



Westlake Board of Education

Board Notes from Monday, April 25, 2016, Regular 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

1. Kelsey Wermer: World Language teacher. Concerned about communication at the administrative level.
2. David Birkheimer: Talked about generational connection to the Dover/Westlake Schools. Hope staff of Westlake Schools is respected every day. Thanked the staff for their continuing efforts.
3. Michael Kula: science teacher. Disconnect in strategic plan outline presentation. Too much focus on buildings, too little on teachers. Asked the board to ask the community to make funding education a priority in the community.
4. Jennifer Williams: special education teacher. Discussed the culture of the district and questioned the administrative and board focus.
5. Patrick McMorrow: WTA president. Addressed the strategic plan, climate and culture. Asked the board to be aware of interactions between central office and staff.

INFORMATIVE REPORTS & RECOGNITIONS

1. Sponsor appreciation award for Special Olympics
 - a. Russ Milan: Presented a sponsor appreciation award from Kiwanis. This is the 7th Special Olympics Competition. Looking forward to 100 participants.
2. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Strategic Plan outline: 5 goal areas and initiatives. Next steps are assigning a task force.
 - b. Co-sponsoring Senior Citizen Appreciation Dinner at 5pm with Kiwanis, City of Westlake and Westlake Porter Public Library.
 - c. Still in negotiations with teachers. Scheduled to meet April 29. We remain hopeful of reaching an agreement.
 - d. Met in mediation with state employee relations board in regard to unfair labor practices. No agreements made. Decision by SERB delayed until after next negotiation session.
 - e. Wrapping up one year and beginning planning for next year. Talking about addressing needs in the coming year.
 - f. State budget now jeopardizing INFOhio program, Ohio's information network for schools. In 2015, there was a reduction in state funding for that item. ODE was able to offset that loss. There is concern that funding does not exist in 2017 biennial budget. It would cost \$55 million to districts across the state to fund that.

TREASURER'S REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. FY16 quarterly financial update/forecast – Mark Pepera
 - a. Revenue up about 4/10 of 1%. Expenses down 6/10 of 1%. Not completely finished with spending this year.
 - b. Spending more than we're taking in. Still showing a slight deficit projected out.
 - c. Running close to target with expenditures.
 - d. Received confirmation of our state subsidy amounts. Estimates in forecast should hold. Only thing uncertain is whether we will receive that money this year.
 - e. Carol Winter asked about cash balance carried forward.
 - i. Pepera: As a best practice, rating agencies like to see 3-6 months cash balance in case of unforeseen things. Aligns to policy city of Westlake has, which maintains a 3 month reserve. Not always possible, depending on our needs, but something we strive for.
2. Approved quarterly report and financial forecast
3. Approved then & now certificate for Cummins Interstate Power Inc.
4. Established Nicholas Massa Memorial Fund and appropriations to fund
5. Authorized necessary tax levies and certified them to the county auditor
6. Approved FY 16 appropriations

NEW BUSINESS

1. Accepted gifts and contributions
 - a. Dean's Greenhouse

- b. FlowerPort
 - c. Gale's Westlake Garden Center
 - d. Mitchell's Ice Cream
 - e. Silver Fox Florist
 - f. Westlake Kiwanis Club
 - g. Douglas Lane
 - h. Judy Shie
 - i. Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Freeman
 - j. Westlake Teachers Association
 - k. Hilliard PTA
 - l. Dr. & Mrs. Philip Vlastaris
 - m. Mr. & Mrs. James White
2. Approved FMLA
- a. Amy Schollenberger
 - b. Larry Schenkelberg
 - c. Marie Dieye
 - d. Tina Bacik
3. Approved supplemental contracts
- a. Frank Bowers
 - b. Dyland Crocker
 - c. Tricia Milano
 - d. Amy Schillinger
 - e. Doug Little
4. Approved classified substitutes
- a. Kristen Cooper
 - b. Elise Orr
 - c. Holly Schaab
 - d. Abby Detwiler
5. Approved classified resignations of Shelly Perkins and Margaret Laskowski
6. Approved licensed resignation of Jennifer Dietrich
7. Approved employment/resignation of Project Link personnel
- a. Christine Matejcik
 - b. Katherine Banaszak
 - c. Nora Gajewski
 - d. Ashley Conaway-resignation
8. Approved home instruction by Katie McGlynn and Rachael Kane
9. Approved staff chaperones and stipends for Washington, D.C., field trip
10. Approved extended time for school counseling/Adeena Sedlak Horne
11. Approved job sharing for licensed staff members
- a. Megan Morris & Chelsea Diso
 - b. Hannah Lozada & Jaclyn Nara

- c. Shannon Basile & Christine Latham
 - d. Kathleen Basen & Joanna Harmon
 - e. Stacey Abfall & Kelli Butler
- 12. Approved resolution endorsing Staff Appreciation Week
- 13. Approved stipends for Title I summer school reading/tutoring program
- 14. Approved 2016 Camp Link parent/student handbook
- 15. Approved exempt staff handbook
- 16. Approved Westlake Schools strategic plan outline
 - a. Carol Winter: Provides a wonderful overview that is forward thinking and provides direction of where we want to be over the next five years.
- 17. Approved North Coast Council Internet Service agreement
 - a. Partially funded through E-rate. Expansion of bandwidth to allow more technology.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

- 1. Russ Ezoltz: resident. Addressed comments made in newspapers regarding teacher salaries.
- 2. Kathy Schultz: parent. Talked about what the schools and teachers mean to her and her children. Asked the board to consider compromise and relayed her concerns about the future of education.
- 3. Amy Havelka: PTA Council president. PTA is neutral and will not take sides. Putting the children first.
- 4. Kelly Coon: teacher. Attended school in Westlake. Now a parent. Want experienced and highly paid teachers to offer educational excellence. Questioned the message the board is receiving from the negotiating team.
- 5. Kelly Falcone: resident. Former student and now a parent. Talked about how teachers changed her life.
- 6. Carol Burns: resident and parent. Encouraged the board to support the teachers and schools.
- 7. Lauren Falcone: parent and WHS graduate. Appreciate teachers, but criticized union tactics.
- 8. Dave Corrato: resident. Moved here for the schools. Encouraged the board not to cut into teacher salaries.
- 9. Lisa Skaggs: resident. Spoke in support of Westlake teachers.
- 10. Lela Bakos: Recognized Allison Lawrence for winning one of the Plain Dealer's 11 Crystal Apple awards.
- 11. Lavonne Szefranski: teacher. Discussed tenure at Westlake Schools and the current climate of the schools.
- 12. Jessica Molenaar: teacher. Discussed teacher cuts and changes.
- 13. Dina Abagroon: resident/parent. Supports teachers and what they do for kids. Realize struggles of teachers. Encouraged compromise and communication.
- 14. Diane Smith: resident/parent. Her son's teacher helped him through a difficult family tragedy. As a business owner, loyalty and communication is key to success.
- 15. Sue Weitzel: teacher. Spoke to culture and climate in the district.

16. Patrick McMorrow: WTA president. WTA is asking the board to be personally involved in negotiations.
17. Loretta Tindall: teacher. Talked about district stakeholders and lack of communication. Questioned if the board has correct information from the negotiations committee.
18. Diane Zavelle: resident/parent. Concerned parents/community unaware of what's happening in the schools and the lack of materials.
19. Julie McCallister: resident. Concerned about what's happening in the schools and how failing schools affect property values.

BOARD ITEMS/COMMENTS:

1. Carol Winter: Congratulated CFO/Treasurer Mark Pepera on his move to Brunswick Schools. K-12 Consulting is working with the board on the search for his replacement. Interviews will take place in May and June, with a new treasurer in place by June 30.
2. Joe Kraft: Thanked Superintendent Palmer for his service. Congratulated Allyson Lawrence on her Crystal Apple Award. This board supports this district.
3. John Finucane: Comments tonight resonate with me. We, too, moved here for the schools. We all have a vested interest in this district.
4. Barb Leszynski: We do communicate with our staff and community. [Superintendent Palmer: Always a desire for more or different communication no matter how you do it. We look back and discuss the process and ways to improve].
5. Dr. Stoll: Board focus is on students. We're trying to do the best we can.
6. Winter: The board's role is to address the needs of all stakeholder, but #1 is our students. It's not easy. We need to balance the needs of students, teachers and community. We are here to further education as determined by our community and our students' needs with the resources provided by our community. Asked the community and staff to work with the board.

The Board adjourned to executive session to discuss employment, potential sale and/or acquisition of property, and negotiations. No action was taken.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next meeting of the Board is Monday, May 9, 6pm, at Parkside.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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