



## **Westlake Board of Education**

### ***Board Notes from Monday, Nov. 16, 2009***

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Vision 20/20 committee will meet on Wednesday, the fourth meeting. We intend to have 2-3 more meetings to finalize the process. Last meeting we discussed narrowing the concept of grade level or neighborhood schools. We'll talk about local funded initiatives (things the OSFC would not co-fund if an OSFC project) and a survey from PreK-4 teachers regarding perceptions of two options (grade level or neighborhood configurations). There is concern from the survey about the grade level configured setup because it's the furthest change from the norm.

We spent 6-8 weeks looking at the pros and cons of both. Grade level saves the most money, but countered by transportation costs. PreK-4 survey: 61 out of 72 responded. Close to 50/50 on preference. 95% of the staff can live with the neighborhood configuration whereas as less than 80% can live with the other. The next two meetings will be to narrow down to one plan.

We have construction manager ratings on the agenda tonight. Kevin Kelley of the WestLife spent the day at the LBMS modular units. That article will be out this week.

Academic Excellence: New science and social studies draft standards came out today and are up for public comment. We intend to be an active participant.

Staff development day was tied to our CIP.

We should be receiving fall reading scores for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade this week or next.

Parkside teachers reading "Three Cups of Tea," a book about building schools in Pakistan. Ties to Pennies for Peace. Ties to contributions to society, content standards and what students are doing in class.

Dover participates in Jump Rope for heart. Students collected over \$5,000, donating over \$75,000 over the years. WHS air brush class airbrushed pumpkins for Metroparks Boo at the Zoo. Art teacher at WHS took 10 students on team building activity for Stuers Inc. E-Club did a benefit for Masaai in Kenya, raised

\$3,010, which will be matched to Cincinnati Zoo. Judy McMasters, Scott Kutz and Adam Purdy are going to Great Lakes Science Center to help with the Design Squad. Transportation is doing a Coats for Kids drive, collecting items for kids through Dec. 11.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Board convened into executive session for the purpose of a conference with the attorney involving a tax valuation dispute. The Board adjourned from executive session and resumed the regular session.

**TREASURER'S REPORTS:** The forecast now shows fiscal stabilization funds from the state. There is no change from the last forecast a month ago. Some things on the horizon we're watching, including further state budget cuts, a possible bill to freeze state income taxes to restore or maintain levels of funding schools are receiving now. Another item hanging out there is actual tax valuation set by county auditor. We have not received that yet.

Quarterly report – nothing major. We are on track to stay within the budget set in October.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Approved the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter financial update and five-year forecast. Issued then and now certificate for HVAC repairs at Transportation. Authorized the treasurer to return an advance from Uniform Supplies to the General Fund. Accepted funds for the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation. Established appropriations for the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation FY10. Adjusted FY10 appropriations.

Approved certified maternity leave for Kelli Butler; classified resignation for the purpose of retirement for Diane Christian; certified employment for Cheryl Watterson; classified employment of Cindy DeFeo, Denis Mone and Jennifer Sanders. Approved certified substitute resignation of Susan Brelo; employment of classified substitutes Kymberly Fox and Delores; employment of certified substitutes Emily Allsop, Heather Cizmadia, Carole Gerard, Mark Jacobs, Katy Kehoe, Ann Keller, Tracy Martello, Joanne Merker, Rebecca Priefer, William Poskarbiewicz, Lisa Spieth, Casey Stahl.

Approved supplemental resignations of Catherine McGlaughlin, Jillene Fulecki, Jessica Dye, Jeff Huber. Approved supplemental employment of Catherine McGlaughlin, Scott Rovniak, Jessica Dye, Mathew Jankowski, Samantha DiFranco, Michael Thoms, Jake Percival. Approved rescinding hours for ABLE employee Cheryl Williams. Approved employment of ABLE personnel Margareth Braathen. Approved certified home instruction by Claire Bookman and Drew Hocesvar. Approved salary adjustment for Project Link personnel Matthew Sprosty. Approved stipends for Title II-A FY-10-Improving Teacher Quality for Colleen Steidel and Amy Butcher. Approved agreement for admission of tuition pupils and purchased services from Berea City School District, Olmsted Falls City Schools, ESC Cuyahoga County-Audiology Services, ESC Cuyahoga County-Hearing Impaired Services.

Ranked the top firms that responded to the district's announcement for construction management services – in order, Turner Construction Company, Heery International Inc., Scaparotti Construction Group -- and authorized contract negotiations with the firm ranked most qualified – Turner Construction Company. (14 firms responded to our request for proposals, we interviewed 6 firms). Turner had the experience, green initiatives, resources, expertise in similar projects and available personnel.

**DONATIONS:** Accepted donations from Ron Zaleski of Hilliard Lakes Golf Course, Buddy Emsler of Outback Steakhouse, Party Station, and Gary Chizmar of Verizon.

**DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS:** Consistent with the Board's desire to look at alternative sources of funding, a newly found firm has offered to solicit ads for our web site. They do go out and recruit advertisers. In return we designate his firm as the exclusive web site advertising provider. Current advertisers exempt. We controls advertisers and content and reserve the right to pull ads at any time. Firm maintains advertising on their own web site. They charge each sponsor an upfront fee, a monthly promotional fee and a per click fee. We would receive our share of the advertising fees he charges. Could bring in \$25,000 to \$35,000 annually. The Board asked if there were other companies that do this. The setup is similar to Home Team Marketing, with whom we have a relationship. We have complete latitude over what is posted on our web site.

On Saturday a professional parking lot striping company placed traffic pattern striping at Dover Elementary. We received positive comments Monday morning on the changes. This provides some structure. We restriped parking spaces and added about a dozen spots. Officer Delfing will park his auxiliary service cruiser in one spot to watch for reckless operation citations.

*Dr. Keenan:* There are some things we are considering doing with capital dollars to get a head start on master planning with soil borings, testing the property we are looking to use to rebuild. There are questions about the land.

**BOARD ITEMS:** Carol Winter discussed the CAC bylaws and rules due to dwindling numbers. The CAC is looking for better ideas for better recruitment, changing the membership application and possible bylaw changes.

Carol Winter discussed a Curriculum Subcommittee meeting. Extended learning opportunities were discussed as it relates to our Continuous Improvement Plan. They also discussed full-day PreK, summer enrichment, global awareness and world languages. Next meeting will look at gifted education beyond the WINGS program.

Tom Mays mentioned teachers developing relationships with students around the world. A French class will Skype with another class to discuss world issues. The math program is online and resources are available for parents and students. Promethean and slate technology is allowing teachers to collaborate. AIMS Web allows our teachers to test and monitor the progress of our students. Formative assessments allow schools to become smaller learning communities.

The Board discussed moving the Dec. 14 meeting to Thursday, Dec. 10, at 6pm.

**HEARING OF THE PUBLIC:** Seamus Dumpfy is at the School Board meeting to obtain a badge for Boy Scouts. Ms. Rocco thanked the family for being at the meeting.

*Dave Centa:* He reviewed the 20/20 plan and was looking for further explanation. He also asked about the funding process for building new facilities. He also asked about the Martha Holden Jennings

Foundation grants. He also asked about state testing in September, if we're meeting Ohio Achievement Assessments goals. He is also concerned about financial literacy.

*Steven Sabolich:* He was interested in the possibility of web site advertising and advised there are companies out there will all types of opportunities for income streams.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** The next meeting of the Board will be Thursday, Dec. 10, at 6pm at the Westlake Schools administration building.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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