



Westlake Board of Education

Board Notes from Monday, 5/10/10, Work Session

PRESIDENT CAROL WINTER: Last week our students excelled in music performance through Music a la Mode, AP tests going on academically, athletically students competing at Westlake Relays and championships. Passage of Issue 14 also had the community saying yes to the kids. We truly appreciate the trust voters have shown in our ability to protect your investment in our schools. We thank the hundreds of volunteers that helped put together a sound master facility plan and ran the campaign.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Thanks to the support of our taxpayers supporting Issue 14. Look forward to starting the first phase of our master facilities plan. Music a la Mode this weekend with another series of fantastic performances. Girls softball team secured a share of the SWC title. Undeclared in league play. Our boys tennis secured season championship and tournament championship. 3 of 4 elementary schools held art shows last week. We had loss of power 10pm Sunday. Came back on around 4am.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Maasai Music Project: Dan Grigson
 - a. Environmental Club started 3 years ago. We are recognized because we are different than anything out there. All about the students first. Goal is to get them heard by as many people as possible. New project is international. Benefit this past weekend at Ritz Carlton was successful. We give them a platform. Made CDs, books, T-shirts, jewelry, tote bags.
 - b. Maasai Music Project has never been done before. Taking kids to Africa to have a workshop with African students. Will be released through Cincinnati Zoo and African Conservation Center.
 - c. Kids came to sing for the Board.
 - d. Still \$10,000 short and continuing fundraising. Still looking for contacts to make it happen. They have raised \$64,000 already.
2. Construction Master Facility Plan Update:

Financing/Mark Pepera

- Moody's upgraded Westlake Schools' financial rating to an Aa1 rating. In to 4% of school districts in Ohio. Looked on favorably on.
- Temporary financing: have to wait for official certification from Board of Elections. Notes around mid-June.
- Issuing of bonds: work with underwriting finance teams. Bond sale could occur summer-fall.
- Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) or Build America Bonds (BABs) or municipal bonds
 - Prevailing Wage
 - We can see how much we receive and then decide what to do
 - Review of our last experience
 - Have until May 17 to apply for QSCB -- \$100 million available in pool. 17-year bonds.
- Core Finance Team – Bond Council in Place, underwriter in place
 - Do we want a co-manager
 - Do we want a financial advisor

MKC / Turner

- Finalize contracts
- Construction manager, commissioning agents have different roles
 - Commissioning agent: building envelope issues. Link on OSFC site discusses.
- Question about commissioning agent for HVAC
- MKC to schedule to speak with LBMS and WHS staff. Dr. Keenan will meet with every staff
- Possible work on site surveys, soil borings, traffic studies
- Eco Charette process: LEED green sustainable initiative by US Green Buildings Council
 - Green technology
 - Describe scope of work for architects
 - Based on 110-point LEED certification program
- Turner's Core Team proposal includes two BOE members
- Do we go with Ohio School Facilities Commission / Expedited Local Partnership Program - pros & cons
 - Set process to take advantage of it, set standards
 - Gives us 5% if there in 2017
 - Give up local control
 - Board to decide by June 28 meeting
- Change Order resolution: will discuss May 24
- Selecting construction counsel:
- Staff involvement in process, admin, BOE, community resources (business, city)
- Exploring early bid opportunity savings – how early vs. transition issues, financing (May not be until January/February 2011)
- Red Brick: need to make a decision. Going to meet with Red Brick Arts Council.

Communications / input

- Touch base with 20/20 group: will reconvene group

- Website: Convert over to Master Facilities Plan and mention Phase I & II. Will document the process.
- Media communications: press releases, WL & WestShore Sun will be involved. Signed up with Twitter
- Neighborhood associations: front end communications
- City Officials
- Programming most heavy with staff – Alternates most heavy BOE
- Independent focus group
- Staff- district – BOE communications
- All Community Youth Leagues

3. Policy Review

Board Policies

- a. IGBM/ IGBM-R Credit Flexibility policy is required to be in place by May. It signifies a starkly different way to attain credit and will likely be the subject of great discussion over the next year.
- b. IGDJC – This policy did not come from OSBA. To ensure a club sport policy in place particularly as we are adding hockey.
- c. IND/INDA School Ceremonies & Observance/Patriotic Exercises - We essentially kept that policy the same. It states we start the day in all buildings with the pledge. This is a district choice. There is also permissive language that says the district may provide for a moment of silence and it also has permissive language indicating the district may participate in the celebration of Constitution Day.
- d. The subject of student dress code was also discussed with the subcommittee. At this point there is no proposed recommendation for a specific policy but it was suggested that this may be something down the road the Board may want to consider.

4. Race to the Top

Must decide by Friday whether to sign a memorandum of understanding. Still working with WTA on the provisions regarding teacher evaluation tied to students' progress. WTA understands and agrees in principle that we are here for student progress and that this is the primary job of the teacher. However, the problem is that there is no effective means to measure and there is a fear that the state will force a way to quantify that doesn't give a true picture. The state superintendent indicated there will be flexibility to an extent over this provision, but the lack of a real definition is causing the issue because the WTA does not want to agree to something that is not defined. They essentially feel they can't be assured what they are agreeing to if they sign. Working to add an addendum to the memorandum to rectify this and to indicate that we can choose multiple measure up to an agreed upon number and consider value-added as a group evaluation of the teachers, principals, and central office administration.

Board voiced concerns about losing local control, but deferred to Dr. Keenan and suggested agreement with WTA is paramount to moving forward.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Approved a resolution requesting authority to issue Qualified School Construction Bonds and authorizing the preparation and filing with the Ohio School Facilities Commission.

HEARING OF PUBLIC:

1. Harry Applegate: Asked by a number of people what impact passage of the bond issue will have on the WHS footprint and athletic facilities. Would like something out to the public.
 - a. Dr. Keenan: Working as quickly as we can. Want to get accurate information out. Can get out intentions to build where current parking lot is and part of softball field. We cannot guarantee. Actual shape and design of building not completed yet. Have property and land to accommodate, but existing things on that land. First step will be Wednesday meeting with Turner Construction. Anxious to put out communications by the end of the month.
 - b. Mr. Applegate: also asked about the commissioning agent
 - c. Dave Puffer: The Charette will identify what we are looking at (sustainability)

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. Conference with Board attorney concerning disputes involving pending or imminent court action
2. Discuss Superintendent contract

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, May 24, regular meeting at 5:30pm at the Westlake Schools Administration Building.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

<http://beta.westlake.k12.oh.us/boe/meetingschedule/default.aspx>