

**WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**Special Meeting - Monday, January 4, 2010
Immediately Following Organizational Board Meeting
Administration Building – Board Room
27200 Hilliard Blvd.**

Call to Order: Time: 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Winter	<u>Present</u>
Mr. Sullivan	<u>Present</u>
Mr. Cross	<u>Present</u>
Mr. Mays	<u>Present</u>
Ms. Rocco	<u>Present</u>

Motion to Dispense with Pledge of Allegiance:

Motion by Mr. Sullivan

Seconded by Ms. Rocco

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Winter	<u>AYE</u>
Mr. Sullivan	<u>AYE</u>
Mr. Cross	<u>AYE</u>
Mr. Mays	<u>AYE</u>
Ms. Rocco	<u>AYE</u>

Acknowledgment of Visitors: President Winter thanked all in attendance.

Approval of Agenda as Amended to *add Executive Session to Discuss Personnel and include a departmental report from Pam Griebel, Director of Academic Services*

Motion by Mr. Sullivan

Seconded by Ms. Rocco

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Winter	<u>AYE</u>
Mr. Sullivan	<u>AYE</u>
Mr. Cross	<u>AYE</u>
Mr. Mays	<u>AYE</u>
Ms. Rocco	<u>AYE</u>

*Hearing of Public (15 Minutes) Agenda Items – None.

A. Business

1. Pam Griebel – Discussion on Race to the Top Grant

Stated the Administration will need to work collaboratively with the District labor groups to determine whether they should participate for the Race to the Top Grant. She further commented that due to time constraints posed by the State, it may be necessary for the Board to meet on short notice to pass a resolution of participation.

2. Continued Discussion on May Bond Issue to Address Facility Needs

Winter: She prefaced the discussion in stating the facility process led by Superintendent Keenan has been transparent to date. She further stated it is her hope the Board can reach consensus on this matter.

Keenan: He spoke about the recent community survey regarding facilities and introduced Mr. Dykes from Triad Research to discuss the results.

Dykes: He discussed the community survey and results. He stated the overall 'driver' was not cost but rather the issue of taxpayers wanting to protect their investments.

Mays: He asked Mr. Dykes to clarify the comment he made regarding the probability of a successful passage of an \$84m bond issue.

Dykes: He reiterated that based upon the community survey results, the District had a good chance of passing an \$84m bond issue in May.

Sullivan: He asked Mr. Dykes how the survey addressed the possibility of a \$50m bond issue versus an \$84m bond issue.

Dykes: He stated the survey data showed that the respondents favored an \$84m bond issue over a \$50m bond issue.

Cross: He asked Dr. Keenan if Triad was the same firm that conducted the community survey in 2008.

Keenan: He responded to Mr. Cross that Triad was the same firm.

Cross: He asked Mr. Dykes how questions were formulated for the survey.

Dykes: He explained to Mr. Cross that formulating questions for the survey was a collaborative process between Triad and the District.

Rocco: She commented that in addition to District input, Board members also had an opportunity to tweak survey questions as well.

Sullivan: He spoke briefly about the specific questions he proposed for the survey regarding the possibility of a \$50m bond issue.

Cross: He asked Mr. Dykes if he could explain the five-point movement in the survey again.

Dykes: He responded to Mr. Cross that the positive movement exhibited in the survey was due to overall cost and the intended investment in the facilities.

Sullivan: He referenced the Board Framework in outlining his responsibilities as a member of the Board.

Rocco: She stated that if there are any questions for Mr. Dykes, Board members should ask them now.

Dykes: He summarized his comments that the voters in Westlake are giving the District a set of financial parameters. Based on those parameters, he recommended the District move forward on the \$84m bond proposal in May.

Board Facilities Discussion:

Winter: She stated the data appears to show community support for a two-phased approach which clearly saves money and is fiscally responsible.

Sullivan: Stated he is not yet sold on the \$84m issue and phased approach based on his decision about what is the right thing to do, lack of community support and support from City officials and in light of the District's stable enrollment.

Mays: He spoke about the Board's vision statement in conjunction with supporting the facilities issue and that the bond proposal does show the taxpayers the District is being fiscally responsible. He further stated the District owes it to the taxpayers to ask them now, and the community survey clearly supports putting an \$84m issue on the ballot in May.

Cross: He stated that while there is clearly a need, the Board must first develop a fiscally responsible plan to maintain the facilities and be unified on its position. He further stated that there is a lack of community support at this time, the Board has not explored alternative sources of funding, and agrees with the economic issues raised by Mr. Sullivan.

Rocco: She asked Mr. Cross if he will support a resolution permitting the community to vote on this issue in May.

Cross: He responded to Ms. Rocco the Board needs to come to agreement on this matter, and he is still not comfortable with the OSFC guidelines and believes there are additional savings to drive the cost of the project lower. He further stated he is confused about some historical capacity data he has in his possession versus current data that is being provided.

Bob Titenburg (Turner Construction): He explained the OSFC guidelines and the fact they are only a template of minimum standards for school districts. He further explained that the guidelines have been the basis for 80% of the school construction projects in Ohio.

3. Resolution Determining that the School District is a Special Needs District Exhibit A-3
Pursuant to Section 133.06(E) of the Revised Code - **No Action Taken**
4. Resolution Authorizing the President and Treasurer of this Board and the Exhibit A-4
Superintendent to Prepare and File Preliminary Materials in Connection with
Applications for Consents Pursuant to Section 133.06(C) of the Revised Code

*Hearing of Public (15 Minutes)

Cathy Axcell: Stated the Board's responsibility is to vote at all times in the best interest of all students. Feels some members of the Board are choosing to ignore the data from the community process and asked them to reconsider their position and vote to place the \$84m issue on the ballot in May.

Christie Wiedt: Stated to Mr. Sullivan her concern that the word 'community' was not in any of his comments and invited Mr. Cross and Mr. Sullivan to come see the deficiencies in the schools' facilities. She encourages Mr. Cross and Mr. Sullivan to support the bond issue.

Duane Miller: Stated his concern about the condition of our facilities and the negative impact doing nothing will have on the educational process. He stated the Board should give the community the ability to speak on this issue for themselves.

Laura Steinbrink: Stated the leadership is lacking from the Board on this issue. She asked the Board to figure out how they will come together. She further stated the voters, not the Board, should be making decisions on whether money should be spent on the schools and requests the Board spend time to come to consensus on this issue.

Duane VanDyk: Commented on his educational experience within the schools and later as a resident. He believes we need this bond issue to be competitive, to provide a 21st learning environment and provide a good investment for our taxpayers. He also stated he supports the proposed bond issue in May.

January 4, 2010
10-38

B. Adjourn to Executive Session

Time: 9:50 p.m.

Purpose: To Discuss Personnel

Motion by Mr. Mays

Seconded by Mr. Sullivan

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Winter AYE

Mr. Sullivan AYE

Mr. Cross AYE

Mr. Mays AYE

Ms. Rocco AYE

Others in Attendance: Keenan, Pepera.

Adjourn Executive Session and Return to Regular Session

Time: 10:20 p.m.

C. Adjournment

President Winter adjourned the meeting at 10:21 p.m.

President

Treasurer

*The public may address the Board during the periods of the meeting designated for public participation. Each person addressing the Board shall give his/her name and address. If several people wish to speak, each person is allotted three minutes until the total time allotted is used. During that period, no person may speak twice until all who desire to speak have had the opportunity to do so. The period of public participation may be extended by a vote of the majority of the Board present and voting.

EXHIBIT A-3

The Board of Education of the Westlake City School District met on January 4, 2010, commencing at _____ (time) in the Administrative Office Board Room, 27200 Hilliard Blvd., Westlake, Ohio, with the following members present:

The Treasurer advised the Board that the notice requirements of Section 121.22 of the Revised Code and the implementing rules adopted by the Board pursuant thereto were complied with for the following meeting.

_____ moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS A SPECIAL NEEDS DISTRICT PURSUANT TO SECTION 133.06(E) OF THE REVISED CODE.

WHEREAS, this Board has received and considered information and other data concerning school facilities and other permanent improvements as defined in Section 133.01(CC) of the Revised Code required for the proper education of the students attending the schools operated by this Board; and

WHEREAS, this Board has also received advice as to the estimated costs of providing school facilities and other permanent improvements and the amount of leeway available within the debt limitation imposed by Section 133.06(B) of the Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, this Board must take such steps as are legally available to it to provide the required school facilities and other permanent improvements to service adequately the student population of this School District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Westlake City School District, County of Cuyahoga, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1. This Board hereby finds and determines that (i) the student population of the School District is not being adequately serviced by the existing permanent improvements of the School District and (ii) the School District cannot obtain sufficient funds by the issuance of securities within the limitation of Section 133.06(B) of the Revised Code to provide additional or improved needed permanent improvements in time to meet the needs, and therefore this Board hereby declares the School District to be a special needs district pursuant to Section 133.06(E) of the Revised Code.

Section 2. The Treasurer is authorized and directed to promptly provide to the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Ohio a certified copy of this Resolution along with the other material required by Section 133.06(E) of the Revised Code and required or requested by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and to take such other actions and furnish such other information as may be appropriate in order to secure the certification of this School District by the Superintendent of Public Instruction as an approved special needs district.

Section 3. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board and any of its committees concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken, and all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in those formal actions were held, in meetings open to the public, in compliance with the law.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption.

Upon roll call on the adoption of the resolution, the vote was as follows:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

TREASURER'S CERTIFICATE

The foregoing is a true and correct excerpt from the minutes of the meeting on January 4, 2010, of the Board of Education of the Westlake City School District, showing the adoption of the resolution hereinabove set forth.

Written notice of the time and place of the special meeting of the Board of Education held on January 4, 2010 was served personally upon, or actually received by, each Board member at least two days in advance of such meeting; and notice of the time, place and purposes of that special meeting, was, at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the time of such meeting, given to and received by all news media that had heretofore requested notification of such special meetings pursuant to Section 121.22 of the Revised Code and the procedures established by the Board for that purpose.

Treasurer, Board of Education
Westlake City School District, Ohio

Dated: January 4, 2010

EXHIBIT A-4
RES. #10-24

The Board of Education of the Westlake City School District met on January 4, 2010, commencing at 6:05 p.m. in the Administrative Office Board Room, 27200 Hilliard Blvd., Westlake, Ohio, with the following members present:

Carol Winter

Tim Sullivan

Nate Cross

Tom Mays

Andrea Rocco

The Treasurer advised the Board that the notice requirements of Section 121.22 of the Revised Code and the implementing rules adopted by the Board pursuant thereto were complied with for the following meeting.

Tom Mays moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 10-24

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT AND TREASURER OF THIS BOARD AND THE SUPERINTENDENT TO PREPARE AND FILE PRELIMINARY MATERIALS IN CONNECTION WITH APPLICATIONS FOR CONSENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 133.06(C) OF THE REVISED CODE.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Westlake City School District, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, that:

Section 1. Request for 4% Consents. This Board hereby requests the consents of the State Tax Commissioner and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to the submission of a bond issue question pursuant to Section 133.06(C) of the Revised Code in a principal amount currently estimated not to exceed \$85,000,000 as the School District's net indebtedness after the issuance of bonds in such amount will exceed 4% of the total value of all property in the School District as listed and assessed for taxation.

Section 2. Authorization to Provide Materials Relating to Request for 4% Consents. The President and Treasurer of this Board and the Superintendent are each authorized to prepare, sign and deliver any letters and other preliminary materials and documents that must be filed with the State Tax Commissioner and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction at least 105 days prior to an election to obtain their consents for the submission of a bond issue question to the electors in accordance with Section 133.06(C) of the Revised Code and State Board of Education Policy No. SF-A.

Section 3. Compliance with Open Meeting Requirements. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board and of any of its committees concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in those formal actions were held, in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

Section 4. Captions and Headings. The captions and headings in this Resolution are solely for convenience of reference and in no way define, limit or describe the scope or intent of any Sections, subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs or clauses hereof.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption.

Andrea Rocco seconded the motion.

Upon roll call on the adoption of the foregoing Resolution, the vote was as follows:

<u>Carol Winter</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Tim Sullivan</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Nate Cross</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Tom Mays</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Andrea Rocco</u>	<u>Yes</u>

TREASURER'S CERTIFICATE

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Treasurer, Board of Education
Westlake City School District, Ohio

Dated: January 4, 2010