



We Educate for Excellence

DISTRICT UPDATE 2015-2016

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April 2016

Superintendent



The Westlake Board of Education approved the hiring of Scott Goggin, superintendent of Midview Local Schools, as its next superintendent effective Aug. 1.

Goggin was given a three-year contract. The Board reviewed 22 highly qualified applicants before narrowing down the list to 8 semifinalists, 2 finalists and finally Goggin.

Board President Carol Winter says Goggin has a track record of supporting high student achievement, and his overall experience as a teacher and administrator made him a strong candidate.

STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATION APRIL 11

A group of parents, teachers and community leaders from Westlake City Schools' Strategic Planning Committee will present their goals and initiatives for the district at the April 11 Board of Education meeting.

Westlake Schools brought together a cross representational group of over 50 residents, including business, nonprofit, civic, mental health, higher education, clergy, parent and neighborhood leaders in a six-part planning session. The committee gathered input, strategies and ideas to help set the course for the district's future.

As Westlake Schools plans for its future, it is critical to understand how its main stakeholders perceive its priorities and the role of the schools in the community. The Strategic Planning Committee meetings included in-depth presentations about the current state of academics, technology, finances, facilities and community research, followed by input exercises. For these exercises, attendees worked in small groups to identify growing community and global trends, skills gaps and resource needs.

From these exercises, leaders created goals and accompanying initiatives for Westlake City Schools to position itself to best prepare students for their lives beyond graduation. School district administrators and staff will expand this outline to complete the Strategic Plan.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend the April 11 Board of Education meeting at Lee Burneson Middle School at 6pm to hear the Strategic Plan presentation.

The Westlake Schools, in partnership with Westlake Porter Public Library, Westlake Kiwanis Club and the City of Westlake, will once again host a Senior Citizens Appreciation Dinner. This year's dinner will be held May 4, 5-6:30pm at Westlake High School. Tickets are available at Parkside, 24525 Hilliard Blvd., Porter Public Library and the Westlake Community Services Department. For more information contact bonvissuto@wlake.org.

2016 OHIO REPORT CARD UPDATE

Earlier this year, the Ohio Department of Education released the 2015 Ohio School Report Cards in two phases. The dramatic changes to state testing, the significant number of students opting out of testing, the move to online testing, and incorrect reporting of data led to confusion among school districts, parents and communities.

Some of our highlights:

- **Incorrect Data:** We submitted more than 200 data appeals, including the Prepared for Success data that still shows fewer students participating in AP testing than is accurate. WHS has a robust AP program with students taking 6 or more AP tests and earning perfect scores, but the state only reports 1 score per student.
- **Opt Outs:** We were impacted by a large number of students – more than many surrounding districts – opting out of the heavily-criticized PARCC tests. With those scores counted as zeroes, preliminary data showed our Performance

Index and Gap Closing measures significantly affected. Adjusted data does not count opt outs against districts and shows Westlake's Performance Index ranks 23rd out of 615 districts.

- **Value Added:** The latest data ranks Westlake Schools at 17th in the state for Value Added. In the updated report card, Westlake earned an "A" in its overall progress measure, gifted measure, students in the lowest 20%, and students with disabilities subgroup.

It's important to note that the State Report Card does not fully reflect the performance of Westlake's students. State tests are just one data point in a year and help each building recognize weaknesses and celebrate successes. The district uses this information and other data to determine district and building-level goals to ensure every student is successful.

For a broader snapshot of the district, check out our Quality Profile report at <http://tinyurl.com/WlakeQP>.



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