



Westlake Board of Education

Board Notes from Monday, April 11, 2016, Work Session

VISION STATEMENT

The Westlake City School District will provide a dynamic, student-centered, 21st Century learning environment. Our district will be characterized by high achievement, actively engaged learners, mutual respect, shared knowledge, pursuit of new skills and capabilities, collaborative learning, willingness to take action, a team commitment to data-driven continuous improvement, and tangible results.

MISSION STATEMENT

We Educate for Excellence ... Empowering all students to achieve their educational goals, to direct their lives, and to contribute to society.

INFORMATIVE REPORTS & RECOGNITIONS

1. Builder's Club Presentation/Casey Persia
 - a. The group discussed their pop tab project, holiday service project, Hungry Pumpkin candy donation, Valentine's Day card project with Lutheran Home, canning the principal canned goods drive, Lutheran Home egg hunt, staff appreciation service project, car wash service project.
 - b. Norm Resko from Kiwanis discussed the success of the group and the Kiwanis pancake breakfast coming up on Sunday.
2. Strategic planning presentation
 - a. Superintendent Geoff Palmer: Introduced Strategic Planning Committee and discussed the process.
 - b. Gary Sole: goal to create a constant and appropriate long-term funding stream for the district [educate the community about school finance, address needs and concerns, ensure dedicated local revenue stream and non-levy sources of financial support]

- c. Liz Pirnat: Curriculum & Technology goal = systemic framework to develop an all-inclusive learning environment to educate the whole-child [ensure implementation of effective core instruction with evidence-based practices, implement PK-12 curriculum model within the global community, increase access to college courses, continue to evaluate effectiveness of IB program/other programs, provide experiential learning environments, recruit/retain high quality educators and provide ongoing professional development.
- d. Dana Hoffman: Facilities goal = 21st century learning environments [ensure dedicate revenue stream, implement relevant technology, ensure buildings and grounds create positive experiences, guarantee equitable facilities, provide infrastructure to support technology]
- e. Ellie Peiffer: Communications & Community Partnerships = build a sense of confidence and trust in our schools throughout the community [engage residents/business/organizations through grassroots approach, develop steering committee to promote awareness of WCSD, expanding resources dedicated to communications and marketing, create a kickoff event with the community to start the new school year, continue existing partnerships and expand opportunities.
- f. Jane Peer: Culture & Environment goal = build a culture of inclusion, collaboration, open-mindedness, respect and inspiration [launch internal communications campaign, leverage nationally recognized programs and surveys, create internal/external communications, engaging students to identify best practices for learning, leverage the IB program as a change initiative.
- g. Dina Abugroon: We hope Westlake Schools stays on the right track and continues to Educate for Excellence
- h. Carol Winter: gives us a picture of the direction our community wants us to go in. Forward thinking and builds on the great things going on already and looking far ahead. Next steps involve more hard work with our community and internal stakeholders to talk about specifics of the plan.
- i. John Finucane: Look forward to building on what you put together.
- j. Joe Kraft: You inspire and excite us.
- k. Barb Leszynski: hope we can expand the community.
- l. Superintendent Palmer: The plan will be on the April 25 agenda for approval. We'll be looking for input and active participation.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Legislative Liaison/Barb Leszynski: Voted to send a bill to the State of Ohio for the money we lost to charter schools.
 - a. Palmer: One piece of legislation to keep an eye on is Ohio Facilities Construction Committee Funds. The funds that helped other districts fund schools, a bill would allow districts like us at the small share state/large share local to use those funds toward technology.

2. Student Achievement Liaison/Dr. Bob Stoll: Two WHS seniors received the Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary outstanding student award for exceptional achievements in Westshore Technical Programs.
3. Policy Committee: Reviewing what was discussed and will have updates ready for first reading.
4. Finance/Audit Committee/Joe Kraft: Schools had a tough time with changes in fiscal policies, charter schools, state testing. Recommended to have 12-18 months cash on hand.
5. Curriculum Committee/Carol Winter: no report
6. Community Outreach Committee/Joe Kraft: April is Autism Awareness Month. We all worked together to celebrate individuals with autism through Milestones organization. Green & White Revue also held this weekend. WHS students performed well at Rotary Speech Contest. Board members attending WHS choir trip to Boston and NYC. Music a la Mode is on its way.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Russ Ezalt: resident. Asked if the district would place Strategic Plan on the website.
2. Liz Pirnat: Thrilled about invoice to State Board of Education. Westlake is the 52nd district to submit a bill to Ohio Department of Education.
3. Patrick McMorow: WTA President. Discussed staff concerns about messages not being received by the board and reflected on district website.
4. Cynthia Archer: Westlake teacher. Concerned education is not growing stronger/more effective as the community around it and the view of public education in the community.
5. Rob Pace: Westlake teacher. Compared Westlake's culture and decline to another district. Rebuild the trust.
6. Loretta Tindall: Westlake teacher. Discussed crisis of trust.
7. Russ Ezalt: Cited state statistics regarding teacher salary.
8. Marge Widmar: resident. Acknowledged struggling teachers and hoped for a fix.
9. Russ Ezalt: Again cited state statistics on teacher/school rankings.
10. Dina Abugroon: resident/parent/strategic planning member. Cited respect and support for teachers.
11. Patrick McMorow: wanted to ensure board had 2016 data regarding teachers/school rankings.
12. Jane Peer: strategic planning/community member. We want to be the best school district. Community needs to recognize we don't have the money to give those raises.
13. Gary Sole: strategic planning/community member. I moved here for the schools and haven't been disappointed in the people who taught my children. Promoted the importance of education.

BOARD COMMENTS:

1. Barb Leszynski: clarified meeting minutes.
2. Carol Winter: added board notes due to lag time when minutes/audio tapes posted on the website. Notes provide an overview.
3. Superintendent Palmer: perspectives are challenging when providing statistics.

4. Winter: not negotiating in public. Our job is to ensure financial stability of this school district. Teachers are an important stakeholder, as are community members and businesses.

The Board adjourned to executive session to discuss employment and compensation of the Treasurer, and employee negotiations. No action was taken.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next meeting of the Board is Monday, April 25, 6pm, at Parkside.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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