

**WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**Monday, March 9, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. – Work Session  
Lee Burneson Middle School – 2260 Dover Center Road, Westlake, Ohio 44145**

Call to Order Time: 6:02 p.m.

John Finucane was appointed Treasurer Pro Tem.

Roll Call:

Mr. Falcone	<u>Present</u>
Mrs. Leszynski	<u>Present</u>
Mr. Finucane	<u>Present</u>
Mr. Mays	<u>Absent</u>
Ms. Winter	<u>Present</u>

Entered the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – President Falcone led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**VISION STATEMENT**

The Westlake City School District will provide a dynamic, student centered, 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

WE EDUCATE FOR EXCELLENCE...Empowering all students to achieve their educational goals, to direct their lives, and to contribute to society.

Acknowledgment of Visitors: President Falcone thanked all visitors in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mrs. Leszynski

Seconded by Mr. Finucane

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Falcone	<u>AYE</u>
Mrs. Leszynski	<u>AYE</u>
Mr. Finucane	<u>AYE</u>

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

A. Discussion Items

1. 20/20 Committee Update

Superintendent Palmer discussed the February meeting of the 20/20 Committee and their input to date on Phase 2 of the District Master Facilities Plan. He also suggested obtaining a facilitator for the remainder of the 20/20 Phase II engagement process. He noted the next meeting is Thursday, March 12, at 6:30 at LBMS cafeteria.

2. Community Dialogue with Superintendent  
Starting in April on each first Monday of the month at 10 am at Panera, the Superintendent will host an open 'coffee' dialogue session for any member of the community.
3. Senior Citizens Event  
A Spring event to show appreciation to our senior citizens will take place on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5 pm. This will be a joint effort with the City of Westlake, Porter Library, Kiwanis Club and the school District.
4. 2015-2016 School Calendar  
Superintendent Palmer discussed the 2015-2016 school calendar options and noted one of the alternatives establishes an earlier start date to permit more instructional time prior to standardized testing. Mrs. Leszynski commented she can't support the current calendar the way it is because of the lack of instructional time prior to testing. She also asked why the other two options give two weeks at Christmas. She summarized the calendar option selected should be weighted in favor of the input of the teachers who have to administer the testing. Superintendent Palmer noted the Board will vote on the calendar will be at the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.
5. CIP Update  
Superintendent Palmer noted the committee reconvened last Spring to make organizational shifts to accommodate the indicators. Recently, the administrative team has been fine tuning the process for review. The District will reconvene the various stakeholder groups next year to review and update the Plan.

B. Action Item

1. Resolution to Approve Memorandum of Understanding with Westlake Teachers' Association Exhibit B-1

\*Hearing of Public (15 Minutes)

Russ Ezolt stated he has never experienced a board or any group who is as arrogant as the Board. He noted the Board still did not have a podium for public comment. Ms. Winter indicated it was an oversight when setting up for the meeting. Mr. Ezolt then stated he had met with Dr. Keenan three times but hasn't met with Mr. Palmer because he's too busy.

Harry Applegate spoke about his participation on the 20/20 committee. He noted that based on the data, it was clear the District needed to build a new high school, a new middle school, and renovate the middle school, etc. He believes there is no need to use Burges & Burges to facilitate the process.

Russ Ezolt commented further about the Board and his views on Common Core.

Harry Applegate noted he attends the 20/20 committee meetings and asked a question about how students are taught with relation to the implementation of Common Core.

Russ Ezolt (Mr. Falcone reminded Mr. Ezolt there were two minutes left in the allotment for public comment) responded he would continue his comments at the next meeting and thanked the Board for letting the public speak their mind as well as noted the time he had to wait to speak after the meeting began. Mr. Falcone reminded Mr. Ezolt the meeting of the Board is to conduct business and is held in public and is not to be confused with a public meeting.

Motion to extend the Hearing of Public for another 15 minutes:

Motion by Mr. Finucane

Seconded by Ms. Winter

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Falcone NO

Mrs. Leszynski NO

Mr. Finucane AYE

Ms. Winter AYE

Motion failed.

C. Board Comments

Mrs. Leszynski provided a legislative update on the financial waiver granted by the State Superintendent with respect to students who are opting out of testing. She noted concerns still remain regarding the ability to meet minimum required testing percentages and the potential loss of Federal funding. She also noted the Senate voted to pass HB7 which would prohibit using student scores on the PARCC assessments this year from being used for promotion and retention and granting course credit. This bill also prohibits the state from withholding the funding should a district have a large number of students opting out.

Harry Applegate – Asked the question, “As long as they take the tests, we get the funding?”

Ms. Winter noted the negative impact on the State report card rating if the students do not perform well.

Mr. Finucane asked if overall student testing has increased or have old tests replaced new tests.

Superintendent Palmer indicated students are taking more tests as the request for accountability has increased.

President Falcone discussed the upcoming public hearing to be held concerning the reemployment of Mr. Palmer. He noted the hearing is required by statute due to Mr. Palmer’s retirement occurring on July 1, 2015. He was hired on an interim basis but will be officially retiring July 1, 2015

D. Adjourn to Executive Session

Time: 7:06 p.m.

Purpose: To Discuss Negotiations and the Employment and Compensation of Personnel

Motion by Ms. Winter

Seconded by Mrs. Leszynski

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Falcone AYE

Mrs. Leszynski AYE

Mr. Finucane AYE

Ms. Winter AYE

Others in Attendance: Palmer, Pyros

Palmer and Pyros exited the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Adjourn Executive Session and Return to Regular Session  
Time: 9:25 p.m.

E. Adjournment

President Falcone adjourned the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

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President

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Treasurer Pro Tem

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.

March 9, 2015  
15-99

EXHIBIT B-1  
RES. #15-61

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
WITH WESTLAKE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

RESOLVED that the Westlake Board of Education Approves Memorandum of Understanding with Westlake Teachers' Association.

Motion by Mrs. Leszynski

Seconded by Mr. Finucane

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Falcone	<u>AYE</u>
Mrs. Leszynski	<u>AYE</u>
Mr. Finucane	<u>AYE</u>
Ms. Winter	<u>AYE</u>

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