



## **Westlake Board of Education**

### ***Board Notes from Monday, April 28, 2014, Regular Meeting***

#### **Vision Statement**

The Westlake City School District will provide a dynamic, student-centered, 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

#### **SPECIAL REPORTS & RECOGNITIONS**

1. Special Report: Anne Moran, visiting teacher from Tralee, Ireland
2. Recognized inaugural WHS Varsity hockey team members who became a Varsity sport and won the SWC championship
3. Recognized WHS and Parkside students for 2014 PTA Reflections Awards
  1. Andrew Bovenzi, music, WHS freshman – Honorable Mention for Waltz, Op. 4
  2. Abigail Dumm, photography, Parkside, 5<sup>th</sup> grade – Award of Merit, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, “The Reflection”
  3. Kristen Vellinga, literature, WHS senior, Award of Merit, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, “All Grown Up”
4. Recognized Excellence in Teaching recipient Donna Collins
5. Recognized Excellence in Classified Service recipients Laurie Skvarek and Toby Barvincak

#### **HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

1. Dave Albert: Very little opportunity to have dialogue with the board, except at public meetings. I encourage the board to change the public section.
2. Woman: Pay to play, would like you to accept that as a credit for gym instead of having to pay extra for summer gym. I think it would benefit our students who play 2 or 3 sports.
3. Alex Lathem: I'm a freshman at WHS and in the marching band and taking phys ed. I support waiving the requirement. Our marching band is renowned throughout Ohio. Because of pay to participate and shortening periods, I'm afraid fewer students will be able to participate in band. Current situation has limited options for course selection. This will expand our flexibility for students to pursue academic and athletic pursuits.
4. Mark Stone: Live next to back Bassett driveway coming out of school. Due to busing changes, for last 22 years, buses have come out the back of the school. Now they do the loop in the front. 40-50 cars lined up down the driveway and in the development we live in. we chose this development for less traffic. I propose figuring out something for traffic to come off of Bassett Road like it used to. Concerned about kids who live in Settlers and walk out that way. Buses would load and leave because there was no traffic. This road is 12 feet wide. I think running 50-60 cars when busing is there is crazy for the kids who have to come into the development from Bassett schools. There is no crossing guard at the back. It's a safety issue for the residents who live there. When you didn't have busing there were at least 150-200 cars a day making the trek. Now that you've reinstated busing it's somewhat less. They blow through the stop sign. There is a lot of stuff being brought into a subdivision the school needs to control what goes on.
  - i. Dr. Keenan: Mr. Hodge has met with the police department. We made changes with the busing adjustments. There are a lot more cars on every site. We bring these items up to our safety committee to evaluate this. We've had similar circumstances at Hilliard and Dover. We're experiencing those things and trying to work them out.
5. Liz Pirnat: I've been working with Mr. Hodge and reaching out to our police force. The police has said they will not put a 3-way stop sign. Crosswalk has been denied. Put a sign up at the stop sign and included pedestrian crossing signs. Encourage you to reach out to them. No information regarding traffic studies. I am reaching out to city council to consider additional safety for our students.
6. Laura McDiarmid: I am entirely sympathetic to the phys ed program. I think extending a phys ed credit to those participating in marching band and sports is ideal for shortening the day to 7 periods. It would open things up and allow students to participate in other activities and expand their high school careers in ways beneficial to them.
7. Marge Widmar: Last week I was invited to be part of the jury for the fascinator project. I want to commend the teachers of the Honors American History class, Beth Noren, for incorporating thing. The creativity was amazing. These had to be created from Duck tape from ShurTech. It was a wonderful process to participate in.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT & MASTER FACILITIES PLAN PHASE I REPORT**

1. The CAC is recruiting for next year. There is an application on the website.

2. The 7 period day is a change from the 8 period day. There are other significant changes. It's not just the physical that will handle that change.
3. Field trip to Washington, D.C., is a special situation. Our Academic Challenge team was asked to go to national competition.
4. We also have LBMS student Kyle Yu representing Westlake at the National Geographic Bee in D.C.
5. Congratulate Concert and Symphonic Bands at OMEA state band contest. Both received Superiors. Symphonic received unanimous superiors in Class AA, most difficult class of music.
6. Rachelle Bish took Best in Show at 16<sup>th</sup> District Congressional Art Contest. Her artwork will be displayed at the U.S. Capitol for one year. Six times in 7 years our students have been recognized.
7. Rudy Keppler accepted a youth exchange scholarship for Germany for one year. Only 300 students across the country received a scholarship. He has an opportunity to intern in international business, petroleum engineering or forestry. Kristen Harter, German teacher, nominated him.
8. WHS Green & White newspaper recognized by Ohio Scholastic Medical Association. Earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall in Ohio for student newspapers. A number of individual students recognized.
9. WHS senior wins tournament award in Italy, Gavin Skelly. Skelly is headed to Northwestern University for basketball. Fortunate to have a community that values global learning. As kids hear about others doing things, it pushes the limits about what they can and should be doing.
10. WHS recognized as one of Ohio's top high schools. 29<sup>th</sup>, in top 3.5% of high schools in the state. US News & World Report Best High Schools rankings.
11. Music wing is a great facility. You won't find many better music areas in schools. The landscaping was going to make headway this week, but with the rain it may be delayed. They are grading the field in the back. A year before back field can be used.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS**

12. Financial presentation – FY14 quarterly financial update/forecast
  - a. Mark Pepera: One time tax revenue spike fully realized. State revenue up based on funding formula changes. American Greeting estimate now included. Ohio BWC retro payment received. On the expenses side, spending in line with estimates. Wage/fringe category down. Final obligations due April 30.
  - b. Snapshot of forecast: 2013-2014 is still a guesstimate. \$1.9 million unanticipated tax revenue included. Reinstating transportation included. Pay to participate fees included. Modified tuition amounts for all-day kindergarten. Changes in labor agreements fully incorporated. We still are showing deficit in 2015-2016 school year but it has improved (\$1.5 million). Keep in mind even with this forecast we are continuing to show revenues are less than expenses.
  - c. Fiscal outlook: still near the end of levy cycle. Forecast has improved in FY16 (unanticipated tax dollars, American Greetings, labor agreements, insurance fund money). Reduction plan in fall to be revisited. Long-term: district resource problem

continues. Master facilities Phase II. Short-term restructuring of debt. Board may be in a position to place levy on ballot in either 2014 or 2015. Still a decision on how to restructure that debt. Depending on when we restructure debt and for how long. I will be bringing forth a resolution to proceed in that fashion. Board can make a decision on which restructuring option to pursue.

- d. John Finucane: On the delinquent dollars, was the county able to give insight into whether it was one year, a number of years?
  - i. Pepera: delinquency issue split into two parts. Almost \$1 million due to a late payment. Won't expect that in subsequent years. Requested further information from the county. They haven't had a chance to run that report and extract that. It takes awhile to gather data. Still trying to gather information on the other almost \$1 million. I would not expect that trend to continue. Hoping by late May to have additional data for us that relates to this final settlement in April.
- 13. Approved quarterly report and financial forecast
- 14. Issued Then & Now certificates – Geo-Sci Incorporated, Valore's Truck Painting & Body, Valley Forge Supply, Gautam & Associates, Gordon Food Service
- 15. Authorized treasurer to return advance from NSLP/Team Nutrition to General Fund
- 16. Established Holland Scholarship Fund
- 17. Established appropriations for Holland Scholarship Fund
- 18. Adjusted FY14 appropriations

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Accepted gifts and contributions from:
  - a. Corrigan Podiatry
  - b. Tara Kolesar
  - c. Lake Erie Harley Davidson
  - d. Mr. & Mrs. Brett Milkie
  - e. Dana Milkie
  - f. Edith Milkie
  - g. Jody Milkie
  - h. Spencer Seaman
  - i. Hilliard PTA
  - j. Discount Drug Mart
  - k. Mr. & Mrs. Walid Dardir
  - l. Holly Lane PTA
  - m. WHS Lacrosse Club
  - n. Patricia J. Sarna
  - o. Judy Shie
  - p. Struers Corp.
  - q. Fairview Lanes

- r. Pat Catans
  - s. Barnes & Noble
  - t. Rettig Music
  - u. Westlake Music Boosters
  - v. Richard Holland
8. Approved resignations for purpose of retirement
- i. Roberta Ahern
  - ii. Art Daniels
  - iii. Kimberly Geletka
  - iv. Nancy Banjoff
  - v. Sandra Vontroba
  - vi. Carol Hagley
  - vii. Darlene Horbol
  - viii. Debora Voss
  - ix. Sharon Vlasek
9. Approved FMLA for Terri Orszak and Scott Jones
10. Approved resignations of Nichole Borecki, Lora Stemmer and Jill Wilson
11. Approved seasonal employment of Joseph Ciaccia
12. Approved exempt employment of Mary Studer
13. Approved classified employment of Sarah Kubincanek
14. Approved unpaid long-term leave of absence for Catherine Norris
15. Approved certified substitutes Margaret Amato, Joseph Ciaccia, Melinda Grude, Lisa Weeast
16. Approve classified substitutes Sarah Kubincanek and Nuria Serrat
17. Approved employment of Project Link personnel Kimberly Cymball, David Dybowski and Ashley Galant-Conaway
18. Approved supplemental employment of John Gast and John Holland
19. Approved reinstatement of reduction in force contracts (amendment)
- i. Linda Bailey
  - ii. Laurie Diederich
  - iii. Virginia Fadenholz
  - iv. Robin Gingell
  - v. Sarah Kubincanek
  - vi. Kathy Page
  - vii. Kevin Saari
20. Approved certified home instruction by Duane Miller, Trina Powers, Tabatha Devine
21. Approved contracts with PSI Affiliates Inc. – St. Angela Merici (Title I reading instruction)
22. Approved stipends for kindergarten screening and IB collaborative work for Kathleen Basen
23. Approved stipends for LBMS educational field trip for 8<sup>th</sup> grade Washington, D.C., trip
- i. Mike Bee
  - ii. Brad Behrendt
  - iii. Matt Bourn

- iv. Veronica Bozich
- v. Chuck Dubil
- vi. Madeline DuBois
- vii. Gregg Henderson
- viii. Lindsey Kiktavy
- ix. Sue Laposky
- x. Brooke Martin
- xi. Chris Milano
- xii. Todd Milkie
- xiii. Casey Persia
- xiv. Kip Primrose
- xv. Deb Schrembeck
- xvi. Adeena Sedlak-Horne
- xvii. Meg Sherban

24. Approved job sharing for certified staff members Christina Meecha and Kelly Hoover

25. Approved resignation of Dr. Daniel J. Keenan Jr., superintendent

- i. Carol Winter: It is hard for me to accept this resignation. It's going to be a challenge for our district, but a challenge we will pull together and move forward. You are an exemplar of excellence in your field. Thank you for your committed service to our schools over the last 7 years.
- ii. Tom Mays: Over the last 7 years you have set the bar very high. I want to ensure to the community we will not take a step back in our search. We will find somebody who will continue what we've accomplished and continue to move us forward. We won't settle. You've made it tough for everyone applying.

26. Approved agreements for admission of tuition pupils and purchased services with ESC Cuyahoga County City/County agreement

27. Approved resolution endorsing staff appreciation week

28. Approved resolution discouraging the use of alcohol and driving of vehicle under the influence

29. Publicly posted previously approved construction change orders

- i. Sona Construction, (\$1,275.29), general trades contingency allowance reconciliation
- ii. Sona Construction, (\$2166.76), plumbing contract contingency allowance reconciliation
- iii. Foti Contracting, (\$15,704.87), masonry work at the rotunda
- iv. Bay Mechanical, \$1,621.91, provide electrical heat
- v. Enertech Electrical, \$1,078.07, provide electric heat
- vi. Bay Mechanical, \$1,703.37, provide additional air distribution
- vii. Jeffry Carr construction, \$628.87, paint new wall
- viii. Jeffry Carr construction, \$3,681.15, provide stair nosings at PAC steps
- ix. Foti Contracting, (\$1,623.12), provide floor fill
- x. Jeffry Carr Construction, \$7,503.51, provide modifications to upper rotunda steel
- xi. Jeffrey Carr Construction, \$10,831.98, provide modifications to lower rotunda steel
- xii. Meade Construction, \$2,988.39, repairs to roof fascia

- xiii. Jeffrey Carr Construction, (\$759), repairs to roof fascia
- xiv. Great Lakes Construction, (\$1,470.39), repairs to roof fascia
- xv. Meade Construction, \$15,500.05, provide z furring at soffits
- xvi. Meat Construction, \$2,818.79, provide roof valley diverters
- xvii. Enertech Electrical, \$3,231.55, provide lugs in panels
- xviii. Foti Contracting, \$1,183.31, provided premium time to expedite work in loading dock
- xix. Foti Contracting, \$6,491.78, provide premium time to expedite floor polishing
- xx. Great Lakes Crushing, \$1,800, provide additional sidewalk
- xxi. Great Lakes Crushing, \$1,800, provide meadow seeding at football field mount
- xxii. Sitetech, \$3,353.74, tie in sanitary main
- xxiii. Marvin Mielke (\$3,353.74), tie in sanitary main
- 30. Approved construction change orders
  - i. Jeffrey Carr Construction, \$49,305, extend walls to deck on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
  - ii. Jeffrey Carr Construction, \$31,222.27, masonry to drywall revisions
- 31. Approved field trip by WHS and LBMS National Academic Championship, Washington, D.C.
- 32. Approved International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme consortium agreement with Avon Lake, Berea and Rocky River high schools
- 33. Authorized membership in Ohio High School Athletic Association

## **BOARD ITEMS**

- 1. Adopted physical education waiver
  - a. Dr. Keenan: A decision to weigh our resources. Tough recommendation. This may be an area maybe worthy of bringing back in the long run. If a student participating in athletics or marching band for two full seasons, they will be exempted from requirement for extra credit for graduation. Student will still need same number of credits to graduate.
  - b. John Finucane: based on feedback from parents and reduction in periods at the high school, this is a good balance, giving the students greater flexibility.
  - c. Barb Leszynski: Parents saying their child would not be able to take music that they really loved.
  - d. Tom Mays: when we look at the requirements, ensure the student does everything to qualify.
  - e. Dr. Keenan: Physical education/health department met and expressed same points. Indicated important to give input to regulations. Important for students to have physical activity. Idea to pick regulation criteria that fits. Know there are injuries, eligibility to consider. Other districts we are seeking advice from.
  - f. Tony Falcone: Appreciative of the feedback I received.
- 2. Update on reduction plan/levy considerations
  - a. Dr. Keenan: still near end of levy cycle. Expenses are greater than revenues. Forecast has improved (cut to negative \$1.5 million in FY16] due to unanticipated tax dollars, American Greetings, labor agreements (wages and insurance), insurance fund money reserved for pulling out of consortium. Pay to participate in the spring. Reduction plan in

the fall to be revisited. Long-term the district resource problem continues. Master facilities Phase II. Board may be in a position to place levy on ballot in either 2014 or 2015.

- b. Since November we have reduced spending on transportation and substitute costs (largely due to last contract with additional days on the teachers' schedule). 11 to 15 reductions is where we will land. We can maintain the 20 reductions and meet fiscal goals, but at the expense of academic goals. That will put the district at \$8 million to \$9 million. Could go to spring 2015 or fall 2014 for a levy. If you wait until the spring, the reductions we make are going to be longer lasting. We're in this spot because you asked us to think about the adjustments to make to match the goals.
- c. Option A: Go on the ballot this fall to avoid a deficit spending model. More traditional model that has not been supported recently.
- d. Option B: Go on the ballot in the spring to be better able to plan for the coming school year.
- e. Mark Pepera: initial considerations include current fiscal forecast, alternative revenue sources (unanticipated one-time tax revenue, one-time insurance fund money, pay to participate and tuition), recent levy history-community support, political climate, economy, restructuring of programs-services, timing of Phase II of master facilities plan.
- f. Scenario 1: no further cuts. 4.9-mill levy. Does not address deficit spending. Unlikely scenario because of outcome into November. Wouldn't want to go into a school year not knowing.
- g. Scenario 2: delaying levy until spring 4.9-mills in 2015. Includes \$1.6 million in insurance money. Reducing 11 positions in the fall. Takes us through FY19 and leave us with balance of \$280,000.
- h. Scenario 3: utilizes insurance money. 4.9-mill levy in 2015. 11 cuts in the fall and 5 additional cuts in fall 2015. Takes us to FY19 with \$1.8 million balance.
- i. Scenario 4: cutting 20 positions this fall, insurance dollars. FY19 ends with \$3.7 million balance.
- j. Dr. Keenan: we're in a fiscally stable position now. Making those cuts would impact our mission. Using Triad for a true community feeling is a good bet. They have been on the money. Recommend continuing to weigh out the millage in that process. This is a process as a starter conversation.
- k. Pepera: Board has informally discussed other options, whether a combination levy (operating + permanent improvement), combination levy (operating + bond) or combination levy (operating + PI + bond/debt needs).
- l. Tom Mays: does this information allow us to look at contracts of our two groups to certify out longer?
- m. Pepera: Certificated is through 2015 when we have a positive balance. If you make a decision to utilize the insurance money you can bring that balance to 0, allowing you to continue any agreement through FY16.



- n. Carol Winter: I would like to hear information from the 20/20 Vision Committee meeting.
  - o. Pepera: consider ballot fatigue, millage drop, survey results
  - p. Winter: I can't see a scenario to keep a tax rate higher than it needs to be when it's schedule to drop off in 2016-2017.
  - q. Pepera: there is a resolution to allow me to work through the debt restructuring. Consider that resolution by your next meeting to allow me the authority to do the work. Everything is subject to the market.
3. Update on superintendent vacancy
    1. Winter: we met on April 21 with OSBA representative. He has been working with us on tweaking the timeline. To get the best candidate pool, we tweaked the timeline to get some of those sitting superintendents. Tentative timeline changes: brochure will be electronically posted tomorrow or Wednesday, mailing out brochures Friday. Community/staff focus groups on May 5 and 7. Dick Castor will come in to meet with administrators and staff during the school day. Community meeting both of those days to weigh in on what you feel are best qualifications in our next district leader and expectations of the community. Location at the high school, 7pm. Posting ends May 23, application deadline. May 30: Board meets with Dr. Castor to go through screening process semifinalists. We will engage in first round of interviews June 2-3. Second round interviews June 9-10. There will be a community meeting with the finalists. Dependent on how many finalists we have. We are doing this to find the perfect candidate for WCS.
  4. Hearing of the public discussion
    1. Winter: Community member requested adding to the policy for public hearing to allow Q&A. We've discussed this before. Community member indicated dialogue isn't there. Gives us the opportunity to talk about the purpose of a Board of Education meeting. This is a business meeting to conduct the business of the board in an efficient and effective way. In doing the board's work it's important to get that community dialogue. We have vehicles for folks to have that dialogue with the board. We have Citizens Advisory Committee, Q&A online, call and talk to us individually. When there is a public question or concern, sometimes they have to do with operations.
    2. Barb Leszynski: Did some research with other school districts. Some don't have a public discussion section. In our training we were told even though our board meeting is held in a public place, it is not a public meeting.
    3. Winter: City council has a public portion. Big difference between schools and other government boards is we speak with one voice. When someone approaches the board and we get into a dialogue, inherently there is an issue with that. It's not an efficient use of our time when we have an agenda set to take care of. If it's an item to place on the agenda, we can do that.

4. John Finucane: my fear is always that a simple question never gets a simple answer and it turns into a debate and it's no longer a Q&A. Everyone will have their own opinion. Having one on one conversations is productive.
5. Tony Falcone: I'm very comfortable with how accessible this board is.
6. Tom Mays: Q&A on the website provides an opportunity for people to have their questions answered. If someone does raise an issue, we can place a discussion item on the agenda and handle it that way. Emotions can run high. It was counterproductive to what we try to accomplish as a board, which is board business.
7. Winter: there are other things we've done this year to continue to accommodate and have that dialogue with community members – moved meetings to 6pm, surveys of statistical significance.
8. Leszynski: community needs to know it's the board president who is the spokesperson for this board and the one who responds to emails.
9. Winter: looking at board functions, help people understand what is a board member's role. Most people don't know what that is. We can put that in writing on the website. It doesn't preclude other board members from responding to email. If it's a question for the entire board, the president responds.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** The next meeting of the Board is Monday, May 12, at 6pm at Parkside Intermediate School.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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