

WILLOW RUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Ypsilanti, Michigan

REGULAR MEETING

July 27, 2006

The regular meeting opened at 7:30 p.m. at the Willow Run Community Schools Administration Building, 2171 E. Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti, MI, 48198, with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Those present were:

Claudette Braxton, President
Andreas Blakita, Vice President
Brenda Clay, Secretary
Dorothy Stewart, Treasurer
Scott Wilson, Trustee

Absent: Clifford Smith, Trustee
Sheri Washington, Trustee

Members of the Administrative Council Present Included:

Ron Ciranna, J.D., Superintendent
Joe Ann Allen, Principal, Ford Elementary School
David Houle, J.D., Controller, Business Services
Lana Tatom, Director, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Ciranna informed every one of the Public Relations campaign started to inform the public of the wonderful things going on at Willow Run and of the Headlee Override Millage the District is seeking. He showed the District's new informative postcards and tri-fold brochures to everyone and encouraged those who would like to help distribute them to pick some up from him. Dr. Ciranna also described the yard signs that will be placed around the District.

Dr. Ciranna then told everyone the August 3rd, board meeting has been cancelled and a Board Workshop has been added for August 10th. He said the regular board meeting of August 27th, will be held as scheduled.

Dr. Ciranna said the board needs to work as a team and end the turmoil that has been on-going. He said he has spoken to an attorney who found nothing wrong with the actions that took place at the June 1st meeting. He said he will agree to end his contract extension if the recall stops and the recall website is taken down. He also said the superintendent's position would then be posted, and he could apply, but if he is not hired for the superintendent's position, he would return to the Human Resources position. He said if the recall website is brought up again, this agreement will be null and void. Dr. Ciranna said he hopes the board can heal and work with the MASB consultant who will be here on the 10th.

Citizens' Time

Ms. Miller, Assistant Volley Ball Coach, asked for community support for the cheerleader's upcoming fundraisers, including a car wash being held on Saturday, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at Baker's Square, in front of the Kroger store on Whittaker Road.

Mr. Stanley Stewart, said those gathering signatures for the recall have not been able to speak positively about the District, and in light of this, he has agreed to shut down the recall site, as he and Dr. Ciranna agreed upon.

Ms. JoeAnn Allen, Ford Elementary Principal, and 1966 graduate of Willow Run High School, said she recently attended a class reunion and there were lots of questions about the Hall of Fame. She encouraged the District to highlight the Hall of Fame on the website.

Ms. Virginia Dakesian, Willow Run High School teacher, asked for word about the Work Skills program. Dr. Ciranna said the program will be taking place at Ypsilanti Public Schools, rather than here. Ms. Dakesian also asked for an update on the progress of installation of a drinking fountain in the alternative wing of the high school. Ms. Braxton said the District should look into purchasing water for the students until a drinking fountain is installed.

Mr. Dean Johnston, Chief Bus Mechanic, said he has completed installing catalytic converters on the buses, as part of the clean air program. He also asked the board to consider adopting an Anti-Idling Policy, for all District vehicles, saying this will result in a savings of \$4-6,000 a year for the District.

President Braxton called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

#06070716 Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Minutes

#06070717 Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education approves the minutes as presented from the reorganizational meeting of July 13, 2006. Mr. Blakita supported.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Payment of Bills

#06070718 Ms. Stewart moved that the Board of Education approve the following General Fund checks, check #41656 through and including check #42026 with the exception of voided checks as noted on page 19 of the General Fund Check Register; and Building and Site checks #1450 through and including check #1451. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 5

Communications

Reproductive Health Curriculum

Ms. Day, R.N., described the planned delivery of the Reproductive Health Curriculum beginning in grade four and continuing through high school. This plan will be presented for adoption at the August 17th, regular board meeting.

Adoption of Policy 8453 - Wellness

#06070719 Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education adopt the attached policy 8453 – Wellness Policy. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Discussion

Ms. Day, R.N., explained this policy puts administrative rules in place to limit the amount of non-nutritional foods that can be served to students.

Approval of Contract Extension - Auditing

#06070720 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve extending the contract with Rehmann Robson, C.P.A.s, for one-year in the not-to-exceed amount of \$23,800.00, for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Discussion

This motion originally read for a contract extension of three-years, Mr. Wilson made a friendly amendment changing it to a one-year contract extension, with the board sending it out for bid before next year.

Approval of Purchase – Additional Sidewalks

#06070721 Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve purchase order #0073D in the amount of \$4,650.00 to Frausto Concrete Cement Company for installation of 215 linear feet of additional sidewalk in front of the middle school per our fire marshal's recommendation. To be charged to the 2001 Building and Site Fund. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Discussion

Phil Stachlewitz, Ypsilanti Township Fire Marshall, explained two of the middle school building's exits lead to sidewalks that run along the side of the building; if there was a problem in the building, the current sidewalk would take students along the problem area.

Approval of Purchase Order – Evacuation Devices

#06070722 Mr. Blakita moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve purchase order #0074D in the amount of \$5,700.00, to Garaventa Accessibility Ltd., to purchase three (3) Evacu-Trac Evacuation Devices including storage cabinets for the middle school and high school. To be charged to the 2001 Bond FF&E account. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Discussion

Mr. Stachlewitz explained these devices will aid in the evacuation of wheel chair bound students. He said when the fire alarms are activated, the elevators become inoperable. These devices allow one-person to take an immobile student down the stairs. Ms. Day added the biggest concern is that the power wheel chairs used by some students weigh between 200-250 pounds and this will allow them to be transported safely without the chair.

Approval of Payment – Barton Malow

#06070723 Mr. Blakita moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve payment of Barton Malow invoice #94755 in the amount of \$20,911.17 to be paid from the 2001 Building & Site Fund. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Citizens Questions

Patrice LaGrand, Willow Run employee and resident, asked regarding the evacuation devices, when non-ambulatory students are moved down the stairs, how we would then get them out of the building. Ms. Day explained there are extra wheel chairs which will be located at the bottom of the stairs for this purpose. Mr. Tim King said he thinks this is a wonderful thing to have for students who are disabled and asked Ms. Tatom to check on federal grant money to pay for this.

Board Members' Comments

Ms. Stewart said Brenda McKinney, Superior Township Treasurer, contacted her about Meals on Wheels' needing help with deliveries, during the month of August to the Ypsilanti High Rise. Ms. Stewart also asked for ideas on how the board can participate at the Back-to-School picnic.

Ms. Clay invited everyone to an Athletic Boosters' fund raiser this Friday at the Elks Club. She said they are hosting a comedy night, beginning at 7 p.m., with Foolish, from WJLB acting as emcee and Willow Run Alumni Allen Shue, as the headline comic.

President Braxton declared the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.