

WILLOW RUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Ypsilanti, MI

REGULAR MEETING

May 9, 2002

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

Those present were:

Clifford Smith, President
Andreas Blakita, Vice President
Brenda Clay, Trustee
Mark Wilde, Trustee
Scott Wilson, Trustee
Pauline Wilde, Student Advisor to the Board

Absent:

Claudette Braxton, Secretary
Earl Roberson, Treasurer

Also present were:

Dr. Gayle Green, Superintendent
Mel Anglin, Principal, Pathways Academy
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
John Nickel, Director Business Services
Pete Silveri, Director, Human Resources
Katie Smith, Director, Technology
Robert Wells, Principal, Holmes Elementary
Jane Williams, Principal, Thurston E.C.D.C.
Regina Williams, Principal, Edmonson Middle School
Teresa Wilson, Principal, Cheney Academy of Math and Science

Citizen's Time

Kathleen Miller of the W.L.E.A. invited the Board of Education to the Festival of Arts, which is being held at Concordia College this weekend and next.

Consideration of Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Dr. Green informed the Board of the addition to the agenda of Item II.A. – Virtual Tour of the new middle school.

Approval of Agenda

#01020501 Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accepts the agenda as amended. Mr. Blakita supported.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Excellence in Education

Adam Hopkins of Kingscott Associates presented a brief virtual tour of the design for the new middle school. This presentation highlighted many amenities of the middle school including the domed library, the second floor balcony, the two-story gymnasium, and the cafeteria, as well as other features.

Former Superintendent, Youseff Yomtoob and his wife, Parichehr, presented the “Dr. Joe” Award for Most Improved Student to one student from each of the district’s nine schools. This award recognizes the student who has shown the greatest improvement in the areas of attitude, behavior, attendance, achievement, and participation, at each school.

This year’s winners were:

- Justin Hensley, Kindergarten, Thurston, E.C.D.C.
- Nate Brown, 8th grade, Cheney Academy of Math and Science
- Joknieka (JoJo) Mackey, 5th grade, Ford Elementary
- Brandy Greenwood, 5th grade, Holmes Elementary
- DeVaughn Rolax, 5th grade, Kaiser Elementary
- Aaron Meadows, 5th grade, Kettering Elementary
- Montez Miller, 8th grade, Edmonson Middle School
- Alicia Spencer, 12th grade, Pathways Academy
- David Ison, 9th grade, Willow Run High School

Approval of Minutes

#01020502 Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education approves the minutes as presented from the regular meeting of April 25, 2002. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Communications

Dr. Green shared two communications. The first was a thank you letter from Patrice Dickens of the Boys and Girls Club for the District’s support. The second was a letter commending Mr. Mellberg for the fine job he is doing with the programs at Kaiser Elementary. This letter was accompanied by a \$1,000 check, as well as a form to fill out to receive a matching donation from Mobil Oil.

Board Committee Reports

Mr. Blakita reported there was a brief Facilities Committee meeting prior to this evening’s board meeting. He said there were two topics of discussion- the first item was the lease agreement between Ypsilanti Township and the District for the property in front of Holmes Elementary. This agreement allows the District to lease this property for 99-years, which will allow rerouting of the current bus-drop.

The second topic of discussion was the offer from the Lake Grove Congregation of Jehovah's Witness to purchase a portion of the property located behind Kaiser Elementary. The Board will give this offer further consideration.

A report of the Finance Committee meeting, which took place on April 29, was given by Mr. Smith. He said Bank One is currently investing funds in excess of \$50 million dollars for the District, and the committee met with representatives from Bank One to discuss these investments.

Ms. Clay reported that the Personnel Committee met on May 8. Those present were Ms. Clay, Mr. Blakita, Mr. Smith, Mr. Silveri, and Dr. Green. Discussion centered on staff assignments and the layoffs, which will be discussed later in the meeting.

Approval of Contract with WISD for Special Education Administrator

#01020503 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the contract with the Washtenaw Intermediate School District to secure the services of George MacLeod, Special Education Administrator, from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003, in the amount of \$66,445. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Wilde, Mr. Blakita, Ms. Clay, Mr. Smith
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Purchase of Playground Equipment

#01020504 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the purchase of playground equipment from Game Time in the amount of \$12,809. Mr. Wilson Supported.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Discussion

Ms. Williams said that part of the yearly inspection of Head Start programs includes discussion with the parents of Head Start students. During the course of these discussions, the parents pointed out that the current playground equipment needs to be replaced. The inspectors agreed and are paying for new equipment with Head Start grant monies.

Update of Bond Project

Adam Hopkins presented the building designs for the new construction and for the planned renovations.

The new construction plans include six class rooms, along with a wet lab; flex lab, and small and large group spaces to be included in each wing of the middle school. In addition, classrooms will be paired up, with walls that open to allow the combining of classrooms for group teaching.

The gymnasium of the middle school will be two-stories, with ceilings high enough to allow for the playing of volleyball and other sports requiring a lot of ceiling clearance. The gym will also feature fold-down seating for spectators.

Terry Baker of Kingscott Associates presented the current site-plan for the new middle school. He said fine tuning should be completed within the next month for the actual plan, but that this is very close to what the finished product will be. This plan includes integration of bus and parent drop-off points, and parking for staff and students. The plan also includes athletic fields with two softball fields and other athletic fields, with space remaining for the development of a baseball field in the future.

Mr. Hopkins showed a video of two new swimming pools at other schools. This video highlighted some of the features that will be incorporated into the design of the District's new pool, including glare-free lighting, spectator seating with glass railing, a stepped pool entry, a timing room, and an illuminated score board. The pool will also feature recessed benches within the pool and the District's logo on the floor of the shallow end.

The pool's mechanical system will include a filtration system, an automatic pool cleaner, recirculation pumps, a heater, stacked tanks, outside chemical delivery, an under drain system, and a computerized chemical monitoring system.

Approval of Payment of Kingscott Associates Invoice

#01020505 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve payment of Kingscott Associates, Inc. invoices in the amounts of \$84,441.74 and \$48,684.03. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Layoff

#01020506 Mr. Wilson moved that:

“WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Willow Run Community Schools has reviewed its projected revenues and expenditures for the 2002-03 school year and has determined that a reduction in teaching personnel is necessary; and

WHEREAS, the administration of this school district has reviewed applicable standards pertaining to certification, seniority, and qualifications of the faculty members pursuant to the necessary reduction in personnel;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

A. The following teachers are hereby placed on layoff status effective with the commencement of the 2002-03 school year and their services are hereby discontinued as of that date and will not be required until further notice:

- 1. Andrea Schroeder**
- 2. Jennifer Anderson**
- 3. Mylah Ivory**
- 4. Jacquelynn King-Tinsley**

B. The Director of Human Resources of the school district is hereby authorized and directed to notify each teacher affected by this resolution in writing that he or she has been placed on layoff status for the 2002-03 school year and that his or her services have been discontinued and will not be required until further notice.”

Mr. Blakita supported.

Ayes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Wilde, Mr. Blakita, Ms. Clay, Mr. Smith

Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Citizen’s Questions

Willow Run High School student, Heather Wilson, asked when access to the auditorium will be lost. Dr. Green said the auditorium will be closed around the same time as the pool, with the latest being April.

Superintendent’s Comments

Dr. Green congratulated the Willow Run High School newspaper staff on the wonderful stories they wrote covering the National Championship that was won by the High School Robotics Team, the mailing off of the first Advanced Placement exams, and the story that included interviews of three former Willow Run students, who are now attending Washtenaw Community College, Eastern Michigan University, and the University of Michigan.

Dr. Green then shared one of two plaques that were donated to the District by the family of Donna Adams-Johnson in celebration of her life. One of the plaques was placed at Kettering Elementary; the other will be placed in the Administration Building.

President’s Comments

Mr. Smith said we are all very impressed with the coverage the Robotics Team has received as a result of their national championship win, not only from the high school paper, but from the Detroit papers as well.

Mr. Smith also pointed out that Cheney Academy of Math and Science was presented the E3 Award from the Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce this week.

President Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.