



## **Westlake Board of Education**

### ***Board Notes from Monday, March 11, 2013, Work Session***

#### **DISTRICT VISION & MISSION STATEMENTS**

The Westlake City School District will provide a dynamic, student-centered, 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

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

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

1. A Westlake girl was missing over the weekend. We put that on our system and worked with families across Westlake and learned she was safely returned to her family. We received a lot questions about whether that was our bus. It was not. Hathaway Brown buses their own students.
2. We had IB workshop for Midwestern states at WHS. We had close to 400 participants including presenters. Coordinated by Carol Froehlich, Pam Griebel, Colleen Mudore, Deb Wadden and Renee Bailey. We're hoping to keep that here. We had 33 of our own staff members attend. With IB we've taken a position that all four schools will be on the same place and stay in Category 1 to make sure common core standards are implemented the same way. Making good progress, want to keep moving forward.
3. High school orchestra received superiors at the state level again. Used the highest level of music. Unanimous superior ratings by all.
4. Annual Shamrock Dance on Friday with multi-handicapped students.
5. Tralee partnership gave us money to pay for travel for an exchange program to go to Tralee. Colleen Mudore, IB coordinator for Dover and Holly Lane, will be traveling there to do joint projects with elementary schools. That will happen next October for two weeks.

6. We obtained a waiver day from the state, but we won't use it this spring. We will implement training next fall for Alice. Also thinking of doing student learning objectives training. In process of evaluation for shared attribution options to use district value added as a measurable objective while we write student learning objectives. Trying to manage new things at the state level but maintain focus on things we feel is important.
7. \$300,000 savings on bids for Dover Intermediate School.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

8. Approved resignations of Alicia Karen Petrus, Rosemary Blayney and Rita Shields for the purpose of retirement.
9. Approved classified resignation of Linda Martin
10. Approved exempt staff resignation of Courtney Reinart
11. Approved classified employment of Jane Provoznik and Linda Martin

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Update on Governor's biennial state budget/Dr. Keenan & Mark Pepera, CFO/Treasurer
  - a. Rep. Nan Baker met with us and aware of things we are advocating for. Things will likely change.
  - b. HB59 – common theme is Achievement Everywhere – Common Sense for Ohio's Classrooms. New funding formula with equal yield concept. Still uses property/income wealth formula. Several components – core opportunity aid, targeted resource-poverty aid, students with disabilities\*, disadvantaged pupil aid\*, English Language Learner Aid\*, gifted and talented\*, early childhood, guarantee\* (\* indicates what Westlake is eligible for).
  - c. Guaranteed funding is important to us – no public school district will receive less than any other school (private and parochial). We get \$450/student. Private/parochials get about \$980/student. That was corrected in law and was supposed to take effect in 2012. We are only 1 of 20 districts in Ohio this affects, meaning more money our local taxpayers pays goes to private/parochial schools. Got that changed, wiped out in a single line in last budget. We'll take another hit if that Guarantee goes away.
  - d. They are telling us we'll get the same amount of funding, but it appears there may be restrictions on how to spend those dollars. Student population changes may impact what you receive from year to year.
  - e. Additional components – transportation\*, expanded voucher programs\* (income-based voucher for K-1 students, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading guarantee voucher), charter school funding\*. Since 2011 we eliminated high school transportation, which means a significant reduction in funding. Charter schools would take \$5,000+ per student.
  - f. Funding proposal says no student receives less state funding. From the data, it looks like we will receive less. We still don't know about transportation.
  - g. 15% of special education money is earmarked, but we can't spend it yet. It may be pooled to help districts in need.

- h. This time last biennium we had information. We don't have that opportunity this time. There is only one person in the state to get information from for the entire state.
  - i. Since 2006-07, we've lost \$10.18 million from the state. This has been going on for some time. Some we were aware was coming, but much involved heavier hits than we anticipated. We've done group purchasing, consolidating services to save money. We stretched the last levy 7 years during this time. Trends seems like it will continue. If we are fortunate to have the community's support in May, we'll need to continue to have effective practices to run efficiently and make this up.
  - j. Race to the Top – we chose not to be one of those districts, but we are now subject to all of those requirements, which costs money. On top of losing the \$10 million, there are millions in expenses we are acquiring because of these requirements when you consider staff development/trainings, material purchases, technology requirements, etc.
  - k. Next steps – advocate with legislators on impact/equity issues and reduce the Robin Hood effect, analyze/offer substitute languages, verify and share with media outlets.
  - l. Tom Mays: about 28% of our students go elsewhere. It's parental choice. The product might help. [Private/parochials do not have to serve an IEP. Some do, but it's not a requirement. The playing field is uneven].
  - m. Pepera: the whole funding formula is predicated on the expansion of the sales tax, as well as Medicare expansion. If those components fail, we may be back to the drawing board with the school funding formula because it's based on savings from those programs to fund schools.
  - n. Carol Winter: the more we educate our community about this and how it impacts education is important. We need to keep talking about how the state decisions are impacting us.
2. Update on new Ohio schools Report Card proposal
- a. We had the highest performance index (107.9 in top 5% in Ohio), we have exceeded a year's growth. We improved in 16/24 indicators. The report card is important to us, but our focus is on higher goals defined by the CIP. We met state and federal adequate yearly progress.
  - b. We hit all of our CIP goals on this report card.
  - c. The school and district report cards will be changing, but we won't know what it will look like until June. New report cards won't reflect well on schools. Frustrating to be evaluated after the fact.
  - d. There will be six broad categories – achievement, gap closing (used to be AYP), graduation rate, progress, K-3 literacy, prepared for success.
  - e. On top of the funding in Ohio education and the report cards, changes that are coming:
    - i. New learning standards in science, social studies, PE, art, world language. Last phased in in 2001 through 2004. Four of the big core areas are being changed at the same time at all grade levels. That will be a challenge academically and fiscally.
    - ii. Next generation assessments – from OGTs to end of course exams and others. Changes will happen over the course of the next year.

- iii. All tests will be taken online
- iv. Changes in principal/teacher evaluations
- v. Third grade reading guarantee

**The board adjourned to executive session to discuss potential litigation and negotiations. No action was taken.**

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** The next meeting of the Board is Monday, March 18, at 5:30pm, at Dover Elementary School.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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