



Westlake Board of Education

Board Notes from Monday, Sept. 8, 2008

Prior to the start of the meeting the entire Board took a tour of Bassett Elementary School.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Daniel J. Keenan Jr. mentioned the first of two new staff development days coming up on Wednesday, Sept. 10. He mentioned 5th grader Patrick Fazekas, who is featured on a Special Olympics billboard near Cleveland Browns Stadium. He complimented our summer maintenance staff on their attention to details. Last year the district committed about \$750,000 to Jarod's Law and fire code issues -- \$40,000 was spent on things like basketball hoops, paint and bathroom renovations at WHS. A plan to enclose the WHS football stadium with fencing was delayed due to cost estimates, but the gym floor will be sanded and refinished after volleyball season. Lockdown drills are taking place this month in all of our schools.

Preschool Presentation: Preschool Supervisor Kathy Keaggy-Smith made a presentation to the Board on the Westlake Early Childhood Program. The program conducted 72 preschool evaluations in 2007-08 and serves 7 itinerant special education students, 7 itinerant speech-only students, 1 itinerant OT student, 42 center-based students and 23 typically developing peer role models.

Treasurer's Report/Recommendations: CFO/Treasurer Mark Pepera made a presentation on the FY 2008-09 budget. Highlights include the tax value dropping by 2.46%, state budget proposals must come in at about 95% from last school year, tangible personal property local taxes and reimbursements will be phased out by 2012, abatement payments have normalized, expenses begin exceeding revenues in FY 2010 and beyond. Budgetary pressures affecting the district (to the tune of about \$600,000) include utilities, new buses, deferred maintenance, trash pickup, textbook adoptions, community engagement services, technology, special education, ESL services and the loss of \$200,000 to \$200,000 in special education federal grants. Appropriations are up about 4% over last year.

New Business: Appointed Laura Steinbrink as an alternate and Brian Gottfried as a student representative to the Citizens Advisory Committee.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: The policy and curriculum subcommittees reviewed their recent discussions. The district is considering hiring K-12 School Consultants to assist the district in investigating issues of residency for some students. There was discussion on facilities planning, including the establishment of four upcoming community forums – Sept. 23, Sept. 29, Oct. 1 and Oct. 14 – to share the results of a community survey, as well as to communicate the district’s challenges and constraints as it relates to facilities.

The Board also had a first reading on several policies, including Nondiscrimination, Board Member Code of Ethics, Board Member Conflict of Interest, Board Organizational Meeting, School Board Meetings, Reporting of Hazards, Emergency/Safety Plans, School Bus Idling, Bus Driver Disciplinary Procedures, Equal Opportunity Employment, Smoking on District Property by Staff Members, Criminal Record Check, Professional Staff Contracts and compensation Plans (Teachers), Professional Staff Hiring, Human Relations Education, Co-curricular and Extracurricular activities, Equal Educational Opportunities, Hazing and Bullying, Tobacco use by Students, Student Expulsion, Reporting Child Abuse, Smoking on District Property, Visitors to the Schools. These policies will be voted on at the Sept. 22 meeting.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, Sept. 22, 5pm, in the Bassett Elementary School cafeteria.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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