



Westlake Board of Education

Board Notes from Monday, June 30, 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.

Carol Winter: The strategic planning facilities task force will be making a presentation tonight. Thanked the committee for their expedited timeline. We started the process two years ago and were focused on assessing the needs of our elementary buildings and Phase II of the facilities study done in 2008-2010. We refocused and spoke about other areas, and that's when the strategic plan grew into five areas. Those areas are being worked on in task forces and will be reporting out to the board.

Thanked everyone for their commitment to our students.

INFORMATIVE REPORTS & RECOGNITIONS

1. Strategic planning committee presentation (facilities task force)/Diane Jordanger
 - a. Superintendent Geoff Palmer: The strategic plan has led into development of task forces to fill in the blanks of the outline presented earlier this spring. Staff, Board,

community members and students took part in these. This first report from our facilities task force has been working on an expedited timeline.

- b. Diane Jordanger: Reviewed in-depth facilities data and discussed options to replace aging elementary schools. Looked at positive and negative elements of relocating students to one campus or two. Results:
 - i. Pros 1 campus option: ability to coordinate staff, sharing resources, simplifies transportation, reduces costs, unity in community, equitable education, unifies PTAs, eliminates overflow and districting, sell unused property or find alternate community uses, allows easier transition for students, more choices for foreign language, eliminates staff travel, tuition free kindergarten.
 - ii. Cons: future enrollment growth, large campus, traffic, increases transportation costs, potential for charter schools to buy old schools, sharing of resources, breakfast program requirements, safety protocols, increases travel time for students, la
 - iii. Pros 2 campus option: more neighborhood setting, allows smaller student population, increases walk area, keep one school open if issues at another school
 - iv. Cons: restrict all students, redistricting challenges, higher construction costs, site limitations, split resources, swing space for construction, students divided between two schools, not as operationally efficient, requires two-stage building process.
 - v. Superintendent Palmer: We have preliminary results from our enrollment forecast. Some of that will detail numbers attending other districts. A 10-year forecast shows a change of 30 students overall. Our enrollment is fairly steady over time.
 - vi. Carol Winter: we have a large population and good private school options that made the 10-year forecast more telling for us.
 - vii. Barb Leszynski: LBMS was built with the ability to add future classrooms. We should consider the same at the elementary level.

2. Superintendent's report

- a. Our task force committees are continuing their work. Target date is to have reports ready for the board at the end of July. We appreciate the varied individuals taking part.
- b. There is a lot of work going on around the buildings. This week has seen 3 major projects on that site. Parking lot work is underway to resolve issues from original install being addressed with money from settlements from contractors. Slated to finish well in advance of the school year.
- c. Foti Construction, able to reach an agreement on the issues related to concrete floors at the high school. That is being installed across the entire first floor common areas. It's beautiful. Aug. 3 completion date is doable. We'll get what we strived for in the initial install, an aesthetically pleasing, durable product.

- d. Installation of the turf field from funds generated from Westlake Athletic Development Foundation. Some of the soil conditions on that site shows unsuitable soils being remediated. Lime dust installs to solidify and firm up that clay so shifting will not be an issue.
 - e. We have some new teachers coming to us with experience.
- 3. Carol Winter: We have a preliminary 5-star preschool rating from the state. It's a time intensive process and helps parents know the quality of our program.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Issued then & now certificates
- 2. Authorized treasurer to advance funds
- 3. Authorized treasurer to return advance
- 4. Established appropriations
- 5. Adjusted FY16 appropriations
- 6. Adjusted year-end FY16 appropriations
- 7. Approved FY17 temporary appropriations
- 8. Approved 403(b) provider
- 9. Amended resolution and authorized execution of a lease purchase agreement providing for improving, furnishing and equipping, and lease and eventual acquisition of an artificial turf field for the WHS stadium and related site improvements and related matters
- 10. Awarded district fleet, liability and property insurance coverage
- 11. Engaged Sudsina & Associates LLC as municipal advisor

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Accepted gifts and contributions
- 2. Approved FMLA
- 3. Approves resignations
- 4. Approved employment
- 5. Approved employment of camp link personnel
- 6. Approved summer basketball camp workers
- 7. Approved payment in lieu of transportation students
- 8. Approved summer home instruction tutor
- 9. Approved special needs extended year services
- 10. Approved stipends for Title I summer school reading/tutoring program
- 11. Approved summer employment for classified staff members
- 12. Approved parent/student handbooks
- 13. Accepted quotes and awarded photography contract to Ripcho Studios
- 14. Approved purchased services agreements
- 15. Approved construction change order

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Russ Ezalt: Impressed with the resolve of this board. First board that has not kicked the can down the road. Criticized recent teacher actions. Advocates for reduced teacher compensation.
2. Resident: Son is now a senior. Stress and pressure on students dealing with a strike at the beginning of the school year. Asked the Board to present the teachers with a new contract and find a middle ground.
3. Cara Zikas: resident. Don't fall into the trap of a conservative movement regarding taxes. Urged board to go back to the negotiating table. Tax dollars need to educate students.

BOARD COMMENTS

1. Carol Winter: Thanked staff members for attending the meeting.

BOARD ITEMS

- a. Approved a resolution requesting certain consents pertaining to a Nov. 8 bond issue and authorizing the treasurer to make certain filings with respect thereto
 - i. Mark Pepera: This resolution is a requirement by the state if the board considers a potential bond issue on the November ballot. It doesn't bind the board in any way to go on the ballot; it's just the paperwork. The board discussed dating back to 2010 the need for a permanent improvement initiative. There is a significant amount of millage dropping off in November. The board would be in position to take care of Phase II capital needs and use the remaining millage for a PI levy as a combo issue as no additional cost to taxpayers.

The Board adjourned to executive session to discuss the possible sale/acquisition of property and employment and compensation of personnel.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next meeting of the Board is Monday, July 18, 6pm, at Parkside.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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