



Westlake Board of Education

Board Notes from Monday, 4/26/10, Regular Meeting

SPECIAL REPORTS & RECOGNITIONS: The Board recognized LBMS students for the accomplishments in the Ohio Math League Competition. 7th grade team took 1st place regional and 3rd place state. Individual awards went to Kartik Dkinakaran, 1st place regional and state; Aswin Bikkani, 2nd place regional and 7th place state; Calvin Pozderac 3rd place regional and 14th place state. The 8th grade team earned 3rd place regional and 9th place state. Austin Moran won an individual award, placing 2nd in the region and 9th in the state.

The Board also recognized LBMS students for their 1st place regional award in MathCounts. Team members were Aswin Bikkani, Kartik Dhinakaran, Krish Shah, Chris Tsuei. Kartik took 23rd place and placed in the top 25% in the state.

The Board also recognized WHS and LBMS students for their accomplishments in the Scholastic Art Show. Chris Dunlap earned an American Vision medal and National Gold Key awards for his metal embossing. Kate Humphrey earned a National Gold Key award for an altered book sculpture. Dunlap also earned a regional Gold Key for his work.

The Board also recognized Diane Kramer as a recipient of the Excellence in Classified Service Award, and Jan DeLuca and Susie Zkiab for their Excellence in Teaching Awards.

The Board passed a Resolution of Appreciation for G. David Newman, LBMS principal who is retiring after 41 years of service with the Westlake Schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Testing started last week.

We received qualified school construction bond information today. We will review and intend to apply again, but it's up to the Board whether or not we participate.

Campaign update: Made last of our presentations and will continue to be available. Sunday the PD gave an endorsement and noted voters would get exceptional value for their dollar. Found online on Cleveland.com.

Purchase order deadlines April 30, so we'll have a clearer picture on where we're coming in on our budgets.

Another national art award winner: Wan Kwok.

Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation received two awards: Outstanding safety performance for 2009, special award from Dec. 4, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2009 for operating in a safe environment without a lost time event.

TREASURER'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS: District awarded 17th consecutive national report for excellence in financial reporting, highest financial reporting award a district can receive.

Worked hard this year to work with a lean budget even with inflationary pressures and unexpected mandates. ¾ way through the year and spent 68% of the budget. In line to stay within budget overall. There are some heavier ended expenses that will play into the final part of the year.

Approved 3rd quarter financial update and 5-year forecast. Approved a return of an advance form Project Link to the General Fund. Established appropriations of the SIRI grant. Adjusted FY10 appropriations. Issued a then and now certificate for Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP for legal services.

CAC: CAC is in the middle of a membership drive. May 25, 7:30pm. Find out more about topics being brainstormed for the coming year. CAC is cleaning up its bylaws and reworked them. The Board approved the new bylaws.

DONATIONS: The Board accepted donations from 47 individuals and businesses, including Edward Barrett, Daniel Chonko, Mr. and Mrs. James Corrigan, Angelo DiGuglielmo, Discount Drug Mart #10, Cathy DuBois, Stephen Flynn, Joan Hamilton, Andrea Hassler, Humar Arc Corp., Patricia Koethe, Kim Michelich, Susan Mulhern, William Primrose, Mr. and Mrs. Brian Quinn, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Stuart, Daniel Warshay, Loree Weiss Connors, John Woodward, Dawn Dawson, Annelise Gorensch, Annmarie Gorensch, Drew Hocesvar, Beth Holick, Christy Hooper, Cindy Hronek, Pat Lesh, Penny Mead, Karen Mitiska, Karen Morell, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin O'Meara, Picture Taker, Kathy Pietroski, Jennifer Riley, Ripcho Studio, Kelly Roath, Michael Walker, John Waugh, Superior Studio, Dover Elementary School PTA, Etech Ohio Commission, Jenkins Funeral Chapel LLC, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Jucovics, Therese Justice, Mr. and Mrs. Rob Michelich.

NEW BUSINESS: Approved classified resignation of Kathy Mackenzie and Vicki Beck; classified employment of Kymberly Fox, Kathy Mackenzie, Vicki Beck, Courtany Reinart; certified employment of Les Szekely; seasonal employment of J. Edward Failor and Justin Matus. Approved supplemental contract employment of Bill Bongers, Sean Chalkwater and Ray Walczuk.

Approved classified substitute resignation of Dolores Bott, Clarence Koch; certified substitute resignation of Kristin Cope; classified substitute employment of Emily Harris; certified substitute employment of Kirk Manley; classified substitute reappointment of Mariana Martinez-Gigena and Emily Harris.

Approved reclassification of Lela Bakos, Tiffany Baskette, William Wilson and Stephanie Xenos. Approved certified home instruction by Karen Schmidt and Marianne Fouts. Approved job sharing between Tracy Sicafuse and Michelle Kasunick; Lois Leonard & Michelle Patton; Kim d'Acunzo & Lisa Forshey; Shannon Basile & Christine Latham; Amy Davey & Tracy Sidloski; Kathleen Basen & Joanna Harmon.

Approved continuing contracts for Stacey Abfall, Kelly Atkinson, Kelly Bailey, Celina Bigio, Amanda Caunter, Kimberly Cerrito, Janice Hughes, Simon O'Doherty, Kate O'Leary, Robert Patton, Krista Wadas, Jacob Schober. Approved limited contracts for Kathleen Basen, Katie Beachler, Dorothy Beyer, Catherine Boettcher, Veronica Bozich, Jennifer Britton, Kelly Bryan, Judy Buffington, Jennifer Butler, Mark Campo, Thomas DeLuca, Judy Dubil, Cathy DuBois, Jessica Dye, Heather Eichenberg, Amy Fife, Rebecca Gorek, Nicole Goshen, Daniel Grigson, Kelly Hoover, Sarah Horbol, John Horwatt, Elizabeth Huffman, Ellen Hurley, Scott Jones, Dan Jennings, Krissy Ingham, Karen Kane, Trish Kosik, Dee Kuclo, Michael Kula, Christine Latham, Carolyn Maciag, Alison Martin, Chelsea McDonald, Kathryn McGinty, Rachael Meyrose, Christopher Milano, Laura Miller, Amal Mustafa, Elizabeth Noren, Valier O'Connor, James Patrizi, Lisa Patton, Trudy Pauken, Susan Peplin, Jennifer Petticord, Kip Primrose, Adam Purdy, Donna Richards, Jennifer Riley, Natalie Rini, Kelly Roath, Caitlin Shea, Megan Thomas, Michael Thoms, William Wilson, Michael Wooley, Elizabeth Zingales. Approved extended limited contract to Tiffany Baskette and Mark Lenczewski.

Approved extended days for Colleen Gray. Approved stipend for curriculum writing for Beth Noren. Approved stipends for attendance at Title I/Reading Program parent meeting to Leslie Telloni, Trudy Pauken, Cindy Archer, Marilyn Krock, Rachel Meyrose. Approved stipend for website SharePoint Conversion to Tom Urich. Approved stipends for LBMS staff for supervision of Washington, D.C., field trip for Mike Bee, Brad Behrendt, Chuck Dubil, Cathy DuBois, Darlene Fossesco, Gregg Henderson, Mary Pat Kahler, Lindsay Kiktavy, Cherry Love, Chris Milano, Deb Oblak, Caitlin Shea, Michael Thoms, Mike Wooley; and substitutes Vickie Emblom, Laura Grane, Don Jessie.

Approved resignation for the purpose of retirement for Bassett Elementary Principal Tim Rickard after 35 years of service. Approved administrative contract renewals for Timothy Barrett, Gavin Berwald, Michael May, Stephanie Morgan, Susan Palchesko, Michael Waters.

Approved stipends for professional development for TI Nspire for Michael Bee, Shawn Koski, Janet Lorincz, Cherry Love, Judy McMasters, Duane Miller, Lyn Newman, Michael Wooley, Stefanie Xenos; stipend for district technology professional development for Kurt Thonnings.

Approved agreement for admission of tuition pupils for Back on Call, speech and language services contract. Recognized WHS Hockey Club for interscholastic competition. Approved performance contract with Lake Erie Nature and Science Center to house the summer school reading intervention program.

Approved a resolution to discourage use of alcohol and driving of vehicles under the influence.
Approved a resolution endorsing staff appreciation week May 3-7. Approved resolution authorizing WCS to submit a waiver application to the Ohio Department of Education Office for Exceptional Children.

Held first readings on policies related to Business Advisory Council to the Board/Family and Civic Engagement Committee; Board policy development and adoption; board review of regulations; policy dissemination; policy review and evaluation; Board review of regulations; expense reimbursement; reporting of hazards; emergency/safety plans; emergency closings; food services management/free and reduced-price food service; family and medical leave; suspension and termination of professional staff member; support staff recruiting/posting of vacancies/hiring; suspension, demotion and termination of support staff member; health education; programs for students with disabilities; credit flexibility; community service; co curricular and extracurricular activities; creation of new interscholastic athletic teams-club sports; graduation requirements; school ceremonies and observances/patriotic exercises; students absences and excuses; student conduct; hazing and bullying; corporal punishment; reporting child abuse; student fees, fines and charges.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Westlake Hockey Organization expressed its appreciation for accepting the creation of the club.

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS REPORT: Spring sports season is upon us with weather and changing of events. Faculty and staff gearing up for the end of the school year.

Cautiously approaching summer. Much of what happens this summer depends on the vote of the electorate on May 4. Some things I would normally do at this time is being delayed until the result of the vote. We are getting buses ready for summer inspections – first inspection before the end of the school year.

BOARD ITEMS:

1. West Shore Board update: Carol Winter attended a meeting. Provides an opportunity to network with other school boards. Jim Betts from Alliance spoke about priorities for high value districts. Topics of discussion were tangible personal property tax, annual progress, Ohio evidence-based model. State budget deficit does not bode well for all of us.
2. Confirmation of OSBA workshop: June 8 at Porter Library. Topics are working together as a team, board roles, developing board goals. Continual process.
3. Race to the Top: Have until May 17 to participate. Grant Ohio has applied for. Did not participate in Round 1. Met with association and state to go over concerns. Goals on the surface look good. Concern is we do things well and continually improve. We are interested provided we can keep latitude to comply with the commitments through decisions made locally rather than having state control every decision. Many concerns about how we have to use data and the type of professional development, but they are likely going to be similar to our current practices. The concern about using student growth for the evaluation of teachers and principals is that it is ill defined or not defined at all. We would be much more comfortable knowing we were part of the decision on how student progress was to be measured and what aspects of that

can be correlated to instruction and the practices of the school. Will work with teacher association. We also need to look closely at added expense and time to see if they are aligned with our mission as well. If we feel confident after reviewing together with our teacher's association that all of these things complement what we do I may propose to you to sign a memorandum in support.

- a. Carol Winter: Cautious about this because we don't know what this will bring to us and requirements. Willing to move forward if we can sever our ties if we are not comfortable with direction or requirements.
 - b. Tom Mays: Comfortable with you continuing.
 - c. Timothy Sullivan: What does it mean by moving forward?
 - d. Dr. Keenan: We don't want to get caught up in the political aspects of this. We would want to proceed in determining if this is something that will contribute toward our mission. Community deserves to know why we do or don't do things in going after a grant. If I make the recommendation to sign, it's because we've taken the steps to ensure everyone's comfort that it with our mission. Moving forward means to me that it worth investing the time to continue to see how this would work here in Westlake. If you already feel strongly it won't then I need to know that and I will use my time more constructively on other matters of the district.
 - e. Sullivan: Most struck by elements of Ohio's plan and list of commitments with respect to standards and assessments using data to improve instruction, ensuring equitable distribution of teachers/principals, support for teachers/principals, turning around underachieving schools. Concerned about losing local authority. We should make sure it's in the best interest of our taxpayers.
 - f. Winter: I think we are all saying the same thing. Went to ODE and national Department of Education web sites to review this. Some of these things don't apply to us and some we do very well. Trust Dr. Keenan's judgment.
 - g. Dr. Keenan: We submit a plan to ODE on how to comply and they approve the plan. Round 2 eligible for \$160,000 over four years.
4. Tim Sullivan: Request to enter spreadsheet comparing costs per students annually to similar districts to tonight's minutes.
- a. Carol Winter: I don't see it's necessary, but if you feel strongly in attaching it, it is fine with me. Recommend there are things not noted on spreadsheet, such as ESL population, special education, transportation numbers. Indicate this is not an all-inclusive set of numbers.
 - b. Sullivan: As we spend time putting these numbers in context, helpful to the Board that we get the big picture. Eager, willing and wanting to have a frame of reference and a point of reference and a marker to move from.
 - c. Winter: Asked Mark Pepera to make a note in minutes that record does not include ESL students, special education students, AP classes, etc. Also note parameters for discussion on per pupil spending set at April 12 meeting and you will be presenting more in detail to begin our discussion about our fiduciary responsibility. This will be discussed at our August retreat.

- d. Tom Mays: Because of what we decided at the April 12 meeting, better to wait until Dr. Keenan and Mark Pepera presents? Could be confusing and contradictory to what we're trying to show. We want them to outline how we're different from other districts so we can decide if our per pupil spending is really different. By adding to the minutes and asking for additions would be confusing to taxpayers. Better served until they present at our August retreat.
- e. Sullivan: Respectfully disagree. Presenting factual information on paper is illuminating and clarifying. Great idea for a Board to present clear as a bell facts in a short way with clear numbers. Put this out there and let our taxpayers know we can give them clear, factual information. Set a benchmark and fill in after that and give balance to it through Dr. Keenan's context and how we as a district can explain what's in here. We are not the same as Avon Lake and other ODE similar districts. We want our taxpayers to know we see these and understand them. Taxpayers would respect and understand us more if we embrace this as a point of reference. Very unconfusing.
- f. Carol Winter: Another piece of information we'll fully discuss at our August retreat.
- g. Andrea Rocco: We should note along with the list, include my questions about number of students, % of special needs/IEP/ESL students, do districts transport, how many miles do they cover, how many students mandated off school grounds pursuant to their IEP, ranking of the district, yearly progress statistics, essentials of public education (music, art, drama, gym, sports, extracurricular activities). These are things that affect cost per pupil that are not included on that list. We should document we don't have those statistics. Suggest this list accompany that chart.
- h. Nate Cross: This speaks to the need to have this discussion. At our last work session we ended with public comment. Before you go down this path, need to set some type of goal. Ask at the next work session we have this on the agenda. These are financial implications for a grant that needs to fit into the broader picture. Expense per pupil touches everything.
- i. Carol Winter: We set goals at April 12 meeting outlining parameters for this discussion to move forward. We've taken into account concerns brought here and the history of what the Board has always done to keep our budget low, to stretch our dollars. We have already spent time doing this and specifically set our initial goals for that meeting. We set the general goal of working to see our per student cost is more comparable to the others discussed. It would not be responsible to set a dollar amount goal without fully understanding what goes into these numbers and how this spending relates to our budget. We've already discussed it. We need to move on.
- j. Nate Cross: That conversation and feedback is different if you set a number rather than collecting the data and molding after the fact. It's not over. We need to continue to have that discussion and not wait until August.
- k. Carol Winter: 2004 Board went through a lengthy process with Olmsted Falls to see why there was a discrepancy in per pupil spending. We will move forward with this at our retreat in August. Without further data it would be irresponsible for us as a Board to direct a slash at our per pupil spending when we don't know how that will affect

programs and offerings in our district. We are allowing Mr. Sullivan to put this in with comments. We've discussed parameters and goals for our August retreat.

- l. Sullivan: I think we need to set goals.
- m. Winter: Inefficient use of our time right now without knowing the context. It will take them a tremendous amount of time to collect that data. We will be working together as a team to develop how we work together as a board to be responsive to our taxpayers' needs. In August we will be able to talk about realistic goals.
- n. Cross: Final comment of last meeting made by member of audience that warrants follow-up.
- o. Sullivan: I agree.
- p. Andrea Rocco: You already asked all 4 of us if we had monetary or other goals at the last meeting. None of us could give you a monetary goal.

HEARING OF PUBLIC:

1. Harry Applegate: Comment I made was what would be most efficient use of administration. Talked about 5 buckets. What are we looking for? I hear from Mr. Cross, based on Mr. Sullivan's spreadsheet, which had no school districts with a higher per pupil costs, where does Westlake stand v. top and bottom in per pupil spending. Give Dr. Keenan a goal, let us reduce the costs by \$x per pupil. Dr. Keenan will indicate what will need to be cut. In business for 40 years, my job was to prove cost benefit to my customers to sell my product. If I presented that spreadsheet with so little information, I wouldn't have gotten a contract. There is nothing there to support what the numbers mean.
2. Dave Senta: Read bond issue language. Didn't see anything about maintenance, reserve funding if the issue passes. Given the fact that there didn't seem to be a great explanation of how the maintenance got into such a bad state. Is that standard operating procedure? If there is an intention to have a maintenance reserve, what is the amount?
 - a. Dr. Keenan: Community process asked for a maintenance plan. Construction management/architectural firms will tell us the amount we need to set aside for that to happen. Group indicated a PI levy to complement phases is best way to do it. Not putting it in the first phase. May put in 2nd phase or may exist as a third phase. Thinking is about .5 mill. Depends on what we get back from Turner Construction. Depends on savings we can achieve from the drop-off and assets gained from going from 7 buildings to 6. Propose a community engaged process instead of just deciding here. 36 articles in the paper. Bond issue originally \$127 million, down to \$120 million. Committee decided to divide millage into phases. First phase deals with secondary, 5-12, buildings. This solution wasn't derived by the Board or administrative team. New buildings won't need the maintenance right away. Will be able to use funds to address buildings until the second phase happens. If master plan doesn't work or isn't supported, we'll have to plan and start again. There was a lot of feedback from our business community on

master planning. If master planning is derailed, we'll have to develop a new one.
Contingency to go back and engage the community to get their feedback.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, May 10, work session at 5:30pm at the Westlake Schools Administration Building.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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