

**WILLOW RUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
Ypsilanti, Michigan**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**November 17, 2005**

The regular meeting opened at 7:30 p.m. at Holmes Elementary School, 1255 Holmes Road, 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

Absent: 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. Walter Jenkins, Principal, Willow Run High School  
Laura Lisiski, Principal, Kaiser Elementary School  
George MacLeod, Director, Special Education  
Lana Tatom, Director, Elementary Curriculum, State and Federal Grants  
Katie Smith, Director, Technology  
Regina Williams, Director, Secondary Curriculum

**Citizens' Time**

Mr. Stanley Stewart said he has received a letter in answer to his question regarding the number of minority contractors contracted with for the bond project. Mr. Stewart said he could not find most of those listed and is unhappy with the number of minority companies used.

President Braxton called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

**Additions or Deletions to the Agenda**

Dr. Ciranna added the following item to the agenda:

V.I.D. – Change of Board of Education Meeting Date

**Approval of the Agenda**

#05061119 Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education accept the agenda as amended.  
Ms. Thomas supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 –Motion carried

**Excellence in Education**

**Holmes Elementary School Report**

Ms. Beth Vonck welcomed everyone to Holmes, the largest elementary school in all of Willow Run and introduced the Holmes staff. The board then watched a presentation of pictures highlighting the Holmes students and staff. This presentation was followed by kindergarten students singing “The Rainbow” and “ABC Rock”. Ms. Vonck concluded the presentation by thanking everyone for attending.

**Instruction Consultation Team Report**

Mr. George MacLeod explained the ICT Program began in 2003 and is currently in 40 area schools. Six schools in Willow Run provide the ICT training to their staff.

**Approval of Minutes**

#05061120 Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes as presented from the regular meeting of November 3, 2005. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Approval of Payment of Bills**

#05061121 Mr. Wilde moved that the Board of Education approve the payment of general fund bills in the amount of \$2,762,632.99 and building and site fund bills in the amount of \$382,807.06. Ms. Thomas supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Communications**

Mr. Rick Kull, of Barton Malow, gave the board the following update on the progress of the bond project:

- Press Box – The foundation will be poured next week. The press box should be completed by November 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Punch List - Barton Malow has taken over some of the items on the list themselves and has notified the responsible contractors of such. He said all is going well and the punch list should be completed by the second week of December.
- Security System – The system is on schedule. Ms. Smith added all cameras and cabling are installed and we are now waiting for the server to arrive. She said employee training will be scheduled as employees are available.

**Board Committee Reports**

**Curriculum**

Ms. Clay reported there was a Curriculum Committee meeting prior to this board meeting. Those present included Ms. Williams, Mr. Wilde, Ms. Tatom, Mr. Goven, Ms. Lisiscki, Dr. Ciranna, Ms. Clay and Ms. Braxton. The committee discussed the ICT Program and how this program teaches teachers and parents how to work with students to help them succeed.

Ms. Braxton added this process impacts the number of special education referrals by working with teachers to help them work with kids, and has significantly reduced the number of special education referrals. Ms. Clay supported this by saying the number of I.E.P.s was 200, and is now 40 after two and half years of using this process.

**Finance**

Mr. Smith said the Finance Committee met on November 17<sup>th</sup>, to review the audit report and recommendations, which will be formally presented at this meeting.

**Policy**

Ms. Thomas reported on a November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Policy Committee. Topics discussed included graduation requirements and many others including advertising.

**Approval of Mission Statement**

#05061122 Ms. Thomas moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the Mission Statement as presented. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Adoption of Policy – 7630, Graduation Requirements**

#05061123 Ms. Thomas moved that the Willow Run Board of Education adopt Policy 7630 – Graduation Requirements, as presented. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Approval of Overnight/Out-of-State Field Trip**

#05061124 Mr. Smith moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve an overnight/out-of-state field trip to Dayton, Ohio, to visit the National Museum of the U.S. Air force, for Willow Run High School R.O.T.C. students, December 2-3, 2005. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Approval of Change of Meeting Date**

#05061125 Ms. Thomas moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the change of the regular Board of Education meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 5, 2006, to Thursday, January 12, 2006. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Adoption of Michigan School Readiness Resolution**

#05061126 Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education adopts the attached Michigan School Readiness Program – Participation Resolution. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 - Motion carried

**Acceptance of Audit Report**

#05061127 Ms. Thomas moved that the Willow Run Board of Education receives and accepts the year ended, June 30, 2005, Audit Report as performed by the independent audit firm of Rehmann Robson, P.C. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Discussion**

Dr. Ciranna thanked Brian Marcel and the Business office staff for the wonderful job they are doing.

Mr. Blann of Rehmann Robson said the District received a “clean” audit opinion. The Single Audit of Federal Grants resulted in a “qualified” opinion for material noncompliance and reportable conditions.

Mr. Blann said there has been a substantial decline in the District’s budget surplus and as no school is allowed to operate in a deficit, a deficit elimination plan will be required to be filed with the State of Michigan. He said the District had planned on a half-million dollar deficit, but the deficit was \$2.3 million, due to a revenue shortfall and excessive expenditures.

Dr. Ciranna said the District saw this coming this fall and it has put us in a crisis situation. This deficit spending mode has been going on for the past three-years, as a result of a 568 student loss over the last three-years. He said there will be a presentation at the December 1<sup>st</sup>, board meeting to explain where the money has been spent.

**Approval of Purchase – Perma-Bound**

#05061128 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves purchase order #0689C in the amount of \$5,000.95 to Perma-Bound to purchase Accelerated Reader Books and Quizzes for the Willow Run Middle School. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Approval of Hire – Special Education Teacher**

#05061129 Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the hiring of Barbara Sweeney, for the Cognitively Impaired Teaching position at Willow Run High School, effective immediately at a prorated salary of \$34,412.00 – BA/Step-0 of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement. Ms. Thomas supported.

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

**Approval of Payment – Barton Malow Invoice**

#05061130 Mr. Smith moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve payment of Barton Malow invoice #90559 in the amount of \$367,794.87 to be paid from the 2001 Building and Site Fund. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 1 – Ms. Clay - Motion carried

**Citizens' Questions**

Ms. Renita Gibson, of the Cheney attendance area asked when the financial report will be available. Dr. Ciranna said it is currently available at Central Office.

**Board Member Comments**

Ms. Clay said tonight's presentation was a good one and it is always good to be in schools to see what they can do and what they've learned.

President Braxton declared the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.