

CAC Minutes – January 22, 2007

Next CAC meeting: Monday, February 26 at the Board of Education Building 7:30. Please advise Garn Anderson or John Doucette in advance if you will be unable to attend the meeting.

Attendees (11): Lee Field-Starks (presiding), Dr. Jim Costanza (Superintendent), Garn Anderson, Marcia Columbro, John Doucette, Judy Friedman, Richard Helzel, Jayne Hoon, Tim James, Christie Wiedt, Gina Wittenberg

Absent with notice: Chris Bauer, Troy Miller, Scott Patterson, Jean Seasholtz

Absent without notice: Linda Wade, Dan Walsh

The following are the minutes from the January 22, 2007 meeting at the Board of Education building:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Lee Field-Starks at 7:35 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with no additions or corrections.

Approval of Minutes

The November meeting minutes were approved with no additions or corrections.

Superintendent's Report by Dr. Jim Costanza

- A program with staff and entertainment will be held 1/25 for the parents of incoming 9th graders.
- The District Continuous Improvement Monitoring Committee will meet on Thursday (1/25).
- The District will participate in the state's Data Driven Decisions for Academic Achievement (D3A2) program. This will provide a powerful achievement data tool for teachers. Dr. Costanza expects a significant effect on student achievement from this initiative.
- The major Board of Education for the spring will be selecting the replacement for Dr. Costanza, who has announced his retirement. The Board has hired the Ohio School Boards Association (SBA) to conduct the search. The OSBA will hold a variety of community forums. A decision is expected in the late April to early May time frame.

Board of Education Report by Renee Wargo

- No report this month.

Chamber of Commerce Report by John Doucette

- Two business representatives were identified and invited to tonight's meeting: Richard Helzel (RH Factor) and Tim James (Z-Space Technologies).
- Major Chamber of Commerce activities for the balance of the school year are the Scholarship Program and the Student Achievement Award, both open to students who are employees or volunteers at by a Chamber member company or organization.

Subcommittee Reports

- Diversity (Judy Friedman)
 - Spoke with Tim Freeman (WHS Principal) in December and again more recently regarding how he has addressed the changing composition of the District.
 - Gina conducted a survey of teachers for use in the report; also speaking with parents.
 - Still looking to narrow focus for the report.
- Grade Configuration (Christie Wiedt)
 - Met with Dr. Costanza to get focus for investigation. Will consider all-day Kindergarten and conversion of neighborhood elementary schools to single-grade campus schools.
 - Assigned team members specific areas of responsibility

- Plan to attend all 4 elementary school and Early Childhood PTA meetings to get parent feedback. Initial impressions from first few sessions is:
 - Parents prefer neighborhood schools although teachers are enthusiastic about the campus option.
 - Most parents are in favor of all-day Kindergarten although there are various opinions about the way to configure it and the fairness of it not being available to all children.
 - There are significant concerns about the logistics and cost of both initiatives.
- Next task is to meet with comparable districts who have adopted such programs.
- Need to investigate possible state-level initiative that would mandate all-day kindergarten.
- Internet and Communications (Garn Anderson)
 - Just getting started. Focus will be on safety and awareness.
 - Finding lots of information on “red flags” of abuse.
 - Overall plan will be to:
 - Identify trends and issues.
 - Look at policies and known issues in Westlake and other districts.
 - Determine what tools are available.
 - Get suggestions from parents.
- Serving populations
 - There has been no response from members of this subcommittee to the Board’s request for clarification of purpose and none of the members are in attendance.
 - It was voted to disband the subcommittee and assign its members to the other groups. This does not preclude it from being put forward again next year but there is not enough time to make an effective contribution this year.
 - Motion made by Garn Anderson and seconded by Marcia Columbro.
 - Garn will notify subcommittee members of the decision

New Business

- Lisa Swisher resigned her position on the CAC due to schedule conflicts. Gina Wittenberg is next in line to become a regular member. She will consider accepting the position.
- Lee Field-Starks resigned her position on the CAC because her family is relocating to Rhode Island.
 - Dr. Costanza thanked Lee for her service to the schools.
 - Garn Anderson was elected to Chairman, effective immediately.
 - Motion made by Christie Wiedt, seconded by Marcia Columbro.
 - Looking for volunteers for the Vice Chairman position.
- Discussion of recruiting new CAC members through various outreach programs, including distributing materials at the Music Boosters Night at the Races event and use of press releases. A vote was taken to proceed with this outreach.
 - Motion made by Marcia Columbro, seconded by John Doucette

Unfinished Business

None.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Garn Anderson at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes taken by John Doucette

Corrections/missing items/amendments may be made during the next meeting as needed.