – Shared importance of looking at the safety issues. Mr. Landis shared Title 9 and equal opportunities for males and females. He shared the ability to give other sports and band more time on the turf field if an additional field is created and access to locker rooms. Provides opportunities for not only high school football, but also for a variety of middle school and high school teams.

Ellsworth Shreiner – Doesn't feel like this amount of money should be spent on a field house. Shared that bond was mentioned, but someone has to pay the bond off.

Rachel Horst – Encouraged Mr. Carson to attend an athletic event in the gym. She supports this project. Every child benefits from using the facility for camps, activities, etc. K-12. Emphasized that turf is not just for football. There are lots of other sports and it keeps kids out of trouble.

### 3. Other Relevant Items

None

The committee adjourned at 8:59 p.m.  
Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Bonfield -Weit





# Warwick School District

## Finance and Legal Committee

August 6, 2019

Conference Room A

6:00 p.m.

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### *MINUTES*

## **No meeting was held.**

The Finance and Legal Committee did not meet in August due to a lack of agenda items.

**Warwick School District  
Education Committee**



August 12, 2019

Board Room

6:00 p.m.

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**MINUTES**

**CANCELLED**

**No meeting was held.**

The Education Committee did not meet in August  
due to a lack of agenda items.

*Next Meeting: September 9, 2019 at 6pm*



**Warwick School District**  
**Building and Property Committee**

**August 12, 2019**

**Conference Room A**

**6:00 p.m.**

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***MINUTES***

**Cancelled**

The Building and Property Committee did not meet in August  
due to a lack of agenda items.