

WILLOW RUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Ypsilanti, Michigan

REGULAR MEETING

March 16, 2006

The regular meeting opened at 7:30 p.m. at Ford Elementary School, Ypsilanti, MI, 48198, with the Pledge of Allegiance. Prior to the regular meeting the board met in closed session to discuss Dr. Ciranna's evaluation.

Those present were:

Claudette Braxton, President
Andreas Blakita, Trustee
Brenda Clay, Secretary
Clifford Smith, Trustee
Kristine Thomas, Trustee
Mark Wilde, Vice President
Scott Wilson, Treasurer
Joeseph Smith, Student Representative

Members of the Administrative Council Present Included:

Ron Ciranna, J.D., Interim Superintendent
Mel Anglin, Principal, Willow Run Middle School
Joe Ann Allen, Principal, Ford Elementary
Laura Lisiski, Principal, Kaiser Elementary
Lana Tatom, Director, Elementary Education, State and Federal Programs
Katie Smith, Director, Technology
Regina Williams, Director, Secondary Education
Teresa Wilson, Interim Principal, Ford Elementary

Excellence in Education

Ms. Wilson introduced the Ford Elementary staff and welcomed everyone to Ford Elementary School. Next, Jessie Bierman explained how the students made Indian-style bowls out of clay. Then the Ford Elementary Student Council demonstrated the morning announcements done by the Student Council, which include a weather report and spotlighting of special events.

A report of the Instructional Consulting program (ICT) was given by Ms. Cahill and Ms. Hill. By allowing teachers to work with the ICT team to explore options for their special education students, ICT focuses on students to close the gap between special and regular education students. Students are assessed to learn what they can do; this information is used to form a baseline strategy to help the student. Assessments are adjusted as needed to further help the student achieve success.

Ms. Dixon's and Ms. Wilson's fourth grade students presented the results of a survey they gave everyone, staff and students, at Ford Elementary, asking what activity they participate in when they are not in school. The students then demonstrated their findings showing the mean, median, mode and range, presented in graph form. They also used their abilities to interpret MEAP scores.

The Ford Elementary presentation was concluded with Ms. Murray's and Ms. Hodges' classes singing the Zulu song "Go Well and Go Safely".

Citizens' Time

Stanley Stewart, of the Cheney attendance area, questioned the board about the contract with Dr. Hamilton that is on the agenda. He asked how the board can consider paying someone \$1,500 for less than four-hours of work per session.

Abigail Swan expressed her concern about electives possibly being cut.

Bobbie Hughes, Willow Run resident, graduate and Chief Stewart for AFSCME Local 3451, said she is concerned Willow Run is considering privatizing busing, along with other departments. She said she is aware the district is in a financial crisis and is sure the ultimate decision will be based on what is best for the students. She added Willow Run is a tight-knit community and privatizing is not the way to go.

Timothy King, Kettering parent, said four years ago he started an investigation under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). He and other citizens expressed their displeasure over the FOIA findings as presented by Mr. King.

Mr. Hurd, Sherry Benoit and a few other citizens began making personal attacks against staff and board members. Ms. Braxton asked them several times to refrain from this behavior, they would not, so the police had to be called to regain order.

Nora Partin, Willow Run parent, expressed her concern over the crowded buses.

Mallion Williams AFSCME, Local 3451, Union Stewart, said the people voicing their opinion, show they care and are family and we all need to work together to come up with a solution to our problems, instead of having someone else come in here to tell us what to do. He said private companies are suffering with the same things we are, high gas prices and other issues, and they are allowed to strike where our drivers are not.

Renita Gibson said she is appalled at the way the middle school parent/teacher conferences were run and asked the district to reconsider the way they are run.

Sharon Donahue, AFSCME Council 25, Staff Representative for Local 3451, said she is concerned about the District's desire to enter into a consortium with other districts. She would like to work with the district to look at ways to work together before the district looks into contracting out jobs.

President Braxton called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m.

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Dr. Ciranna made the following change to the agenda:

Item VI.A. – Approval of an Out-of-State Field Trip was added to the agenda.

Approval of the Agenda

#05060305 Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education accept the agenda as amended.
Ms. Thomas supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Minutes

#05060306 Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education approves the minutes as presented from the regular meeting of March 2, 2006. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Payment of Bills

#05060307 Mr. Wilson moved that the Board of Education approves the payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$2,946,036.54 and Building and Site Fund bills in the amount of \$78,927.94. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Communications

Technology Audit Report

Judy Wright and Doug Wasimski of Plante Moran reviewed the technology service function of the District and presented their findings and recommendations to the board.

ROTC Video Presentation

MSgt. Eddy, along with Cadet Aaron Oliver, of the Air Force Junior ROTC program gave a presentation of the flight the ROTC students, along with Ms. Vollmer and Dr. Ciranna took. They flew in a KC-135R for an Orientation Flight. MSgt. Eddy then invited everyone to the March 25th Military Ball and the March 18th Drill Competition, both at the high school.

Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip

#05060308 Ms. Thomas moved that the Board of Education approve an out-of-state field trip to COSI in Toledo, Ohio, on March 23, 2006, for the 2nd and 3rd grade classes of Kaiser Elementary School. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Contract – Bill Hamilton

#05060309 Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the contract in the amount of \$24,000 + travel costs (not to exceed \$1,761), to William Hamilton for consultation work with the Willow Run Middle School Leadership Team. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Discussion

Dr. Hamilton is currently the Assistant Superintendent for Walled Lake Schools and has three years experience as an AYP consultant. Since he has begun working with Walled Lake Schools, their MEAP scores have shown a dramatic improvement. He said in addition to the time spent in the District, he spends many hours preparing for his work as a consultant. He then gave the attached presentation.

Approval of Payment – Barton Malow Invoice

#05060310 Mr. Blakita moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve payment of Barton Malow invoice #92732 in the amount of \$73,727.51 to be paid from the 2001 Building & Site Fund. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Citizens Questions

Stanley Stewart said he disagrees with the board's decision to approve the contract with Dr. Hamilton. He added it's too bad citizens have to question contracts before a presentation is received.

Mr. Stewart said regarding Citizen's Time if there is a three-minute limit on speakers there needs to be a policy in place stating such. Ms. Gibson said there is a policy and the limit is more than three minutes.

Superintendent Comments

Dr. Ciranna congratulated Scott Heister and the Willow Run Robotics Team, who are now heading to the National Competition. He also praised Sharon Borton for the outstanding job on designing the District's web-site.

President's Comments

Ms. Braxton encouraged everyone to read the newspaper article of this past weekend about the Willow Run basketball team and how they are building a team.

Board Members' Comments

Mr. Wilde praised the First Robotics Team for developing vision components that are now being used by other teams.

Mr. Joseph Smith, said he really wishes Dr. Hamilton was here to hear him say this: to inspire students to go into math and science, Robotics is an excellent way to accomplish this.

President Braxton declared the meeting adjourned at 10:13 p.m.