

WILLOW RUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Ypsilanti, Michigan

REGULAR MEETING

February 18, 2010

The Board Meeting opened at 6:37 p.m. at Willow Run High School, 235 Spencer Lane, Ypsilanti, Michigan with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Those present were:

Dorothy Stewart, Treasurer
Mark Wilde, Secretary
Don Garrett, Trustee
Clifford Smith, Trustee
Anglesia Brown, Trustee
Joi Jenson, Trustee

Those absent were:

Sheri Washington, President

Members of the Administrative Council Present Included:

Laura Lisiscki, Acting Superintendent
Kelly Webb, Secondary Complex Principal
JoeAnn Allen, Principal Ford Elementary
Renee Smith, Principal Cheney Academy
Beth Vonck, Acting Principal Holmes Elementary
Cecilia Queener, Human Resource Coordinator
Dr. Joe Yomtoob, Consultant to the Board
Bert Emerson, Finance Consultant
Laura Frey-Greathouse, Title I Coordinator

Mr. Wilde called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

Excellence in Education

Dr. Joe introduced Dr. Benjamin. Dr. Joe gave a presentation on a planning scenario for Willow Run Community Schools, International Baccalaureate program and research based best practice, "Seven Correlates of Effective Schools," by Dr. Larry Lezotte. In regards to the International Baccalaureate program, there are not many elementary schools in Michigan, they are mostly secondary, and this is a K-12 program. The plan would be to have a K-6 program. The cost would be staff development which could be included in Title I and At-Risk funds. The first step is to share with the building principals. The first building block will be one building, K-8 or K-6. Ms. Stewart agreed that it sounds like a good idea. Ms. Jenson wanted to know if students would be able to study abroad. It is a possibility. Dr. Benjamin indicated that he's known Dr. Joe for many years and that Dr. Joe works with his hands, heart and head. Dr. Benjamin spoke of bringing the district to financial stability, best practices and attractive programs. An invitation was sent to the Willow Run Community Schools Teachers to work on a Grant Proposal, on a voluntary basis, Best Practices with Instructional Leadership (teachers) that will involve communication with schools across the country. Mr. Smith thanked Dr. Benjamin for coming.

Consideration of Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Addition – IX.a. Approval of Agreement

Approval of Agenda

#0910021801 Ms. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the agenda as amended.
Mr. Smith supported.
Ayes – 6
Nays – 0 – motion carried

Approval of Minutes

#0910021802 Ms. Brown moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the minutes as presented from the Special Board Meeting of January 28, 2010 and the Work/Study Meeting of February 4, 2010.
Mr. Smith supported.
Ayes – 6
Nays – 0 – motion carried

Communications

Ms. Lisiscki read a correspondence from a Kaiser Elementary parent.

Mr. William McFarland from Superior Township introduced Ms. Brenda McKinney, Superior Township Treasurer. He commented that the School Board is moving in the right direction. Mr. McFarland gave a brief discussion on the agreement on energy efficiency with Cheney Academy. The Superior Township Board is supporting Willow Run Community Schools and applauds the Board for the positive direction they are moving.

Ms. Brenda McKinney wanted the board know that the township continues to support Willow Run.

Board Committee Reports

Finance – Ms. Stewart read the minutes from last meeting. Ms. Lisiscki met with Adult Education regarding WCC. Ms. Stewart indicated that good ideas are being implemented.

Policy – Ms. Jenson informed the Board that the committee met, but minutes were not available.

Athletic Council – Ms. Jenson informed the Board that they met yesterday.

New/Old Business

None

#0910021803 **Approval of Use of Supplemental Instruction**

Mr. Garrett moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the use of e2020 to supplement and aid students in credit recovery. Ms. Stewart Supported.

Ayes – 6
Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Ms. Laura Frey-Greathouse, Title I Coordinator, and Mr. Greg Bishop, e2020 representative gave a brief presentation.

#0910021804 **Approval of Overnight Field Trip**

Ms. Brown moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the overnight field trip of the Robotics Team on March 3 through March 7, 2010 in Traverse City. Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Mr. Scott Heister, Teacher, showed the Board the Robotics website, team66.com that the students are developing. Information on the trip can be found on the website. The \$10,000 entry fee and the Robot Kit are being paid for by GM. Also, the Robotics Team is now being co-sponsored by Zingermans. Robotics is now a class.

#0910021805 **Approval of Agreement**

Ms. Brown moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the agreement between Superior Charter Township and Willow Run Community Schools to enter into a preliminary agreement to partner in submitting an application for a grant from the Michigan Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes – 6 –Mr. Garrett, Ms. Brown, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Ms. Jenson, Mr. Wilde

Nays – 0 – motion carried

#0910021806 **Approval of Layoff**

Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the layoff of the custodian listed below, effective February 9, 2010. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes – 6 –Mr. Garrett, Ms. Brown, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Ms. Jenson, Mr. Wilde

Nays – 0 – motion carried

#0910021807 **Approval of FMLA**

Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the FMLA of Dianne Smith, Management Support, which began February 12, 2010 with an expected return date of March 15, 2010. Mr. Garrett supported.

Ayes – 6 –Mr. Garrett, Ms. Brown, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Ms. Jenson, Mr. Wilde

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Citizen Questions

Phil McDermott commented that he was glad to hear that there is an Athletic Council; it is the first positive thing in a long time. He wanted to voice his concerns on the softball funding being pulled for JV and Middle School. We have 30 girls that want to play. There are 30-35 at the Middle School. The girls need to be taught; they cannot start at the Varsity Level. They are a great group of kids. They all have a 3.5 grade point and up. He asked the Board to reconsider. Ms. Lisiscki reminded him that the program was not cut; alternate funding is needed. She told him he should meet with Mr. Greene.

Board/Superintendent Comments

Ms. Lisiscki commented that there will be many programs. It will be a tiered system to keep integrity. She and Ms. Webb will be visiting a model of a Cyber School next week. Ms. Lisiscki invited Ms. Gibbs to speak in regards to the correspondence that was read earlier. She let the Board know that she is a proud parent and thanked everyone and asked that they strive to make our programs strong. Stay focused and keep the faith.

Mr. Smith commented on the Board Retreat given by Ben Yomtoob and Dr Joe. It was the best in a long time. It was a very good presentation. Thank Ben for us, we appreciated it.

#0910021808 **Approval to Move to Closed Session**

Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education move to closed session to consider a confidential attorney client privileged communication under Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act.

Ms. Brown supported.

Ayes – 6 –Mr. Garrett, Ms. Brown, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Ms. Jenson, Mr. Wilde

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Moved to Closed Session at 8:17 p.m.

Moved to Open Session at 9:08 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:09 p.m.