



## **Westlake Board of Education**

### ***Board Notes from Monday, Nov. 28, 2011, Regular Session***

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

1. Recognized Excellence in Teaching recipients – Sandee Erdman and Erin Blahnik
2. Recognized Excellence in Classified Service recipients – Judy Popelka and Larry Matus
3. Westlake Hockey organization presentation – Fred Keppler presented a trophy to WHS Principal Tim Freeman

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

1. Jazz band performed at Ohio School Boards conference.
2. Club team won the hockey tournament in second year.
3. Girls' basketball team won in opener against Rocky River
4. Center Stage Players opened their fall performance
5. Company D hosted area groups in an invitational at the PAC
6. Earned 2<sup>nd</sup> national AP Achievement award. 1.5% of high schools across the country earned the award. Certificate from ODE recognizing us as receiving 2 years in a row – and one of only 2 in NE Ohio.
7. Fall 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading scores: Met the indicator by state report card. Allows us to start planning to provide interventions for the spring. 78% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders passed the test in the fall.
8. Sent out information to principals to reiterate what we're doing with our field trips. Reduced to only critical trips identified by IEP. Schools taking advantage of resources to do virtual trips.
9. Senior Seasonal Delights on Dec. 8.

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

1. Approved revised purpose statement and budget for Class of 2012
2. Approved Then & Now certificates for Jostens Inc., Hylant Administrative Services and Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services [No – Cross; Yes – Sullivan, Winter, Mays, Rocco]
3. Adjusted FY12 appropriations [No – Cross; Yes – Sullivan, Winter, Mays, Rocco]

#### **CAC REPORT**

1. Research topics of choice – Laura Steinbrink

- a. Students identified a need early on and have 5 students actively participating in how to connect WHS students with volunteer opportunities to meet the service learning requirements for graduation. Report coming in February.
  - b. What is the best practice for incorporating advertising and sponsorships among public schools?
  - c. What's the best practice for alumni communication and engagement for the purpose of fundraising and program support among public school systems?
2. Tom Mays: Alumni item would incorporate advertising and sponsorship by tapping into alumni and opening up opportunities for service learning.
3. Andrea Rocco: Similar reaction. Lakewood has a strong alumni association that could provide guidance.
4. Nate Cross: fundraising and sponsorship a good thing to do.
5. Laura Steinbrink – We need more members.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. Accepted gifts and contributions from:
  - a. Anonymous
  - b. Mark Norton
  - c. Thomas Telzrow
  - d. Westlake Town Criers
  - e. Mr. & Mrs. Mark Bobal
  - f. Bay Village City Schools
  - g. Thomas Callahan Family
  - h. Dean's Greenhouse
  - i. North Coast Challenge
  - j. Mr. & Mrs. Mihail Pavel
  - k. APTC LLC
  - l. David Dorogi
  - m. Dr. & Mrs. David Forthofer
2. Approved classified resignation of Suzanne Betleski [No – Cross]
3. Approved resignation for purpose of retirement of Pat Lesh [No – Cross]
4. Approved FMLA for Bonnie Sliva, Ed Karohl, Daniel Grigson, Juan Sanchez, Mark Pepera, Terri Orszak, Stephanie Morgan, Judy Metz, Dave Puffer, Krista Wadas, Jennifer Medved, Carol Karohl [No – Cross]
5. Approved classified employment of Robert Thomas [No – Cross]
6. Approved classified substitute resignations of Gale Bordner and Christa Lokiec [No – Cross]
7. Approved certified substitute resignations of Gale Bordner, Cynthia Boyd and Christa Lokiec [No – Cross]
8. Approved classified substitutes Jennifer Meyer, Kathleen Roesch, Richard Skvarek [No – Cross]
9. Approved certified substitutes Colin Blayney, Robert Grealis, Melinda Reed, Rose Snider, Jennifer Chronister, Sarah Horbol, Samantha Jones, Patrick Curran, Zach Keeton, Amanda McLin, Robert Graham, Melissa Mertel, Laura Van Hoose [No – Cross]
10. Approved resignation of supplemental employment of Michael Kula [No – Cross]
11. Approved 2011-12 supplemental contract employment of Rachel Gecik, Gary Huff, Kim Cerrito, Geoff Friedrich, Ursula Hays, Kathy McGinty, Florica Podway, Ann Peebles, Michael Flood, Kristen Stuckart and Trisha Simon [No – Cross]
12. Approved employment of Adult Basic Literacy Education personnel Victoria Emblom, Donna Hinson, Gloria Muntean, Jessica Untch

13. Approved stipends for professional development for Victoria Emblom, Mark Laurenzi, Gloria Muntean, Jessica Untch, Cheryl Williams, Lisa Feldman, Donna Hinson, Carol Paulin
14. Approved stipends for Parkside staff for 2011 Mohican Outdoor Educational program – Katie Beachler, Bill Bowles, Verlene DeWitt, Jessica Dye, Darlene Fossesco, John Gast, Brianne Huber, Patrick McMorrow, Julie Milkie, Mary Beth Opron, Laurie Skvarek, Jeff Short [No –Cross]
15. Approved certified home instruction by Molly Newman [No – Cross]
16. Approved employment of world language after school personnel Crystal Myhre and Bayda Maatouk
17. Approved employment of Westside Connections program adult education personnel James Bingham and Lucille Faup
18. Approved agreements for admission of tuition pupils and purchases services with Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland – Early Head Start & Head Start; Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities; Cuyahoga County Local Education Agencies; Help Me Grow of Cuyahoga county, Starting point for Child Care & Early Education; Early Childhood Education- West Side Ecumenical ministry; Gifted Identification Individual Testing Administration-Lorene Mihalko; ESC-Achievement Centers for Children
19. Approved Sunday building use for WHS softball team and Westlake girls' youth travel softball program
20. Approved LBMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade American History field trip to Gettysburg, PA, and Washington, D..C.
21. Approved beverage provider agreement with The Cleveland Coca-Cola Bottling Company from Jan. 1, 2012, through Dec. 31, 2016
22. Approved Resolution to proclaim Nov. 28 as Students Against Destructive Decisions Day
  - a. Kathy McGinty and Julia Meng accepted the recognition
23. Awarded contract for LBMS boiler equipment to D.B. Johnsen
  - a. Cross – questioned why not using funds from bond fund for this.
  - b. Mark Pepera – scope of middle/intermediate school project not finalized or out for bid at this time.
  - c. Dr. Keenan – bond issue money could be used. Also have a fund set aside for these types of projects. This is a repair and replacement due to non-functioning of the boiler.
  - d. Tim Sullivan – we should use bond funds for this.
24. Awarded LBMS boiler equipment installation contract to C.D. Whitfield [No – Cross, Sullivan; Yes – Winter, Mays, Rocco]
25. Appointed Annette Hazapis to the Westlake Porter Public Library board of trustees [No –Cross, Sullivan; Yes – Winter, Mays, Rocco]

#### **MASTER FACILITY PLAN PHASE I REPORT**

1. Bid day for high school project on Thursday.
2. Special meeting on Dec. 5 to act on those bids. Turner Construction will go over with low bidder scope of work.
3. High school hooked up construction trailers and work with site. Removed a lot of topsoil and organics to pour the concrete pad through December. Poured new driveway off of Hilliard and new asphalt entrance. Engineers continue to review excessive topsoil materials because of excessive rains. Reviewed situations where we might be using topsoil for grading and other areas within the district. Limited in options but potential. Also approved lime treatments, but haven't utilized because of string of nice days.

4. Middle school and Dover site: cut, fill and grade work to get the building pad ready for December. Installed fencing and jersey barriers to seal of construction entrance. Worked with PTA in regards to communicating that to promote safety. Repainted lots. New traffic pattern worked well in the morning and afternoon. Finish building pad and start storm sewer installation in December. Some neighbors asked about tree removal at the Dover site. They were planned tree removals. Went beyond 10-year storm requirement for water retention to a 100-year storm. Entrance on Bassett Road has a lot of water on it. Will have proper drainage once we build it up. Turner has gone around to neighbors to make themselves available.
5. Temporary lighting on the high school parking lot was a change from original plan. Still being designed and priced out. SiteTech lent us lights at no charge to light that lot. Will block off a couple student spots and affixing lights to back of stadium.

#### **DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS REPORT**

1. Vending switch from Pepsi to Coca-Cola will occur over break. Energy efficient machines with timers. Coke will donate a 14-foot concession trailer for five years. No advertising for any carbonated beverages on vending machine panels.
2. Photography contract: will announce those photography services in December after reviewing bids. Will allow a vendor to choose only the high school for yearbook and senior pictures.
3. As weather turns colder, winterized athletic fields. Drained irrigation systems. Checked snowplow attachments and spreaders.

#### **Board items**

1. Approved appointment of Porter Public Library Trustee Annette Hazapis
2. OSBA – Carol Winter, Tom Mays, Dr. Keenan and Mark Pepera attended Capital Conference.
  - a. Biennium budget – May go to another one-year budget at the state level. Dr. Keenan put in forecast full-day kindergarten. While that remains his recommendation acknowledges real concern about sustaining full-day kindergarten without impacting other areas because of continued uncertainty of state budget. He was asked to look into options to provide an additional reduced level of tuition payments to accommodate different income levels “economic hardship”.
  - b. Tom Mays: supports a tuition full-day kindergarten and an additional pricing tier to account for families who didn’t qualify for assistance if it can be verified.
  - c. Tim Sullivan: HB136. We are right to fight for protection of revenue sources. Makes glaring our lack of conviction about keeping expenses down. We are on an unsustainable financial path. Expense side is causing vast majority of reason we are on unsustainable path.
  - d. Carol Winter: Agree with maintaining all-day kindergarten with tuition and an additional tier if it can be verified.
  - e. Andrea Rocco: Agree with offering full-day kindergarten but want to maintain half-day option.
  - f. Nate Cross: We’re on an unsustainable path. Forecast a month ago shows total revenues of \$48.6 million and \$52.1 million in expenses. Part of that is all-day kindergarten. Heard from conference to be prepared for the worst. All five of us were all for all-day

kindergarten when mandate was lifted. Commitment not lessened, but financial circumstances have changed significantly. Need to reverse course and think of other options. Did not like idea of tuition-based kindergarten.

- g. Dr. Keenan: Any expense beyond \$0 is an unsustainable financial path because of the way schools are funded. We'd have to make substantial decreases over the years to be sustainable because our revenue does not increase. Unless we reduced every year, no school district in Ohio would be able to sustain. Schools are the one entity where people have a say and can choose. Other taxes grow and/or can be increased without a vote. School funding has issues. We have cut quite a bit of expenses. If say we have a \$23 million deficit to close, fair and appropriate, but we've experienced this before but able to make approximately \$16-\$19 M in reductions over 5 years if you are using the forecast as the way to describe expenses and savings opportunities. We will continue to do that to be effective. We have improved our situation greatly if you just go back and look at the forecasts. The problem won't go away even if we make a series of cuts, and we must not lose sight that in doing so we won't meet the educational needs. There's a balance. Tried to work hard with all-day kindergarten to make it self-sufficient. If we adjust tuition and enough people qualify, there will be less revenue to account for the program and there will be an added expense.
- h. Winter: how are we measuring how it compares with half-day kindergarten. Have to look at cost and academic benefit. Nice compromise to have the extra tier.
- i. Dr. Keenan: Teachers working to ensure half-day program is complemented at home so experience is served well. We don't have a quantitative measure right now as we are not even half way through our first year. We put in 5 FTE for next year in our assumptions without tuition to ensure the recommendation is within our forecast. So if we go the tuition tiered option, it's a savings.
- j. Sullivan: frustrating we have \$52 million to spend and can't afford all-day kindergarten and varsity hockey.
- k. Dr. Keenan: Actually, we don't have \$52 million to spend, that's inaccurate and its important to note that we have budgeted and assured revenue to cover full-day kindergarten. Understand concerns about reductions to contain costs. Have had \$19 million worth of containments over past few years. Right now \$300,000 for full-day kindergarten assumption. There are options if the board prefers not to accept that recommendation: (1) go back to half-day kindergarten as core program. No fiscal value because it's cost neutral. (2) keep tuition option as is, again cost neutral (3) add an extra tier, there will be a little cost to the district depending on how many people qualify. We will not save \$300,000 under this option, but there will be a savings. Sounds like Board wants that tier option investigated.
- l. Cross: Not granting another tier. Didn't vote for budget or forecast or full-day kindergarten. Don't want to complicate with another tier. Accept what we have now, but don't. Let's look at additional cost reductions to cover this. Despite the fact that the state killed the mandate, we went ahead with it. Good thing about how much we value

that program. Circumstances got worse. I think we should think outside the box at other cost reductions to offer this program.

- m. Sullivan: Does not want to change the current program.
- n. Dr. Keenan: will investigate extra tier and come back with their information so the board can decide. A vote will be needed only if the board elects to accept the full-day recommendation or add a tier of tuition, but no if the board wants to continue with the status quo.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** The next meeting of the Board is a work session and will take place at 5:30pm in the Board Room at the Administration Building, Monday, Dec. 5.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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