

CAC Minutes – October 16, 2006

Next CAC meeting: Monday, November 13 at the Board of Education Building 7:30. Please advise Lee Field-Starks, Garn Anderson or John Doucette in advance if you will be unable to attend the meeting.

Attendees (15): Lee Field-Starks (presiding), Dr. Jim Costanza (Superintendent), Renee Wargo (Board of Education), Tom Mays (Board of Education), Garn Anderson, Chris Bauer, John Doucette, Judy Friedman, Troy Miller, Scott Patterson, Jean Seasholtz, Lisa Swisher, Linda Wade, Christie Wiedt, Gina Wittenberg

Absent with notice: Marcia Columbro, Jayne Hoon, Dan Walsh

Absent without notice: (none)

The following are the minutes from the October 16, 2006 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.

The motion was made by Garn Anderson and seconded by Christie Wiedt.

Approval of Minutes

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

The motion was made by Garn Anderson and seconded by Christie Wiedt.

Superintendent's Report by Dr. Jim Costanza

- Following recent events, school violence and security are Dr. Costanza's main concern this evening and he delivered a presentation on the topic. Some key points follow:
 - The District has had a Safety Plan since 2001. Fire and Police Departments have it; there is good communication and drills are conducted regularly.
 - Safety charts are in every classroom.
 - A Safety Committee is in place. Parents are not involved, only professionals, since it covers security topics and is not public record.
 - Security cameras are in place and doors are numbered to facilitate identification of locations.
 - Schools have internal radios and busses have their own FM radio system.
 - A buzz-in system is used on a limited basis. There is debate regarding its deterrence value versus its inconvenience and cost.
 - Doors are open for student entry then locked, except for the main entrance.
 - Staff and visitors are required to have badges or stickers.
 - There is a full time police office at WHS, with additional police for traffic control at the start and end of the day. A DARE officer is assigned to Burneson.
 - Research by the Secret Service was cited stating that attacks by students were planned in advance but hard to profile. Some behavior signals are given that can be watched for.
 - The recommended action for Westlake is to establish a culture of respect, to foster connections between adults and children and to create a climate of safety.
- Discussion by CAC members following Dr. Costanza's presentation raised the following points:
 - Use of "red team" vulnerability testing methods was suggested.
 - Elements of a school climate can be a source of violent behavior (e.g. rampant bullying).
 - There is a need to improve visitor check-in procedures. Some staff are not challenging visitors.
 - Overall there is a need to raise awareness without instilling fear or panic.

Board of Education Report by Renee Wargo

- The Board of Education and the City have resumed discussions about the Bradley Road property.
 - They are waiting for more information before the next meeting
 - There is a lot of misinformation and rumor out there. People need to be aware of the facts.

Chamber of Commerce Report by John Doucette

- Plan to use the Chamber of Commerce as a vehicle for recruiting additional business representatives for the CAC by soliciting the membership.

New Business

- Sherman Bishop presented the results of last year's Performing Arts Center project. It had already been given to the Board of Education and they were pleased with it. Work was performed by Sherman, Andy Call and Kathleen Stock. The team performed a SWOT analysis involving a wide range of people. Seven goals with completion dates were identified, keeping in mind the campaign promise to make the PAC an "asset to the community" :
 - Develop a Mission Statement for the PAC
 - Implement a PAC calendar using a two-year lead time
 - Improve financial support; including a budget, a funding plan for maintenance and exploration of external revenue streams
 - Expand staffing to include day-to-day management, marketing staff and instructional staff
 - Improve visibility and awareness of the PAC to the community
 - Create a box office ticketing system that meets the needs of the schools and outside users
 - Establish a task force to explore public/private partnership to provide staffing and programmatic services to the PAC
- CAC was invited to the next Board meeting on October 23. Linda Wade volunteered to attend.
- Kathleen Stock resigned from the CAC. Since she was a permanent member, an alternate member will be designated to complete her term which expired in August 2009. Chris Bauer is next in line and was offered the position. He requested time to think about it before accepting.
- Discussion of projects for the coming year.
 - The Board of Education's request is for a study of Grade Configuration and Organization of the School District.
 - Supporting this will be a professional enrollment study (the last one was in 2002 and it is clearly out of date).
 - One option for discussion will be offering full-day kindergarten, for an additional cost to parents. Half-day will continue to be free.
 - The Board will provide feedback on the CAC list at the next meeting.

Unfinished Business

None.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Lee Field-Starks at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by John Doucette

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