

**WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**Wednesday, May 11, 2005 – 5:30 p.m. – Work Session
Administration Building – Board Room
27200 Hilliard Blvd.**

Call to Order: Time: 5:36 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mrs. D'Ettorre Wargo	<u>Present</u>	
Ms. Rocco	<u>Present</u>	
Mr. Beal	<u>Present</u>	
Mr. O'Malley	<u>Present</u>	
Mr. Smanik	<u>Present</u>	Entered the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: President D'Ettorre Wargo led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acknowledgment of Visitors – None.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. O'Malley
Seconded by Ms. Rocco

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. D'Ettorre Wargo	<u>AYE</u>
Ms. Rocco	<u>AYE</u>
Mr. Beal	<u>AYE</u>
Mr. O'Malley	<u>AYE</u>

Hearing of public (agenda items – 15 minutes) – None.

A. New Business

1. Action Items

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| a. Resolution to Approve Retirement of Classified Staff Member | Exhibit A-1-a |
| b. Resolution to Increase the Network Technician Salary Base | Exhibit A-1-b |

B. Discussion Items

1. First Reading of WHS 2005-2006 Handbook

- Superintendent Costanza presented the first draft of the WHS 2005-06 Handbook.

2. Financial Update

- Treasurer Pepera and Superintendent Costanza presented a current financial update.

3. Board Items

- Costanza: Updated the Board on a personnel matter concerning the estate of Wanda Robinson. He indicated attorneys from each side are working to bring some resolution to this issue. He further commented the issue is complex, and the district is hoping a solution can be reached shortly.

Board Discussion:

President D'Ettorre Wargo briefly addressed the audience regarding the recent levy defeat.

Beal: He indicated it's too soon to go back to ballot in August. (The Board unanimously agreed with this statement.)

Smanik: How soon will we be provided information concerning possible reductions?

Costanza: The sooner, the better.

Beal: The Board must also make a decision on the Bradley Road property.

Rocco: Asked Mr. O'Malley how he obtained the estimate of value for this property that was publicized in his literature.

O'Malley: Indicated he used the range of values provided from Attorney Gagliano earlier this year.

Beal: If the property is sold, when would the district realize this revenue?

Smanik: What is the process if the Board decided to sell Bradley Road?

Pepera: By law, the Board has the option to sell directly to a municipality or to the public at an auction.

Rocco: The \$5M figure for the Bradley Road property quoted by Mr. O'Malley in the paper has not been substantiated. Even if we can secure this money, it will not mitigate the financial need of the district.

Beal: If the city reduced some amount of millage they are assessing and the schools increased their assessment, how and when would revenues be realized?

Pepera: This would depend on what tax year the reductions were made.

O'Malley: He explained his plan would call for a reduction in City millage to combat the increase posed by the schools. This would be accomplished in negotiating a deal with the City.

Rocco: Asked Mr. O'Malley if the plan to access additional inside millage is taxation without representation.

O'Malley: He stated it is the Board's duty to investigate the 23 recommendations in the financial task force report.

Wargo: Indicated to Mr. O'Malley that accountability should accompany his ideas. In addition, these ideas should include any legal limitations and a definite timeline for completion.

Beal: To Mr. O'Malley: Are you asking the Board if they will ask the City to reduce its millage?

O'Malley: Yes, at least some of it.

Smanik: What progress are we making in evaluating the Bradley Road property? What is the next step in discussing the inside millage issue?

Beal: The issue of whether the City has too much money is not why we are on this board.

Board: The Board unanimously agreed to pursue a meeting with the City to discuss alternative funding arrangements.

Beal: The Board needs to also consider budgetary reductions in conjunction with the request to the City.

Smanik: It's critical to assess the timing of any reduction decisions.

Wargo: How do we do that?

Costanza: He suggested the Board come up with an aggregate dollar amount and let the administrators make some recommendations.

Beal: According to his calculation, we need to cut \$3.9M over two years.

Smanik: Asked the Superintendent to expand his reduction document to include an “Impact on Target” column relating to the \$5M deficit.

Rocco: The first time we discussed the inside millage issue, Mr. Rink indicated the Board should discuss this concept with the Budget Commission. The inside millage issue needs to be explored to see if it’s viable. We need to move forward on this issue.

O’Malley: He volunteered to draft a letter to the Budget Commission and share it with the Board in two weeks.

Beal: The Board will still need to decide if they would consider assessing millage without a vote of the public. He indicated he would not support this concept.

Wargo: The Board will discuss possible budgetary reductions at the May 25th board meeting. The Superintendent will get information to Board by next Friday.

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

Kevin Bradley: He’s concerned with the political grandstanding that appears to be exhibited by one board member.

Jim Connole: The Board should consider its bond credit rating in relation to its fund balance. He also commented about some issues that were successfully negotiated by the Board over the years: pool lease; city hall purchase; tax abatement; Bradley Road.

Diane Deibel: Expressed frustration regarding the anti-campaign literature distributed by Mr. O’Malley prior to the school levy and his actions as a board member.

Joe Kilbane: Asked a question about fiscal years. Treasurer Pepera clarified this for him. He indicated the City has the ability to reduce millage/taxes.

Mark Leonard: Asked Mr. O’Malley about his political rally last Friday and how he procured a yellow school bus.

O’Malley: Indicated the school bus was rented.

Mark Leonard: Asked Mr. O’Malley to resign his position in light of the potential conflict of interest with his mayoral candidacy.

O’Malley: He declined.

Diane Kirchendorfer: She stated Mr. O’Malley has good ideas. The Board apparently isn’t working together.

Wargo: She responded to Ms. Kirchendorfer that Mr. O’Malley chose not to operate within the Board framework as adopted by the Board and agreed to by Mr. O’Malley.

Rocco: She indicated Mr. O’Malley’s alternative funding ideas have not been brought forth in a timely manner.

O’Malley: Communication is a two-way street.

Wargo: Indicated she did ask Mr. O’Malley if he wanted to participate in the school levy discussions and he publicly said “No.”

Diane Kirchendorfer: What about the unconstitutionality of school funding?

Rocco: She indicated the school district cannot change that – it’s a State issue. In light of this, the Board has tried to stretch every budgetary dollar.

Mary Kay Auger: She stated her family picked Westlake to reside in because of its reputation. Her specific question is, “What cuts and reductions will be made because this is becoming a political issue.

Robert Kanec: What about senior citizens and their hardship? He feels the tax burden is already too heavy on the community.

Joanne Belzile: Stated her family chose Westlake because of the reputation of its schools and was appreciative of the services it provided to her children.

Mary Leftzow: Are the electrical problems with the TV studio fixed?

Costanza: No.

Mary Leftzow: She indicated the levy failed because the need was not communicated.

Beal: Asked Ms. Leftzow specifically about her question at a previous meeting about a claim that no notice was provided for a board meeting. He indicated he confirmed with the Treasurer all board meetings have been properly noticed.

Ed Kwasny: Stated he was disappointed with the style and tenor of recent board meetings. He also commented that it is difficult for seniors to raise funds for a levy. In addition, he is concerned with the fiscal responsibility of the schools.

Carol Corpus: She stated the message from the board members is skewed. Mr. O'Malley is misunderstood. She also asked if the Superintendent was willing to reduce his salary.

Wargo: Commented she didn't appreciate the statement from Ms. Corpus in the paper about her.

Beal: The Superintendent is an asset to the district and we don't want to lose him. In addition, he will not ask the Superintendent to work for less money.

Rocco: The school board should always work together.

Martha Solarz: She was glad to see the finance committee was formed. The district needs to pursue every available option for additional revenues. The Board needs to work together.

Karen Herzberger: Indicated she expects a board member to be the voice of the people. The community is disgruntled with campaign literature that was sent out. She also indicated there is a question of whether or not Ms. Rocco can serve on the board because of a potential conflict.

Rocco: The statute clearly states that she is permitted to serve on the school board.

Joe Kilbane: Asked if the district can wait to put a levy on the ballot next year.

Pepera: While this might not be the most prudent financial move, he indicated this was possible.

C. Adjournment

President D'Ettorre Wargo adjourned the meeting at 8:08 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-a
RES. 05-119

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RETIREMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF MEMBER

RESOLVED THAT

the Westlake Board of Education approves the retirement of the following classified staff member:

Fran Varvir
Bus Driver

Effective: 06-02-05

Motion by Mr. Beal

Seconded by Ms. Rocco

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. D'Ettorre Wargo AYE

Ms. Rocco AYE

Mr. Beal AYE

Mr. O'Malley AYE

RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE NETWORK TECHNICIAN SALARY BASE

RESOLVED THAT

the Westlake Board of Education approves increases to the Network Technician salary base by 3.25% effective January 1, 2005 and makes the following changes in benefits for Network Technician employees effective June 1, 2005:

The Board shall provide term life insurance of \$45,000 for each Network Technician employee assigned to a position scheduled to work at least 180 days per school year and at least six hours per day, and \$30,000 for each Network Technician employee assigned to a position scheduled to work at least 180 days per school year and at least four hours per day.

The Board shall pay 100% of all premiums for prescription drug, dental and vision insurance coverage for those employees electing insurance coverages and assigned to a position scheduled to work at least 1,080 hours per year. The Board shall pay 95% of family coverage for hospital, surgical, and major medical premiums. Each employee who opts for family coverage shall have 5% of the insurance premium (to a maximum of \$45 per month) deducted from his/her paycheck per month.

The Board shall pay 100% of the cost of prescription drug insurance for employees assigned to positions scheduled to work 180 days in a school year and a minimum of four hours each day. The Board shall pay 95% of single coverage for hospital, surgical, and major medical premiums. Each employee who opts for single coverage shall have 5% of the insurance premium (to a maximum of \$18 per month) deducted from his/her paychecks per month.

Prescription drug benefits are as follows:

- \$20 co-pay for multi-source drugs (a drug where there is a generic drug available, but the employee opts for the name brand drug);
- \$10 co-pay for single-source drugs (a drug where no generic drug is available);
- \$5 co-pay for generic drugs;
- \$5 co-pay for generic drugs purchased through mail order; \$20 co-pay for single-source drugs purchased through mail order; and \$40 co-pay for multiple-source drugs purchased through mail order. All mail order purchases are for a 90-day supply.

Lifetime maximum health care benefit per person shall be \$3,000,000.

Pap office visit covered at 100% after deductible (in-network) and 90% after deductible (out-of-network).

Motion by Mr. Beal

Seconded by Ms. Rocco

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. D'Ettorre Wargo AYE

Ms. Rocco AYE

Mr. Beal AYE

Mr. O'Malley AYE