



## **Westlake Board of Education**

### ***Board Notes from Monday, May 13, 2013, Work Session***

#### **DISTRICT VISION & MISSION STATEMENTS**

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.

We Educate for Excellence ... Empowering all students to achieve their educational goals, to direct their lives, and to contribute to society.

#### **CAC REPORT**

1. Standard practices for the use of educational information technology

#### **SPECIAL REPORTS & RECOGNITIONS**

1. Brad Behrendt – Civil War Ball/Encampment lesson
2. Recognized LBMS student Emily Schordock for her performance on the National Spanish Exam
3. Recognized WHS Model Home Design Team – Jacob Hoffman, Jacob Lemanowicz, Theodore Poulos for their grand prize at the Student Model Home Design Contest and an invitation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual White House Science Fair.
4. Recognized WHS student for participation in 16<sup>th</sup> Congressional Art Competition
  - a. Madeline Lee, Best of Show
  - b. Paige Dawson, 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up
  - c. Ricky Kolar, 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up
5. Recognized WHS students for academic All-American and Academic All-State awards
  - a. Academic All-American-swimming
    - i. Izabela Jamsek
    - ii. Alex Lamorgese
    - iii. Nora Lee

- iv. Sarah Schwartzer
    - v. Julie Solarz
    - vi. Jami Wissman
  - b. Academic All-State
    - i. Elizabeth Kobe – basketball
    - ii. Logan Paul - Wrestling
- 6. Recognized Westlake Science Olympiad team for top 10 team placement in Division B regional competition (LBMS Ohio 8<sup>th</sup> place team)
  - a. Mary Babinski
  - b. Ishaan Dutta
  - c. Jane Fitz
  - d. Samantha Giusto
  - e. Nate Hofford
  - f. Ryan Karpuszka
  - g. Bradley Katcher
  - h. Austin Kinney
  - i. Derek Kodger
  - j. Alex Lathem
  - k. Patrick Lee
  - l. Miranda Li
  - m. Jackson Liang
  - n. Madelyn Lockshine
  - o. Sneha Ramachandran
  - p. Jack Routhier
  - q. Chris Slater
  - r. Ben Sposet
  - s. Yu Hui Wu
  - t. Crystal Zhao
  - u. Ryan Zubricky
- 7. Recognized levy campaign chairpersons – Cathy Axcell, Cris Kennedy, Joe Kraft
- 8. Recognized levy campaign committee members
  - a. Levy Committee Chairs = Joseph Kraft, Cris Kennedy, Kelly Patterson, Amy Havelka
  - b. Signage = Ann Beyer, Lisa Hawkins, Patty McHugh, Beth Vecchio
  - c. Community Outreach = Harry Applegate, Barb Leszynski, Andrea Rocco, Karen Ryan
  - d. Parent Vote = Megan Moutoux, Delicia Ostrowski
  - e. Data = Lori Jolliffe, Jane Wise
  - f. Polls = Melisa Yeoman
  - g. Design = David Simon
  - h. Facebook = Beth Vecchio
  - i. Staff Communication = Amy Butcher, Karen Herzberger
  - j. Literature Drop = Kate Applegate, Lisa Forshey, Stephanie Morgan
  - k. Website = Mike Medoro

- I. Taste of Westlake = Christie Wiedt, Chris Sutcliffe, Megan Moutoux
- 9. Recognized Westlake City School retirees
  - a. Carol Applegate, Rosemary Blayney, Diane Campana, William Carlin, Margaret Clare, Jean Cooper, Gerald Everhard, Sally Falatach, Debra Gantz, Kathryn Hale, Kristina Hamilton, Lorrie Knapp, Lynn Lindgren, Maureen McBride, Judy McMasters, Judi Miller, Jacqueline Nackowicz, Evelyn Newman, Alicia Karen Petrus, Florica Podway, Elizabeth Ruper, Joseph Schofield, Rita Shields, Susan Tarr, Terese Tunney, Mary Weigle, Elizabeth West, Jane Zellers
- 10. Recognized outgoing administrator – Renee Bailey

#### **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT & MASTER FACILITY PLAN PHASE I REPORT**

1. Appreciative of those who came out to support the schools and those who understand what we’re trying to do. Also appreciate all who came out to vote. We do intend to be thorough and evaluate the vote before making any decisions. We know until May 22 that won’t be certified. We lost by the unofficial vote by 47 votes. We’re not in an automatic recount, but there are still 49 votes yet to be counted. The likelihood of all of those being for and the tide switching, is slim, but an automatic recount is a possibility. We are planning as if the levy failed – the approach we need to take for planning. In general we do have the ability to have a recount outside of the audit recount. We need to understand the results. I think the board and school district needs to understand what the community was saying through this vote. Proposals for cuts will reflect about \$1 million in cuts. The cuts will reflect our budget percentages; the majority will be personnel, which will impact programming. That will impact 3 administrative positions, 9 teaching positions, 6 classified positions, \$150,000 reductions in our operations, most notably in new equipment and technology, field trips, supplemental contracts, site budgets.
2. Director of Business Affairs Dave Kocivar: Move of weight room facilities from high school and auction of equipment. Second phase of move. Weight room relocated to Bassett Elementary gym for sports teams. Went through high school with auctioneer, identifying about 400 pieces to be auctioned June 3-12. High school will continue to be surveyed to find anything of value to sell.
3. Director of Construction Services Dave Puffer: At WHS, veneer brick continuing to be installed, installing window sills and windows, painting, ceramic tile flooring in restrooms, sound panels in gyms, polished concrete work, electrical connections. At LBMS, polished concrete and staining concrete, ceiling light fixtures, finish paint, bleachers in gym, display cases, sound panels in music rooms and media center, white boards, kitchen equipment. Gearing up for work at Dover Intermediate School.
4. Still going through the process of advocating for our schools on state funding. We’re still getting limited information from the state. It still appears we’ll have a reduction in transportation. An area of huge concern is voucher expansion program to private and parochial schools. Under this Expansion State funds will go to entities that don’t follow the same rules as public schools. We’re open to competing on a level playing field, but we cannot compete with schools that do not have to comply with the same rules and guidelines. As for charters, we receive \$500/student

from the state, but when we lose a student through the charter program we lose \$5,000+/student.

5. Graduation is May 25 at 10am at Cleveland State.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Established new fund – Ohio 2013 National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs expansion grant FY13
2. Accepted funds - \$25,000 for Ohio 2013 National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs expansion grant FY13
3. Established appropriations from Ohio 2013 National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs Expansion Grant FY13
4. Adjusted FY13 appropriations
5. Issued Then & Now certificates
  - a. Hyland Software, OnBase System maintenance CY2013
  - b. Squire, Sanders, continuing disclosure, public law general

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

6. Accepted gifts & contributions
  - a. Champps – Crocker Park
  - b. Fairview Lanes
  - c. Rettig Music
  - d. Westlake Music Boosters
  - e. Pat Catan's
  - f. Barnes & Noble Booksellers
  - g. Rajiv Shah
  - h. Costco
  - i. Ed & Sandra Hazners
  - j. Joel Kahn
  - k. Kiwanis-Westlake Youth Foundation
  - l. Friends of Westlake Baseball
  - m. WHS PTSA
  - n. Heinens
7. Approved staff recommendations
  - a. Approved resignations, FMLA, substitutes and employment for staff members
    - i. Retirements – Mary Weigle, Lynn Lindgren, Judy McMasters
    - ii. FMLA – Krista Wadas, Megan Morris, Pamela DeAnna
    - iii. Resignation – Tom DeLuca
    - iv. Certified substitutes – Michael Berlekamp, Leah Bjorn
    - v. Classified employment – Pam Dreher, Sandra Santora, Marsha Lesko (paid from Title VI-B grant funds)

- vi. Certified employment – Douglas Kuns, Lindsey Bigeck, Kristi Fortuna, Andrew Tabler
  - b. Approved certified reclassification for Kimberly Cerrito, Lara Essman, Kelsey Wermer, Gregory Kula
  - c. Approved certified home instruction by Kelly Hoover and Amy Fife
  - d. Approved employment of Adult Basic Literacy Educational Personnel 2012/13 – Gary Chizmar
  - e. Approved 2013 Camp Link personnel – Roberta Ahern, Nancy English, Julie Priebe, Christine Matejcek, Judith Mack, Nancy Kendall, Matthew Sprosty, Catherine Brannigan, James Foerster, Katelyn O’Malley, Rachel Levi, Callie Smith, Monica Arora, Suzanne Jones
  - f. Amended traffic control personnel-hours – Jim Bingham, Paul Hammond, James Patrizi, Ann Peebles, David Ruschau, Jim Egan
  - g. Approved stipends for International Baccalaureate training
  - h. Reinstated suspended certified contract of Robert Pace
  - i. Approved stipend for alumni programming and Westlake Hall of Fame
  - j. Approved 2013 summer employment of bus drivers
  - k. Approved employment of administrative staff member – WHS Assistant Principal Ned Lauver
  - l. Approved stipend for ABLE final program reporting
  - m. Approved stipend for Rising Readers program
8. Accepted and approved WHS graduating Class of 2013
9. Approved field trip – 6<sup>th</sup> grade Mohican School of the Out-of-Doors
10. Approved revised 2013-14 school year calendar
11. Authorized membership in Ohio High School Athletic Association
12. Approved lease agreement for St. Bernadette mobile units from auxiliary service funds
13. Publicly posted previously approved change orders
- a. Bay Mechanical, \$10,011.25, reroute ductwork & pipe run
  - b. Enertech Electric, \$1,214.53, provide power to ceiling mount projector
  - c. Jeffry Carr, \$296.70, revise fire extinguisher cabinet type
  - d. Marvin Mielke, \$8,451.91, revise 19 sinks to ADA models
  - e. Jeffry Carr, \$2,563.96, provide additional roof framing
  - f. Jeffry Carr, \$1,158.63, add soffit to allow ceiling to be lowered
  - g. Foti Contracting, \$4,541.81, raise thru wall flashing to comply with roof requirement
  - h. Enertech Electric, \$2,664.51, provide new circuit, breaker, and disconnect to accommodate trash compactor
  - i. Foti Contracting, \$4,949.59, relocate wall penetrations in auxiliary gym
  - j. Cleveland Vicon, \$2,598, repair 28 hollow metal door frames damaged by lift traffic
  - k. EB Katz, \$244.91, revise sink type in special education room
  - l. Great Lakes, \$516, revise symbols & game lines at playground
  - m. Foti Contracting, \$14,815.68, provide staining and patterns in polished concrete
  - n. Zenith, (\$2,251.88), revise modify projector brackets

## BOARD ITEMS

1. Resolution to oppose expansion of voucher program as outlined in Governor's biennial budget proposal [Yes – Winter, Leszynski, Falcone, Mays; No – Cross]
  - a. Carol Winter: It became clear to me the amount of money the state is earmarking for vouchers and charters is double what it was the biennial. Very dangerous for all schools. Feel strongly this is something we should look at as a board and let our state representatives know what harm it does to public schools. As go our public schools will go our community. One of the most important aspects of this is to level the playing field. This is a proposed resolution from OSBA.
  - b. Dr. Keenan: proposal we made when discussing with legislators is that the same amount of \$ that comes in per student under the foundation goes out. Would embrace competition, only ask for level playing field.
  - c. Nate Cross: I believe this is one of those resolutions that appears out of nowhere. We've had opportunities to talk about this at work sessions. I don't agree with this resolution. I will vote no on this because we as a board need to embrace competition and not stifle choice. I think vouchers make districts more efficient and creates opportunities for those most in need. This promotes intolerance. This resolution further divides us as a community when it's the furthest thing we need.
  - d. Thomas Mays: This resolution appears as a board item for discussion and vote. You receive your agenda when we do. You've had an opportunity to read it over and ask questions. I don't agree with the statement this came out of nowhere. I don't think WCS is afraid to embrace competition. I'll fight for your right to vote no on this, but my opinion is you are inaccurate in your comments. There are things a parent has a right to do and that is choice. If you choose to send your child to a parochial or charter school, that's your right. But we have to make sure taxpayer funds we receive are going where they should go and are used properly. I don't see how you can take funds from 10 children to support the education of 1 at a charter school. WCS provides a top 5% education in the state.
  - e. Dr. Keenan – a charter school is considered a public school. There are different issues we are talking about here, the charter school concern for Westlake is it receives more money going out to a student than what is coming in per student from our foundation payment. There is a difference between charter school and private/parochial schools.
  - f. Barb Leszynski: when I considered applying for a board seat, I thought a board member had to be a strong advocate for the public schools. I am in favor of this.
2. Levy results and planning reductions
  - a. Dr. Keenan – our next steps, results won't be certified until May 22, but likely reality is Issue 16 did not pass. We need to evaluate how we will proceed and understand the results. 44 provisional ballots to be counted. If 30 are for the issue, an automatic recount will occur. You can request a recount, but must wait until official certification takes place. The campaign is willing to donate funds to have a recount if we are not at .5%. Cost is \$55/precinct, about \$1,500.

- b. We need to survey our community, perhaps interviews with community leaders and get perspective on what that vote means in Westlake and the net course of action. We need that information to make an educated decision to get more formal input from our community to make decisions.
- c. We spoke about planning for reductions if the levy didn't pass. Our last levy was forecasted to extend to 2010 before having to go back to the voters, 4 years. We stretched it for 7 years. Now we are looking at going into next year. Without reductions to operating we will make it through the school year, but face a large, \$2.9 million in the red the following year and to be fiscally responsible we have to work on knocking some of that down now rather than wait and hope new revenue comes in to save it. We can't count on new money coming in. I will be recommending in June we cut about \$1 million from FY14 budget to be in that sound fiscal spot.
- d. There is a message people want us to continue to make adjustments. Need to reflect on what the community expects from us and what they indicated at the ballot. Reductions will come about 85% in personnel, 15% in operations. Have about \$930,000 from administration, teaching and programming. Eliminating middle school gifted coordination. Already made reductions to preschool coordination. Eliminate summer school administration by 50%. Teaching positions - high school social studies, family consumer science program at high school, special education positions, high school gifted/AP coordinator, guidance, physical education, art and 3-5 elementary positions. Classified positions in transportation changing to 1 mile radius, including kindergarten; teaching assistant. Operations end seen on reduced professional travel and field trips, technology purchases on hold, site budgets, adjusting supplemental contracts and reducing extracurricular offerings.
- e. This will impact class sizes, AP programming, elective offerings.
- f. Tom Mays: I think we should move forward and poll the community and find out where we make changes as necessary, if the millage or timing should change. Directed the superintendent to move forward with that.
- g. Tony Falcone: Thankful for those who voted yes and the campaign committee. Frustrated because levy failures affect kids and that bothers me. Feel like we had a compelling argument - \$10 million in state cuts, 7 years since last operating levy, cut administrative costs, reduced teacher salaries, increased health care costs. Sometimes I wonder what the community expects. Confident and hopeful it will follow a logical, data-driven process. I also hope our community will rely on credible sources for information or at least sources that put their name on the literature.
- h. Barb Leszynski: in reading some of the comments online, one said the board didn't do a good job of explaining the levy. I feel responsible. I was on the levy committee, I've never seen a more dedicated, intelligent, caring group of people. It's heartbreaking. I think we as a board need to do our part in getting this levy passed.
- i. Carol Winter: everyone has their opinions as to why it didn't pass. There was a lot going on and those votes all added up. We need to get the data back and look at that and pour through that and determine what will put us over that threshold. That core group

of people worked as hard as they could do. We as a board need to step back. This is a labor of love. It's about the kids and our kids are the ones who lose out. A handful of people felt like they didn't have enough information or the information from anonymous sources was not worth checking out.

- j. Nate Cross: thank everyone who took the time to vote. The voters have spoken and as public officials we have an obligation to listen. Pleased there will be a thorough evaluation of the vote to hear what's on their minds. A library issue was voted overwhelmingly for, yet the same voters defeated the school levy. Important to hear why they did that and what's on their minds. In terms of our next step, if we move forward with cuts, important to remember to not have them be punitive and not from the typical list of cuts with the sole intent to inflict the greatest amount of pain. We should reflect on the message the voters sent. It's premature to act on any cuts.
- k. Mays: disappointed the levy failed. If we were spending foolishly, hiding things or not performing as well as we perform, it would make sense. Our minutes are written, audiotaped, videotaped and available. We are transparent with our finances. we've lost \$10 million in state funding. We've still performed and looked at how best to support children. We've looked at saving tax dollars. Decreasing revenues, increasing costs impact us. Our bond rating in the top 3% of all districts. We've been honored for our state reporting. Consistently in the top 5% of all schools academically in the state. We provide learning opportunities and experiences other districts do not provide. Our special needs program provides opportunities that allows them to reach their full potential, but also provides them with opportunities to be in a setting with their peers. Parents move to Westlake for our program. We've done that remaining in the bottom 20% of tax rates in Cuyahoga County. I don't want to see that excellence drop off.

#### **HEARING OF PUBLIC**

- a. Harry Applegate: Not sure I understand the voucher situation. Do we have to give up money for kids that go to a charter or parochial school now? If so how much is that and is it responsible for us to ignore the fact this budget says we'll get \$500 per student but give up \$5,000 per student.
- b. Karen Herzberger: I worked on the levy committee. I found disheartening is the negative information that went out was false information, couldn't give a return address. They should be ashamed of themselves. They should have stepped forward to have their issues addressed. I don't feel the library had anything to do with the school issue. When this levy is put on again, as a community member, will this be a 5-0 support?
- c. Lisa Hawkins: I go to a lot of board meetings, everyone has talked about fiscal responsibility and making good choices. Tonight there was thorough evaluation of programs and reflecting on information and acting accordingly. When you were speaking about vouchers, Mr. Cross, there is no accountability. When the state sends voucher money to a charter school, we don't know what they are spending the dollars on, who they are spending it on, what their academic record is. We're sending our



public tax dollars there. When we send this money to voucher schools, we don't know how it's being spent and what the results are. In everything else you want it measured, accountability and results. There's a discrepancy there. We moved from Arizona, one of the biggest voucher programs out there. Programs are draining dollars from the public schools. We want to make sure we are holding our legislative representatives to make smart choices.

The Board adjourned to executive session to discuss negotiations and to discuss the evaluation of the superintendent and CFO. No action was taken.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** The next meeting of the Board is Monday, June 10, at 5:30pm, at the Board of Education.

For more detailed information on these items, visit

<http://beta.westlake.k12.oh.us/boe/meetingschedule/default.aspx>