



## **Westlake Board of Education**

### ***Board Notes from Monday, Jan. 25, 2010***

***[Board Notes are an unofficial snapshot of Board of Education meetings.  
Find official meeting minutes online at [www.wlake.org](http://www.wlake.org)]***

#### **HEARING OF THE PUBLIC:**

Kevin Bradley: Voiced his concerns about board members voting against a resolution to place a bond issue for facilities on the ballot. He questioned the political motives of two Board members. He urged those voting no to reconsider their vote on the bond issue and fulfill their responsibility to the voters and children of the community.

**SPECIAL REPORTS & RECOGNITIONS:** The Board adopted a resolution of appreciation for outgoing Board member Joseph Marinucci. Recognized WHS Lady Demons Soccer Team for 2009 First Team Adidas Academic All-American Award. Recognized Excellence in Classified Service Award and Excellence in Teacher Award recipients -- Kristina Hamilton, Kim Michelich, Mindy Clark and Kim Geletka. Recognized WHS National Art Honor Society students for community team building event.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Noted the WHS technology/engineering students swept the annual Student Model Home Design Contest. LBMS teacher Deb Schrembeck provided a snapshot of a fairy tale project with Dover Elementary and LBMS students. Nickie Miller's French 5 class will Skype with students in France on Thursday.

*Nate Cross:* Requested all Board members be respectful and courteous of others' opinions and promoted open dialogue. He believes this is neither the best time nor the best plan to place before voters. Promoted tabling the issue to have more discussions in hopes of reaching a compromise by the Feb. 12 filing deadline. Said he would respect the majority vote on how to proceed.

*Thomas Mays:* We have a consensus. Asked Sullivan and Cross if they would help at the ballot box or stand in the way.

*Timothy Sullivan:* Respects the will of the majority and indicated he will not stand in the way of the issue at the ballot. Now is the time to move forward. The best way to get things done is to respect all opinions.

*Carol Winter:* We have voted and majority is will of the board and we speak with one voice. Indicated any private conversations to the contrary would have negative consequences at the ballot box and asked that people be pointed to the meeting minutes. The plan in place is the best, most responsible way to address those needs.

*Andrea Rocco:* The majority voted to place this on the ballot.

*Dr. Keenan:* The board continues to demonstrate a respect for the needs of the entire community. This has been presented to this board twice previously and said through the process didn't support putting an issue on the ballot. The board hasn't supported putting something on twice. Now has seen through this process that there is a better understanding that this is a responsible and right way to proceed to address a tough problem. Understand the difference of opinion and that this is not a desirable problem to have, that's why we had a process. All agree and had every expectation it would be a difficult problem to face. This is not based on opinion but a decision-making framework.

*Winter:* We've made an awful lot of compromises on this plan. We have several buildings at the end of their lives. It would be an outrage to not take this plan so well thought out and researched and fiscally responsible to the voters. It goes beyond patches and wasting money.

*Keenan:* Mr. Sullivan has made a recommendation to look at a permanent improvement and something on a lesser scale. Those comments brought to committee process. One of the parts of this process was looking at all of these and bouncing them off of all the groups and they were looked at. It's a huge problem, something going to cause larger problems the longer we don't address it. Those things were brought up and a part of the process.

*Rocco:* These problems are going to have to be addressed. Not that they are going to go away. Only place money can come from in meantime is operating budget and that means massive cuts. It's a logical question to ask the taxpayers.

*Cross:* This is not the time for alternative and other options. The issue before us is the \$84 million question and we need to take a vote. If the will of the board is to place this on the ballot, I will support that.

Approved resolution determining to proceed with the submission of the question of the issuance of school improvement bonds in the aggregate principal amount of \$84,056,066 to the electors of the Westlake City School District. [Mays, Rocco, Winter – yes; Cross, Sullivan – no]

**TREASURER'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS:** Authorized the treasurer to advance funds, accept funds, establish appropriations adjust FY10 appropriations, approved 2009 Audit Report for FY09.

**GIFTS & CONTRIBUTIONS:** Accepted gifts and contributions from Aileen Baxter, Gary Panteck of Brunswick Auto Mart, Church of the Ascension, Melissa Daily, Molly Gummerson, Aparna Riley of Hermes Sports & Events, Bonnie Katubig, John Kiczek & Christine Seuffert, Demetrios & Caroline Korakis, LOLA Event Productions, Heather Mitchell, Darlene I. Schlott, Meaghan Schneider, Bob Patton of Super Skills Basketball LLC, Sangeeta Walsh, John C. Weisensell of Bernlohr Wertz, LLP, Westlake Demons Club.

**CAC:** Laura Steinbrink reported on a three-part program – benchmarking report looking at energy use by facilities and comparing it to new proposals are part of renovation plan to get a baseline and projections based on new facilities (Feb. 22 presentation); to be delivered in June are deeper analysis on curricular and educational situations and looking more at some of the plans for what buildings will go down first, best practices from a design element perspective (community view of what we'd like to see in those buildings).

**NEW BUSINESS:** Approved classified FMLA for Laurie Skvarek; classified employment of Kymberly Fox and Ann Manning; amended classified employment of Carol Flannick, Barb Italiano, Tami James, Celia Kubincanek, Roger Meadows. Approved certified substitute resignations of Michael Burns, Carol Donohue, Pat Kitzel; classified substitutes Lestina Austin, Megan Musacchia, Nancy Huddleston, Eleanor Smith; certified substitutes Mark Gibbons, Megan Musacchia, Catherine Wilson, Caitlin Jewell, Terri Persing, Kelly Lapp, Sherri Ripcho, Mary Beth McIntyre, Gregory Stringer. Approved reclassification of certified staff members Jennifer Doyle, Katherine McGlynn, Amal Mustafa, Ann Peebles, Colleen Steidel. Approved resignations of supplemental contracts for Nicolette Miller, Adam Purdy. Approved supplemental contracts for Nicolette Miller, Elizabeth Zingales, Staci Peltz.

Approved home instruction by Ashley Zergott, Jean Barrett, Geoff Friedrich, Jim Bingham. Approved resignation for the purpose of retirement for Dennis Bartlett. Approved employment of Westside Connections Program personnel of James Bingham, Lucille Faup. Approved stipend for IEP development for Ellen Hurley. Approved stipends for math implemental leader-Hold for Cindy Vessalo. Approved athletic camp employment for Marc Pogachar.

Approved agreements for admission of tuition pupils and purchased services with Early Intervention Consulting LLC-Behavioral/Autism Consulting Services. Approved WHS 2010 summer school dates and rates. Approved WHS vocal groups' field trip to Heritage Music Festival. Approved WHS program of studies for 2010-2011. Approved waiver for all-day kindergarten. Approved resolution for applications for payment in lieu of transportation.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:** Second reading on policies related to student conduct on school vehicles, lending of district-owned equipment, English as a Second Language, Student Withdrawal from School (Loss of Driving Privileges), Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance, Employment of Students, Community Use of School Facilities, Public Conduct on District Property, Visitors to the schools. All of these policies were adopted by the Board.

**DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS REPORT:** Jan. 20 we rolled out the EZpay system that allows electronic deposit in student lunch accounts.

Step down transformer at Parkside burned out (steps down electricity on equipment and lighting into building), transformer will be replaced at \$1,800-\$2,000 manpower and \$1,000 for the transformer itself. There was a small electrical fire as a result.

Working with state fire marshal since summer 2009 to address facilities concerns. Initial inspection identified 520 code violations. We've addressed 95% of those. Of remaining items, significant number involved repairing/changing outdoors in Parkside/LBMS/WHs. Fire doors are expensive and total cost will be around \$98,350. Because working diligently, regional state fire marshal requested status to allow flexibility on this issue. State fire marshal willing to allow us 4 years to address door situation due to due diligence in correcting the issue and anticipation of bond issue in May. Need to identify a plan and submit it to the state.

**BOARD ITEMS:** Approved resolution to appoint Human Resources Director Mike Laub as delegate for public record law training.

#### **HEARING OF PUBLIC:**

1. Harry Applegate: I feel disrespected as a member of the 20/20 Vision Committee putting together a viable plan and you saying it's no good. There is never a right time. I believe it's fiscally irresponsible not to put the issue on the ballot and to tax a budget already under strain.
2. David Angel: Interested in knowing based on total current operating expenses when the board projects the need to approach the community for an operating levy.
  - a. Carol Winter: We've discussed 2012, which is 2 years longer than what we promised the electorate.
3. Cynthia Salvage: I support the building campaign although I have no children in the school district. Mr. Cross came to my door, ran a beautiful campaign. There was nothing dishonest about what he was doing. He was open about his goals. It was important to me he had more of a fiscal knowledge. When you are rude to him and disrespectful to him, you are disrespectful to everyone who voted for him. You need to apologize to him. We're for this because we want the best and brightest and makes it easy for us to sell our house for more money, and we believe in education. What bothers me is how could our schools have gotten this bad?
  - a. Andrea Rocco: The kids that attend our schools only have one shot at each grade they are here. Important you have people here who take time to respect the processes we established. There was a two year process. Mr. Cross sat on those committees and never said anything about alternatives. He still hasn't offered any alternative. I do know some of the things he said when he went door to door. Those things will dismantle public education as we know it in this community. I have learned something from sitting back and allowing someone to make statements that can't be substantiated by anything concrete, and that's what we have here. I take the time and responsibility our community put in for the last two years seriously. The survey said this is something we can get passed. If we don't pass this, we will have to make serious cuts and that won't be good for any of us. I can't see why you wouldn't give the community that option.

- b. Carol Winter: Part of the plan is to initiate a permanent improvement levy at some point during this process, but not with the first phase. There has not been money set aside for capital needs in the past. It's hard to catch up on a number of years you have to defer maintenance.
- c. Dr. Keenan: The community groups were insistent we have a maintenance plan.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** To discuss employment/evaluation of superintendent.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** The next meeting of the Board will be *Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 5:30pm* at the Westlake High School media center in the library.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

<http://www.westlake.k12.oh.us/AdminBldg/BOE/BOESched.htm>