

**WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**Monday, March 14, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. – Work Session
Parkside Building – 24525 Hilliard Blvd., Westlake, Ohio 44145**

Call to Order Time: 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Ms. Winter	<u>Present</u>
Mrs. Leszynski	<u>Present</u>
Mr. Finucane	<u>Present</u>
Mr. Kraft	<u>Present</u>
Dr. Stoll	<u>Absent</u>

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

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated on the agenda.

VISION STATEMENT

The Westlake City School District will provide a dynamic, student centered, 21st 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 Winter acknowledged all visitors in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mrs. Leszynski

Seconded by Mr. Kraft

Roll Call Vote:

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

*Hearing of Public (15 Minutes) Agenda Items

President Winter clarified the definition of agenda items for the Hearing of the Public and stated that the 'item' one is referring to must be an actionable item.

A. Board Committee Reports

1. Legislative Liaison – Barbara Leszynski

Mrs. Leszynski noted recently introduced bills: House Bill 383 (requires ½ unit of economics and financial literacy in the high school social studies curriculum), HB 401 (addresses requirements of chartered non-public schools), HB 410 (truancy) and HB 441 (allows non-pub school students to participate in interscholastic activities in a district other than his/her residency).

2. Student Achievement Liaison – Dr. Stoll

No report.

3. Policy Subcommittee

Mrs. Leszynski and Dr. Stoll met with Stephanie Morgan and Carol Froehlich to discuss kindergarten entrance policies.

4. Finance/Audit Subcommittee

No report.

5. Curriculum Subcommittee

President Winter discussed the historical perspective of District curriculum and textbook purchases. She noted that conflicting views on Ohio learning standards and concerns regarding alignment, in addition to District revenue issues, resulted in purchase decision delays. However, she also noted that Westlake City Schools has spent \$2m since 2009 on instructional materials. This figure does not even include money spent from building site budgets. She concluded her remarks by saying the Board must balance District needs with the means available, and noted curriculum cycle reviews should be completed every five years.

Mr. Finucane noted the curriculum review guideline/policy was a good idea.

Superintendent Palmer noted that policy will direct priority, but we need to also recognize procurement challenges with frequent curriculum changes being contemplated by the State.

6. Community Outreach Subcommittee

Mr. Kraft noted the Strategic Planning Committee's report will come out in April resulting in the creation of a task force. He stated the Board has been involved in many District events: OMEA competition, One School One Book program, Hilliard PTA's Magic Gives Back, third grade reading program at Holly Lane and Hilliard, after Prom Baccalaureate, a baseball fundraiser and Dollars for Scholars.

B. New Business

1. First Reading of Policies

- 5112 Entrance Requirements
- 5408 Academic Acceleration, Early Entrance to Kindergarten and Early High School Graduation.

The Board discussed some changes to these policies which reflect District practices.

Motion to Waive Second Reading and Approve

RES. 16-68

Motion by Mrs. Leszynski

Seconded by Mr. Kraft

Roll Call Vote:

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

*Hearing of Public (15 Minutes)

Paul Roth, teacher, read a prepared statement about the granting of sick days to teachers as referenced in law.

Patrick McMorro, teacher and WTA President, noted the WTA appreciates Kathi Maxwell and her efforts as Curriculum Director. He then spoke about the starting salaries of teachers in Westlake as compared to others in the state and made reference to the salary history of the district Treasurer.

Alison Gregory, teacher, read a prepared statement about her feelings as a teacher in the District.

Sandy Erdman, teacher, read a prepared statement about employees taking negotiations and other issues within the District personally.

Cathy DuBois, teacher and community member, read a prepared statement about the lack of unity in the District and the lack of teachers' time. She then spoke about lack of appropriate compensation for the teaching staff.

Motion to Extend Hearing of Public

Motion by Mr. Kraft

Seconded by Mr. Finucane

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Winter	<u>AYE</u>
Mrs. Leszynski	<u>NO</u>
Mr. Finucane	<u>AYE</u>
Mr. Kraft	<u>AYE</u>

Loretta Tindall, teacher, read a prepared statement about the lack of resources for staff and made references to the Treasurer's fiscal forecast.

Harry Applegate stated he is concerned about a current textbook resource with out-of-date information and asked if the District could find a more flexible arrangement with their vendor to accommodate changes such as these. He then mentioned he doesn't understand the frustration being exhibited by the staff and is concerned this will not help pass levies.

C. Board Items and Comments

1. Discussion of Possible Invoicing of State for Community School Payments

The Board discussed inequities in outflows for Charter School entities and the importance of sending a message to the State. The Board then directed Mr. Pepera to invoice the State for lost funds and prepare a formal resolution for the March 21st Board meeting.

2. Discussion of Board Retreat Dates

President Winter suggested the Board consider mid-April for their Board retreat.

3. Other

The Board discussed the request by the Olmsted Falls superintendent to join in a letter of support encouraging our state leadership to reconsider how they interact with local school districts. The Board supported joining this cause and authorized President Winter to sign on behalf of the Board.

Mrs. Leszynski noted that she was at Mrs. Gregory's Christmas pageant and it was fabulous.

Mr. Kraft stated that there should be fairness and respect for everyone in the District; in addition to a fair budget. He invited everyone to continue to work together in conjunction with the community to keep the District great.

President Winter talked about the history of concessionary contracts in the District and how that compared to other area districts. Mr. Finucane then mentioned some data on teaching employees in the district and the fact that 72% of those employees received an increase this past August.

President Winter concluded the comments saying it was time to move on to the next item on the agenda.

D. Adjourn to Executive Session

Purpose: To conference with attorney to discuss possible/pending litigation and discussion of possible acquisition/sale of property and employee negotiations

Time: 7:08 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Kraft

Seconded by Mrs. Leszynski

Roll Call Vote:

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

Others in Attendance: McCloskey (Board Attorney), Palmer, Pepera, Sheets and Kocovar
Kocovar left Executive Session at 8:38 p.m.

Adjourn Executive Session and Return to Regular Session

Time: 10:06 p.m.

E. Adjournment

Motion by Mrs. Leszynski

Seconded by Mr. Kraft

Roll Call Vote:

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

President Winter adjourned the meeting at 10:07 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.

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