

**WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**Tuesday, July 30, 2013 – Special Meeting - 7:15 PM
Lee Burneson Middle School – 2260 Dover Center Road**

Call to Order: Time: 7:17 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Acknowledgment of Visitors – President Mays acknowledged all visitors and the dedication event.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ms. Winter
Seconded by Mr. Falcone

Roll Call Vote:

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

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.

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

A. Board Items

1. A Resolution Submitting the Question of an Additional Tax Levy for the Purpose of Current Expenses to the electors of the Westlake City School District, Pursuant to Section 5705.21 of the Revised Code Exhibit A-1

Superintendent Discussion:

Superintendent Keenan provided an overview of the process utilized to survey the community. He summarized the results and recommended Board approval of Exhibit A-1. He then discussed potential budget reductions in the amount of \$2.2m if the proposed levy is not successful in November. CFO Pepera stated the need for an operating levy is warranted and supports the recommendation. Mr. Cross asked Dr. Keenan specifically how the levy proceeds would be used. Dr. Keenan stated the levy proceeds will be used to provide the type of school district our community wants: specifically it will keep us from cutting music and art programming; keep us from cutting athletics or avoiding a heavy pay-to-play cost; keep us from eliminating the full-day kindergarten option or adding additional tuition to families to completely pay for that program; and allow us to account for ongoing expenses in our forecast or budget. He also noted that some existing cuts will not be restored even with the passage of the levy and emphasized the revenue is intended to address our financial needs and maintain programs. Mr. Cross asked Dr. Keenan about the overall assumption for staff compensation on a going-forward basis. Dr. Keenan responded that the forecast does not include any base wage increase for the next 4-5 years.

Motion: Falcone; Second: Leszynski

Board Discussion:

Mr. Falcone urged support for the levy and noted the District has continued to experience decreased local and state funding. He added that the District has already cut over \$5m from its operations including reducing personnel costs while still being able to excel in student performance. He stated that only so many cuts can be made before the District is no longer an excellent district. Mr. Cross spoke about the Board not hearing what the taxpayers are saying in referring to the May election. Ms. Winter acknowledged the Board did hear from the voters in May and feels the District needs to do a better job of educating our community on why we need a levy. Mrs. Leszynski then spoke about the importance of schools to our community and stated she fully supports the recommendation. President Mays stated the Board has taken steps to control expenses but also needs to ensure students can compete later in life. Comparatively speaking, he noted that Westlake has one of the lowest residential tax rates and will still be in the bottom 25% even with the passage of the levy. He summarized by saying we should allow the community to vote in November.

*Hearing of Public (15 Minutes)

Ann Beyer spoke about her support for a November levy, and the responsibility and value the district has shown.

Michelle Stalter stated her support as a parent and taxpayer for placing an issue on the November ballot.

B. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Falcone

Seconded by Ms. Winter

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Mays AYE

Ms. Winter AYE

Mr. Cross AYE

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

President Mays adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

President

CFO/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

The Board of Education of the Westlake City School District, met in special session on July 30, 2013, commencing at 7:15 p.m., at Lee Burneson Middle School, 2260 Dover Center Road, Westlake, Ohio, with the following members present:

Thomas Mays

Carol Winter

Nathaniel Cross

Anthony Falcone

Barbara Leszynski

The Treasurer/CFO, or Treasurer Pro Tempore, as the case may be, 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.

Mr. Falcone moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 13-253

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTING THE QUESTION OF AN ADDITIONAL TAX LEVY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CURRENT EXPENSES TO THE ELECTORS OF THE WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.21 OF THE REVISED CODE.

WHEREAS, on July 29, 2013, this Board adopted a resolution, pursuant to Section 5705.03(B) of the Revised Code, declaring it necessary to levy an additional 5.4-mill tax levy for a continuing period of time and requesting the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer to certify the total current tax valuation of the School District and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by that levy; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer has certified that the total tax valuation of the District is \$1,366,349,250, and that the estimated property tax revenue to be produced by that 5.4-mill additional levy would be \$7,378,285 annually during the life of the levy, assuming the tax valuation remains constant throughout the life of the levy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Westlake City School District, County of Cuyahoga, State of Ohio, *two-thirds* of all members of said Board elected thereto concurring, that:

Section 1. It is hereby found, determined and declared that the amount of taxes which may be raised by the Board of Education of the Westlake City School District within the ten-mill limitation on the current tax duplicate will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements of this School District, and that it is necessary to levy a tax in excess of such limitation for the purpose of current expenses in the amount of 5.4 mills for a continuing period of time.

Section 2. The question of an additional 5.4-mill tax levy for the purpose of current expenses for a continuing period of time, beginning with the tax list and duplicate for the year 2013, the proceeds of which levy first would be available to this Board in calendar year 2014, shall be submitted under the provisions of Section 5705.21 of the Revised Code to the electors of the Westlake City School District at an election to be held therein on November 5, 2013, as authorized by law, and that election shall be held at the regular places of voting in this District as established by the Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County, or otherwise, within the times provided by law and shall be conducted, canvassed and certified in the manner provided by law.

Section 3. The form of the ballot to be cast at the election on the question of this tax levy shall be substantially as follows:

PROPOSED TAX LEVY - WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

An additional tax for the benefit of the Westlake City School District for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding 5.4 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 54 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2013, first due in calendar year 2014.

	FOR THE TAX LEVY
	AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

Section 4. The Treasurer/CFO of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to give or cause to be given notice of said election as provided by law.

Section 5. The Treasurer/CFO is hereby directed to certify a copy of this resolution and deliver it and any and all other necessary documents to the Board of Elections of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, not later than the close of business on Wednesday, August 7, 2013.

Section 6. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with the law.

Section 7. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption.

Mrs. Leszynski seconded the motion.

<u>Mr. Mays</u>	<u>Aye</u>
<u>Ms. Winter</u>	<u>Aye</u>
<u>Mr. Cross</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>Mr. Falcone</u>	<u>Aye</u>
<u>Mrs. Leszynski</u>	<u>Aye</u>

TREASURER/CFO'S CERTIFICATION

The above is a true and correct extract from the minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Education of the Westlake City School District held on July 30, 2013, showing the adoption of the resolution hereinabove set forth.

Written notice of the time and place of the special meeting of the Board of Education held on July 30, 2013, was served personally upon, or actually received by, each Board member at least two days in advance of such meeting; and notice of the time, place and purpose(s) of that meeting, was, at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the time of such meeting, given to and received by all news media that had heretofore requested notification of such meetings pursuant to Section 121.22 of the Revised Code and the procedures established by the Board for that purpose.

Dated: July 30, 2013

Treasurer/CFO, Board of Education
Westlake City School District, Ohio