

WILLOW RUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Ypsilanti, Michigan

REGULAR MEETING

October 19, 2006

The regular meeting opened at 7:30 p.m. at Kaiser Elementary School, 270 Onondaga, 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
Travis Greer, Student Representative to the Board of Education

Members of the Administrative Council Present Included:

Ron Ciranna, J.D., Superintendent
JoeAnn Allen, Principal, Ford Elementary School
David Houle, J.D., Controller, Business Services
Todd LaPrairie, Supervisor, Buildings and Grounds
Laura Lisiscki, Principal, Kaiser Elementary School
Katie Smith, Director, Technology
Lana Tatom, Director, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Kaiser Elementary Report

Kaiser Principal, Ms. Laura Lisiscki, welcomed everyone to Henry J. Kaiser Elementary School, Home of the Wild Cats, and introduced the Kaiser staff, who she said are better teachers, making their students ready for the world.

Ms. Lisiscki presented a PowerPoint presentation of a glimpse into the typical Kaiser day and introduced Dr. Barb Ladewski, who has worked with the Kaiser staff for the past six-years, disseminating MEAP data. Dr. Ladewski said the focus this year is making the thinking of staff and students visible to one another in order to adjust teaching and learning styles, while building strategic thinking and relationship skills, in order to make students successful. Dr. Ladewski said she works with the staff to help them teach the students to recognize and adjust their thinking patterns, to build a strong and coherent foundation.

Ms. Humes shared a presentation of the SMILE Programs Make a Difference Unit. Students in this program perform a variety of community service acts, including visits to Superior Woods Nursing Home, where they make crafts and sing songs with the residents; cleaning up West Willow Park; and visiting the sick and elderly in the neighborhood to rake leaves and deliver meals.

Glen Simon then led the SMILE students in a medley of Halloween songs, which concluded the Kaiser presentation.

Citizens' Time

Lola Gray and Brenda Collins, sisters who both have Schools of Choice students at Holmes Elementary thanked the Holmes teachers for all they do for their children.

Kariss Bass, district employee and parent, expressed her displeasure with the number of substitutes the high school biology and language arts classes have had, she said these are required classes and the lack of permanency concerns her. Dr. Ciranna informed every one of interviews held earlier in the day to fill these positions and said an offer will be made to fill the biology position on Friday.

Michelle Rafelski, Kaiser and Middle School parent, said she has concerns about the Alternative Education students being placed at Thurston E.C.D.C., specifically with the neighborhood residents, not being made aware of the move. Ms. Rafelski said the students are smoking, cussing and wandering around the neighborhood before and after school. She requested more supervision be added to the program.

Marlo Bearman, acting as a WREA representative, spoke about the evacuation and closure of Kaiser Elementary school for two-days last week. She said administration made the decision for the teachers to either report to the middle school to help with the MEAP test, or to use a sick day. Ms. Bearman said the contract states sick-days are to be used for illness only and requested the sick day be given back to the teachers.

Kathleen Miller, WREA Unit Director, stated teachers have worked without a contract for a year-and-a-half and they will continue to put kids first. She pointed out this year 86% of buildings met AYP up from 71% last year. Ms. Miller also shared the following concerns:

- No union leaders were invited to speak at the district's Opening Day.
- The superintendent gave employees who volunteered to work the Back-to-School picnic a compensatory day off. Ms. Miller said days off are to be negotiated.
- Dr. Ciranna sent an e-mail to all staff stating if employees were absent on Opening Day, they would be required to provide a letter from their doctor stating the reason. Ms. Miller said this would be a violation of their HEPA rights.
- The requirement of audience members to fill out a form prior to the board meeting if they wish to speak during citizens' time, which has the effect of if an audience member is late they cannot speak. She also questioned whether, or not forms not addressed at the board meeting are forwarded to administration for a response.
- Employees injured on the job being subjected, without prior knowledge, to drug-testing.
- Increased numbers of grievances being filed and awaiting arbitration.
- Lack of respect given to teachers and their contract.

Ms. Miller distributed and read ballot language for Proposal 5, which will be

Bobbie Bowles, Lincoln Consolidated teacher and Bev Hill, Dexter Schools teachers spoke to voice their support of the Willow Run teaching staff. Mary Boivin, WRMS teacher, thanked Ypsilanti, Lincoln and Dexter teachers for attending the meeting to show their support of the Willow Run teachers.

Carol Blackburn, Willow Run Paraprofessional and Thurston area neighborhood watch member, shared the concerns of the neighborhood watch about the behavior of the Alternative Education students at Thurston. She also expressed their concern that no public meeting was held to inform the residents about the move to Thurston and invited the board to attend a neighborhood watch meeting and tell them why and what is happening at Thurston and to partner with them to make it work.

Robin Hines, Kettering parent said she has worked hard to bring others to Willow Run, but considering recent developments at her children's school, will be moving them out of Willow Run. She invited board members to contact her about the reasons why. Ms. Hines also thanked the Kettering teachers for loving her children while they were there.

President Braxton called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda

Dr. Ciranna added the following items to the agenda:

Item IV.D. Student Representative Comments

Item VII.C. Adoption of Resolution – Michigan School Readiness

Approval of the Agenda

#06071001 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

#06071002 Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education approves the minutes as presented from the regular meeting of September 21, 2006, and from the work-study sessions of September 28, 2006 and October 5, 2006. Ms. Stewart supported.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Payment of Bills

#06071003 Ms. Stewart moved that the Board of Education approve the following General Fund checks, check #42443 through and including check #42663 with the exception of voided checks as noted on page 10 of the General Fund Check Register; and Building & Site checks #1461 through and including check #1462 with General Fund checks totaling \$2,248,499.09 and 2001 Building & Site Fund checks totaling \$10,678.50. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes: 7

Communications

Budget Update

Dr. Houle informed every one that all district budgets are now on the district's web-site.

Dr. Houle said we are now in \$2 million operating deficit resulting in a negative fund balance and the district is proceeding with the filing of the Deficit Elimination Plan with the State.

Dr. Houle explained how much of the district's general funds go to each of its categories and presented revenues and expenses, as well as explaining the format this information was presented in. Following this he did the same for the bond budget.

Budget Format

Dr. Houle presented a budget reporting format and asked Mr. Stewart if this is what he had in mind as what he wanted to use. Dr. Houle also demonstrated how E-Term provides account information in real time.

In conclusion, Dr. Houle, said the MSBO sent out information earlier in the day saying the State School Aid Fund may fall short, resulting in a reduction of the per pupil foundation allowance of between \$60-100. He said more information about this should be available in December or January.

Consolidated Grant Update

Ms. Tatom presented the attached Consolidated Plan Narrative explained line items as requested by board members and explained these are federally funded grants.

Student Representative Comments

Mr. Greer asked the district to keep his family in their thoughts and prayers over the shooting death of his cousin this past weekend. He then thanked the board for taking the first step in ordering text books and Mr. Scott Wilson for volunteering to help the Robotics Team with a fund raiser to pay the way to the annual competition in Atlanta, Georgia. He also thanked Dr. Ciranna for asking him to arrange Superintendent/Student lunches to discuss student concerns.

Mr. Greer also shared the following issues:

- Large class sizes
- Tutoring availability
- Channel 1, being eliminated

He thanked the administration for their willingness and cooperation in working with the students.

Approval of Contract – Facilitator- Kaiser

#06071004 Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the attached contract with Dr. Barbara Ladewski, for an amount not to exceed \$7,000. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Contract – Community Education – Ballroom Dancing

#06071005 Ms. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the contract between Willow Run Community Schools Community Education and Calvin Sibert to provide Ballroom Dance class to be held at Thurston ECDC for the 2006-2007 school year. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Acceptance of Recommendation for Suspension

#06071006 Mr. Blakita moved that the Willow Run Board of Education suspend the student presented for suspension on October 5, 2006 at 5:45 p.m. for 30-school days, plus provide homework, for possession of a knife. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried.

Acceptance of Recommendation for Expulsion

#06071007 Ms. Clay moved that Willow Run Board of Education expel the student presented for expulsion on October 5, 2006 at 6:15 p.m. for 180-days for fighting and assault on school employees. Ms. Stewart supported.

Ayes: 7 - Mr. Wilson, Ms. Washington, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith,
Mr. Blakita, Ms. Clay, Ms. Braxton
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Contracted Services Agreement - HSTW

Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the attached contract with Southern Regional Education Board/High Schools That Work for an amount not to exceed \$19,250.00 – for on-site professional development services and materials to be provided to Willow Run High School during the 2006-07 school year. Ms. Stewart supported.

Discussion

The board discussed the need for all of those involved in the HSTW process to enact their recommendations. They also said they need to speak with representatives from HSTW to ask questions, as well as to have them demonstrate the model they use. Barriers for staff implementation were also requested prior to a decision about this contract being made.

Tabling of Motion - Contracted Services Agreement - HSTW

#06071008 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education table this item until the next regular meeting. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Contracted Services Agreement – Supplemental Service Providers

#06071009 Mr. Blakita moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the attached contract to be used with state approved Supplemental Service Providers (as required by the No Child Left Behind Act). Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Adoption of Michigan School Readiness Resolution

#06071010 Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education adopts the attached Michigan School Readiness program – Participation Resolution. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Payment – Boiler Kaiser Elementary

The boiler at Kaiser Elementary went out and is in need of replacement. This item will be presented when the pertinent information is received.

Approval of Payment – Waste Disposal

#06071011 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the payment of invoice #210025735 to EQ Detroit, Inc. for the amount of \$946.39 for the direct billing for the disposal of hazardous waste from the former middle school site. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of High School Media Center Purchase

#06071012 Ms. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves a Purchase Order for High School Media Center Computers and computer for Superintendent's Secretary totaling \$33,125. 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

#06071013 Mr. Smith moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the purchase order xxxD to Apple, totaling \$2,514.00 for a computer to manage the website. This item is to be charged to the 2001 Building and Site Fund. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Hire of Certified Staff – Special Education Teacher

#06071014 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the Contract, with Ms. Sharon Cook, to serve as the Willow Run Middle School Teacher Consultant, with a salary of \$41,137 (BA+20, Step3), for the duration of the 2006-2007 school year as a part of the WCEA Teacher's Union. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 7 - Mr. Wilson, Ms. Washington, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith,
Mr. Blakita, Ms. Clay, Ms. Braxton
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Unpaid Leave – AFSCME Employee

#06071015 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves an unpaid leave for Linda Smith, AFSCME employee, effective immediately and lasting one-year. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Calendar

#06071016 Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education implement the district's proposed school calendar for the months of November and December 2006 and January 2007. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

Citizens' Questions

Ms. Gorbaty asked if the calendar approved tonight can please be shared with the teachers. Dr. Ciranna said a copy would be made available tonight.

A member of the audience asked when honest, aggressive contract negotiations will be addressed. Dr. Ciranna said negotiations were ongoing, but no agreement was reached, so a mediator was called in to work with the teachers and administration, but then the teachers' union filed for fact-finding, which means no negotiations can take place until after the fact finding hearing.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Ciranna shared the following information:

- Interviews for teachers in biology, art and French were held today and follow-up appointments will be set-up at the high school.
- Math textbooks in the amount of \$42,000 were purchased and should arrive as soon as Friday, or as late as next Wednesday. More books will be ordered.

Dr. Ciranna also said he will be happy to meet with the neighborhood association and that he requested such a meeting back in August. He asked them to please contact him with a date.

Dr. Ciranna asked the board to contact him with their availability for a proposed meeting between them and Superior Township on Tuesday, November 14th, from 5-6 p.m. to be held in Willow Run.

President's Comments

Ms. Braxton said she attended a Board President Workshop last week and will be putting together a report of recommendations for our board that she gleaned from it.

Board Members' Comments

Ms. Clay praised Ms. Lisiscki for the wonderful job done at Kaiser.

Mr. Smith said he is happy to hear from Travis the good news about the math books. He asked for communication with the board about the other text books. Ms. Stewart congratulated the students who moved the book project forward.

Mr. Blakita said Travis is a real plus to the board and is very articulate and supportive of the students.

President Braxton declared the meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.