

**WILLOW RUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Ypsilanti, Michigan**

REGULAR MEETING

May 18, 2006

The regular meeting opened at 7:30 p.m. at Willow Run High School, 235 Spencer Lane, Ypsilanti, MI, 48198, with the Presentation of Colors by members of the Willow Run High School Air Force Junior R.O.T.C. and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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
Joeseeph Smith, Student Representative

Members of the Administrative Council Present Included:

Ron Ciranna, J.D., Interim Superintendent
Mr. Carter, Assistant Principal, Willow Run High School
David Houle, J.D., Director Business Services
Dr. Walter Jenkins, Principal, Willow Run High School
Katie Smith, Director, Technology and Community Services
Lana Tatom, Director, Elementary Education, State and Federal Programs
Regina Williams, Director, Secondary Education

Citizens' Time

Cassandra Montgomery, Willow Run parent, shared her appreciation of the District's special education services and praised Neal Elyakin for all he does for the special education program and its students. Ms. Montgomery displayed a copy of the Parent Handbook, which her son designed the cover for and said this Willow Run product will be given to every parent with students at the WISD.

Terry Carpenter, Alternative Education teacher, said a green house has been donated to the high school and will be used as a living laboratory for students. He said this is an especially good way to connect with hard-to-reach students.

President Braxton called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m.

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Dr. Ciranna added Item VI.E. – Authority to Dispense of Student Disciplinary Matter to the agenda.

Approval of the Agenda

#05060508

Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education accept the agenda as amended.
Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 –Motion carried

Excellence in Education

Dr. Jenkins welcomed everyone to Willow Run High School, and then Cadet Brodie of the AFJROTC program shared the ROTC student's experiences on their recent trip to Norfolk, Virginia. He said the students watched a war reenactment, toured the Governor's Palace, learned about ocean life, and also toured the U.S.S. Wisconsin.

Mr. Dobies introduced students Maria Santos and Sam Hayes, who told about the Visual Arts Department, saying students receive concept based lessons about art history, appreciation, creation, perspective and more. They shared student art depicting what they have learned. These works will be on display at the Ypsilanti District Library this weekend.

Next the students gave a demonstration of what is taught in the CAD1 AutoCAD Class. The demonstration included the drawing of lines, circles and shapes and their editing to create tangent and parallel lines, along with different views of drawings, including the dimensions. These dimensions enable the drawings to be used to build from. The students also demonstrated solid drawing models.

The CAD1 demonstration was followed by a demonstration of Inventor, the program used in the CAD2 class. This program allows users to draw sketches and make changes afterward, by extruding areas, stretching them and otherwise manipulating them. The students also demonstrated assembly modeling and how a piece was put together.

Virginia Dakesian, Alternative Education teacher, spoke about the Alternative Education Conference recently attended by the Alternative Education staff. Ms. Dakesian said the staff learned about a lot of ideas they would like to implement in Willow Run. She said the conference stressed the idea that "you reap what you sow".

Ms. Dakesian shared with the board some possible solutions to rectify the loss of students the District experiences at the high school. These ideas included: offering GED and Credit Recovery courses through the use of the District's own staff. She said in order to do this the District would need to purchase the NovaNET computer program, along with hiring the hiring of one more Alternative Education teacher. Ms. Dakesian also presented the budgetary predictions (attached) based on 15 students enrolled in the courses.

Dr. Jenkins summed up next year's goals for the high school saying they are three A's: Achievement, Attendance, and AYP.

Approval of Minutes

#05060509 Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education approves the minutes as presented from the regular meeting of May 4, 2006. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Payment of Bills

#05060510 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$2,170,178.09. Ms. Thomas supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Communications

Allen C. Lawson, Jr. Memorial Mathematics Scholarship

Dr. Ciranna introduced Mary Jo Cordell, who presented Martin Solano with the Allen C. Lawson, Jr. Memorial Mathematics Scholarship, in memory of her late husband, Allen C. Lawson, who served as a board member from 1969 – 1984, including two-years as President. She said this award began in 1989 and is a way of recognizing the top math student every year, as determined by the high school math teachers.

Parent/Community Sex Education Survey

Lori Day, R.N., presented the attached results of the Reproductive Health Survey. She said 382 surveys were returned.

T3 Presentation

Ms. Tatom introduced Floyd Braid and described the leadership model and the leadership team. Mr. Braid described the professional development work he does in the classrooms and the integration of technology in the classroom. Mr. Braid said the Freedom to Learn (FTL), the WISD, Chelsea Schools and Willow Run Community Schools work collaboratively through the FTL program to train staff on the appropriate use of technology in the learning environment.

Committee Report

Personnel

Mr. Blakita said himself, Dr. Ciranna, Ms. Braxton and Ms. Clay, met on May 9th, to perform an extensive review of staff cuts and reassignments.

Facilities/Bond

Mr. Blakita reported on a May 11th meeting at which in addition to him, Dr. Ciranna, Mr. LaPrairie, Ms. Smith and Ms. Thomas discussed the former Edmonson Middle School site clean-up. He said only one area was found to be contaminated and it will be cleaned up. The group also discussed selling the Central Administration Building, along with the concerns and priorities of a varsity softball diamond.

Mr. Blakita reported on a second meeting of the Facilities/Bond Committee that took place on May 17th. Those in attendance included Mr. Blakita, Dr. Ciranna, Mr. LaPrairie, Ms. Thomas, and Mr. Schubart. The topic of this meeting was the plans for a softball diamond and the cost associated with it. Mr. Blakita said the group decided this will be approached as a total District need.

Policy

Mr. Wilson gave a report on the May 17th meeting at which, in addition to himself, Dr. Ciranna, Ms. Clay and Ms. Thomas were present. The committee discussed updating policies and reviewed 14 policies, which will be brought forth for readings. Mr. Wilson said all policies will be reviewed.

ROTC Award

Dr. Ciranna presented Col. Buley with the AFJROTC Distinguished Unit Award. This award is given only to the best of the best of the over 700 ROTC programs nation-wide and is to recognize the personal growth and the achievements of the cadets and instructors in the program.

Mr. Smith congratulated Col. Buley for the hard-work and accomplishments of the ROTC program. He said a very good group has developed over the five-years since they began here. He also said he was happy to hear the Alternative Education presentation and added he is not sure the board or administration has given them the support they deserve. He said hopefully we can build a first-class program in this District.

Approval of ISD Budget Resolution

#05060511 Ms. Thomas moved that the Board of Education approve the attached ISD Budget Resolution. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Out-of State Field Trip - WRMS

#05060512 Mr. Wilde moved that the Board of Education approve an out-of-state field trip to Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio on Monday, June 5, 2006, for the Willow Run Middle School Student Council, National Junior Honors Society, Cross Country Team, and Track Team. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Revisions – Policy 1370

#05060513 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve Policy 1370 – Public Participation as attached, with the public speaking time remaining at five-minutes. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

First Reading – Policy 8453 - Wellness

Ms. Thomas moved that the Board of Education carry Policy 8453 – Wellness Policy forward for consideration. Mr. Wilson supported.

No vote needed to carry policies forward for consideration.

Authority to Dispose of Student Disciplinary Matter

#05060514 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education grant Dr. Ciranna the authority to dispose of the suspension of the middle school student involved in the March 17, 2006, bus incident based on the results and recommendations of the manifestation hearing. Ms. Thomas supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Contract – Work Skills

Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education approves the attached Contract with Work Skills Corporation for the period of five years, July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2011. Mr. Wilde supported.

Tabling of Approval of Contract – Work Skills

#05060515 Mr. Wilson moved that the Board of Education table the motion to Approve the Contract with Work Skills. Mr. Blakita supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Discussion

Mr. Smith said he still has some questions regarding the contract, saying the verbal and printed answers do not agree. He said the District should afford the staff the opportunity to come up with a good program in Alternative Education and the District should let them set goals and work on getting more students in-house. Mr. Smith urged the board to give our staff a chance. He said if they don't perform in the next few years, we will revisit it.

Mr. Blakita said he is concerned about whether, or not, we can actually get the students into the District. Ms. Dakesian responded that they are looking at teaching the 18-20 year old students, who are attending elsewhere, because the District cannot currently service them. She said we have a ten year history of losing students to other Alternative Education programs and to Washtenaw Community College, because they offer Credit Recovery and GED programs. She said we could keep these kids by having NovaNET and in a year's time it would pay for itself.

Ms. Braxton said because tonight's presentation has raised questions, we have a need to hear from the curriculum department. She said she would like the opportunity to ask questions and that she prefers to have this done inside. She suggested giving the Alternative Education staff more time to put together a program to present to the board. Ms. Braxton also asked for Mr. Houle to review

Ms. Clay asked for all concerned parties to meet in the next week to discuss this. Mr. Smith asked why there is such a rush to go with the Work Skills program. He said he has questions about how they operate and said we can do this in a year, they are not going anywhere. He urged the board to give the staff a chance to present their ideas.

Approval of Ballot Language – Non-homestead Millage

#05060516 Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education approves the ballot language as attached, for the placement of the consideration of not less than 3 mills, to expire the same time as the base millage (2013), on the Tuesday, August 8, 2006 ballot. Ms. Thomas supported.

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

Approval of Resolution – Sale of Real Property

#05060517 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the attached Resolution to sell the real property located at 2171 East Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti, Michigan. Mr. Wilde supported.

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

Discussion

Mr. Wilson said he is not a fan of selling District assets, but this has been discussed over the last seven (7) years. He said this is a very good offer.

Mr. Blakita said he is not against selling the property, but would like to wait until after next Thursday's Work-Study Session and he would also like to see the total debt-reduction package.

Mr. Smith said this buyer has wanted the property for awhile and it will take time to secure the financing. He said we don't want to hold them up.

Approval of Payment of Barton Malow Invoice

#05060518 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve payment of Barton Malow invoice #93759 in the amount of \$41,302.74 to be paid from the 2001 Building & Site Fund. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Purchase - Shiffler Equipment Sales

#05060519 Mr. Wilde moved that the Board of Education approve purchase order #1208C in the amount of \$4,600.00 to Shiffler Equipment Sales for bathroom partitions to be installed in the boys' restrooms at the high school. This purchase is to be charged to the 2001 bond FF&E account. Ms. Thomas supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Layoffs - AFSCME

#05060520 Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the layoff of five (5) employees due to economic necessity under the terms of article 7.03200 of the collective bargaining agreement between the Willow Run Board of Education and A.F.S.C.M.E. Local 3451. These layoffs will become effective as of June 9, 2006. We ask that the board advise, consent and approve this action. Mr. Wilde supported.

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

Approval of Layoffs - WREA

#05060521 Mr. Blakita moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the layoff of six (6) employees due to economic necessity under the terms of article 21.0100 of the collective bargaining agreement between the Willow Run Board of Education and W.R.E.A. These layoffs will become effective as of June 9, 2006. We ask that the board advise, consent and approve this action. Mr. Wilson supported.

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

Citizens Questions

Ellen Gorbaty, Holmes teacher, said she is unhappy with the presweetened, sugary foods being served to students for breakfast. She also said no fresh fruit is available for students at this meal. Ms. Gorbaty also expressed her displeasure with the laying off of custodial staff, saying the rooms at Holmes are filthy.

Virginia Dakesian asked if the Alternative Education drinking fountain has been approved yet.

Fawn Martin, Willow Run parent, commended the Alternative Education staff for utilizing technology, to present a long-range plan for the District. She said we have not provided staff with tools to address student needs, or to use public relations to induce kids into our District. She suggested holding an annual board/community workshop to explain to the community how to address the board.

Tim King, Kettering area parent, asked what the restrictions on building on the land where Central Office is located are, he said there are bodies buried on the land and we should be respectful of the dead. Dr. Ciranna informed him there are not bodies there, they were removed years ago.

Mallion Williams, Bus Driver, asked what the estimated savings of the teacher layoffs are. Mr. Wilson told him the savings are estimated at \$728,932 a year.

Dana Thomas, Willow Run parent, asked what the contamination at the Edmonson site was. Kristine Thomas told her it is chromium. Ms. Dana Thomas said as a new parent in the District, she is concerned with the lack of transparency in the District. She asked the District to take a more proactive approach to communicating the District's activities to the community as a whole, not just the parents.

Dean Johnston, Bus Mechanic, asked for more information on the possibility of outsourcing transportation. Dr. Ciranna said he has received no new information since the last time he and Mr. Johnston spoke.

Board Members' Comments

Ms. Clay said she is sad about the layoffs and hopes the laid off employees will get their jobs back through attrition. Ms. Clay reminded everyone of the Prom, which will be held next Friday night.

President Braxton declared the meeting adjourned at 10:33 p.m.