



## **Westlake Board of Education**

### ***Board Notes from Wednesday, 2/22/10, Regular Meeting***

**SPECIAL REPORTS & RECOGNITIONS:** The Board recognized Parkside Intermediate School students and LBMS students for the Cuyahoga County ESC Equations Competition: Emily Healy, Jessica Hook, Alex Ikezawa, Taeho Kim, Alex Lathem, Alexis Mance, Ian Pinkas, Becca Prexta, Sierra Swisher, Catherine Tsuei, David Wanhainen, Ryan Zubricky, Cal Craven, Ameesh Shah, Peter Slater, Kartik Dhinakaran, Vanessa Melikian, Cari Milowicki.

Recognized LBMS and Parkside students for the FIRST LEGO League Competition: Phil Cooper, Pranav Idnany, Reddy Paavani, Eleni Packis, Apshara Ravichandran, Thome Reusser, Peter Slater, Robert Slater, Chris Tsuei, Jason Albrecht, Adam Dixon, Nate Hofford, Alex Lathem, Jeremy McCabe, Conor Miller, CJ Null, Chris Slater, Jack Wadden, Zach Wise, Kartik Dhinakaran.

Recognized WHS students for taking first three places in the George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay contest sponsored by the Sons of the American Revolution and the Western Reserve Historical Society: Brenna Goodwin, Katie Mitterholzer, Julie Wang.

Recognized WHS students for sweeping the 2010 Model Home Design Contest: A.J. Suever, Jeff Thaler, Matt Schmitz, Erich Beyer, Conner Dempsey, Julie Wang, Robert Schill, Dane Rimko, Alex Schultz, Jordan Day, Alex Tegel, Scott Bates, Alyssa Schill, Dan Meehan, Steve Orange, Tyler Watling, Nathaniel Renkel, Maura Goede, Scott Hulver, Ashley Kay, Aaron Mancini, Peter Szabo, Jennifer Chern, Kalin Ngo.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Approved certified FMLA leave for Kate O'Leary, Katie Beachler and Amanda Caunter. Approved classified employment of Lestina Austin. Amended classified employment of Sandra Houser. Approved supplemental contract resignations of Jessica Dye. Approved supplemental contract employment for Jessica Dye. Approved classified substitute Eleanore Smith. Approved certifies substitutes Sean Carrothers, Ashley Pullar, Rachael Delfing, Alanna Roark, Alyssa Karim, Rachel Weiss, Robert Pace. Approved reclassification of certified staff member Thomas DeLuca. Approved employment of Adult Basic Literacy Education Personnel for Cheryl Williams, Victoria Emblom, Jessica Untch, Gloria Muntean. Approved unpaid professional study leave of absence for Todd Eichenauer.

Approved stipends for ENVISIONS math workshop for Barb Derethik, Karen Huber, Rachel Meyrose, Colleen Steidel. Approved resignation of stipend for Cindy Vessalo. Approved employment of 2010 summer school administrators Michael May and Paul Wilson.

Approved agreements for admission of tuition pupils and purchased services with ESC Cuyahoga County. Approved Sunday building use for North Coast Needlers Quilt Show. Authorized Ohio Schools Council cooperative to advertise and receive bids for school bus chassis and bodies. Amended the WHS program of studies.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Parkside has a 5<sup>th</sup> grade band concert tomorrow at PAC at 7pm. What's unique about this is continued work to broadcast it live via the web for families in different parts of the world can view them.

Kurt Thonnings working with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders to download tutoring sessions from teachers onto iPods.

March 1 – Distance learning meeting at LBMS at 9am in distance learning lab concerning World Language. Through eTech looking at affordable ways to provide that access to students.

Swim teams had 9 kids qualify for state meets and broke 6 school records.

Curricular discussions on using state gifted allocation for assessment to prepare students for college readiness. Having students take Explore Test, Plan test, PSAT test to give us ideas on how to target college readiness and targeting scholarship opportunities.

Interim Athletic Director: two interviews this week for an interim. Hope to have recommendation at next board meeting.

High school string orchestra received a superior rating from every judge at OMEA contest.

High school French Club putting on Sing for Haiti event. Grades K-12 doing things to make sure responding on a local level.

Taste of Westlake this Friday. Up to 24 restaurants and 700 tickets sold.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Approved quarterly report and financial forecast. We're doing better than expected from real estate taxes. Overall still showing a deficit in 2014. We'd need to consider additional operating revenue in 2012. If you go with a similar 3-4 year cycle, looking at around 6 mills. Board has discussed alternative strategies (shorter levy cycle) and not sure what will happen at the State level or with the economy. Looking at 5 additional mobile units to incorporate all-day kindergarten in 2012.

Authorized return of Project Link advance to General Fund. Adjusted FY10 appropriations.

**CAC Report:** Laura Steinbrink, mid-year report on energy and water benchmarking

**DONATIONS:** Accepted donations from Gary DiLillo and Mr. & Mrs. Guy Kobe.

**DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS REPORT:**

1. Home Team Marketing: \$3,550 in sponsorships at football and basketball games. Outback sponsored the end-of-season football banquet for \$1,500. Anticipated scoreboard repairs for \$3,600.
2. Pending legislation concerning a renewable energy program. HB 113 pending in Columbus regarding renewable energy measures. For school districts with enrollment of 5,000 or more, which does not include Westlake.
3. EZPay online credit card system: Implemented Jan. 20. Keeping monthly tallies. \$5,300 payments in online payments. Haven't experienced any problems. Positive reviews.

#### **BOARD ITEMS:**

1. *Recording of minutes:* Intent of minutes to provide a brief summary of what goes on a meetings. Recordings and tapes are a public record and on file and available for anyone who wants to know exact verbage of meetings. Tim Sullivan and Nate Cross asked to have prepared statements attached to the minutes of Jan. 11 and 25 Board meetings to more accurately reflect their sentiments at those meetings. The Board voted not to include those attachments.
  - a. **Tim Sullivan:** Asked to have statements included that I made. I would request we include attachments I sent to Mark Pepera as a part of the minutes. I find objections to this to be hypertechnical based on a policy that does not support excluding them. In light of where we're sitting to provide information to our residents, I find the effort to exclude these relatively short statements as attachments troubling. I do not believe the minutes accurately reflect my views and sentiments.
  - b. **Carol Winter:** Board policy if a Board member would like to have verbatim put into record, they need to make that statement for the record. We've made every effort to ensure actions at BOE meetings transparent, fully taped, fully accessible to anyone. There is an effort to follow Board policy. It needs to come before the Board as a Board decision. Minutes supposed to be giving us a summary of what happened at the meeting. Wrong to let people prepare statements when words were not spoken at the meetings. To spend valuable resources and time to verify and ensure the words jive with the statements prepared pulls us off our mission of educating for excellence. Is this about kids or about board members being perceived in the right way? I don't want to get off the mark. We have a vehicle in place – the recordings.
  - c. **Nate Cross:** Would like statements regarding facilities accepted into the record. Not something want to do on continual basis. In interest of transparency, statements I made relative to facilities should be accepted. Important to me because I feel comments I've made haven't been included or mischaracterized. Would like to make it easily available through public record. Do not believe the notes/minutes reflect accurately what I said. I want my views accurately portrayed. Asking those be accepted as part of the record.
  - d. **Tom Mays:** That's subjective what a big issue is. Attaching prepared statements to agendas is unwieldy. Anyone can review recordings, unless you find anything incorrect.
  - e. **Mark Pepera:** You run a higher risk when putting something in a verbatim format. This is highly unusual.

- f. **Andrea Rocco:** We vote and we speak with one voice. We are not city council members. We are a school board. We discuss, we vote and we move forward.
  - g. **Carol Winter:** Recommended adhering to past practice to let the Board as a whole decide whether to allow prepared statements to be attached to minutes. Recommended Mark Pepera continue to summarize the meetings. All meetings are archived on tape to ensure transparency.
- 2. *Board president workshop:* Carol Winter attended sessions on board of education presidency
  - 3. *Ohio House of Representatives letter:* Rep. Nan Baker and Armand Budish letter of commendation for our schools to commend us as a district and Dr. Keenan and his staff on our excellence.
  - 4. *Taste of Westlake:* Friday, 7pm at LaCentre. Entire administrative team responded to payroll deductions to support the schools on a continual basis. Teachers and support staff can do the same.
  - 5. *Founder's Day:* PTA honors those who work within the district for students. 7 schools represented. District educator award as well.

#### **HEARING OF PUBLIC:**

- 1. Dave Senta: web site improvement is phenomenal. Trouble searching Board policy document. Question about voted and unvoted millage. Asked about bond issue language (Board of Elections will finalize language in mid-March). Mentioned news report on Fox8 at Perry High School in Massillon passing out information related to a political party and asked if we had a policy in regard to that. Questioned any policy about political solicitation at school. Suggested Willoughby-Eastlake has clear language on these issues.
- 2. John Finucan: Question on taped conversations, whether they were available online (they are not). Asked for a balance sheet on financials (CAFR on the web site).
- 3. Steven Symbolic: Saw passions running extremely high for addendum to meeting minutes. I'd like to know how often you spend \$80 million and stick it out there on a bond issue. Even though I will probably support the bond issue, but if two board members are supposed to have the details, I'd like to know why they don't want that bond issue. Easier to see it in a text form.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, March 8, work session at 5:30pm at the Westlake Schools Administration Building.

Executive Session: To discuss superintendent contract.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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