



Westlake Board of Education

Board Notes from Monday, Feb. 23, 2009

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: The Board heard a presentation from the Adult Basic Literacy Education program. Students and instructors talked about the benefits of the program. Students from 31 countries plus the United States, ages 17 to 68, are enrolled in the program.

Dr. Keenan followed up on a WHS incident over the weekend. Dr. Keenan will attend a West Shore Boards meeting where Jim Betts will speak for the Alliance for Adequate School Funding about the Ohio school funding climate. Dr. Mark Forget is spending two days at LBMS on instructional practices. Several administrators will attend international baccalaureate training. Hazing and bullying reports will be posted on the Human Resources web site in compliance with Board policy.

Boys/girls swimming and girls basketball are all SWC champions.

SPECIAL REPORTS & RECOGNITIONS: A representative from the Ohio Association of School Business Officials presented CFO/Treasurer Mark C. Pepera with the 2008 recipient of the Foundation for School Business Management's Outstanding CFO/Treasurer of the Year award.

NEW BUSINESS: Approved classified resignations of Joseph Murtha, Theresa Thompson and Susan Pease. Approved classified resignation for purpose of retirement for Margaret Kunse. Approved classified employment of Shannon Musial, Theresa Thompson and Susan Pease. Approved employment of classified substitutes Ann Maie Zaryski, Patricia Sherwood, Tamera James, Donald Jessie, Bernadette Liggett, Tamera James and Diane Kline. Approved employment of certified substitutes Valerie Buza, Marc Zustin, Francee Giovannazzo, Catharina Maria Stallard and Lauren Tanner. Approved the reclassification of certified staff members Shannon Fortuna, Nick Miller and David Ruschau.

Approved supplemental employment for Jacob Schober, Traci Edmunds, Tim English and Daniel Berkheimer. Approved certified home instruction for Karen Schmidt, Jean Barrett and Sheri Foster. Approved stipends for after school professional development for Parkside Intermediate School students Dawn Dawson, Lynn Lindgren, Cathy Pietroski, Tom Seighman, Colleen Steidel and Jennifer White.

Authorized Ohio Schools Council Cooperative to advertise and receive bids for the purchase of up to four unitized school bus chassis and bodies. Authorized participation in the Ohio EPA Clean Diesel School Bus Fund Retro Fit Program, which provides funds to allow school districts to retro fit older school bus technology with devices to reduce pollution. Approved WHS 2009 Summer School dates (June 15-July 2, and July 3-July 22) and rates (\$140 per class for Westlake residents and \$180 per class for non-residents). Approved Dr. John Grace's My Family Practice for referral to confirm employee health matters per negotiated agreement. Approved agreements for admission of tuition pupils and purchased services with Eleanor Gerson School of Applewood Centers Inc. Approved stipends for math curriculum writing.

TREASURER'S ITEMS: The Board authorized the treasurer to return an advance from Project Link to the General Fund. Approved the treasurer to advance funds from the General Fund to ABLE. Approved Student Activity Purpose Statements and Budgets for the LBMS Environmental Club and Student Leader Club. Adjusted FY09 Appropriations. Authorized then and now certificates for the City of Westlake and the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County.

DONATIONS: The Board accepted, with gratitude, donations from the following: Bobbie Jo Zeggler of Bob Evans Restaurant, Brad Davison and Rebecca Ross, Timothy Brown of Energizer Company, Tony and JoAnn Hoty, John E. Kiczek and Christine D. Seuffert, Cecilia Render of Nordson Corporation foundation, Dave and Lysa Stanton of Sky Shore Prints, Tim James of Westlake Demons Club and Christine Picard of Westlake Education Foundation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: The Board approved a resolution governing the investments and investment activities of the district.

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS REPORT: Director of Human Resources Mike Laub filled in for Director of Business Affairs Dave Puffer. Power was out at Holly Lane Elementary and the area around the school. We contacted CEI and they were working on the problem.

BOARD ITEMS: The district has a tentative agreement with the OAPSE unit. They have not organized to vote on the agreement to date. There will be a meeting to review clarifications to move forward with a vote. Dr. Keenan will recommend administrative adjustments to reflect those in the most recent WTA and tentative OAPSE agreements. The Board approved a resolution to that effect.

Facilities: Emphasis is on educating the community and getting the message out that there is an issue. We have a project with the WHBS TV studio we're pursuing, as well as uses of alternative media to promote the district and highlight some of the district's more obvious facilities issues. Board member Joe Marinucci feels we also need to aggressively promote our fiscal responsibility. We have a potential bond campaign group that wants to organize and start raising funds. The Board is looking to address the facilities issue in November. The plan is to spend the next few months informing the community about the need. The Board requested a timeline to communicate the message. Dr. Keenan indicated the school district has a responsibility to taxpayers now and in the future. Expenses will continue to rise on the construction and maintenance side. Dr. Keenan is communicating with the mayor and City Council about

the school district's facilities needs. The Board agreed to look at requests for proposals/qualifications from architecture firms for site plans and traffic studies.

Red Brick Arts Group: Red Brick Arts Group sent a letter requesting \$2 million added on to any issue to renovate the Red Brick building. WE have actively sought a pre-lease agreement with the group and stopped entertaining other offers to support them, but we are not looking to put money into that building. The group has not been able to raise funds for the project. The district may need to consider the utilization of that land and building in our facilities plan.

Federal Stimulus Package: The district submitted an application for projects through the federal stimulus package. We are applying for funds outside of what OSFC would fund for facilities projects. We emphasized safety concerns, the number of facilities below minimum standards.

Parkside Planetarium: Parkside is 20% over capacity and going up. We're looking at closing the planetarium next year and use as a classroom. We discussed options with the SMART consortium if we close the planetarium (inflatable star labs, nearby planetarium).

Enrollment Projections: Our most recent enrollment projection came in last week and increased again. Our last enrollment report said we'd level off in 2018-19 at 4,027 with a peak of 4,088 students. This spring, they now project in 2018 for 4,025 students with a peak of 4,132 students. They project an increase of 59 students from last fall to 2018-19.

Promoting the District Through Alternative Media Formats: Technology Resource Specialist Albie Weiss put together an array of media formats to show how the district might use technology to promote the district. He'd like to get students involved in using technology to get the message out. We want something that can be forwarded on to someone else.

Mark Pepera's Evaluation: The Board will discuss this at the March meeting.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The Board will hold its next meeting on Monday, March 30, 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>