

WILLOW RUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Ypsilanti, Michigan

REGULAR MEETING

September 21, 2006

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 to the Flag.

Those present were:

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

Members of the Administrative Council Present Included:

Ron Ciranna, J.D., Superintendent
Joe Ann Allen, Principal, Ford Elementary School
Chester Carter, Supervisor, Alternative Education
David Houle, J.D., Controller, Business Services
Laura Lisiski, Principal, Kaiser Elementary School
Katie Smith, Director, Technology
Shannon Smith, Interim Assistant Principal, Willow Run High School
Lana Tatom, Director, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Regina Williams, Curriculum Facilitator

Citizens' Time

Kettering parent, Emily Brumbaugh, expressed her dissatisfaction with the amount of information administrators share with parents, as well as the lack of a teacher contract. Ms. Brumbaugh also said she finds it very difficult to be involved, due to difficulty finding meeting locations and lack of communication about where and when meetings are.

Ms. Sylvia Smith asked where the monies from band fund-raisers have gone and questioned the accounting methods being used. She said she received a statement showing her granddaughter had a balance in her fund raising account and is now being told there is no money there.

Robin Hines, Willow Run parent, asked why decisions such as moving the Alternative Education program are made without garnering parental input. She pointed out the pamphlet distributed describing the preschool program stated the building was for little kids. She also said the district needs to get a contract for teachers and Para educators.

Bonita Matthews, Willow Run parent, asked why the district is outsourcing so many jobs when we have a wealth of information within the district. She also expressed her frustration with the lack of counselors at the high school prior to the opening of the school year, to create student schedules. She also said she is unhappy with locating graduation ceremonies in the middle school auditorium.

Ms. Delora Partin, Kettering area parent, shared her unhappiness with the state of the football and track programs at the middle school, along with the location of her children's bus stop, which is located in an alley-way. She also said she does not see a lot of sharing of information with citizens from board members.

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

Additions to the Agenda

Dr. Ciranna added the following items to the agenda:

- Item IV.C. School Improvement Plan
- VIII.A. Resolution Authorizing School Bond Loan Fund
- VIII.B. Resolution Authorizing Allocation of Debt Millage

Approval of the Agenda

#06070901 Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education accept the agenda as amended. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Minutes

#06070902 Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education approves the minutes as presented with corrections from the regular meeting of August 17, 2006. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Payment of Bills

#06070903 Ms. Stewart moved that the Board of Education approve the following General Fund checks, check #42190 through and including check #42442 with the exception of voided checks as noted on page 12 of the General Fund Check Register; and Building & Site checks #1452 through and including check #1460 with General Fund checks totaling \$2,589,835.88 and 2001 Building & Site Fund checks totaling \$73,262.48. Mr. Blakita supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Communications

NFL Football Grant

Mr. Schubart shared the planned usage for the \$6,500 NFL grant written by Coach Rufus Pipkins and Lana Tatom. He said the money will be used to purchase the following equipment: Field equipment; weight room equipment; middle school jerseys; varsity jerseys; and winter and practice packs. Mr. Schubart said a grant request will be made next fall from major league baseball.

Budget Update

Dr. Houle explained the actual activity, as opposed to proposed budget activity as of August 31, 2006. He said these numbers are very preliminary in that they include accrual items and are dependent upon the 2006-2007 blended pupil count information. He cited preliminary count numbers as reflecting a loss of 130 students, which would result in a net impact of roughly \$705,000 in revenue.

Dr. Houle also explained the impact of state appropriations and the teacher contract on the budget.

School Improvement Plan

Ms. Tatom distributed the state-approved School Improvement Plan for each school to an individual board member assigned to said school. She gave the following board member/school assignments:

Cheney – Clifford Smith
Ford – Scott Wilson
Holmes – Sheri Washington
Kaiser – Brenda Clay
Kettering – Andy Blakita
Willow Run Middle School – Claudette Braxton
Willow Run High School – Dorothy Stewart

Approval of Contract – Driver’s Education

#06070904 Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the contract with All Star Driver Education, from September 2006 to September 2007 for students that are 14 years and 8 months old, in the amount of \$289.00 for segment one and \$19.00 for segment two. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Contract – Police Services (Football)

#06070905 Mr. Smith moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the Police Services contract by and between the County of Washtenaw and Willow Run High School, for provision of police services at Willow Run High School home football games beginning August 30, 2006 and ending on September 29, 2006. The cost of this contract is \$54 per hour, per deputy, \$65 per hour, per sergeant, and \$72 per hour, per lieutenant. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip

#06070906 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve an out-of-state field trip to the Toledo Zoo, in Toledo, Ohio for students in Ms. Sweeney's and Ms. Russell's class, on Friday, September 29, 2006. Ms. Stewart supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried.

Approval of Revised Calendar – Board Meeting Schedule

#06070907 Mr. Blakita moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the attached revised schedule of regular meetings of the Willow Run Board of Education to start at 6:30 p.m. for the 2006-2007 school year. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Contract – Speech Therapy

#06070908 Mr. Smith moved that Board of Education approves the Pediatric Therapy Contract for services for the 2006-2007 school year, in the not to exceed amount of \$49,424.00. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Contract - Physical Therapy

#06070909 Mr. Wilson moved that the Board of Education approves the Pediatric Therapy Associates Contract for services for the 2006-2007 school year, in the not to exceed amount of \$40,000. Ms. Stewart supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Authorization of Debt Millage Allocation

#06070910 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education allocates the total debt millage levy of 10.3 mills as follows:

- 5.7 mills towards the 2001 Bond Issue
- 1.5 mills towards the 2002 Bond Issue (1992 issue refinanced in 2002)
- 1.6 mills towards the 2005 Bond Issue (2001 issue refinanced in 2005)
- 1.5 mills towards the 2006 Bond Issue (1996 issue refunded in 2006).

Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

#06070911

Authorization of School Bond Loan Fund Borrowing

Ms. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education ratifies the attached Annual Loan Resolution in the not to exceed amount of \$393,221 as part of approval of the Annual School Bond Loan Fund/Repayment Activity Application process for Fiscal Year Ending 2007. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Citizens' Questions

A citizen in the audience said she would like to see the board working more cohesively, rather than in factions. She also asked why the school safety patrols are not yet up and running. Ms. Joe Ann Allen explained the position for teachers to oversee the school safety patrol positions have to be approved by the Human Resources department. The postings were placed last week and the people selected for the positions must now be okayed and then the program can begin.

Mr. Mark Wilde asked if the agenda and all supporting documentation for board meetings can be placed on the district's web-page, so they can be reviewed by the public prior to meetings.

Ms. Fawn Martin asked if the State Improvement Plans given to board members have already been approved by the State. Ms. Tatom said they have been approved and are already in place. Ms. Martin asked if PTOs were given copies and Ms. Tatom replied that this varies from school-to-school. Ms. Martin asked regarding the district's Debt Elimination Plan, if the recommendations were accepted by the board. Dr. Ciranna said some were, but the big ticket items will be presented this year. Another citizen asked why bigger cuts weren't done last year. Dr. Ciranna said the board did not feel comfortable making those decisions until they had further information and could discuss the proposed cuts as a group.

Ms. Martin and Ms. Lisiscki also expressed their concern about moving the starting time for board meetings to 6:30 p.m., due to the number of after school activities that end around that same time.

Ms. Robin Hines asked when audience members should expect a response to the questions they ask at the beginning of the meeting during Citizens' Time. Dr. Ciranna explained he contacts people individually. He said he would like to meet with a group regarding his plans for Alternative Education, preschool and the Thurston building.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Ciranna said the district has joined with the Ypsilanti District to purchase an ad in the *Ann Arbor News*, to run this weekend encouraging people to register their children for school prior to count day.

Dr. Ciranna also informed everyone that he will begin taking the voluntary Superintendent Certification program offered by the Michigan Association of School Administrators in January.

President's Comments

Ms. Braxton said she likes the new location of Central Office. She said she visited the office the other day then had some lunch with a group of high school students, then a group of middle school students. She said none of them knew who she was and were very polite and well-behaved.

Board Members' Comments

Ms. Clay reminded everyone of next weekend's Home Coming game and Hall of Fame activities.

Ms. Stewart said the Superior Township Board of Trustees is interested in working with us to help the district. She said they have requested brochures to give to their tax-payers to encourage people to enroll their children in Willow Run. Mr. Blakita said the next meeting with Superior Township will be held in Willow Run.

Ms. Braxton then asked everyone to remember Ms. Fran Deckard, former Willow Run teacher, who passed away Wednesday night, with a moment of silence.

President Braxton declared the meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.