



Westlake Board of Education

Board Notes from Monday, 5/23/11 Regular Meeting

Nate Cross: Asked remarks be entered into record. Indicated he does not believe the Board should schedule meetings in early morning hours because it is his belief it precludes the public from participating. I will no longer participate in this practice but will attend regularly scheduled Board meetings.

Tom Mays: April 11 meeting was properly noticed to the public. We indicated where the meeting would take place and the time. The purpose of that meeting and time was we needed to have some issues heard and resolved. Dr. Keenan asked that we meet and this was the only time we could all meet to ensure we were informed. Due to conflicts with evening schedules we weren't able to have a meeting prior to our April 18 meeting and that information was necessary before that meeting. So we looked for a time the 5 Board members could meet. As we have done in the past we had a 7:30am meeting so we could meet and members and any community members who wished to attend could do so and still get to work. I cannot guarantee we will never have an early morning meeting again. When time/issues call for it, we will meet whenever necessary to move this district forward.

LIBRARY TAX BUDGET HEARING

1. Board approved a resolution for the Westlake Porter Public Library 2012 tax budget

SPECIAL REPORTS & RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognized Parkside Intermediate student Dominic Berardi for his first place finish in the 2011 Great Lakes Science Center Regional Invention Convention Competition for his desktop pencil clipper invention.
2. Recognized Parkside students for the Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers Problem Solving Competition
 - a. Team Alsadrade/1st place trophy
 - i. Jade Hawk
 - ii. Sarah Hemphill
 - iii. Audrey Lyle

- iv. Alexandra Rujawitz
- b. Team PEMDAS/1st place trophy
 - i. Nicole Korczak
 - ii. Conor Miller
 - iii. Emily Schordock
- c. Team Problem Solvers/1st Place trophy
 - i. Maria Alamir
 - ii. Megan Fulton
 - iii. Samantha Giusto
 - iv. Holly Tomkalski
- d. Team Pythagorean Panthers/1st place trophy
 - i. Steven Brewer
 - ii. Ryan Karpuska
 - iii. Patrick Lee
 - iv. Patrick Smith
- 3. Recognized WHS Symphonic and Concert Bands for the 2011 Ohio Music Education Association state competition Superior ratings
- 4. Recognized Hilliard Elementary special needs preschool teacher Kim McCue for receiving 2011 Outstanding Educator Award

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- 1. Introduced new Hilliard Elementary School Principal Kim Conley
- 2. American Greetings has indicated they have selected Westlake as their headquarters. We had to meet with American Greetings representatives on Friday after the announcement. We were glad to see they wanted to listen and find a way that it could be a win-win-win scenario for the American Greetings, the schools, and the city. They did take time to demonstrate why the TIF and general terms were critical to them relocating to Westlake. Everything is pending district and city council approval. We still need to sit down with them about the details regarding what needs to be done by all for them to be a part of the community. I am excited about the opportunities for our schools, students and community. They need a TIF arrangement, which hasn't been done in Westlake before.
- 3. State budget update: we continue to work with our legislators. Rep. Baker proposed a second amendment to try to get 20% cap on all three pots of money. It did not go through. Now working with Sen. Patton on the same proposal. Silver lining is the state has a little more money is put back in the budget.
- 4. Design development stage now complete for high school. On budget after a lot of input from various groups. We'll have a presentation at the June meeting. Very close to final construction documents for the middle school building. Will begin breaking ground for sitework in July.

TREASURER'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approved resolution to establish funds for Janis Kingsbury Memorial Scholarship and Felicia Lamarche Scholarship Fund
2. Approved resolution to establish appropriations
3. Adjusted FY11 appropriations

CAC REPORT/Laura Steinbrink

1. 2010-2011 accomplishments
 - a. Engaged several new members
 - b. Engaged two new student members
 - c. 9 meetings
 - d. 2 research topics reports with interim reports to BOE in January/February
 - e. lots of stakeholder engagement with students, teachers, parents via online survey instrument
2. Start time for high school
 - a. Presented in January on academic research and best practices about a later start time preference
 - b. Conducted research with parents, teachers, employers
 - c. Two obstacles to implementation: students in athletics and activities, and prohibitive busing costs
 - d. Refrain from making final recommendation until the fall
3. Healthy eating
 - a. Presented to BOE in February
 - b. Parent survey
 - c. Awaiting feedback to finalize recommendations in fall
4. Considering topics for next year
 - a. Volunteerism and community service
 - b. Naming opportunities & sponsorships & fundraising
5. Working on a feedback system, recruiting new members

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approved gifts and contributions
 - a. Toby Barvincak
 - b. Brad Behrendt
 - c. Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Belovics
 - d. Dorothy Beyer
 - e. Mr. & Mrs. Luciano Calanni
 - f. Lisa Conklin
 - g. Mr. & Mrs. John Crowe
 - h. Dorothy Damico
 - i. Joyce Demio
 - j. Mr. & Mrs. Daryl Edwards

- k. Margaret Elwell
 - l. Mr. & Mrs. Scott Geraci
 - m. Richard Grane
 - n. Kelly Hoover
 - o. Mr. & Mrs. Timothy King
 - p. Ralph Kramer
 - q. Jackie Nackowitz
 - r. Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ormsby
 - s. Lynn Pettyjohn
 - t. Mr. & Mrs. Quinton Robinson
 - u. John Mayer and Elizabeth Sislak
 - v. Sandra Sopko
 - w. Colleen Steidel
 - x. Mr. & Mrs. James Wren
 - y. Roberta Young
 - z. Bassett Elementary school staff
 - aa. LBMS school staff
 - bb. Dave Puffer
 - cc. Westlake Sportsmens Association
 - dd. Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Bedell
 - ee. CWRU Schuberet Center for Child Studies
 - ff. Pam Griebel
 - gg. Kate Hudak
 - hh. Keith Jenkins
 - ii. Pat Catan's Craft Center
 - jj. Patricia Sarna
 - kk. Judy Shie
 - ll. Westlake Demons club
 - mm. WHS PTSA
 - nn. Westlake Town Criers
 - oo. Dover Elementary PTA
2. Approved reduction measures for the 2011-2012 school year Dr. Keenan indicated he spoke with OAPSE, which is ready to open talks. He expressed disappointment that WTA does not have a team ready to open dialogue after they had indicated they would be willing to sit and discuss how they could be a part of the solution. He also indicated that while his door remains open for those types of measures he cannot responsibly wait before acting to resolve the budget challenges for next school year. He then noted that without concessions by the end of the school year it was likely he will add to this list at the June meeting.
- a. Administrative reductions
 - i. Reduce director of pupil services contract to 60%
 - ii. Reduce gifted coordinator contract to 50%
 - b. Teaching reductions

- i. Reduce 17 teaching positions
 - ii. Suspension of the following teaching contracts: Robert Pace, Staci Peltz, Donna Richards
- c. Classified reductions
 - i. Reduce up to 20 FTE classified/support positions
- d. Transportation service reductions
 - i. Eliminate high school transportation for 2011-2012
- 3. Approved FMLA
 - a. Carol Flannick
 - b. Kelly Bailey
 - c. Melodie Urban
 - d. Mindy Clark
 - e. Angela Baker
- 4. Approved parental leave for Joanna Harmon
- 5. Approved classified resignation for purpose of retirement for Anna Bakalar and William Schmidt
- 6. Approved classified resignations of Dane Holman, John Pappas and Angela Baker
- 7. Approved resignations and employment of substitutes for staff members
 - a. Classified substitute resignations: Daniel Morisky
 - b. Certified substitute resignations: Beverly Block, Beverly George, Kathleen Bosl, Francee Giovannazzo, Kevin Collins, Michael Rasch
 - c. Classified substitutes: Lynn Brandt, Kurt Field, Carolyn Klokey, Tom Sorensen, David Delzeith, Nancy Fox, Sandra McManamnon, Shirley Verbanik Marsilio, Christina Efpraxias, Paula Jones, Irene Sarraio, Rebekah Zakel
 - d. Certified substitutes: Kara Blackburn, Nicole Castrigano, Kristine Grace, Jaclyn Hollo, Kyle Romansky, Jennifer Starr, Janice Vulku, Heather Boduch, Kathleen Cichra, Anne Hart, Susan Quinn, Jennifer Sherman, Megan Stilla, Angela Bowman, Amy Franklin, Donna Hinson, Nancy Rodgers, Madison Snow, Beverly Strempel
- 8. Approved reclassification of certified staff members: Todd Milkie, Loretta Tindadll, Brendan Zepp
- 9. Approved WHS department chairs
 - a. Cris Filmer, art/industrial tech/music co-chair
 - b. Scott Kutz, art/industrial tech/music co-chair
 - c. Sue Tarr, computer
 - d. Nicolette Miller, foreign language
 - e. Daniel Berkheimer, science co-chair
 - f. Keith Ohnhaus, science co-chair
 - g. Art Daniels, health and physical education co-chair
 - h. Joe Schofield, health and physical education co-chair
 - i. Paul Hammond, social studies
 - j. David Ruschau, math
 - k. Brendan Zepp, special education
 - l. Jacy Nichols, library

- m. Debra Voss, guidance
- 10. Approved supplemental contracts for 2010-2011
- 11. Approved 2011 summer employment of school bus drivers and bus aides
- 12. Approved step increase for Project Link leader Judith Mack
- 13. Approved employment of 2011 Camp Link personnel
 - a. Roberta Ahern
 - b. Nancy Puccini English
 - c. Erin Fenderbosch
 - d. Christi-Ann McCulloch
 - e. Susan Gatt
 - f. Christine Matejcek
 - g. Judith Mack
 - h. Nancy Kendall
 - i. Callie Smith
 - j. Christie Leake
 - k. Matthew Sprosty
 - l. Julie Priebe
 - m. Catherine Brannigan
- 14. Approved certified home instruction by Jim Bingham, Beth Noren and Nicole Dover
- 15. Approved employment of Kimberly Conley as Hilliard Elementary School principal
- 16. Approved WHS graduating class of 2011
- 17. Approved parent/student handbooks
 - a. Westlake Early Childhood program
 - b. Westlake Elementary
 - c. Parkside Intermediate
 - d. LBMS
 - e. WHS
 - f. Project Link
- 18. Approved Lake Erie Educational Computer Association (LEECA) member master service agreement for 2011-2012
- 19. Authorized membership in Ohio High School Athletic Association for 2011-2012
- 20. Approved agreement for participation in state supported instructional television service for 2011-2012
- 21. Approved Sunday building use for Holly Lane 50th anniversary celebration and Emily's Rainbow Run
- 22. Approved summer school intervention programs and stipends
 - a. Kindergarten Readiness Program
 - b. Lead teacher/assessment coordinator-Kindergarten Readiness/Janice Hughes
 - c. Teacher Kindergarten Readiness – Kate Applegate and Stacy Ryan
 - d. Reading and Math Detectives
- 23. Approved purchased service for Bay Village City Schools instruction cost reimbursement for Wild About Reading summer school program

24. Approved rental agreement for Lake Erie Nature and Science Center summer school program

MASTER FACILITY PLAN PHASE I REPORT

- a. Bob Teitenberg/Turner Construction
 - i. Construction documents – high school on budget and on schedule
 - ii. Soft costs – architectural fees, consultant fees
 - iii. Planning Commission meeting. Schedule for final review June 6. Details looking for include planting schedule, landscape drawings, site logistics
 - iv. Scheduling groundbreaking in August, potentially Aug. 19
- b. Nate Cross: Questioned soft costs and buffer zones
- c. Dr. Keenan: we've had at least 9 meetings with the neighborhood groups and discussed various issues. We'll continue to meet with them throughout the process.
- d. Tom Mays: traffic light at the high school update. Hopefully optimistic about a cost sharing arrangement.

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS REPORT

- 1. Mobile classroom units: had a historic rainy spring that creates difficulties. Unit installed at Bassett Elementary.
- 2. Ordering furniture this week for classroom units and new kindergarten classrooms.
- 3. Able to get Clear Wire to assign their rights to the football stadium tower to American Tower.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

- 1. Russ Esalt: As a taxpayer, since we're in this fiscal crisis, at the last marathon meeting, I didn't glean the board's primary responsibility is the taxpayer. I would like to ask each member to whom do you owe your primary duty – taxpayer or students?
 - a. Andrea Rocco – I think the success of our public schools is directly linked to the success of this community. I've been able to watch how far we stretch the dollar. There are plenty of things wrong with school funding. Read the mission statement of this school district: to educate children to achieve to the best of their ability. Both are important. Making me choose is not going to get us anywhere. As a school board member our mission is to best educate our children. They go hand in hand. You have to watch how the money's being spent and do the best you can with the money being spent.
 - b. Nate Cross – I see my role is to balance needs of district and kids while serving in an oversight capacity for taxpayers.
 - c. Tim Sullivan – neither. I think the board members are trustees and our job to not favor either. We are placed in a trustworthy position to balance needs of students v. taxpayer's ability to pay.
 - d. Carol Winter – our job is to set policy for our district. Our role is not to run the district. That's where we hire our superintendent and treasurer. We are the trustees of the education for Westlake students within the parameters of our taxpayers.

- e. Tom Mays – no matter where you live in Ohio, real estate taxes will go to support public education. Our job is to provide policy and best education possible within the parameters provided by the taxpayers.
 - f. Esalt – policy can change.
- 2. Brendan Delay: Represent Abraham Salem. 18 year old senior. We are going forward with an appeal focused on the Westlake code of conduct only governs drug offenses during school hours, on school transportation or in an automobile parked on school property. He was pulled over off campus at a traffic stop. I think the school is trying to police off campus conduct. I may have to file a lawsuit if he is prohibited from attending graduation on Saturday.
- 3. Dave Albert –We’ve seen an increase of 21% to 36% over the last 7 years. Our property values haven’t gone up. Your budget over the last 10 years has gone up \$17 million. Compared you to North Olmsted, Avon, Avon Lake, Rocky River, Olmsted Falls, salaries are 40% above the state average, and significantly above those districts. You are spending too much money and the salaries are too high.
- 4. John Kolesar: Interesting to watch the behavior of citizens here. My concern is some having political goals outside of the school board. Your role is one of governance, not school management. OSBA note role of school board members. If you look at Westlake and where it is today, it is a result of decisions at the city and school level. We pass taxes to better our community. It does increase your property values. I chose Westlake because of what it means to be in this community. I encourage you to have ideas. You were voted by the citizens of Westlake to run the schools. Kids come first and if taxpayers are willing to pay the bill, that’s democracy.
- 5. Mary Mann: My husband and I moved here in 1976 before we had children. I moved here because I was proud of this community. I raised my children here. They went to Westlake schools and did well. I come to school at 6:30am. I spend many of my Saturdays, Sundays and after school thinking about and working with children. I am proud of what I do. I am proud of the people I work for. I am sorry that you are not proud of the people what dedicate their lives to the kids.
- 6. Joe Kilbane: many people once their working day is over, their retirements are not what they used to be. A lot of people didn’t expect high taxes in their retirement years. A lot of people are having a hard time. Unless you’ve got a really good retirement, your day may come when those taxes will be really tough.
- 7. Russ Esalt: I heard discussion about teachers doing extra. I have no criticism of the excellence of the teachers. I’m an attorney and do whatever needs to be done to get the job done. I have a hard time when someone tells me they do extra. Teachers should understand I’m not upset with teachers. I’m upset with the board for allowing that to happen.
- 8. Dave Albert: Teachers do not hold the sole sword of losing out. I run my own company. I volunteer. I will be building a home in two years. It will not be in Westlake because I think it’s irresponsible the way you are spending money.
- 9. Tom Mays: Everybody in this community and on this board works hard for their dollars. In six years we’ve passed one levy. Other communities have levies that last 3 years. We extend our levies. That’s how we’re able to do what we do and educate for excellence. No matter what city you live in in Ohio, you’re going to pay property taxes. We probably do as well if not better than

most communities with taxpayer dollars. You have to look beyond just the final numbers and see why. We look at our expenses constantly.

10. Mays: if you have questions, please direct them to Mr. Pepera for more information.
11. Carol Winter: Recommend you contact Treasurer Mark Pepera.
12. Tim Sullivan: Rocky River is not a fair comparison. They intentionally choose to have a shorter three-year cycle.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next meeting of the Board will be a work session on Monday, June 20, at 5:30pm at the Board offices.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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