

## **WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**Wednesday, December 14, 2005 – 5:30 p.m. – Work Session  
Administration Building – Board Room  
27200 Hilliard Blvd.**

Call to Order: Time: 5:31 p.m.

### Roll Call:

Mrs. D'Ettorre Wargo	<u>Present</u>	
Ms. Rocco	<u>Present</u>	Entered the meeting at 6:03 p.m.
Mr. Beal	<u>Present</u>	
Mr. Mays	<u>Present</u>	
Mr. O'Malley	<u>Present</u>	

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

Acknowledgment of Visitors: President D'Ettorre Wargo thanked all in attendance.

### Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Beal  
Seconded by Mr. Mays  
Roll Call Vote:

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

### Hearing of Public (Agenda Items – 15 Minutes)

Christie Weidt: If bussing goes to state minimum, a letter should be sent to parents with children in grades K-8 to make them aware of possible cuts.

### A. Discussion Items

#### 1. Westlake Arts Center

Heather Drago, from the Westlake Arts Council, spoke about creating a regional arts center here in Westlake. She also spoke about the benefits of arts programs for not only students but adults as well and indicated a need on the west side of Cleveland for these types of programs. She further indicated her group will be developing a community needs assessment in 2006. In addition, they will develop a business plan by summer 2006. Her group is interested in pursuing dialogue with the schools on this project.

2. Possible Program Containments/Reductions if Levy is Unsuccessful

Superintendent Costanza presented a contingency plan to balance the budget in FY07 if the levy is unsuccessful in May 2006. This plan is required by the State.

Beal: The magnitude of the bussing reductions is significant, especially at the elementary level.

Costanza: Further impacting the “instructional program” would include reductions in counseling, physical education, music, foreign language, and orchestra.

Beal: The Board should consider initiating student fees beginning next school year to help drive down the millage request.

Wargo: Why are fees initiated by school districts?

Costanza: Fees are a way for parents to contribute. Westlake has been fortunate in the past not to assess student fees.

Beal: Is the two-mile limit based on the address of the child or actual bus stop?

Slocum: It is based on the distance of the address of the child to the drop-off location.

O'Malley: What wage percentage increase was used to make the \$1M wage reduction?

Pepera: The percentage is based on historical wage data, roughly 3%.

Wargo: The Board needs to initiate a contingency plan, but it first needs to take action on an operating levy.

Wargo: Directed Treasurer Pepera to revise the fiscal forecast with student fees implemented over the next four years.

3. Board Items

Mays: Spoke with Mayor Clough. No appraisal yet by the City. The Mayor did indicate, though, he would like to continue negotiations. If the City delays much further, the Board might want to consider other sale options.

Wargo: The Board needs to decide when we want to negotiate.

Board: Agreed to resume negotiations with the City by January 15, 2006 or pursue other sales options.

Tax Sharing Agreement:

Wargo: Clean copies were forwarded to Council President Killeen, and he indicated the discussion on this topic would continue in early January.

Next Meeting:

The Board decided to make the following changes in their upcoming meeting schedule.

Special Meeting - Wednesday, December 21, 7:30 a.m.

Special Meeting - Thursday, December 22, 7:30 a.m.

Cancel regular meeting on December 28, 2005

B. Treasurer's Items

1. Establish Date and Time for January 2006 Organizational Meeting

- January 11, 2006 at 5:30 p.m.

\*Hearing of Public (15 Minutes)

Debbie Schrembeck: I live in a district with student fees. What happens if students can't afford to pay? She urged the audience to get the word out regarding support for the levy.

Costanza: Student fees are normally waived for those in the free and reduced lunch program.

Susan Dodge: Student fees help to defray costs of consumable supplies that have increased throughout time. She is concerned about reductions and the resulting impact they will have on the instructional program.

Harry Applegate: In 25 years, he has never seen a system “gutted” as suggested tonight. He is pledging his support for the levy campaign.

Wargo: Thanked the administration for their time and effort on developing the possible reductions.

C. Executive Session – Negotiations

Adjourn to Executive Session

Time: 6:49 p.m.

Purpose: Discuss Negotiations

Motion by Mr. Mays

Seconded by Ms. Rocco

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. D’Ettorre Wargo AYE

Ms. Rocco AYE

Mr. Beal AYE

Mr. Mays AYE

Mr. O’Malley AYE

Others in attendance: Costanza, Pepera, Slocum.

End Executive Session and Return to Regular Session

Time: 7:41 p.m.

D. Adjournment

President D’Ettorre Wargo adjourned the meeting at 7:42 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.

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