

**WILLOW RUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**Ypsilanti, Michigan**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**August 17, 2006**

Prior to the regular meeting an Executive Session was held to discuss the on-going teacher negotiations.

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  
Sheri Washington, Trustee  
Scott Wilson, Trustee

Absent: Clifford Smith, 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  
Dr. Walter Jenkins, Principal, Willow Run High School  
Laura Lisiscki, Principal, Kaiser Elementary School  
Kimberly Searcy, Supervisor, Transportation  
Shannon Smith, Interim Assistant Principal, Willow Run High School  
Lana Tatom, Director, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

**Citizens' Time**

Mr. Stanley Stewart, Cheney attendance area, asked if bus stops have been added for Kettering and Kaiser Elementaries, as has been discussed by the board in the past. Dr. Ciranna said there have been planning meetings about this and discussion is still on-going.

Ms. Laura Lisiscki, Willow Run Administrators Association (WRAA) President, said the administrators and the WRAA have come to a tentative agreement that includes contractual language for the first time since the bargaining unit has been formed. The group is happy to have a contract, but is unhappy with both the financial package and health benefits being offered, although they do understand the financial crisis the district is in and are willing to tentatively agree to the offer. Ms. Lisiscki said it is important to work together to attract new students, raise academic standards and rework any tainted image of the district.

Mr. Tim King, Kettering attendance area, read a letter he wrote to Governor Granholm, Michael Flanagan and the Willow Run School board on behalf of himself, Mark Wilde, Sheri Washington and Kristine Thomas. The letter asked for a formal investigation into the complete findings of the full Plante Moran Technology Assessment Report of August 10, 2005; specifically the number of telephones the district purchased with bond monies.

Mr. Paul Twigg, Barton Malow, said the district ended up with an extra 200 phones, because confirmation of the number of phones needed was not available when the bid was sent out. He said the maximum capacity number was used, not the number of actual phones needed. He added the bid committee looked at various systems and liked the one it chose, which was also the low bid. Mr. Twigg said the board approved the amount of money to be spent, not the actual number of phones and that he thought the company was honorable in giving the district the extra phones, rather than selling them to another school district. He said the district decided not to resell the phones at a discounted price, but to keep them and that the phones still can be sold to another school. Mr. Twigg concluded by saying the board was presented the total scope of work, not the number of phones. He said he was told the district needed 422 phones and the price was \$322,000.

President Braxton called the meeting to order at 7:47 p.m.

**Additions to the Agenda**

Dr. Ciranna added the following items to the agenda:

- Item IV.B. Summer Academy Overview
- Item IV.C. MEAP Overview
- Item IV.D. Reproductive Health Curriculum
- Item VI.A. District Calendar

**Approval of the Agenda**

#06070801 Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education accept the agenda as amended. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Approval of Minutes**

#06070802 Ms. Clay moved that the Board of Education approves the minutes as presented from the regular meeting of July 27, 2006 and as presented from the work-study session of August 10, 2006. Mr. Blakita supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Approval of Payment of Bills**

#06070803

Ms. Stewart moved that the Board of Education approve the following General Fund checks in the total amount of \$1,862,177.08, check #42027 through and including check #42189 with the exception of voided checks as noted on page 7 of the General Fund Check Register. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Communications**

**Headlee Override**

Dr. Houle said the district's voters authorized up to three-mills by voting to pass the Headlee Override Millage. As a result the district can ask for .8380 mills right now.

**Summer Academy**

Ms. Tatom and Mr. Covington shared the highlights of the district's summer academy, which had 500 students enrolled. Each class had enrollment limited to 25 students, with a teacher, a Para-educator and a foster grandparent, along with five laptops in lower grades and 15 laptops in the upper grades. Mr. Covington said Accelerated Reader and Math were used for the summer program. In addition to those students in classrooms, 30 scholarships to Michigan Virtual High School were awarded.

Ms. Janice Moses, Eastern Michigan University, described the '06 Summer Camp, run in the afternoon in conjunction with the Summer Academy. Students at the camp learned about forensics, the environment, recycling and took field trips to Rolling Hills Water Park and the bowling alley.

**MEAP**

Dr. Jenkins and Ms. Williams shared the MEAP results for the high school, which were received in late June. Dr. Jenkins explained the effect of the past four-years block scheduled was lower MEAP scores. He said now, with a six-hour schedule, and more academic classes, the MEAP scores have gone up.

Ms. Williams and Mr. Shannon Smith explained how the district's graduation rate is computed and the effect on our AYP status.

**Reproductive Health**

Ms. Day, R.N., shared the district's planned Reproductive Health Curriculum and described the subjects being taught at each grade level.

**Approval of District Calendar**

#06070804

Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education implement the district's proposed school calendar for the months of August, September, and October 2006. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Approval of Contract – I3 Training Services**

#06070805 Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the contract in the amount of \$51,000 to i3 Training Services, Inc. – to provide 1:1 support for the middle school teachers participating in the Freedom to Learn Program, Lead Trainer support and mentoring and Computer Literacy Workshops for parents – during the 2006-2007 school year. Mr. Blakita supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Discussion**

The board discussed the success of this program and asked if there is a way to qualify the results. Ms. Stewart questioned spending the grant money on this program, when the district is in such a budget crunch and suggested spending the funds on a program that is based in Michigan, rather than sending the money out-of-state. Ms. Tatom said there is no one local who provides these services.

**Approval of Contract – Corwin Press**

#06070806 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the contract in the amount of \$7,900 to Corwin Press, to contract Glenn Singleton as a keynote speaker for the August 30, 2006, Professional Development Day. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 1 – Ms. Stewart – Motion carried.

**Discussion**

Ms. Tatom said Mr. Singleton will address the district's employees about equity, achievement disproportionality and achievement gaps. Mr. Singleton will also meet with the middle and high school staff members to provide training to them in the afternoon.

**Approval of Contract – ESL/ELL Coordinator**

#06070807 Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the contract in the amount of \$24,000 to Elmore Consulting and Tutoring, LLC –for Molly Elmore to serve as the district's ESL Coordinator for the 2006-07 school year. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Discussion**

Ms. Tatom said due to the growing K-12 ESL/ELL population (approximately 50 students) there is an increased need for an ESL/ELL Coordinator. In addition, under the No Child Left Behind Act we are now required to administer the English Language proficiency Assessment (ELPA) annually.

**Adoption of Curriculum – Reproductive Health**

#06070808 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the Reproductive Health Curriculum, as attached. Ms. Clay supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Approval of Purchase – Transportation Radio Equipment**

#06070809 Mr. Blakita moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the purchase order to EMI – Electrocomm Michigan, Inc. in the amount of \$7,684.25. The purchase would include three handheld units and the purchase of 10 complete bus radio units. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Authorization to Levy – Headlee Override**

#06070810 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education authorize the District to levy .8380 mills on non-homestead property in the district, for an approximate value of \$148,000, as a direct result of the passage of the three mill Headlee Override Millage, approved by the District's voters on Tuesday, August 8, 2006. Ms. Stewart supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Approval of Bond Technology Purchase - Cabling**

#06070811 Mr. Wilson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves purchase order #0268D to Communications Infrastructure Resources, Inc. (CIR) for cabling in Kettering Elementary, totaling \$600.00. This item is to be charged to the 2001 Building and Site fund. Ms. Stewart supported.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Approval of District Whiteboard/Projector**

#06070812 Mr. Blakita moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve purchase order #0292D to Sehi, totaling \$147,948.33 for the purchase and installation of projectors and whiteboards throughout the district. These items are to be charged to the 2001 Building and Site fund. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 1 – Ms. Clay - Motion carried

#06070813

**Approval of Tentative Bargaining Agreement - WRAA**

Ms. Clay moved that the Willow Run Board of Education adopt and approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented, between the Willow Run Administrators Association and the District. Mr. Wilson supported.

Ayes: 6 - Mr. Wilson, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Blakita, Ms. Washington,  
Ms. Clay, Ms. Braxton  
Nays: 0 – Motion carried

**Citizens' Questions**

Mr. Wilde, Cheney attendance area, said the achievement gap is actually caused at the student-level and asked if we are going to bring in anyone to speak to the students to help them close the achievement gap. Regarding the number of telephones purchased by the district, he said it is hard to believe the district would not have saved money if the proper amount of phones were bought and overseen.

Ms. Beth Vonck, Holmes teacher, thanked the board for purchasing the white boards.

Ms. Kathleen Miller, WREA president, said the proposed calendar the board took action on, was not tentatively agreed to. She added in July a calendar was sent out by e-mail to the entire district and questioned if her unit is not part of the common goals presented at the superintendent/board work-study session and said she does not feel respected and that there is no honesty and a hidden agenda.

Mr. Tim King, said he is happy Sheri Washington is on the board and she will one-day make a very good senator or congresswoman. Mr. King also asked President Braxton to call him when the investigation he has asked for starts, so he can share past administrators' names and their information about this with her.

**Superintendent's Comments**

Dr. Ciranna told everyone the sale of Central Office was closed on this week and the building must be vacated by September 15th. He said the new home for Central Office will hinge on developing an Alternative Education program in a separate building, which will give suspended students a place to go to be educated, something that cannot happen while the Alternative Program is housed in the regular high school. He said the vision for the district shows the need for a 7-12 Alternative program, and that will be a two-year goal. He said with the move of the Alternative program to Thurston, the pre-kindergarten students will be moved to two buildings, one on the south-end and one on the north-end of the district. Part of the goal for Alternative Education is also to develop a credit recovery program and maybe a later start time for the students.

**Board Members' Comments**

Ms. Washington asked Mr. Twigg if alternatives to keeping the extra phones could have been presented two-years ago. He said they were and the district told him not to sell them.

Ms. Clay reminded everyone of the Heritage Festival and parade this weekend, as well as the Back-to-School Picnic on Thursday, August 24.

**President's Comments**

Ms. Braxton said she is looking forward to the beginning of the school year and said it is time to think about coming together and working as a family for our kids.

President Braxton declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.