

WILLOW RUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Ypsilanti, Michigan

REGULAR MEETING

September 22, 2005

The regular meeting opened at 7:30 p.m. at Willow Run High School, 235 Spencer Lane, Ypsilanti, MI 48198, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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
Tradell Hawkins, Student Representative

Members of the Administrative Council Present Included:

Ron Ciranna, J.D., Interim Superintendent
Don Goven, Principal, Kettering Elementary School
Dr. Jenkins, Principal, Willow Run High School
Laura Lisiski, Principal, Kaiser Elementary School
Lana Tatom, Director, Elementary Curriculum, State and Federal Grants
Regina Williams, Director, Secondary Curriculum

President Braxton welcomed Tradell Hawkins, the new Student Representative, to the board.

Citizens' Time

Mr. Ken Wilson asked if an update on the investigation and other matters related to Dr. Benit was available. Dr. Ciranna said he will be meeting with the board in closed session to discuss the latest findings, but at this time there was no information available for the public.

Ms. Renita Gibson, of the Cheney attendance area, read a letter she wrote to the board. The letter expressed her displeasure with the lack of cooperation she feels is given by the district to parents who wish to be involved. She also asked for clarification of the "D" Alert status at both the middle and high school. Ms. Braxton said when the board receives a copy of her letter, they will be happy to answer her concerns.

Mr. John Brooks, Willow Run High School parent, said he has a problem with the way a teacher communicated to other staff about his son. He asked what the board will do about this. Ms. Braxton asked him to write his concerns down and to deliver it to the superintendent for follow-up.

President Braxton called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

The following changes were made to the agenda:

Addition: VII.E. – Approval of Purchase – Every Day Math – Ford Elementary
VIII.B.4. – Approval of Purchase – Colorado Time

Change: Original Item VIII.B.4. – Approval of Contract – Ballroom Dancing, was changed to Item VIII.A.4.

Approval of the Agenda

#05060913 Ms. Thomas moved that the Board of Education accept the agenda as amended.
Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Consent Group

#05060914 Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education approve the Consent Group as presented. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 1 – Scott Wilson - Motion carried

Discussion

President Braxton asked the board to group the minutes and the bills together for approval as the Consent Group. Mr. Wilson requested the bills be read separately, so the public could hear the dollar amount spent. It was agreed to do so.

Approval of Bills

#05060915 Mr. Wilson moved that the Board of Education approve payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$2,591,257.00 and 2001 Building and Site Fund bills in the amount of \$832,120.55. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Communications

Vision, Mission and Beliefs

Dr. Ciranna pointed out the current policy on Vision, Mission Statement and Beliefs and the ones that will be considered for proposal at a later date.

MEAP Update

Ms. Tatom and Ms. Williams presented an update on the MEAP test to the board. They explained all elementaries made AYP in English, Language Arts and Math. They said the middle school did too, with the exception of the Special Education students on the math portion of the test. The high school did not meet AYP in any of these areas, although the district as a whole did meet AYP.

Regarding what the district is doing to improve MEAP scores they explained the Summer Academy, use of the Sylvan Learning Center for eighth grade students, and the integration of courses for the high school, are all aimed at bettering our test scores. Additionally, MEAP practice books were distributed on the first day of school.

Ms. Williams and Ms. Tatom have also started holding all-day Professional Development Days for each grade level, along with monthly meetings for the Principals. Also, each building now has its own MEAP Coordinator to facilitate testing.

While the MEAP Test has been administered in January and February in previous years, the State has moved the testing period to October. They have also changed the English, Language Arts and Math testing to include all grades three through eight, where previously only grades four, seven and eleven were tested. Students in grades six through nine will now be tested in Social Studies, where only grades five, eight and eleven have been tested previously. Another change to the MEAP test this year is the piloting of on-line MEAP testing in English, Language Arts and Social Studies for the sixth grade students.

Muth Award

Don Goven explained the Muth Award is an award given to recognize principals and staff who show outstanding improvement in social and academic achievement. He said Kettering Elementary is the only school in the State who has received this award twice. The first time in 1995 and again this year.

Curriculum Committee Reports

Mr. Wilson reported on a meeting of the Finance Committee, which took place on September 12th. Topics discussed were the possibility of refinancing the 1996 bond, consideration of the renewal of the MallScape contract, and the change of purchase amounts requiring board approval, along with the proposal from Pepsi Cola to provide scoreboards, in exchange for a beverage contract

Mr. Wilson also reported on the September 13th, meeting of the Policy Committee. Topics discussed included block scheduling, graduation requirements, community service and its use, and the vision and mission statements and their impact on other policies

Acceptance of Donation

#05060916

Ms. Thomas moved that the Board of Education accept a donation of 24 Time Life Century of Warfare videos valued at \$474.80 from Mr. Timothy King. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of First Reading of Policy - Purchasing

#05060917 Mr. Wilson moved that the Board of Education move Policy 3630 – Purchasing, as presented, to a second reading as a motion for adoption on November 3, 2005. Ms. Thomas supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Discussion

Mr. Wilson said adoption of this policy will directly impact several other polices, which he has already started working on for updates.

Approval of Purchase Order – The Wright Group

#05060918 Ms. Thomas moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the attached purchase order #0459C in the amount of \$8,662.70, to The Wright Group to purchase Everyday Math materials for Kaiser Elementary. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Purchase Order – Houghton Mifflin Company

#05060919 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the attached purchase order #0464C in the amount of \$9,793.65 to Houghton Mifflin to purchase supplemental math materials for Willow Run High School. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 - Motion carried

Approval of Purchase Order – Perma Bound

#05060920 Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the attached purchase order #0466C in the amount of \$10,000.00 to Perma Bound to purchase accelerated reader books for Willow Run High School. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Purchase Order – Renaissance Learning

#05060921 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the attached purchase order #0472C in the amount of \$5,628.73 to Renaissance Learning to purchase scanners, cards and service support for Willow Run High School Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Purchase Order- The Wright Group

#05060922 Ms. Thomas moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the attached quote for purchase order (number to be assigned) in the amount of \$20,136.94 to The Wright Group to purchase Everyday Math materials for Ford Elementary. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Contract – Dr. Carol Cross

#05060923 Mr. Blakita moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the attached contract agreement with Dr. Carol Cross, for 20 days of services during the 2005-2006 school year, in an amount not to exceed \$8,000. Ms. Thomas supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority Invoice

#05060924 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the invoice for the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority for emergency water line repairs in the amount of \$3,184.24. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Purchase Order – Batting Cage

#05060925 Mr. Wilde moved that the Board of Education approve purchase order #0446C, to Carter Crompton, Inc., in the amount of \$4,500.00 for the purchase of a batting cage. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Community Education Contract Approval

#05060926 Ms. Thomas moved that the Board of Education approve the attached contract between WRCS Community Education and Calvin R. Sibert for the 2005-2006 school year. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Bond Technology Purchase - NETech

#05060927 Mr. Wilson moved that the Board of Education approves purchase order #0471C to NETech attached, totaling \$7,737.00 for 48 port switches to be used to provide additional ports in each building. These items are to be charged to the 2001 Building and Site fund. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Bond Technology Purchase – Communications Infrastructure Resources, Inc.

#05060928 Mr. Wilde moved that the Board of Education approves purchase order #0457C attached to Communications Infrastructure Resources, Inc. (CIR) for the addition of ports throughout the district, totaling \$15,408. These items are to be charged to the 2001 Building and Site fund. Ms. Thomas supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Thurston Infrastructure - Cabling

#05060929 Mr. Blakita moved that the Board of Education approves purchase order #0453C to Communications Infrastructure Resources, Inc. (CIR) for cabling at Thurston in the amount of \$995. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Bond Technology Purchase – Colorado Time Systems

#05060930 Ms. Thomas moved that the Board of Education approves purchase order #0476C to Colorado Time Systems attached, totaling \$2,100.00 for the purpose of providing a laptop and displaylink to be used by the Athletic Department. These items are to be charged to the 2001 Building and Site fund. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Citizens' Questions

Mr. Ken Wilson asked if Policy 3630 includes provisions to prevent payment to Post Office boxes, unless the company and the owner are clearly identified. Mr. Wilson said this is included in a policy other than 3630.

Ms. Renita Gibson asked why kids cannot bring math books home to use to help with homework. Ms. Tatom explained the purchase of the new math books, approved by the board, will provide a parent book for each student, so parents may assist their children as needed.

Ms. Gibson also asked how an outstanding, 4.0 student, can receive a grade of 50% on her MEAP test. Ms. Tatom said the Curriculum Department is trying to tackle the reasons students are not performing well on the MEAP test.

Ms. Patrice LaGrand asked how the changes in the MEAP schedule will be presented to parents and if provisions will be made for the sixth grade students who do not test well on a computer. Ms. Tatom said the State will compare the students' scores with previous scores and no one will be given a lower score than they received last year.

Mr. Brooks asked why the MEAP Parent Night is scheduled during the MEAP period. Ms. Tatom said the middle school Open House, held on September 12th, addressed the MEAP test for parents and the high school will address MEAP before testing begins.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Ciranna told of the incentives being offered to students for coming to school on count day, including a girls' and a boys' bike, with helmets being given away at each elementary building. Two Ipods and two MP3 Players will be given away at each the middle and high schools.

Board Members' Comments

President Braxton reminded everyone of several upcoming events.

President Braxton declared the meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Motion to Move into a Closed Session

#05060931 Mr. Wilde moved that the Board of Education move into closed session. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Discussion

The board discussed a student suspension, negotiations, and personnel matters.

Motion to Move into Open Session

#05060932 Ms. Thomas moved that the Board of Education move into open session. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

President Braxton declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.