

Warren Local Schools

Kyle R. Newton, Superintendent

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Operations Committee Minutes

February 22, 2024

5:00 pm HS Classroom 1710

Attendees: Mr. Allen, Mr. Crum, Mr. Newton, Mrs. Wells, Mrs. Spence, Mr. Ludwig, Ms. Jaramillo

I. Guest Comments

None

II. Maintenance Update

Presented handout

Resolution time on maintenance requests has greatly improved. 1 year ago average time was 13.19 days compared to today at 1.81. Mr. Allen noted he has had several staff members comment on how nice the response time is and are appreciative.

New Warrior Room (meeting room in building 6) has been completed and is being used frequently. The room is available to be scheduled through FMX. HVAC in the auditorium is completed and running.

Exterior lighting at building 6 has been repaired or replaced. Lighting in the area has improved greatly.

Cameras have been installed at the transportation building, concession stand and building 2 to enhance safety and security.

All storm drains cleaned out.

FMX was updated to allow work orders to be placed on hold. This will be used if the department is waiting for parts or outside contract work if needed.

Mr. Newton talked about building 6 choir room updates being started. The room will serve many uses like an Esports arena, storage, staging area for concerts and performances. The two offices will become offices for technology. Mrs. Wells secured a grant for \$15,000 for HVAC upgrade. This will cover 2/3 of the cost.

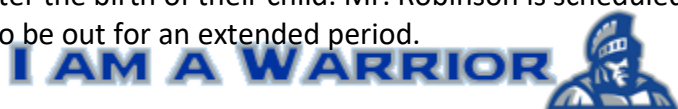
Mr. Allen asked about the softball field. The area has been extremely wet and finishing touches on fencing and building of the diamond have been delayed. Work is expected to start once the area dries out. Jr. High softball will be playing at the old Warren Elementary field.

Mr. Crum asked about the gaga pits for the middle school. Mr. Ludwig is concerned with the sharp bottom edges from using them on pavement. These edges could damage the new play surface. Mr. Taylor will be reaching out to the middle school booster organization for help with purchasing new pits.

The committee talked about sound issues at the high school gym. Multiple companies have explained the excess noise is not due to the sound system. The reverberation is too high and more sound dampening is needed. These can be ordered and installed by the maintenance team.

A new baseball scoreboard is being donated. The department will do the installation.

The department will be short handed in the spring. Mr. Ludwig will be taking some time off to be with his family after the birth of their child. Mr. Robinson is scheduled off for a medical procedure and is expected to be out for an extended period.



III. Transportation Update

Handout Presented

Mrs. Jaramillo spoke about a report published by the Ohio school Bus Safety Working Group. The group was created by Governor DeWine following a death of an 11-year-old when a vehicle/school bus crash occurred.

The group determined that school buses are still the safest way to transport students. The group also determined that individual school districts have the flexibility to expend funds on safety equipment that best meets their needs. They did not recommend seat belts be mandated. Several recommendations for increased safety were listed in the report.

Mrs. Jaramillo listed unique safety concerns for Warren.

Red Light Violations – The district had 30 reportable in one calendar year. Her recommendation is to add front and rear crossing gates that would be illuminated and extend further across the oncoming lane of traffic. She has been working closely with Ohio State Highway Patrol to have increased patrols in areas of high violations.

Early morning pickup during dark are also a concern. She would recommend adding ground washing lights to illuminate areas around the pick up better. This will help see students in any danger zones around the bus. Driver shortage is also a concern as there is not enough time for newly licensed drivers to get adequate training on routes. New drivers are sent out on routes that they have not had an opportunity to ride with the main route driver.

The Ohio School Bus Safety Working Group recommends an increase in professional development. Advanced driving courses for veteran drivers is something Ms. Jaramillo will check into as well as other training recommendations offered by the group.

IV. Athletic Update

None

V. Old Business

Mr. Allen noted that both departments are doing a great job.

Meeting room in building 6, discussed during maintenance update.

VI. New Business

Building 2 will be used as polling location. While the district is still not in favor of having elections on site, the compromise will be best to keep voters and students separated and hopefully help traffic congestion.

Building 6 – discussed during maintenance update.

Mr. Newton talked about the RFQ for the administration building. Fanning Howey was the clear leader and his recommendation is to move forward with the design phase.

Parking lot resurfacing is expected to take place over the summer. This will be all lots currently paved.

VII. Presentation/discussion of monthly safety topic by staff

Mrs. Jaramillo provided the safety topic – Defensive Driving. The drivers were given extensive training during the last Inservice. Several items include; be aware of surrounding at all times, anticipate other drivers actions, Inclement weather and following posted speed limit signs.

VIII. Additional comments before adjourning

Mr. Allen thanked Mr. Ludwig for working diligently to correct HVAC issues at ES. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM, Next meeting March 28, 2024, 5:00 pm at the Warrior Room in building 6.

