



## **Westlake Board of Education**

### ***Board Notes from Monday, Oct. 13, 2014, Work Session***

#### **VISION STATEMENT**

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.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/MASTER FACILITY PLAN UPDATE**

1. Communications Update: We've done a lot of research on what happened with our Blackboard Connect issue. They are calling it a user interface error. We don't necessarily believe that. Messages that went out last spring went out with no issues. This year we've had real issues. We've been doing some research and looking at some long-term solutions that may include changing vendors for that service. Completed some online sessions that may be more reliable and offer more options in the communications realm. We hope to have this wrapped up by the end of the month. We've been working with the PTA groups in getting word out for us in the meantime. If we would have an emergency, we will rely on radio/TV, as well as phone calls we can make. We believe phone calls will get through, but emails are problematic. That's where we'll rely on PTA and other modes to get our message out. We have a good handle on that. It may not be the answer we want to get from Blackboard, but we think we'll be providing even better service to our community.
2. The 20/20 Vision Plan Phase II Review & Updated Feasibility

- a. Business Director Dave Kocevar: Phase I is drawing to a close. Final earthwork started at the back of WHS this past week. New topsoil brought in for the playing field. Excess dirt mound at the end of the playing field has been smoothed out. A final grading and seeding of that will mature for play for next year. Tennis courts have a basecoat down. Top coats will go on when weather cooperates.
  - i. High school and middle school in operation for a full year. Working through punch lists. Some minor issues. Some a little bigger issues. This is the full year you find things and ensure they are working correctly. DIS renovations and energy upgrades completed over the summer. Working through punch lists.
  - ii. We're working on closing out contractor contracts, pay applications, ensuring warranties and operation manuals are current. Additional work we still want to accomplish: putting a sign out front of the high school with two floodlights. Were hoping for LED sign display board with a brick pillar sign. Maximum amount size for an LED sign is once every 24 hours. Because of the zoning area we are in, the sign cannot be animated. City said it would be unlikely that a variance would be granted. Cost of a sign is large. Thinking it might not be best use of our dollars if we can only change the sign once a day. Looking at a static message board we can change.
  - iii. DeMoms looking to complete their project along the south side of the football field. Have brick pillars up, beautification project almost complete. Wrought iron fence delayed.
  - iv. Field house = MKC finish up plans for that with restrooms and locker rooms. We had permits and plans were already approved by city. Just need to show any changes to city and full speed to go out and get that project started. We are going to get the utilities turned on and the building cleaned up before we talk to St. John Medical Center again about a partnership.
- b. Superintendent Geoff Palmer: We reached out to Lesko who completed the last feasibility study to come back and look at the information and bring it up to date related to where we are with our facilities and costs.
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> option from the 20/20 committee was neighborhood schools (6 buildings on 5 sites) – high school site, Dover campus, renovation of Parkside, new K-4s in southern portion and another in NW quadrant (Bassett and Holly Lane sites). \$44 million at the time.
  - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> option was 5 buildings on 4 sites – high school site, Dover campus, renovation of Parkside for grades 3-4 and PreK-2 building on Bradley Road or Bassett property. \$34 million range.
  - iii. 3<sup>rd</sup> option was 4 buildings on 3 sites – high school, Dover campus, NE portion was renovation of Parkside and new build on Parkside. \$33.9 million range.
  - iv. October 2014 feasibility review – re-evaluate all properties and their potential capacity to provide current information. Maintain focus on the property/footprint needs, not design factors.

1. Bassett Elementary = neighborhood building PreK-4 or a PreK-2 or 3-4 building. Build a new building on the property.
2. Bradley Road – vast majority of property is wetlands. Wetlands area shrinking over last 5 years following city intervention on a drainage ditch. Only 15 of 40+ acres are wetlands. You have 25 buildable acres on that property. Need to replace some wetland areas if going to build on areas. One scenario shows either a neighborhood PreK-4 building or a grade level building.
3. Dover Campus – Some feasibility of getting all 3 buildings on that campus. Very difficult. Road access becomes an issue.
4. Parkside – won't significantly impact what's going on in the district. Possible scenario on 14 acres to place a neighborhood PreK-4 building or use a grade level building. Involves razing the current building and building new. Another option shows demolition of current building and placing a districtwide PreK-4 building on that space. Tight space but could work. Concern in keeping existing building is more so the footprint that would need to meet the needs of everything without going two stories in academic areas.
5. Next steps = open community meeting Oct. 23, 6:30pm, @ Parkside auditorium. 20/20 Committee will reconvene November-December.

#### **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Finance Committee update/Thomas Mays & John Finucane
  - a. Primary topic has to do with potential refinancing of long-term debt/bonds. Potential savings of \$500,000 or more.
2. Policy Committee update/Tony Falcone & Barb Leszynski
  - a. We're looking at a new policy update firm. Trying to get NEOLA to come in and provide a transition explanation.
3. School Law seminar training update/Tom Mays
  - a. Oct. 9 attended a seminar put on by a local law firm. Great information on a wide range of topics, including effective strategies for employee discipline, student discipline, computer/technology investigations, Ohio open meetings, special education students and placement, student related search and seizures, board and administration ethics issues, case law update.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. To discuss evaluation of a public employee. No action was taken.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** The next meeting of the Board is Monday, Oct. 27, at 6pm at Holly Lane Elementary School.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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