

**WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**Tuesday, September 11, 2012 – Work Session - 5:30 PM  
Administration Building - 27200 Hilliard Blvd.**

Call to Order: Time: 5:30 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>

President Mays recognized this National Day of Service and Remembrance with a moment of silence and discussed how the District was able to raise awareness with the students.

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

Acknowledgment of Visitors – President Mays thanked all in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by	<u>Ms. Winter</u>
Seconded by	<u>Mr. Falcone</u>

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>

District Vision & Mission

**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.

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

A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Keenan noted the following:

1. Various Patriot Day activities have occurred throughout the District.
2. The District response efforts to the recent MRSA case.
3. The delay in the release of the Report Card by the State Board of Education is causing various issues for the District.
4. Reporting of value-added information has been delayed due to the recent data credibility issue reported by the State.

Dave Puffer provided a Construction update.

1. The Dover renovation project is winding down (HVAC and roofing).
2. The Lee Burneson Middle School and Westlake High School projects are on schedule and being prepared for winter work.

B. Treasurer's Report/Recommendations

1. Financial Presentation – Draft 2012-13 Appropriation Measure (Budget)

CFO/Treasurer Pepera reported on the proposed 2012-13 appropriation measure, associated budget and updated five-year forecast.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Mays asked Mr. Pepera if it was possible for a resident to donate their property tax reduction resulting from a change in tax valuation granted by the County. Mr. Pepera responded that it was possible and would treat this like any other donation but cautioned that the donation would need to be made on an annual basis to coincide with the ongoing reduction in tax realized by the resident. Mr. Cross stated the fiscal forecast shows that district finances are on an unsustainable path noting the percentage of salaries as compared to the total budget, per pupil costs, and that expenses exceed revenues. Superintendent Keenan reminded the Board to consider the context of any data being presented and the importance of making accurate comparisons to the peer group as originally identified by the Board. CFO Pepera then responded to Mr. Cross that he similarly considers the budgeting process a serious matter and noted the district will have a prime opportunity to address some of its budgetary challenges in the coming year. President Mays commented the Board will continue to review projected revenues and expenses but cautioned his colleagues they must be active in Board discussions and to remember to stay focused on solutions rather than problems. Ms. Winter commended the Superintendent and CFO for following the fiscal goals as has been determined by the Board. Mr. Cross stated the forecast tells a story of flat revenues and rising expenses and indicated that his four colleagues can have an impact on this issue in the upcoming negotiation process. Mr. Mays reminded Mr. Cross he also has an impact on the issue as well. Mr. Falcone noted he shares similar concerns about revenues and expenses and as a result has actively participated in Executive sessions on the topic. He then asked Mr. Cross about his lack of participation in those sessions to date. Mr. Cross responded he would not participate in Executive sessions without the Board attorney being present.

President Mays declared a brief recess at 8:37 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

C. Discussion Items

1. Board Development

The Board continued their professional development with consultant Ed Flanagan in an effort to move forward with the formation of Essential Agreements. After some discussion, the Board was unable to come to agreement and asked Mr. Flanagan to further refine the statements based on feedback he received.

2. New Construction – Interiors (18 members)

Dr. Keenan facilitated a discussion with the Board to gain a better understanding of their preferences with respect to interior designs at the High School and Middle School.

3. Policy Review

Superintendent Keenan provided an overview of upcoming policies for Board review.

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

D. Adjourn to Executive Session

Time: 9:17 p.m.

Purpose: To Discuss Negotiations

Motion by Mr. Falcone

Seconded by Mrs. Leszynski

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Mays AYE

Ms. Winter AYE

Mr. Cross AYE

Mr. Falcone AYE

Mrs. Leszynski AYE

Others in Attendance: Keenan, Pepera

Adjourn Executive Session and Return to Regular Session

Time: 9:59 p.m.

E. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Falcone

Seconded by Mrs. Leszynski

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Mays AYE

Ms. Winter AYE

Mr. Cross AYE

Mr. Falcone AYE

Mrs. Leszynski AYE

President Mays adjourned the meeting at 10:00 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.