

**WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**Monday, April 11, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. – Work Session  
Lee Burneson Middle School – 2260 Dover Center Road, Westlake, OH 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>Present</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, 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 Winter welcomed all visitors in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Finucane

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>
Dr. Stoll	<u>AYE</u>

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

A. Informative Reports

1. Builders Club Presentation

Paul Wilson, Principal, introduced Casey Persia who provided an overview of Builders Club. Members of the club then presented on service projects undertaken this year.

2. Strategic Planning Presentation

Representatives from the Strategic Planning Committee presented a strategic outline with goals and initiatives to the Board for their consideration. Core areas of the plan include: finance, curriculum and technology, facilities, communications/community partnerships, and culture and environment. President Winter summarized the next steps with this process. Formal approval is anticipated at the April 25<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting.

B. Board Committee Reports

1. Legislative Liaison-Barbara Leszynski – No report.

2. Student Achievement Liaison – Dr. Stoll reported on recent student award recipients.

3. Policy Committee – Policy committee met April 8<sup>th</sup> to review recent policy updates.

4. Finance/Audit Committee – Mr. Kraft spoke about the review of District finances and the desire to have cash reserves.

5. Curriculum Committee – No report.

6. Community Outreach Committee – Mr. Kraft spoke about Autism Awareness month; Green & White Review; Rotary Speech contest; upcoming Choir trip to Boston/New York City.

\*Hearing of Public (15 Minutes)

Russ Ezolt, resident, requested the Strategic Planning presentation be placed on the district website. Liz Pernot, resident, stated she was thrilled about Westlake City School District submitting a bill for lost Charter School funding to the State Department of Education.

Patrick McMorrow, teacher, spoke about concerns of staff and lack of specificity with respect to the 'Board Notes'. He then commented about the board item slated for later in the agenda dealing with the employment and compensation of the Treasurer.

Cindy Archer, teacher, spoke about her tenure working for the schools. She requested the Board reassess the labor situation with fresh data, creating a new plan through collaboration and with an expectation of a successful outcome.

Rob Pace, teacher, spoke about his career and experience as a Strongsville teacher. He made comparisons to that experience to his experience now in Westlake.

Loretta Tindall, teacher, read a prepared statement on behalf of the teachers. She noted a distrust in the administration, its financial information and the allocation of resources.

Russ Ezolt, resident, shared data he obtained from the State Department of Education to refute the recent claim from the teachers about their salaries.

Motion to extend Hearing of Public another 15 minutes

Motion by Mr. Finucane

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>
Dr. Stoll	<u>AYE</u>

Marge Widmar, resident, spoke about all the comments made during the evening and shared her sympathy toward the teachers.

Russ Ezolt, resident, indicated the data he is quoting is coming directly from the State.

Dina Abugroon, parent, feels we need to support the teachers and hopes the Board can compromise to address their issues.

Patrick McMorrow, teacher, wants to make sure the Board has 2016 data for starting teacher salaries.

Jane Peer, resident, spoke about the importance of culture and climate and her industry experience.

She stated a need to get community support for levies.

Gary Sole, resident, spoke about his background in the corporate world, his experiences in Westlake and stated he is looking forward to serving on the Strategic Committee as a resource.

C. Board Comments

Mrs. Leszynski and President Winter spoke about the difference between Board minutes (record of board meetings) and Board Notes.

Superintendent Palmer noted the difference between starting salary vs. average salary due to the different comparisons being made during the Hearing of the Public.

D. Adjourn to Executive Session

Purpose: To Discuss Employment and Compensation of the Treasurer

Time: 7:21 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Leszynski  
Seconded by Mr. Finucane

Motion to Amend Purpose to *add* Employee Negotiations

Motion by Mr. Kraft  
Seconded by Dr. Stoll

Roll Call Vote:

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

Others in Attendance: Palmer, Pepera, Sheets

Palmer and Sheets left at 8:35 p.m.

Pepera left at 9:00 p.m.

Adjourn Executive Session and Return to Regular Session

Time: 9:56 p.m.

E. Adjournment

President Winter adjourned the meeting at 9:57 p.m.

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President

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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.