

WILLOW RUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Ypsilanti, MI

REGULAR MEETING

February 7, 2002

The regular meeting opened at 7:30 p.m. at Willow Run High School, 235 Spencer Lane, with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Those present were:

Clifford Smith, President
Andreas Blakita, Vice President
Claudette Braxton, Secretary
Brenda Clay, Trustee
Mark Wilde, Trustee
Scott Wilson, Trustee

Absent:

Earl Roberson, Treasurer

Also present were:

Dr. Gayle Green, Superintendent
Joe Ann Allen, Principal, Ford Elementary
Mary Brandau, Principal, Kettering Elementary
George MacLeod, Director, Special Education
Bill McGill, Principal, Willow Run High School
Ray Mellberg, Principal, Kaiser Elementary School
John Nickel, Director, Business Services
Pete Silveri, Director, Human Resources
Katie Smith, Director, Technology
Robert Wells, Principal, Holmes Elementary
Teresa Wilson, Principal, Cheney Academy

President Smith called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

Consideration of Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Dr. Green informed the Board of two changes to the agenda, the first one being the deletion of Item VI.B. Report on First Semester Attendance, the second one being the addition of Item VIII.A.1. Approval of Resolution to Refund 1992 Bonds.

Approval of Agenda

#0102021 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accepts the agenda as amended. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 6
Nays: O - Motion carried

Approval of Minutes

#01020202 Ms. Braxton moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the minutes of the Regular meeting of January 24, 2002. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 6
Nays: O - Motion carried

Communications

Dr. Green shared the following communications with the Board:

- A thank you for the remembrance of Peter Silveri's sister.

- This week is Principal Appreciation week, as proclaimed by Governor Engler. Dr. Green said along with the principals, Willow Run has always recognized the directors and supervisors in the district at this time. She said the heart of the school is always our students, but if the students are the heart, the ones who keep the blood coursing through the veins are the teachers and the principals. Dr. Green also commended Kim Searcy and Todd LaPrairie for the wonderful job they do keeping the buildings and busses running smoothly, along with the directors for serving the total district and acting as links to the buildings. As a token of appreciation she presented travel mugs engraved with "Way to Go!" and the name of each recipient.

Board Committee Reports

Mr. Wilson reported that the Public Relations committee met prior to tonight's meeting. Those present were Ms. Smith, Dr. Green, Ms. Rich, of Rich and Associates public relations firm, Mr. Wilson, Ms. Clay, and Mr. Smith. The committee reviewed Ms. Rich's initial contacts in the community and were given an overview of what is coming up. Ms. Rich will give presentations to the Administrative Council next week and to the Board on March 21.

Adoption of Resolution Calling Regular School Election

#01020203 Mr. Blakita moved that the Willow Run Board of Education adopt the attached Resolution Calling Regular School Election. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 6
Nays: O - Motion carried.

Interviews of Candidates for Student Advisor to the Board

#01020204 Mr. Wilson moved that Pauline Wilde be appointed as Student Advisor to the Board of Education for the second semester of the 2001-02 school year. Ms. Braxton supported.

Ayes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Wilde, Ms. Clay, Mr. Blakita, Ms. Braxton,
Mr. Smith
Nays: O - Motion carried

Discussion

Three students applied for the position Student Advisor to the Board of Education, Antoine Bracey, Mercier Denell Govan, and Pauline Wilde. Each of the three candidates was asked the same four questions, while the other two candidates were out of the room. The Board members, with the exception of Mr. Wilde, who abstained, then voted by secret ballots that were tallied by Dr. Green.

Approval of Resolution to Refund 1992 Bonds

#01020205 Mr. Blakita moved that the Board of Education adopt the attached resolution to refinance the 1992 bond issue. The resolution shall be attached to the official minutes for the permanent record. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Wilde, Ms. Clay, Mr. Blakita, Ms. Braxton,
Mr. Smith
Nays: O - Motion carried.

Discussion

Mr. Smith said the district is refunding these bonds, which will result in a savings to taxpayers of \$300,000, because anytime we can save the taxpayers money we will.

Approval of Preliminary Costs for New Middle School

#01020206 Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education approve the schematic design as presented by Kingscott and Associates and Barton Malow and take it to the next step. Ms. Braxton supported.

Ayes: 6
Nays: O - Motion carried

Discussion

Marty LeForte demonstrated his renditions of how the campus grounds of the high school and the new middle will look after construction is complete. Adam Hopkins explained how the existing high school, auditorium, and pool will be incorporated into the new middle school. Mr. Ketola presented the preliminary cost for the project, which is within two percent of the bond program budget. At this phase of the project two percent is inline with where the costs should be.

Approval of Survey of Edmonson Middle School Property

#01020207 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education contract with Jekabson & Associates of Plymouth, Michigan to conduct a topographic survey of the existing Edmonson site at a cost not to exceed \$8,000. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 8
Nays: O - Motion carried

Citizens' Questions

Many of the students in the audience asked questions about the new middle school. Questions included how much spectator seating the new pool will have, how long it will take to build the new school, and the logistics of going from classes in the existing high school to ones that will be located in the new school.

Mr. Wilson said there will be 250 spectator seats in the new pool, as opposed to the current capacity of 87.

Dr. Green said the new school is scheduled to be open in August of 2004. She said to get to classes in the new complex students will only have to walk down the main corridor and with the way the new building is designed high school students will not be passing middle school classrooms to do so.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Green said we have received good news in terms of legislation approving the proposal to maintain funding at the current level and an additional \$250 per pupil.

Dr. Green also said it was her honor today to accept the Golden Apple Award on behalf of Cheney Academy, who received it for the second year in a row this year.

President Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.