

WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Thursday, September 9, 2004 – 7:30 p.m. – Work Session
Administration Building – Board Room
27200 Hilliard Blvd.

Call to Order: Time: 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mr. LeChaix	<u>Present</u>	
Mrs. D'Ettorre Wargo	<u>Absent</u>	Entered the meeting at 7:33 p.m.
Mr. Beal	<u>Present</u>	
Mr. O'Malley	<u>Present</u>	
Ms. Rocco	<u>Present</u>	

Pledge of Allegiance: President LeChaix led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acknowledgment of Visitors – President LeChaix welcomed all visitors in attendance.

Approval of Agenda as amended to *add Executive Session as Item B.*

Motion by Mr. O'Malley

Seconded by Mr. Beal

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. LeChaix	<u>AYE</u>
Mr. Beal	<u>AYE</u>
Mr. O'Malley	<u>AYE</u>
Ms. Rocco	<u>AYE</u>

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

A. Work Session

1. General Fund 2004-2005 Appropriations (Draft)
 - Treasurer Pepera distributed a draft of the appropriations to the Board.
2. Review Financial Situation
 - Treasurer Pepera reviewed the District's current financial situation.

Wargo: Expressed concern about how the District will manage and monitor the use of the Performing Arts Center facility.

O'Malley: At some point, the District needs to minimize the purchase of busses to control costs.

Beal: In contemplating any budget reduction, the Board needs to consider the historical conservative nature of the appropriation measure.

O'Malley: Would like the Board to reduce the appropriation measure, and then, at a later date, approve any additional amounts required for permanent improvement needs.

Beal: The Board always has the authority to amend the appropriations if needed.

LeChaix: The fundamental issue is the Board's ability to minimize expenditures and control programmatic expenses. He indicated this Board should not push any expenses onto future Boards.

O'Malley: The Board needs to build its case for a levy campaign. They can accomplish this by further tightening expenses.

Wargo: Indicated the current administration has a proven track record of not spending dollars frivolously.

Rocco: Indicated the Board should concentrate more on 83% of the budget which is encompassed by personnel and fringes costs.

LeChaix: If the Board reduces the appropriations, they need to be accountable for the cuts or reductions they make.

Beal: Essentially, there are two options: The Board can reduce the appropriations and take a formal stance, or they can appropriate the budget and rely on the administration not to spend.

Board Consensus: The Board unanimously directed the superintendent and treasurer to cut an additional \$500,000 out of the proposed appropriation measure and report the details of this adjustment at the September 16, 2004 meeting.

Wargo: Could the Board's decision to modify the appropriations impact school programs?

O'Malley: Now is the time for the Board to set policy as it relates to District spending.

Financial Discussion:

LeChaix: In order for the Board to convey a unified message, a unanimous vote for an operating initiative is needed.

Beal: Two possible levy campaign options are: (1) utilize a "JIT" (just in time) strategy, or (2) agree to go on the ballot in May 2005 and develop a plan to expedite District communication public relations. In addition, he suggests the Board seek some outside professional communication assistance.

Board Direction: The Board would like the superintendent to solicit proposals from vendors to help the District improve its public relations and develop a community survey.

Rocco: Do we need a levy timeline for planning and strategy purposes?

B. Executive Session – No executive session was held.

C. Adjournment

President LeChaix adjourned the meeting at 9:50 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.

September 9, 2004
04-488

[This Page Intentionally Left Blank]