

**WILLOW RUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Ypsilanti, Michigan**

REGULAR MEETING

January 21, 2010

The Board Meeting opened at 6:06 PM at Cheney Academy, 1500 Stamford Road, Ypsilanti, Michigan with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Renee Smith, Principal of Cheney Academy, welcomed everyone and introduced Cheney's talented musicians under the direction of Mr. Alan McWethy. The 5th grade band entertained the Board with three (3) renditions of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star", "Doodle All Day", and "Let's Go Band." A power point, with special thanks to Ms. Quigley, was presented showcasing the students and staff of Cheney Academy. Ms. Smith then recognized the staff and PTO members of Cheney Academy. An invitation was extended to the Board to visit Cheney during the day. They have an open door policy and share the same vision for success as the Board.

Those present were:

- Sheri Washington, President
- Dorothy Stewart, Treasurer
- Mark Wilde, Secretary
- Don Garrett, Trustee
- Clifford Smith, Trustee

Absent:

- Anglesia Brown, Trustee
- Joi Jenson, Trustee

Members of the Administrative Council Present Included:

- Laura Lisiscki, Acting Superintendent
- Renee Smith, Principal Cheney Academy
- Joe Ann Allen, Principal Ford Elementary
- Charles Raski, Principal Kaiser Elementary
- Kelly Webb, Principal Secondary Complex
- Laura Frey-Greathouse, Title I Coordinator
- Laconda Hicks, Director of Student Services
- Doris Hope-Jackson, Director of Information and Assessment
- Cecilia Queener, Human Resource Coordinator
- Dr. Joe Yomtoob, Consultant
- Bert Emerson, Consultant

Ms. Washington called the meeting to order at 6:26 p.m.

Acknowledgements/Correspondence

None

Consideration of Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

None

Approval of Agenda

#0910012101 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the agenda as amended.
Mr. Garrett supported.
Ayes – 5
Nays – 0 – motion carried

Approval of Minutes – Work/Study Meeting

#0910012102 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the minutes of the January 14, 2010 Work/Study Meeting. Ms. Stewart supported.
Ayes – 5
Nays – 0 – motion carried

Presentation

Ms. Lisiscki introduced Mr. Rick Leyshock and Ms. Holly Heaviland from Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD).

Mr. Leyshock indicated that they were representing Dr. Miller, WISD Superintendent, who was unable to make the meeting. They gave a presentation on forming a partnership with neighboring school districts, Ypsilanti and Lincoln.

Ms. Heaviland gave a presentation on different partnerships that are available. Ms. Webb and Ms. Hicks traveled to Indiana to tour a Tech High School Model, and there will be a sight opening in Washtenaw County. Other partnerships available include, but are not limited to, International Baccalaureate Program, Early College Alliances and the Simon Youth Foundation (Briarwood Mall; Bring school where the kids are).

Dr. Joe reported that he had a long meeting with Dr. Miller and explained in detail that they will work together to build Willow Run the way it was.

#0910012103 **Approval of Academic Credits in RCTC**

Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve up to one credit of Math be given in each of the following six courses: Auto Mechanics, Auto Collision, Construction Technology, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management, Graphic Arts and Computer Systems Technology.

And that the Board of Education approve up to one of Visual, Performing and Applied Arts in the following seven courses: Auto Mechanics, Auto Collision, Construction Technology, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management, Graphic Arts, Child Care Careers and Computer Systems Technology.
Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes – 5
Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Ms. Stewart stated that this was presented to the finance committee a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Smith commented that a lot of students will be glad to hear that they can get credits. Mr. Wilde noted that this would help regular students, not math majors.

Committee Reports

Finance

Ms. Stewart gave a report from the finance committee. November 10th – December 8th had a list of projects. On January 12th changes were reviewed and discussed. This is a lot of work and there will have to be additional cuts, but we cannot cut our way out of this. Dr. Joe will give a presentation. David Phillips of Superior Township is applying for a joint grant with Cheney Academy to improve the environment.

#0910012104 Approval of Monthly Bills Payable

Mr. Garrett moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the following General Fund Checks, check #52136 through and including check #52323 with the exception of voided checks as noted on page 11 of the General Fund Check Register; and no Building & Site Checks. Ms. Stewart supported.

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0 – motion carried

#0910012105 Approval of Leave

Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve to extend the medical leave of Angie Frausto, Para Educator, to begin February 2, 2010 through January 31, 2011. Ms. Stewart supported.

Ayes – 5- Mr. Garrett, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wilde, Ms. Washington

Nays – 0 – motion carried

#0910012106 Approval of Leave

Mr. Smith moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the FMLA of Doris Hope-Jackson, which began October 19, 2009 with a return date of November 23, 2009. Ms. Stewart supported.

Ayes – 5 – Mr. Garrett, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wilde, Ms. Washington

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Ms. Stewart questioned whether this needed to be voted on since it has already taken place.

#0910012107 Approval of Recall

Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the recall of Katie Carroll to Special Education Para Educator, effective January 25, 2010. Ms. Stewart supported.

Ayes – 5 – Mr. Garrett, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wilde, Ms. Washington

Nays – 0 – motion carried

#0910012108 Approval of Retirement

Mr. Garrett moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the retirement of Roscoe Cummings, Para Educator, effective December 31, 2009. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes – 5 – Mr. Garrett, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wilde, Ms. Washington

Nays – 0 – motion carried

#0910012109

Approval of Resolution

Ms. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education designate the Superintendent to enter into formal discussion with the School District of Ypsilanti, the Lincoln Consolidated School District and Washtenaw Intermediate School District to develop a plan for regional cooperative partnerships and agreements. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Ms. Lisiscki gave background on this resolution and referred the Board to the rational.

Citizen Questions

Ms. Jen Walker asked why are you pulling my son's teacher now, when she is the one who has helped him so much. Since her son has been at Ford, he has been doing extremely well. Ms. Rickman is an exceptional teacher. Ms. Lisiscki reassured her that we have exceptional teachers and they will be able to meet the needs of the students.

Dr. Doris Hope-Jackson announced that Laconda Hicks earned the title of Dr. Hicks in November 2009. She successfully defended her dissertation on teacher perceptions of professional development measure. Ms. Washington invited Ms. Hicks to the podium to speak on her own behalf. Ms. Hicks reiterated that she defended her dissertation on teacher perception on professional development using the RLAC data.

Mr. Dan O'Bryan expressed his concern over his son, Conner, having 37 pupils in his classroom and that he won't receive a good education. He asked if this was what the Board wanted. He also wanted to know why we are still paying Dr. Jackson, and to stop paying her instead of laying off teachers. Ms. Lisiscki asked that he give us time. We will utilize all our resources and people to be sure that not only your son, but all students receive a good education and that she will be making her rounds to the buildings. Mr. O'Bryan again asked why we are paying a superintendent that is pretty much doing nothing for our district. Ms. Washington indicated that this is a personnel issue and that is why it cannot be answered.

Mr. Phil McDermott spoke on the softball program and athletics as a whole. He wanted to be sure that the Board was aware of the fundraisers that the softball programs sponsor for St. Jude's and Breast Cancer Awareness.

Ms. Michelle King expressed her concerns regarding the oversized classrooms in the 1st and 2nd grades. Ms. Lisiscki apologized for what her son went through and some things are out of your control. She asked to give us six months to prove ourselves. Ms. King also asked why the librarians were cut. Ms. Lisiscki assured her that the students would still be visiting the library and the teachers are well equipped to utilize the media centers.

Ms. Chrisean Jones expressed her concern also about oversized classrooms and the difficulty of only having two (2) lunch aids. She also had a concern regarding the oversized classrooms and the number of male students in those classrooms.

Ms. Connie Brough asked what guidelines/rules were used when closing a building. Ms. Lisiski informed her that a rubric was used when the decision to close a building was made. All principals were included in gathering the information for the rubric.

Board/Superintendent Comments

Mr. Wilde announced that the hockey team was hosting a staff appreciation day at their game on Saturday, January 30th. Also the robotics is now housed at the High School.

Ms. Stewart voiced her concern regarding the funding in Michigan. We need to find new funding mechanisms. Our children's education is #1. We all need to put pressure on the state representatives.

Mr. Smith indicated that all districts are in the same bag. Ypsilanti is cutting just like we are.

Mr. Wilde shared that Saline is laying off Math teachers at the High School and Ann Arbor is also cutting.

Mr. Garrett stated that we are in this together. This did not happen overnight; we have to be accountable. At the end of six months we should evaluate and see. Stick with the Board and community. Kids are important to us.

Adjournment

Mr. Garrett moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Wilde supported.

Meeting adjourned 7:30 PM