



Westlake Board of Education

Board Notes from Monday, Jan. 26, 2009

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Steve Steffas from the Demons Club addressed the Board about the upcoming reverse raffle on March 14. The Demons Club supports the athletic teams at LBMS and WHS. The group's role is shifting to provide more need-based scholarships.

SPECIAL REPORTS & RECOGNITIONS: Hilliard Elementary teacher Rita Shields was recognized for receiving National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The WHS girls' soccer team was recognized for receiving the National Soccer Coaches Association of American 2008 Girls' High School Team Adidas Academic Award for an overall GPA of 4.14, placing them first in Ohio and 11th in the country. LBMS students Elizabeth Kobe, Kartik Dhinakaran, Kevin Wang, Ishaan Bakhle and Jacob Cohen were recognized for their accomplishments in the University of Nebraska's American Mathematics Competition.

VISION 20/20 COMMITTEE PRESENTATION: For more than a year the Westlake City School District has pursued a data-driven process to look at facilities. Last fall a volunteer Vision 20/20 group was formed to comb through the data and come up with a final report to present to the Board of Education.

Andrew Mangels and Bill Baddour from the committee made a presentation to the Board on their process and recommendations. The group agreed there is a problem that needs to be addressed right away. The group looked at what would serve the future excellence of the school district and how to strategically bring people into the city.

Option A: 5 buildings with a grade level configuration. The best long-term strategic approach and most cost effective.

Option B: 6 building regional building configuration. Provides familiarity with neighborhood school setup and offers best option for 21st century learning environments.

Both plans move the 4th graders to the intermediate school. Strengths and opportunities outweigh weaknesses and threats for either plan. Other aspects the Board should consider include a community education plan, develop a permanent improvement revenue stream to maintain buildings, ensure educational spaces are flexible, limit athletic fields to replacing what we have and have a transition plan

during construction, there is urgency in this issue and timing is critical, consider partnering with local organizations/businesses/city, solicit suggestions from educators on what works best educationally.

The emphasis is what do we need to do to keep our community strong? The community needs to walk through the process to understand. The focus was on building a strong community.

The Board indicated an understanding of the seriousness of the facilities issue and intends to pursue the issue this year. The Board will continue looking over the data and talking to the community to make a final decision on how to approach the issue and when.

NEW BUSINESS: Approved FMLA for Karen Herzberger and Marilyn Lester. Approved classified resignations of Jackie Dixon and Sherry Kennedy. Approved certified employment of Judy Dubil. Approved classified employment of Bruce Ashwood, Diane Hill, Bobbi McVay, Jackie Hollis, Jodi Ovelgonne and Mary Scavelli. Approved classified substitutes, Courtney Sennish. Approved certified substitutes Christie Leake, Kathleen Sebastian, Lawrence Pecsok, Carolyn Sprowls, Julie Priebe, Lisa Swisher and Ian Rice.

Approved reclassification of certified staff members, Sara Neville to MA, Cathy Pietroski to MA+30, Eneida Ruiz to MA, Krista Wadas to BA+20. Approved supplemental resignation of Stephanie Xenos. Approved supplemental employment of Nancy English, Jeffery Mannies and Richard Robbins.

Approved resignation of ABLE employee Melissa Cheers. Approved ABLE employment of Cheryl Williams and Sharon Forstchen. Approved stipends for foreign language course of study writing activities, to be paid out of Cleveland State University grant funds, to Cheryl Bendik, Ursula Hays, Joy Horvath, Nicolette Miller, Florica Podway, Eneida Ruiz and Anne-Frances Zaborniak. Approved amended resolution from Aug. 25, 2008, to amend salary reimbursement to the General Fund for Kurt Thonnings for STEM.

Approved a resolution to increase the exempt employee salary base and adjust fringe benefits. Approved agreements for admission of tuition pupils and purchased services for 2008-09 school year for ESC of Cuyahoga County-Visual Impairment & Orientation/Mobility Services, and Parma School District-Parmadale.

Approved Sunday building use for Westlake Kiwanis Club pancake breakfast and North South Foundation/FICA Spelling Bee, Math Bee, Geography Bee, Vocabulary Bee. Approved Lake Erie Educational Computer Association internet service provider contract from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2011. Increases substitute pay rates for supervision and teacher assistants and lunchroom support staff. Approved the WHS Program of Studies for the 2009-10 school year.

Adopted Board policies on Interrogations and Searches, and Relations with Police Authorities.

TREASURER'S ITEMS: CFO/Treasurer Mark C. Pepera presented the Board with the following items, all of which were approved: 2nd quarter financial update and five-year forecast; funds were advanced from the General Fund to Project Link; student activity purpose statements and budgets for WHS bowling club and Class of 2011; adjusted FY09 appropriations; annual audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 (we had a perfect audit with no citations or findings).

DONATIONS: The Board accepted, with gratitude, donations from the following: William & Laurie Bowles, Michael R. Bozzone of Bozzone & Associates, Robert P. Bozzone of the Bozzone Family Foundation, Officer Ken Delfing of the Westlake City Police Department, Dover Elementary School PTA; Joseph & Kim Ferencsak; John E. Kiczek and Christine D. Seuffert; David Lesjak of Lesjak Planning Corporation; Larry & Linda McLean; Westlake Demons Club; Westlake Town Criers; Janet Cimino of Cuyahoga County Board of MRDD. Thank you!

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS REPORT: The district continues to deal with equipment and facilities aging issues.

BOARD ITEMS: The Board recognized a group of WHS students who attended the meeting along with Hyland Software to talk about a cooperative project between the schools and the business. They are working on how to make an excellent school district even better.

Carol Winter reported on the Continuous Improvement Plan monitoring meetings. She also touched on the August Community Wellness Program. The second forum will be coming up and all are encouraged to attend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board adjourned for an executive session for the purpose of negotiations and personnel. No action was taken following the executive session.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The Board will hold its organizational meeting on Monday, Feb. 23, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. at the Westlake Schools administration building.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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