



Westlake Board of Education

Board Notes from Monday, July 25, 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: Along with the routine business that we traditionally conduct with a mid-summer Board meeting, we also will be considering a board item that would allow the school district to place a bond and PI issue on the ballot for the Nov. 8 election. We have been discussing this through our strategic planning process for over a year. This issue will not increase taxes for our community members. That issue will be considered and discussed after the executive session toward the end of the meeting.

INFORMATIVE REPORTS & RECOGNITIONS

1. The Board passed a resolution of appreciation to recognize Superintendent Geoff Palmer for his two years of service to the meeting. Palmer began with the district Aug. 1, 2014, at a critical time for the district. We needed to update our board policies to bring better efficiency

and protections to the school district. We went through the strategic planning process and focused on our aging elementary school buildings. We adopted a new parent notification system. Our four elementary schools and high school diploma program were named IB World Schools. We cultivated and expanded relationships between the schools and the city that resulted in a possible property swap that will benefit the entire community and allow the district to update our elementary school buildings. We completed negotiations with contractors for work on Phase I of the facilities project that rectified issues with WHS floors, tennis courts, parking lot. We negotiated an agreement with UH St. John Medical Center that allowed us to install a turf football field. Thank you for your work in providing our students new educational and co-curricular opportunities.

- a. John Finucane: YOu made an impact in the short time you were here. There was a lot of positive things that went unnoticed. The policy update was a huge change in what we do here. YOu were patient with me when I pushed a little hard. You did what was best for the students, which was what was most important. There's a lot that was accomplished and a lot you had your hand in in those two years.
- b. Joe Kraft: You've helped me grow and gray. Thank you for your leadership for our children and all the work you've done in the district. Thank you for the triumphs in the board policy update, the strategic plan. You've made an enormous impact here.
- c. Barb Leszynski: We were in a bind two years ago. All of a sudden you showed up. Working with you on the policy update was beneficial. Thank you for what you've done for us there. You were instrumental in finalizing the turf project and improving relations with the city and the mayor.
- d. Geoff Palmer: IN a lot of these cases you get more credit than you deserve. I've been in a position with a great district and a lot of great people seeing a lot of great things happen. Thank the board, administrative staff, classified and teaching staff members, students, parents, community for the opportunity to work with all of you over the past 25 months. The commitment of excellence from the board is obvious. I've had the opportunity to work alongside some great people committed to making a difference in the lives of great people. This is a world class community and school system. When I came here 2 years ago it was a great district, and it's still a great district. You will be in capable hands and have the continued support of central office administrators and staff, as well as the leadership and support of this community. We've had challenges, but that leads to growth. I hope overall this district is a little better than when I started. We've made some tremendous accomplishments: capital spending plan, facilities, accomplishments in the classroom. WE've got great families and kids.

2. Superintendent's report

- a. Summer projects: work continues across the district, making final preparations for another school year. Maintenance crews working on preparing buildings.
 - b. High school floors coming along. Tremendous product. Very confident that will be a durable product.
 - c. Resealing started on the high school parking area. Repaving done a few weeks back. It will have all appearances of a new parking lot.
 - d. Turf installation basically complete. It is something this community will be proud of for many years to come.
 - e. We're getting our people ready. Scott Goggin is preparing an administrative retreat.
- 3. Treasurer's report/Todd Hopkins
 - a. Thank the board of education and community for the opportunity to work here. When I was approached about Westlake and seeing the excellence, the commitment from the board for excellence not only academically but financially. It's an honor and a privilege to be working here. Thank administrative staff for welcoming me. It's a privilege to be here and be part of this.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Treasurer's recommendations
 - a) Approved then and now certificates for Bailey Communications and Laketec Communications
 - b) Accepted federal funds
 - i) Title VI special education, Part-B-IDEA FY17
 - ii) Title III LEP FY17
 - iii) Title I FY17
 - iv) Early Childhood Special Education FY17
 - v) Title II-A improving teacher quality FY17
 - c) Approved student activity purpose statements and budgets
 - d) Authorized treasurer to return advance from Title I to General Fund
 - e) Approved additional temporary appropriations FY17
- 2) Approved FMLA for Evelyn Urbin
- 3) Approved licensed resignation of Kristen Wolfe
- 4) Approved classified resignation of Justine Tinline
- 5) Approved classified retirement of Barbara Biel
- 6) Approved employment of
 - a) Julie Wagner
 - b) Kathleen Esarobe
 - c) Angela Wetula
 - d) Dana Bail
 - e) Kimberly McFetridge
- 7) Approved increase in classified substitute pay
- 8) Approved employment funded by grants
 - a) Title I – Cindy Archer, Michelle Patton, Amy Helms, Elaine Scott

- b) Title II-A – Improvement teacher quality, Hun Piazza
 - c) Title III – limited English proficient, Julie Wagner
 - d) Early childhood special education, Karen Kane
 - e) Title VI-B special education IDEA – Patricia Wasko, Marsha Lesko
- 9) Approved supplemental contracts
 - 10) Approved purchases services agreement with Connect Service Contract

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Russ Ezolt: Thank you for finally settling the strike. I'm not sure I'm happy with the results. I compliment Mr. Palmer and the work he's done for the Westlake Schools. I know I learned from him the correct facts. I have for years expressed i wanted Common Core eliminated from the Westlake Schools. I attended the RNC and spoke with people about the Common Core. Random drug testing for the upper grades. North Olmsted now has random drug testing.
2. Karen Herzberger: OAPSE president. On behalf of OAPSE I wanted to wish Geoff all the best. I know you're going to miss me. I wish you and your family the best. I would like to thank the board for approving the increase in the classified substitute pay. I feel we're close to being up there with other districts in being fair and comparable.

The Board adjourned to executive session to discuss the possible sale/acquisition of property.

BOARD ITEMS

1. In 2014 we began discussion on Phase II of the facilities master plan. We knew we had aging, inadequate elementary buildings and a drop off. We broke the master plan into two segments. Phase I was a new high school and middle school, and a renovated intermediate school. In 2014 Lesko updated the costs for replacing/renovating our elementary buildings. If renovation costs are above 67% of new, it's more cost effective to build new. The Lesko report put costs of renovations to new build at much higher than that 67% benchmark. Community group agreed Westlake needed new elementary buildings. Those meetings moved into discussions of what that would look like. The group was expanded and the charge was expanded to make it all-inclusive strategic planning. The facilities task force looked at the best solution. On June 30 the task force presented the consensus of pros and cons for building on one site v. two sites. They saw more positives with the one site campus. The city and district also have been talking land acquisition and property swap that might allow for a different site for that one campus option. We have a tentative agreement with the city on that site.

2. We approved resolutions at the July 11 meeting to declare the necessity for a levy. We approved three different bond amounts with a 1-mill permanent improvement levy. That allowed us to consider the three different plans.
3. The Board passed a resolution to place a 1.3-mill bond issue (\$33.6 million) plus a 1-mill permanent improvement levy on the November ballot for the purpose of constructing, renovating, remodeling, adding to, furnishing, equipping and otherwise improving school district buildings and facilities.
 - a. Barb Leszynski: It became evident we needed to look at a one site option from the beginning. The facilities committee saw more positive for the one site. One site would eliminate overflow of kids outside their neighborhood schools. The group was very excited about it.
 - b. John Finucane: For me it came down to it's good for the students of Westlake. We have a solid foundation. There are opportunities for more collaboration between students, teachers, advanced, special education, administration, etc. The community will have a 21st century building to maintain the excellence of our schools and city, all with no increase in taxes. This will put a great picture of Westlake Schools and an opportunity for those looking at moving into this community. It will improve property values
 - c. Joe Kraft: Happy a year's long vision that began with the 20/20 committee going back to 2009 is something the city and its residents have spoken out about. Updating our facilities is important. Our facilities are aging and we need to do something. I was struck by the TRIAD survey that reached out to our residents and showed they favored a one site campus for its savings. This one site opportunity makes sense.
 - d. Dr. Bob Stoll: We need to make sure we have 21st century technology in our schools. This is an opportunity to do that. Updated security and safety of our schools and our children is important. The operational savings of \$1 million per year, and easing transportation, I'm in favor of this.
 - e. Carol Winter: I'm also in favor.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next meeting of the Board is Monday, Aug. 8, 6pm, at WHS.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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