



Westlake Board of Education

Board Notes from Monday, Aug. 1, 2016, Special Meeting

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.

Board President Carol Winter: Our mission is to provide a 21st century learning environment for our students. We're not doing that at the elementary level. Aging buildings aging 49-67 years, we need the infrastructure to support the technology and educational needs of our students.

BOARD ITEMS

1. Discussion of district finances and the November ballot issue
 - a. Winter: We voted to place a combined bond/PI issue on the ballot. Last week we were made aware we needed to tweak the millage amount to make good on our promise to not raise taxes.

- b. Superintendent Scott Goggin: 2.43 mills is coming off our ledger. We initially intended to place a 1.3 mill bond and a 1 mill PI on the ballot. 1 mill is something we need for buses, technology, textbooks. We have some buses eligible for historical plates. We know the need is real. The board voted to move millage down to 2.3 mills with understanding to reduce it enough to have no new increase in taxes. We found the 2.3 mill would be 50 cents more per month per \$100,000 of evaluation. It would cost you \$6 more in that case. We also wanted to balance surveys and focus groups, who we told the initiative would not raise taxes. We can move from a 1 mill PI to a .8 mill PI. It would keep the promise and provide a PI revenue stream we don't have. It's not everything we need, but can make due with. Moving to the .8 mill would be a savings.
- c. Treasurer Todd Hopkins: This isn't an issue caused because of Westlake community. This is an issue of the Ohio legislature and governor's office approving a law removing Homestead rollback from 1970s. In 2013 budget bill, they removed Homestead rollback for new levies. Homestead rollback for residential properties, 10% reduction on taxes. First 10% of property tax paid by state to school districts. An additional 2.5% rollback on owner occupied residences, for 12.5% total. Ohio legislature said continue rollback for renewal levies, but new or additional levies are not subject to rollback. This equates to for every 1 mill of taxes assessed on home, difference is \$4.37 on a \$100,000 home, which state picked up. Combined bond/PI issue, homeowner paying \$74.43 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. If we continued with 2.3 mill combined bond and 1 mill PI, they would see a slight increase and annually taxes go up to \$80.50. If the board reduces PI to .8 mill levy, taxes would be \$73.50 annually per \$100,000. That is just shy of \$1 less than what homeowners are paying right now. Able to build a new 21st century elementary, provide long term stability in capital improvements, for less than what homeowners are currently paying today. .8 mills will generate \$1.14 million annually.
- d. Joe Kraft: It sounds like we can be fiscally responsible and still accomplish the goals of supporting capital needs.
- e. Winter: Also gives us a better narrative. Concern I had was our statements that this would not increase taxes. We really need to work on our credibility. That means our actions and our words have to match. I would prefer to put a 1 mill PI on, that's what we really need. It will take longer to catch up with what we need, but we owe it to our community to stick with what we said we would do.
- f. The board voted on a resolution of going on the ballot for \$33.633 million for a single site PK-4 elementary building (1.3 mill bond issue) and .8 mill permanent improvement levy.

- g. Hopkins: to put an issue before the voters, we need two separate votes at two separate meetings. We have a meeting scheduled for Aug. 2 at 8am to accomplish this.

BOARD COMMENTS

- 1) John Finucane: Welcomed Scott Goggin and Todd Hopkins to their new positions.
- 2) Joe Kraft: important that our CEO and superintendent and treasurer has best administrative support they receive. Would like to continue conversation on administrative support.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next meeting of the Board is Monday, Aug. 8, 6pm, at WHS. There will be a special meeting at 8am on Tuesday, Aug. 2

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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