



Westlake Board of Education

Board Notes from Monday, 3/7/11 Regular Meeting

Tim Sullivan objected to adjourning to executive session for the purpose of negotiations and staffing.

Dr. Keenan indicated the purpose is to discuss options so the district could better control its finances. There is no action anticipated coming out of the executive session.

Sullivan: Believes it sends a bad message for the school board to go into negotiations to discuss our contract with the teachers. We, as a board, should be discussing our goals as a board. This is the people's business, the most important thing going on for our children and taxpayers and we should be doing it out in the open and out front. The Westlake Board of Education should agree with all of the tenants of Senate Bill 5, if passed.

Dr. Keenan: We are not going into executive session for negotiation strategy. It's to make sure we consider our options and pros and cons of considering negotiating. The whole purpose is to make sure we have 7 people discussing things thoroughly. The point is to have a conversation and speak freely so as not to give a position away.

Nate Cross: I said I was willing to go into executive session to hear what would be presented, but I am going to listen only. There will be no conversation from my point. If it can't be done in 10 minutes, there is no point in me staying beyond that. I don't see a need to have a lengthy discussion about that tonight.

Tim Sullivan voted against the motion to approve the agenda.

Andrea Rocco: Pointed out that Tim Sullivan voted for the current contract in place.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Russ Esalt: Troubled by all the conversation and attempt to diminish the Senate Bill, as I see it. Is there a union contract in place right now and when does it expire? (Expires December 2012). It appears you are talking about Senate Bill 5.

- a. Dr. Keenan: We're going into executive session to talk about staffing and whether there is a pro or con about opening up negotiations now to benefit taxpayers. If we would go into negotiations now, to see if there were going to be any potential savings for our taxpayers.
 - b. Mr. Esalt: He did not find this explanation acceptable.
- 2. Harry Applegate: A motion was made to approve the agenda, an objection was made. There was no call for the roll or discussion. Therefore all discussion relative to that motion should be stricken from the record, if we're going to live by Roberts Rules.

SPECIAL REPORTS & RECOGNITIONS:

- 1. Dover presentations
 - a. Visiting Artist Program/Mrs. Regas
 - i. The PTA invites a variety of artists into the schools to expose students to working with different mediums.
 - b. Ambassador program/Mrs. Huber
 - i. Student leaders donate hundreds of hours each year by helping with new student orientation, building tours, bus escorts, help teachers after school. Four of the 28 ambassadors presented about the various programs the ambassadors are involved in.
 - c. Multi-handicapped program/Mrs. Rachel Kane
 - i. Described the multi-handicapped program and presented a video about her mission, goals, beliefs for her students. She increases the independence of her students to direct their lives and contribute to society.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1. Branding/Mike Medoro
 - a. Presented on the concept of creating a single logo, be consistent and professional.
 - b. Mr. Esalt: Verdana is the most readable font. Have you considered that font?
 - c. Dr. Keenan: Looking for direction from the Board. Would like to use both W's and define on which type of background you can use each W. Would like to stick with original Demon logo. Prefer to use the word "Demons" rather than the picture. Would like to narrow down the font, vertical orientation. Demon has tradition for decades and would like to leave it alone.
 - d. Andrea Rocco: If something just purchased, wait until uniform is worn out?
 - e. Dr. Keenan: We would not spend anything on changing things. AS we replace things, we will adopt the new logo. Idea is to transition over time. It's intended to improve our image and save money. We have been going through a process and getting feedback. My recommendation is go to with both W's and define the backgrounds and work on that font. Would like to make a decision by the end of this school year and make it official and adopted and then communicate that.

- f. The Board agreed this should be administrative decision and bring to the Board for a final approval.
- 2. High School Site Plan/Matt Hills of Behnke/TMS/City of Westlake
 - a. Concept 1
 - i. 2 curb cuts along Hilliard Boulevard to the front parking lot. A 3rd access point on the west to bus drop-off and service area. One-way traffic in on east end and one-way traffic out on the west end. Both access points where existing access points are now. Staff parking lot not nearly as separate and isolated.
 - ii. Counterclockwise motion through site for parent drop off and everyone exits out at one point.
 - iii. Pros
 - 1. Clear circulation route through the site.
 - 2. 13 more parking spaces than concept 2.
 - iv. Cons
 - 1. Might be confusing to visitors which entry point they go to. Would require signage to direct them to other entry point.
 - 2. Major problem is due to traffic pact study, determined a left turn lane from Hilliard westbound to turn into parking lot. Residents coming out of Royal Forest Drive will have a difficult time getting out at pickup/drop-off (which is the same situation we have now). Need police help in morning and afternoon.
 - 3. Need deceleration lane from the east, added to Hilliard for cars to pull in coming from the east.
 - b. Concept 2
 - i. Only 1 main access to front parking lot and parent drop-off area.
 - ii. Enter and exit to and from site directly across from Royal Forest Drive.
 - iii. Inside, proceed to parent drop-off area or turn off to student/visitor parking lot. Staff would keep going and head to their parking lot, separate from parking and circulation.
 - iv. Pros
 - 1. Deceleration lane not needed. Traffic light at Royal Forest Drive intersection at Hilliard.
 - 2. Traffic signal eliminates need for police traffic help on a daily basis
 - 3. Provides a ceremonial entrance to the building
 - v. Cons
 - 1. Since there is no connection with staff parking lot, staff has to come in and turn into their lot. Creates potential conflict with left turns. Staff will need to find a break in traffic to get to lot.
 - 2. Students have to get out of the parking lot and have two options, creating a backup due to left hand turning issue.
 - 3. Traffic signal cost is \$200,000 for installation.

4. Fire Department expressed concern with only one access area to front door. Calling for fire access lane.
- c. With both plans, traffic flow will be similar to what is on Hilliard Boulevard now. It will require an additional officer, which the Police Department representative believes could be difficult to find. TMS prefers the traffic light/Option 2. Behnke prefers the flow and function of Option 1.
- d. Tim Sullivan: prefers Concept 2 for its simplicity and the traffic light.
- e. Andrea Rocco: \$200,000 is a lot of money that may not resolve existing problems. We're looking at being more efficient.
- f. Thomas Mays: Have a problem spending any money we might have to suck out of classrooms.
- g. Nate Cross: Concept 2 with a light will eliminate need for spending \$18,000 a year on officers. Ceremonial approach is appealing.
- h. TMS: \$200,000 for the light is a conservative estimate. Could spend that on a deceleration lane. It could be a wash.
- i. Dr. Keenan: Have concerns about both but don't want to make light of concerns on the site. There is a concern about traffic and pedestrians on the site. Worry about safety of the site when you have traffic cutting different ways on the site. WE have 23 sports and 50 clubs, 1,400 students and 200+ staff members coming in.
- j. Behnke/Hills: On both concepts, for pedestrians, those coming from the east will be able to walk around and go through the majority of the periphery. Major concern with Concept 2 is arrangement of staff coming in to turn left and parent drop-off cutting across, as well as students trying to turn left with parents dropping off in the afternoon.
- k. MKC: We need to go to Planning Commission with a design.
- l. Dr. Keenan made suggestions on changes within the site for Concept 2, if safety issues can be eliminated and it doesn't add significant costs to the site plan.

The Board adjourned to executive session for the purpose of negotiations and staffing.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next meeting of the Board will be a work session on Monday, March 21, at 5:30pm at the Board of Education offices.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

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