



Westlake Board of Education

Board Notes from Monday, Oct. 14, 2013, Work Session

DISTRICT VISION & MISSION STATEMENTS

The Westlake City School District will provide a dynamic, student-centered, 21st Century learning environment. Our district will be characterized by high achievement, actively engaged learners, mutual respect, shared knowledge, pursuit of new skills and capabilities, collaborative learning, willingness to take action, a team commitment to data-driven continuous improvement, and tangible results.

We Educate for Excellence ... Empowering all students to achieve their educational goals, to direct their lives, and to contribute to society.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Ohio Achievement Assessment for 3rd grade reading took place last week. Expect the results next month. Also do MAP testing to measure academic progress and identify those on track or not on track to determine whether a student receives a reading improvement plan. Title I intervention and response to intervention to address.
2. Swim & Dive team has 7th highest GPA in the nation and 1st in Ohio.
3. Partnership with high school teachers and the Cleveland Museum of Art. These three teachers met with the Learning and Teaching area of CMA and developed learning webinars for use by teachers all over the country. It focuses on art and literature. Excited our teachers went out and did that to take advantage of resources in Northeast Ohio.
4. Sent an alert message to all community members who are parents about an incident involving students at Hilliard. Four students riding bikes to school reported to a crossing guard that a young male tried to stop them on their way to school. It was a 17-year-old juvenile who tried to knock them off their bikes. The police will decide on charges.
5. Second levy information night at Porter Library. Also now spoken with just about every civic group in town.

6. Southwest Conference is changing. Brecksville-Broadview Heights left. North Ridgeville will be joining SWC. New teams to be added the following year are Lakewood, Avon, Midview and Berea.

SPECIAL REPORTS & RECOGNITIONS

- a. Auditor of State Award with Distinction – CFO/Treasurer Mark C. Pepera and his staff are being recognized for his efforts in financial reporting and transparency. This happens on a regular basis in Westlake. He translates our work into practices that work through high standards.
- b. Pepera: Michelle Stys from Auditor of State here
- c. Michelle Stys: Not the first time I've been here with the district. It's been a long-standing practice of this district to receive the highest recognition from the Auditor of State's Office. It takes a collective effort. You are all trustworthy stewards of taxpayer dollars. Clean and accurate record keeping for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and timely financial reports, as well as a clean audit report.
- d. Pepera: validates what I do on a day to day basis. Thank the Board of Education for their support and financial stewardship. Thank the superintendent for his support. We have a great team at Westlake.
- e. Nate Cross: I know you always refer to your staff and congratulate them. Remind everyone. Something we should be proud of that we have clean records, but remind everyone this award does not reflect on the spending decisions we make as a Board. It's for clean record keeping. In terms of decisions we make for this district, it's something we should be mindful of.
- f. Dan Keenan: As the auditor's representative pointed out tonight, those clean records and reporting are the foundation for making sound financial decisions.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approved employment of Project Link personnel Harriet Jones
2. Approved contracted services with Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Montessori Children's School

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Colleen Mudore part of Tralee Educator Exchange
 - a. Westlake World Partners has agreed to pay for all of this through a grant.
 - b. International Baccalaureate program coordinator for Dover and Holly Lane
 - c. Anne Maran will be coming here in April and staying with my family of 5 children.
 - d. Goal of educator exchange is to develop a sister-school relationship, help our schools become truly internationally minded, create and maintain a blog for classroom teacher and students, experience the cultural and educational similarities and differences between Ireland and the U.S., Skype with classrooms back in the states and continue to Skype upon my return.

- e. Spending days meeting with teachers, students and administrators; attending a cheerleading and basketball tournament; performances of Irish song and dance; civic reception; Gaelic football game
- f. Brett Luengo: Would like to thank the schools for their stewardship and support of the program. Look forward to future programs in conjunction with you.

2. Levy Update

- a. Dr. Keenan: We did have a lot of questions from the board and community members regarding the water issue. There was a meeting with the city and the city responded quickly. We posted the mayor's letter Monday evening and indicated on our website there wasn't a decision the city would make that would result in an increase in water bills for city residents. Appreciate their efforts to communicate that.
- b. Levy information night – better attended. We posted the entire evening on the website in the levy section. Also being televised on WOW cable. We'll continue to try to get that information out.
- c. Presented to a number of civic organizations. Door-to-door is going well, about 60% through. Campaign indicated they will have several pieces of literature down the stretch. Ordered 1500 in the spring and got 900 out. All 1500 signs went out the first day and ordered another 1000 on their way. District is just trying to make sure people have the information. Trying to put as much as possible on the website.
- d. Carol Winter: Mr. Killeen thank you for the city's quick response to make sure the water issue should not impact the way you vote on the levy.
 - i. Mike Killeen: Highly unlikely our citizens will be paying anything like that. Made our displeasure to the city that their timing was inappropriate.
- e. Tom Mays: Everyone has been putting a lot of time and effort into this campaign to know the facts.
- f. Dr. Keenan: Oct. 21 intend to give a glimpse of what 30 some teaching positions will look like. Working with Mr. Pepera on what those final reductions would look like. Will make a recommendation for consideration in November and ask for feedback. We would have to make adjustments for staffing in January to set high school curriculum. About 20% of our staff would be cut, and that's pretty significant. We talked about classes (AP, music, art).
- g. Nate Cross: I remember when we renewed the contract for the teachers, an 18-month contract, we started talking a year out. That's up in 7-8 months. There's an opportunity with that contract to reduce expenses as well. Want to encourage us to put that on the agenda.
- h. Dr. Keenan: This has been a constant part of discussion for some time now. We have been working on some insurance parts of that and looking at other contracts to see how different people take different bites of the apple. You spent a year talking about that and have some understanding of that. That is something to be constantly reviewed. Our field is changing. The district has been on the front end of that the last three negotiations.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

- a. Tim Falcone: I don't suppose there is anyone responsible for this thing I got in the mail urging me to vote no on Issue 88. A couple things I don't understand. Says we passed a levy in 2010. I know we passed a bond issue in 2010 to build the new buildings. Normally when I get something like this and no one has the fortitude to put their name on it, it goes in the trash. It caught my eye because people don't understand that wasn't a levy. When they listed the salaries, I know at times employers when they talk about costs for employees lump worker's comp, pension costs, hospitalization costs and say this is what a person costs me. Wonder if they did that. Do the teachers get paid what is on the card or is that inclusive of all their compensation? Aggravates me someone won't put their name on it to answer those questions. Could they provide for their families in 2013 what they made in 2007 less what some elected officials took away from them. I'd like to talk to them.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next meeting of the Board is Monday, Oct. 21, 2013, at 5:30pm, at Lee Burneson Middle School.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

<http://beta.westlake.k12.oh.us/boe/meetingschedule/default.aspx>