

WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Monday, January 11, 2010 – 5:30 p.m. – Work Session
Board of Education – 27200 Hilliard Blvd.

Call to Order: Time: 5:31 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>

Pledge of Allegiance: President Winter led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acknowledgment of Visitors: President Winter thanked all in attendance and reminded the Board about their roles as stated in district policy.

Approval of Agenda as Amended *to extend public comment to not more than five minutes per person; no person may speak twice; and President Winter reserves the right to cut comments not directly related to a topic.*

Motion by Ms. Winter
Seconded by Mr. Sullivan

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.

Joe Kraft: Read a prepared statement explaining his background, his role as finance committee chair for the current levy committee and his rationale for supporting the proposed levy in May.

Joe Kilbane: Stated every City is judged by its schools but questioned the timing of the proposed levy due to the economy.

Dave Newman: Read a prepared statement about his historical perspective on facility issues specifically dealing with a lack of ample classroom space.

Harry W. Applegate, Jr.: Read a prepared statement about his historical perspective on past and present Board decisions. He urged the Board to put the question of a facilities issue to the voters in May.

Lisa Hawkins: Read a prepared statement about her support for the data-based approach undertaken by the District to rebuild their facilities.

Michele Destefano: Read a prepared statement about her involvement in the schools and the importance the schools played in her relocation process. She also submitted empirical data showing the positive relationship between home value and school quality.

Julie Moroney-Westlake High student: Read a prepared statement regarding the poor condition of the facilities and the impact it has on student learning.

Cathy Axcell: Read a prepared statement about her past and current involvement in the schools. She thanked Mr. Mays, Ms. Rocco and Ms. Winter for their support of a May bond issue and asked Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Cross for their support.

Brian Rudjewitz: Spoke about his relocation to Westlake and the importance of the quality of schools in a community.

Tony Falcone: Spoke about his support for the issue to be placed on the ballot in May and the economic responsibility undertaken in the facilities process.

Tim Falcone: Spoke about his history in the community and urged support for the May facilities issue.

Mike Medoro: Submitted a prepared statement depicting his involvement in the facilities process and his request to the Board for a unanimous decision to put the \$84M issue on the May ballot.

Dave Hooper: Spoke about his support for the schools and his support for putting the issue on the ballot in May.

Gretchen Herzberger: Spoke about her involvement as a teacher in the schools and the numerous deficiencies in the Westlake facilities.

Beth Veccio: Spoke about the deplorable condition of the schools and urged the Board to let the voters decide on this issue in May.

Cathy DuBois: Spoke about the deplorable condition of the schools from her perspective as a teacher and urged the Board to support this issue.

Michael Bookson: Spoke about his support for the community and the facilities issue.

Pam Griebel: Urged the Board to unanimously support the facilities issue and briefly commented on what will happen to the academic program if they don't.

Mike Cutter: Asked Mr. Puffer a question about the efficiency standards for schools that would be required by 2014.

Puffer: Stated to Mr. Cutter he is not familiar with any such legislation.

Susan Carol: Urged the Board to unanimously support the issue.

Claudia Bakos: Spoke about the deplorable conditions from the perspective of a teacher and urged support for the issue.

A. Special Reports & Recognitions

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Resolution to Recognize Lee Burneson Middle School Students | Exhibit A-1 |
| 2. Resolution to Recognize Westlake High School Students | Exhibit A-2 |

B. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Keenan reported on the following:

1. Congratulated CFO/Treasurer Pepera and his staff for obtaining a perfect financial audit for the second year in a row. He further commended the rest of the staff for the team effort in obtaining this accomplishment.
2. Recognized the Lee Burneson Lego competition team for their efforts.
3. Recognized the Girls soccer team for their All-American academic achievement standing.
4. Reported on a secondary (fall-back) facilities plan should there be no facilities issue placed on the May ballot.

Puffer: Commented briefly on a fall-back facilities plan should there be no facilities issue passed in May. He stated he does not recommend such a band-aid approach to address our facilities needs.

Rocco: Stated the report by Dr. Keenan and Mr. Puffer clearly shows the negative impact to our operations if we don't let voters decide on an issue in May.

Keenan: Stated this type of report also shows the Board the devastating impact of financing this plan in direct relationship to our operating budget.

Dykes (Triad Consulting): Spoke again about his recommended bottom line in relationship to the community survey. He commented that with a strong campaign, an \$84M bond issue has a good chance of success in May. He then asked if any members of the Board had questions on the survey (none responded).

Dave Stahl: Briefed the Board on his expertise in construction estimating and affirmed the estimates contained in the District's facility Master Plan.

Cross: Asked Mr. Stahl a question regarding the use of the 2/3rds rule as a benchmark from the Ohio School's Facility Commission (OSFC).

Wroblewski: Explained to Mr. Cross the 2/3rds analysis, its acceptance and rationale as it relates to the project at hand.

Winter: Asked Mr. Cross if his questions were going to help determine his vote this evening.

Cross: Responded to Ms. Winter, "Yes". He further asked Mr. Wroblewski if there was a way to fix this problem instead of building new facilities and in light of using the state's benchmark of cost.

Wroblewski: Stated that anyone's notion of the OSFC's standards as being a Cadillac is false. He further stated he would instead compare their standards to something more like a Chevy.

Cross: Stated the Master Plan is based on a benchmark, and feels this is not the most cost-effective solution.

Keenan: Stated to Mr. Cross the District has considered all the alternatives, and his personal recommendation is based on data that supports the position contained in the Master Plan.

Rocco: Stated to Mr. Cross the alternatives he has suggested were not supported by any of the data over the last two years.

Cross: Stated to Ms. Rocco that he believes there is still some flexibility in financing the plan.

C. New Business

1. Action Items

a. Resolution to Approve Leave, Resignations and Employment of Staff Exhibit C-1-a
Members

b. Resolution Declaring the Necessity of Submitting the Question of the Exhibit C-1-b
Issuance of School Improvement Bonds, in the Aggregate Principal
Amount of \$84,056,066, to the Electors of the Westlake City School
District

Keenan: Read a prepared statement about his support for placing an \$84m issue on the ballot in May to address facility needs.

Board Discussion:

Winter: Thanked Dr. Keenan, the administration, staff and community for their work and support on this issue. She further commented about the facilities issues data and how it directly supports the recommendation contained in Exhibit C-1-b.

Cross: Stated the issue is complicated and any solution must incorporate community support, timing, fiscal responsibility and lower cost. He further commented that all alternatives have not been explored.

Sullivan: Thanked the community, school and Dr. Keenan for their support on exploring this issue and their continued academic results. He further stated that while our facilities have needs, he is reluctant to support a tax increase at this time and does not support the \$84M issue.

Rocco: She disputed the unemployment rate as stated by Mr. Cross and commented about his involvement in the facilities process from the very beginning. She further stated that no alternatives have been offered by Mr. Cross to date, and the right thing to do is put the issue before the community in May.

Mays: Spoke about his involvement on the Board and the desire to make this the best school district in Ohio. He further commented about a board member's responsibility to provide the best educational opportunities for the students, and believes the data supports this issue.

***Hearing of Public (15 Minutes)**

Harry Applegate Jr.: Thanked the Board members for their support and stated that as a result the other Board members must now support this decision.

Beth Veccio: She asked Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Cross, "If not now, when is the right time to place this issue on the ballot?"

Sullivan: Stated to Ms. Veccio that he looked at the facts and let his comments speak for themselves.

Kilbane: Asked Mr. Pepera what is the current delinquency amount and rate for Westlake?

Pepera: Stated to Mr. Kilbane he is not prepared to state a figure, but knows that the delinquencies in Westlake are lower than other Cuyahoga County suburbs, and in addition any negative impact has been already factored into the current financial forecast.

Laura Steinbrink: Spoke about leadership lacking from some of the members of the Board and stated she is concerned with the dissenting opinion.

John Kolesar: Stated he is disappointed in comments and decisions of some of the Board members.

Eric Kaiser: He thanked the Board for passage of the resolution this evening.

Julie McCallister: Stated that while unemployment is high, the Board needs to consider what happens when those same folks get in trouble go to sell their homes? She further stated we need to invest in our schools.

Michael Bookson: Stated he gained additional knowledge today about the schools and is concerned about the rationale of the dissenting vote.

Cathy Axcell: Stated to the Board that she is confident of community support for this issue.

Lisa Hawkins: Commented she appreciates the dissenting opinion of some members of the Board but hopes for their support on a going-forward basis.

Tim Falcone: Briefly spoke about the acceptable price point for the proposed levy.

John Kolesar: Briefly spoke to the Board about the code of ethics and guidelines in relationship to having a majority opinion of the Board.

D. Adjournment

President Winter adjourned the meeting at 8:46 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-1
RES. #10-25

RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE LEE BURNESON MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS
FOR THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

RESOLVED that the Westlake Board of Education recognizes and congratulates the following Lee Burneson Middle School students for their participation and accomplishments in the 2009 American Mathematics Competition:

Top Score - State of Ohio

Kartik Dhinakaran

National Distinction Award - Top 1%

Aswin Bikkani - Grade 7
Nicholas Craven - Grade 7
Kartik Dhinakaran - Grade 7
Melissa Karpuszk - Grade 7
Calvin Pozderac - Grade 7
Krish Shah - Grade 8

National Honor Roll - Top 5%

Vanessa Melikian - Grade 7
Austin Moran - Grade 8
Eleni Packis - Grade 8
Elizabeth Raiff - Grade 8
Ameesh Shah - Grade 7
Christopher Tsuei - Grade 8

Motion by _____ Ms. Rocco

Seconded by _____ Mr. Mays

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Winter	_____ AYE
Mr. Sullivan	_____ AYE
Mr. Cross	_____ AYE
Mr. Mays	_____ AYE
Ms. Rocco	_____ AYE

EXHIBIT A-2
RES. #10-26

RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
FOR THE CLEVELAND CLINIC EXPRESSIONS PROJECT

RESOLVED that the Westlake Board of Education recognizes and congratulates the following Westlake High School students for their participation and accomplishments in the 2009 Cleveland Clinic eXpressions Program:

Creative Learning Intern - Clare Wittenberg

Scientific Intern - Sammy DeMarsh

Artists

Kate Humphrey	Fiber Dress	Best in Show
Allison Smik	Animated Video	Red Ribbon
Jenna Glasscock	Ceramic Torso	Red Ribbon
Maura Phillips	Digital	White Ribbon
Laura Musser	Sculpture Chair	Honorable Mention
Marty Krebs	Copper Jewelry	Honorable Mention
Luke Graber	Pastel Drawing	Honorable Mention

Tim Freeman: Recognized two students for their collaborative art project with a local company.

Motion by Mr. Mays

Seconded by Mr. Sullivan

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>

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LEAVE, RESIGNATION AND
EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF MEMBERS

RESOLVED that the Westlake Board of Education approves the leave, resignation and employment of staff members for the 2009-2010 school year, as follows:

Classified Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Peter Kodysh	Driver	01/19/2010

Classified Resignation For Purpose of Retirement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Joy Bell	Secretary-Class C	04/01/2010

Certified Resignation For Purpose of Retirement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Antony Hoty	WHS Teacher	06/30/2009
Jo Ann Hoty	WHS Teacher	06/30/2009

Certified Employment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Building/Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>FTE</u>
					None

Amended Classified Employment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Building/Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Hrs/Day</u>	<u>Mos.</u>
Sue Pease	WHS Cashier	12/10/2009		From 5.0 to 5.5 Hrs/Day	

Motion by Mr. Mays

Seconded by Mr. Sullivan

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>

EXHIBIT C-1-b
RES. #10-28

The Board of Education of Westlake City School District, Ohio, met in regular session on January 11, 2010, at the Westlake Administration Office, 27200 Hilliard Boulevard, 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 meeting.

Tom Mays moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 10-28

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF SUBMITTING THE QUESTION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BONDS, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$84,056,066, TO THE ELECTORS OF THE WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

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

Section 1. This Board finds, determines and declares that it is necessary to issue general obligation bonds of the Westlake City School District in the aggregate principal amount of \$84,056,066 for the purpose of constructing, renovating, remodeling, adding to, furnishing, equipping and otherwise improving school district buildings and facilities and acquiring, clearing and improving their sites (the Bonds), and to levy a tax outside of the ten-mill limitation imposed by Section 2 of Article XII of the Ohio Constitution to pay the debt charges on the Bonds and any anticipatory securities. Pursuant to Section 133.18 of the Revised Code, the question of the issuance of the Bonds and the levy of that tax shall be submitted to the electors of the School District at an election to be held in the School District on May 4, 2010. The approximate date of the Bonds will be July 1, 2010. The maximum number of years over which the principal of the Bonds may be paid is 34, and the Bonds will bear interest at a rate now estimated at 5% per year, payable semiannually.

Section 2. The Treasurer of this Board is directed to certify a copy of this resolution to the County Auditor of Cuyahoga County for the certification of the total current tax valuation of the School District and the estimated average annual property tax levy, expressed in dollars and cents for each one hundred dollars of tax valuation and in mills for each one dollar of tax valuation, that the County Auditor estimates to be required throughout the stated maturity of the Bonds to pay debt charges on the Bonds, assuming that they are all issued in one series bearing interest and maturing in substantially equal principal amounts in each year over the maximum number of years over which the principal of the Bonds may be paid, both as stated in Section 1, and that the amount of the tax valuation of this School District for the current year (or, if that amount is not determined, the estimated amount of that tax valuation submitted by the County Auditor to the County Budget Commission) remains the same throughout the maturity of the Bonds (except as otherwise provided in Revised Code Section 133.18(C)(2), which provides that, when considering the tangible personal property component of the tax valuation of the School District, the County Auditor shall take into account the assessment percentages prescribed in Revised Code Section 5711.22, and further provides that the tax commissioner may issue rules, orders, or instructions directing how the assessment percentages must be utilized).

Section 3. 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. 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 resolution, the vote was as follows:

<u>Carol Winter</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Tim Sullivan</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>Nate Cross</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>Tom Mays</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Andrea Rocco</u>	<u>Yes</u>

TREASURER'S CERTIFICATION

The above is a true and correct excerpt from the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Westlake City School District, Ohio, held on January 11, 2010, showing the adoption of the resolution hereinabove set forth.

Dated: January 11, 2010

Treasurer, Board of Education
Westlake City School District, Ohio