



Westlake Board of Education

Board Notes from Monday, March 14, 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.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

[President Carol Winter indicated the hearing of the public is indicated for action items the Board is intending to act on]

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Legislative Liaison/Barb Leszynski
 - a. 4 House bills being presented: 383 requires ½ unit of economics/financial literacy; 401 for chartered/non-public schools; 410 truancy; 441 allows non-public school students to participate in school activities
2. Student Achievement Liaison/Dr. Bob Stoll – No report
3. Policy Committee/Barb Leszynski
 - a. Met with Stephanie Morgan, pupil services, and Carol Froehlich, gifted, to discuss kindergarten entrance.
4. Finance/Audit Committee – No report

5. Curriculum Committee/Carol Winter

- a. Met with Superintendent Geoff Palmer, HR Director Brady Sheets and Academic Services Director Kathi Maxwell. Learned there have been ongoing curriculum meetings. In 2011, beginning of a lot of funding loss for the district. Significant state cuts 2011-2016, 3 failed levies and political climate around Ohio's learning standards resulted in pushing back textbook purchases to ensure they align with changing standards.
- b. Curriculum is not the textbook and addresses learning standards. Instructional materials encompass workbooks, site licenses—allowing access to materials that can't be replicated in a textbook. Spent nearly \$2 million since 2009 on instructional materials. There is a curriculum review cycle in effect. We will be getting a K-12 math adoption at the end of the year. Next year is English/Language Arts.
- c. We are aware we have outdated textbooks, but those are one tool of numerous instructional materials we have. We've lost nearly \$18 million in state funding and levy failures mean making cuts. We're not in a great financial situation. We're doing what we can to balance the budget. As soon as you print a social studies textbook, it has out-of-date materials once delivered. That's why we have supplemental instructional materials.
- d. We should be renewing cycles in each subject every five years. That has not been happening. We are working on historical data. John Finucane questioned if a 5-year cycle should be a Board policy. Winter indicated we don't have money dedicated to materials replacement/facilities. It will be a future discussion item. Superintendent Palmer indicated policy helps direct priorities, but a challenge with curriculum is state mandates (there is a bill to throw out Ohio's new learning standards and adopt Massachusetts standards from a decade ago). If you work from a practice or guidelines, it can be worked with, whereas policy needs to be met or changed.
- e. Kathi Maxwell will present to the Board at the next meeting.

6. Community Outreach Committee/Joe Kraft

- a. Wrapped up strategic planning sessions. A presentation will be made to the Board in April. Task forces will be created.
- b. Community volunteering at OMEA contest.
- c. One School, One Book volunteer reading at Hilliard and Holly Lane.
- d. Hilliard PTA Magic Gives Back event volunteering.
- e. Third grade level meeting at Holly Lane and Hilliard.
- f. Working with Class of 2016 with After Prom and Baccalaureate.
- g. Recent baseball batting cage fundraiser.
- h. Participating in Dollars for Scholars.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Approved updated policies—no significant changes other than locations and information sources
 - a. 5111 Entrance requirements

- b. 5408 Academic Acceleration, Early Entrance to Kindergarten and Early High School Graduation

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Paul Roth: Westlake teacher. Issue of sick days addressed at last Board meeting.
2. Patrick McMorrow: WTA president. Thanks and recognizes Kathi Maxwell for her work on curriculum. Discussed salaries of teachers and district treasurer.
3. Allyson Gregory: Westlake teacher. Discussed changing environment in the district.
4. Sandee Erdman: Westlake counselor. Takes negotiations personally.
5. Cathy DuBois: community member. Concerned about high school schedule and failing levies.
6. Loretta Tindall: Westlake teacher. Discussed values.
7. Harry Applegate: community member. Concerned about aging materials. Asked about alternative sources for materials. Think outside the box. Concerned about climate in the district.

BOARD ITEMS & COMMENTS

1. discussion of possible invoicing of state for community school payments
 - a. Carol Winter: We receive per pupil from state is \$500-\$700/student. By law, when a student leaves for a charter/community school, we pay out \$5,700. Other districts have invoiced the state for that shortfall. \$2.6 million in Westlake.
 - b. Joe Kraft: Something we need to do.
 - c. John Finucane: It will be more symbolic than anything, but supports it.
 - d. Barb Leszynski: Also supports it.
 - e. Instructed CFO/Treasurer Mark Pepera to prepare a resolution and letter to send to the state.
2. discussion of board retreat dates
 - a. Will schedule after April 11 strategic plan presentation to the Board.
3. Olmsted Falls Superintendent Jim Lloyd wrote a letter encouraging legislators, ODE and school board to reconsider how they interact with local school districts. Signed by Superintendent Geoff Palmer. Carol Winter intends to sign as well.
4. Joe Kraft: Lost two teacher friends recently. Indicated there is respect for teachers. Encouraged working together.
5. Carol Winter: We had two years left on our contract during the recession when surrounding districts negotiated concessionary contracts. We've had two years of concessions, with step increases implemented this year.
6. John Finucane: asked how many employees are stepped out. [Pepera: roughly 78 staff out of 275 certified staff are stepped out]. 72% of staff got an increase in the fall.
7. Superintendent Palmer: Steps refer to longevity steps or continuity steps in salary schedule. Stepped out means those individuals are at the bottom of their step and cannot move to the next column for a raise.

The board adjourned to executive session to conference with attorney to discuss possible/pending litigation and discuss possible sale and acquisition of property and employee negotiations.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next meeting of the Board is Monday, March 21, 6pm, at WHS.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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