

# WILLOW RUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Ypsilanti, MI

## REGULAR MEETING

March 21, 2002

The regular meeting opened at 7:30 p.m. at Ford Elementary School, 2440 Clark Road, with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Those present were:

Andreas Blakita, Vice President  
Claudette Braxton, Secretary  
Brenda Clay, Trustee  
Earl Roberson, Treasurer  
Mark Wilde, Trustee  
Scott Wilson, Trustee  
Pauline Wilde, Student Advisor to the Board

Absent:

Clifford Smith, President

Also present were:

Dr. Gayle Green, Superintendent  
Joe Ann Allen, Principal, Ford Elementary  
Laura Chew, Director, Curriculum  
Bill McGill, Principal, Willow Run High School  
Ray Mellberg, Principal, Kaiser Elementary  
John Nickles, Director, Business Services  
Katie Smith, Director, Technology  
Regina Williams, Principal, Edmonson Middle School

Vice President Blakita called the meeting to order at 7:43 p.m.

### **Citizen's Time**

Ms. Dakesian, teacher at Pathways Academy, stated that in regards to the possibility of moving the district's alternative program to the high school, the district should keep in mind the needs and successes of the students at Pathways. She said many students at Pathways are there because they have special needs and that she feels if Pathways had received the support and nurturing Cheney Academy had, it would have flourished. Ms. Dakesian also said that Pathways students deserve the opportunity to be successful, she asked the Board to please do not take this opportunity from them.

Ms. Sumpter, the mother of a Pathway's students said that Pathways is her son's twelfth or thirteenth school, and is his fifth high school. Her son has had success in school for the first time at Pathways. Ms. Sumpter said this is the last chance for students and that if Pathways is closed or combined with the high school, many students may drop out. She said the Board should consider the cost of alternative placement, transportation for such placement, and the burden on society of drop-outs in the years after school.

### **Consideration of Additions or Deletions to the Agenda**

Dr. Green added items VI. F. and G., both out-of-states field trips, to the agenda.

### **Approval of Agenda**

#01020311 Ms. Braxton moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accepts the agenda as amended. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 - Motion carried

### **Excellence in Education**

Ms. Allen introduced her staff and fifth grade student Melissa Wherry, who acted as emcee during the Ford presentation. Ms. Wherry showed the Board her framed MEAP certificate for science and reading- she also said that 54 students received framed certificates from Ms. Allen and told the Board how proud they are of these certificates.

Ms. Konich's second grade class shared why they are proud to be Americans. Reasons included: being united as one, having the best teachers, whites and blacks going to the same school, having a nice mom, and many others. The students then asked the Board members to share why they are glad to be Americans, after which, Mr. Simon, the music teacher, joined the class and they all sang "Grand Old Flag", while marching in a large circle and waving flags.

Ms. Perlin, the Media Teacher, along with four students, presented the Accelerated Reader Book Worm program. The "worm" started in the library and has a segment added for each book read (to date 3,520), and will hopefully reach Ms. Allen's office by the end of the year.

Ms. Cahill, Psychologist, and Ms. Hanrath, Social Worker, along with six students who were chosen for their peace-making skills, presented a mock peer-mediation session. This mock session demonstrated how students resolved a conflict involving name calling. The students also gave the Board members booklets with mediation guidelines.

Ms. Bowers gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting Ms. Latour's art program, which emphasizes a creative atmosphere, patience and comfort, and variety of media. The art presentation was followed by a PowerPoint presentation of Ms. Bowers' Physical Education classes, into which she brings academic elements into physical education to demonstrate to students that learning is a circle. Ms. Bower's classes emphasize cooperation and teamwork, lifelong recreation and fitness activities, and fun.

In conclusion Mr. Simon and students sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow".

Vice President Blakita praised Ms. Allen, her staff, and the students saying there are a lot of good things going on at Ford, and they should be proud.

### **Approval of Minutes**

#01020312 Ms. Braxton moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the minutes of the Regular meeting of March 7, 2002. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 - Motion carried

### **Approval of Payment of Bills**

#01020313 Mr. Roberson moved that the Board of Education approves payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$2,705,736.68 and Building and Site Fund bills in the amount of \$0.00. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried.

### **Communications**

Dr. Green shared a letter from the Salvation Army thanking the district for their donation of \$1,361, during the past holiday season.

### **Board Committee Reports**

Mr. Wilson reported the Public Relations Committee met prior to the Board meeting to discuss the district's new public relations efforts. Those present were Ms. Rich, Dr. Green, Ms. Clay, Mr. Roberson, and Mr. Wilson. The results of this meeting will be reported later in the meeting as an agenda item.

### **Approval of Contract to Provide Driver Education Services**

#01020314 Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the contract with 1<sup>st</sup> Step Driving School to provide drivers' education to students at a cost of \$259 per student. The contract shall be for one (1) year in duration, with the tuition charged to students to be established at \$135 per student. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried.

### **Approval of Overnight Field Trip**

#01020315 Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve an overnight field trip to Greenfield Village/Henry Ford Museum for Ms. Bonich's and Ms. Jarvey's third grade classes, on May 30, 2002. Mr. Roberson supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried.

### **Approval of Overnight Field Trip**

#01020316 Ms. Braxton moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve an overnight field trip to Mackinac Island, Michigan, for Ms. Fields' and Ms. Lisiscki's fifth grade classes, from May 22, 2002 – May 23, 2002. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried.

### **Approval of Contract with WMU**

#01020317 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the contract with Western Michigan University to conduct a survey assessment of student drug and alcohol use among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Willow Run School District. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried.

### **Adoption of Logo and Slogan for Community Relations Campaign**

#01020318 Ms. Braxton moved that the Willow Run Board of Education adopts the Willow Tree logo and the slogan Pride, Excellence, Diversity, for the upcoming community relations campaign. Mr. Wilson carried.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried.

### **Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip**

#01020319 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve an out-of-state field trip to COSI (Center of Science and Industry), in Toledo, Ohio, on Friday, April 12, 2002, from 8:30 to 2:20 p.m., for Edmonson Middle School students in Mr. Dornfeld, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Frantz, Ms. Goble, Mr. Canty, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Sanders, and Ms. Schmitt's classes. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried.

### **Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip**

#01020320 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve an out-of-state field trip to Cedar Point Amusement Park, on Thursday, May 23, 2002, for Mr. Collins and Mr. Tooles' Edmonson Middle School classes. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried.

### **Approval of Invoice from Barton Malow**

#01020321 Mr. Roberson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the invoice from Barton Malow Company in the amount of \$11,694.25, for construction management services in February 2002. Payment shall be charged to the Building and Site budget of 2001. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried.

### **Superintendent's Comments**

Dr. Green pointed out two invitations from the high school's Air Force Junior R.O.T. C. that were handed out to the Board prior to the meeting. One was for the First Annual Awards Ceremony on April 30<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. The other invitation was for the Military Ball. This event will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Crystal Ball Room (high school cafeteria).

### **Board Member Comments**

Mr. Wilde told of attending the MASB Legislative Network meeting in Lansing. He shared what he learned including discussion about creating new MEAP standards, how to help lower achieving students, while not harming higher achieving students, plans for equalizing foundation dollars, as well as other information.

### **Student Advisor Comments**

Ms. Wilde pointed out the student newspaper, which Board members received this evening.

Vice President Blakita declared the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.