



Westlake Board of Education

Board Notes from Monday, Feb. 4, 2013, Work Session

DISTRICT VISION & MISSION STATEMENTS

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.

We Educate for Excellence ... Empowering all students to achieve their educational goals, to direct their lives, and to contribute to society.

SPECIAL REPORTS

1. Cleveland Clinic recognizes school menus as healthy
 - a. Beth Spinx, registered dietitian
 - b. Laura Jeffers, Cleveland Clinic program manager – Developed Eat Right at School program to create a checklist of healthy guidelines to meet. We will provide posters and a jpeg to show your collaboration with the Cleveland Clinic. We want to send the community the message that school food is healthy. Laura is a WHS graduate. There are 64 schools in the program in the nation.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

1. The Board voted unanimously to place a 5.9-mill additional tax levy for current expenses on the May ballot
 - a. Treasurer/CFO Mark Pepera – The estimated property tax revenue to be produced by that 5.9-mill additional levy would be \$8 million annually. We could maintain our levy cycle of 3-4 years with a 5.9-mill levy. Community last passed an operating levy in Westlake 7 years ago. That levy was at 6.9 mills. We've changed the way we've done business over the years.

- b. Tony Falcone – It's a serious issue. I looked at it from a need perspective, and a scope and size perspective. Last levy stretched to 7 years although we had an economic downturn, state cuts, etc. I commend the administration for acting fiscally responsible. But we do need a levy. We were able to ask for a lower millage primarily because of the labor contracts, which will save us \$5 million over the next few years. 5.9 mills is probably the right number.
 - c. Carol Winter – I thought about what we've done to show the community, the survey. We've known about this for a long time, we've done a lot to change the way we do business here. Public schools criticized for not keeping money close enough to the classroom. Our administrative costs have gone down. We need to maintain our program of excellence. There's a reminder of the world class school system this community wants. 5.9 mills is a responsible amount.
 - d. Barb Leszynski – it's never easy to ask a community to raise its taxes. We cannot be in a desperate mode of needing money.
 - e. Tom Mays – over the course of time, this board/district has shown that they do whatever is possible to make sure the funds go to programming. That's what we have to continue to do. It goes to show when a community comes together for good, we can erase this deficit. Some people maybe aren't aware we cannot use bond issue money for an operating levy. A lot of people can't believe we haven't been on the ballot since 2006. They are amazed Westlake was able to extend that levy for 7 years. As goes your district, so goes your city. To maintain an excellent city, we need excellent schools.
- 2. Approved certified resignation of Susan Tarr and Mary Miller for the purpose of retirement
 - 3. Approved Sunday building use to North-South Organization for WHS educational workshops on Feb. 24.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

- 1. Cathy Axcell – Pleased to see a unanimous vote. I have a team of wonderful professional volunteers to inform the community of this levy campaign.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next meeting of the Board is Monday, Feb. 25, at 5:30pm, at Parkside Intermediate School.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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