

WILLOW RUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Ypsilanti, Michigan

REGULAR MEETING

May 20, 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.

During citizens' time, there was a question regarding the agenda. Ms. Jenson asked if county wide does that means it is in and does it ensure that it will sustain our union members. It was indicated that it is only possible to hire our staff.

Those present were:

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

Those absent were:

Anglesia Brown, Trustee
Aricka Terry, Student Representative

Members of the Administrative Council Present Included:

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

Ms. Washington called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

Excellence in Education

Dr. Joe's Most Improved Award

Ms. Lisiscki introduced Dr. Joe and thanked Mrs. Yomtoob for loaning him to us. Dr. Joe stated that he is proud of our teaching staff and is very happy to be here. He asked Ms. JoeAnn Allen to join him and explain the award. Ms. Allen explained that each year students are nominated by the staff and one most improved student from each building is selected. The award is named in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Yomtoob's son. Dr. Joe suggested that the savings bond they receive be a down payment for college. The recipients are as follows:

Cheney Academy – Kyra Searcy

Ms. Smith – This is a fine young lady, she always tries her best. Kyra is a member of the safety patrol and is always on her post.

Holmes Elementary – Marissa Kyle

Mrs. Jenkins & Ms. Gorbaty – Marissa has blossomed in all areas. She has had a 3 year gain in reading, 2 year gain in math and took 1st place in the district science fair.

Ford Elementary – Bernice Stone

Ms. Allen – Bernice is always doing the right thing.
Middle School – Devon Blake
Mrs. Boyer-Littlefield & Mrs. Pierce – Devon is always willing to volunteer. He has more friends than I have. He has improved in all areas; behavior, academics and friendships.
High School – Amanda Lazaka
Ms. Webb – Amanda did not want to come to school. She has improved in this area and her grades reflect the improvement.
Kaiser Elementary – Anastasia Jones
Mr. Raski – Anastasia was not able to make it. With the help of Ms. Hopkins, her teacher, she has improved in science and math. She is a good citizen.

Willow Run Middle School Presentation

Three Middle School students, Ameka Okaphur, Anthony Milian and Rachel Cook gave a presentation on Computer Aided Design (CAD).

Willow Run High School Presentation

The Bright Future Site Coordinator gave a slide show presentation on the Learn and Serve project that our students participated in. The presentation included a song that was created and sung by our students to reflect the Willow Run Community Garden.

Consideration of Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

None

Approval of Agenda

#0910052001 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the Agenda as presented.
Mr. Garrett supported.
Ayes – 5
Nays – 0 – motion carried

Approval of Minutes

#0910052002 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the minutes as amended from the Work/Study Board Meeting of May 6, 2010.
Mrs. Stewart supported.
Ayes – 5
Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Mrs. Stewart indicated the changes that needed to be made to the minutes.

Communications

None

Board Committee Reports

Finance – Mrs. Stewart gave a brief update to the Board and gave them copies of the minutes from May 11th. The DEP is still a work in progress. Dr. Joe presented a marketing plan to the committee and brochures will be passed out and a full page ad was taken out. The committee suggests that the current administration team be kept; Laura Lisiscki, Bert Emerson and Dr. Yomtoob. Mrs. Stewart asked Dr. Emerson if he had anything to add. “Nothing additional.” Mr. Smith made additional comments and thanked the teachers.

Policy – Mr. Wilde is to meet with Dr. Yomtoob Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. at Central Office.

Athletic Council – The committee did not meet. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26th at 4:00 p.m. in the forum room.

New/Old Business

Naming of the Softball Field Discussion

Mr. Garrett informed the Board that Mr. Greene will put together a committee. We will move forward with this. Three (3) names will be brought to the Board by the committee. The person has to be deceased. Community members and the committee will choose the three (3) people. The meetings will be a separate schedule than the Athletic Council meetings.

Elevated Dress Code Discussion

Ms. Lisiscki gave a brief explanation and asked the Board to discuss the entire High School having an elevated dress code. Ms. Webb informed the Board that the Willow Run High School staff together, as a team, came up with the following dress code for boys: no denim bottoms, only khaki, black or blue bottoms and solid shirts with collars. Out of 30 families at the Sophomore Academy meeting, only one (1) parent was not in favor of a dress code. We are checking into having red polo's with each individual club or sport monogrammed on them. The goal is to have everyone "dress for success". Some schools have different colors for each grade. To be sure there is parent involvement, phone calls will be made, mailings will be sent and other events will be held. Uniforms would be mandatory and in future years, a uniform swap would be held. Ms. Miller, High School teacher, gave a teachers perspective.

#0910052003 Acceptance of Donation to Cheney Academy

Mrs. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept a check in the amount of \$500.00 from Mr. Aaron Hatch to Cheney Academy.

Mr. Smith Supported

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Renee Smith, Cheney Principal, explained that Mr. Hatch is a 71 year old man that googled Johnney Cheney. He then emailed Ms. Smith and asked if Cheney Academy was named after Ms. Cheney. Ms. Smith replied yes to him and they developed an online friendship. He is retired from NASSA. Ms. Queener gave a "Story of Willow Run" book to Ms. Smith, who mailed it to Mr. Hatch. To her surprise, Ms. Smith came to work one day to find a \$500.00 donation from Mr. Hatch.

#0910052004 Acceptance of Donation to Willow Run High School

Mr. Smith moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the donation of parts and service for the Willow Run High School Athletic ice machine from Bill and Sandy French.

Mrs. Stewart Supported

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Ms. Webb explained that the ice machine in Athletics did not work and that Ms. Yaminah Smith, the athletic trainer, would bring bags of ice in everyday. Ms. Webb had asked Bill and Sandy French if they had an extra ice machine from the closing of Cady's, explaining to them that the ice machine in the athletic department did not work. They did not have a spare machine but, instead, they paid for the parts and arranged for their service man to do the repairs. He came out about six or seven times to work on the machine and Bill and Sandy French paid for the invoices. The ice machine now works. Ms. Webb wanted to thank them again.

Curriculum

#0910052005 Approval of Out of State Field Trip

Mr. Garrett moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the out of state field trip of Cheney Academy, Kindergarten through 6th grades, on June 4, 2010 to the Toledo Zoo, Toledo, Ohio.

Mr. Smith Supported

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0 – motion carried

#0910052006 Approval of Purchase of Supplemental Title I Program

Ms. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the purchase of 45 licenses for SuccessMaker software in Math and Reading from NCS Pearson in the amount of \$53,650.00.

Mr. Wilde Supported

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Ms. Lisiscki explained that Title I teachers would be trained to use the software. Casey Quigley gave a brief explanation of the software. Doug Barrow of Pearson gave a presentation, "Using Technology to Teach the Digital Natives". He informed the Board that more examples of the software can be found on successmaker.com.

#0910052007 Approval of Out of State Conference

Mr. Garrett moved that the Willow Run Board of Education Approve the out of state conference for a total of 22 staff members to attend "Using the Correlates of Effective Schools to Improve Student Learning" in Chicago, Illinois on July 8 and July 9, 2010, not to exceed \$12,000.

Mrs. Stewart Supported

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Mr. Smith stated that he spoke with Dr. Joe regarding this. He is glad to see us start using Title I monies to get staff developed. Ms. Lisiscki explained that this is across the district; representatives from each building will be going. Dr. Joe indicated that this is not a fad. It is his hope that this becomes our solid base.

Financial/Administrative Services

#0910052008 Approval of Monthly Bills Payable

Mrs. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the following General Fund Checks, check #52932 through and including check #53109 with the exception of voided checks as noted on page 10 of the General Fund Check Register, totaling the amount of \$1,400,422.09; and Building & Site check #1537 in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0 – motion carried

#0910052009 Approval of Transportation Consolidation

Mr. Smith moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the Transportation Consolidation between Willow Run Community Schools and Washtenaw Intermediate School District to begin September 1, 2010

Mr. Wilde supported.

Roll Call

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

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Mr. Garrett is concerned that our bus drivers' hours are going to be cut. If there is a field trip, for example, to the Toledo Zoo, the driver will not be paid for down time. There are rumors going around. Mr. Emerson explained the process in offering jobs to anyone who wants the jobs. The terms on day one may change because they have a right to unionize, then the terms are subject to negotiations. State and Federal law mandates that when people are working, you have to pay them while either driving or sitting on the bus. Ms. Lisiscki informed the Board that she received a letter from AFSCME indicating a demand to bargain. She asked when and where and indicated that she would be there.

Personnel

#0910052010

Award of Tenure

Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education award tenure to the following teacher on the recommendation of the superintendent, effective 2008-2009 school year:

Charlotte Tillerson, Kaiser Elementary and Ford Elementary

Mr. Smith Supported

Roll Call

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

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Ms. Tillerson was presented with a Certificate of Tenure.

#0910052011

Award of Tenure

Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education award tenure to the following teacher on the recommendation of the building principal which is also supported by the superintendent, effective 2010-2011 school year:

Rhonda Potts-Alexander, Holmes Elementary

Mr. Smith Supported

Roll Call

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

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Mrs. Potts-Alexander was presented with a Certificate of Tenure.

#0910052012

Approval of Leave

Mr. Garrett moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the FMLA of Carrie Thacker, Custodian, which began May 3, 2010 with an expected return date of May 31, 2010.

Mrs. Stewart Supported

Roll Call

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

Nays – 0 – motion carried

#0910052013

Approval of Contract

Mr. Smith moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the attached work schedule and compensation (\$500.00/day) for Independent Contracted Services between Willow Run Community Schools and Dr. Youssef Yomtoob, through June 30, 2011.

Mr. Wilde Supported

Roll Call

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

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Mr. Smith indicated that this is an extension of the current contract. This will be an annual contract.

Dr. Joe let the Board know that he met with next year's staff at the Middle School. bWe jelled well.

He also indicated that Central Office is a great team.

#0910052014 **Approval of Contract**

Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the attached Agreement for Independent Contractor Services between Willow Run Community Schools and Bert Emerson Consulting, L.L.C., for the service of Director of Business Services, at a rate of \$100.00/hour (discounted to \$90.00/hour until the District's fund equity returns to more than zero), through June 30, 2011.

Mr. Smith Supported

Roll Call

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

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Mr. Smith stated that he is usually tough on financial people. Bert is the best we've seen lately in Willow Run and is pleased to vote for this contract.

#0910052015 **Approval of Contract**

Mr. Smith moved that the Willow Run Board of Education ratify the changes to the collective bargaining agreement between Willow Run Board of Education and the Washtenaw County Education Association as attached.

Mr. Garrett Supported

Roll Call

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

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Mr. Smith thanked everyone involved. This is very big and we appreciate the teachers. Dr. Emerson wanted to recognize the teachers. Ms. Lisicki indicated that this was a very painstaking process. We are in difficult times, but we are moving forward. The teachers made a huge sacrifice when they ratified. Thank you WREA.

Student Discipline

#0910052016 **Approval of Suspension/Expulsion**

Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept time served of the student known to the board as #0520100530.

Mr. Garrett Supported

Roll Call

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

Nays – 0 – motion carried

#0910052017 **Approval of Suspension/Expulsion**

Mr. Garrett moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept 5 days suspension as time served of the student known to the board as #0520100600.

Mr. Garrett Supported

Roll Call

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

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Citizen's Time

Ms. Cheryl McClee introduced herself as a Willow Run resident and a parent. She indicated that she is an advocate of the dress code, but has not heard a thing regarding it. Parents need to be involved. She is glad that Dr. Joe is coming on board, but who will cover when he is not there. The community needs to know in writing what will go on.

Mr. Andy Blakita wanted to be sure that the timeline and due process is being followed after the resignation of the board member.

Mr. John Brooks let the Board know that he is 190% in favor of the dress code. When Dr. Jenkins was the principal, he made sure the students dressed appropriately.

Ms. Renee Smith commented on the cheerleading competition and let everyone know that Cheney came in first. Also, the old timers beat the young timers in the alumni softball game, 9-5.

Ms. Kathleen Miller, Unit Director of the WREA, thanked everyone for the positive comments. We worked together as a team. It is not a good contract, but it is the best we could do at this time. The climate at the bargaining table was the best I have ever seen. I was impressed with the clean honest integrity of the team. We felt their pain and they felt our pain. We do the best for these children, the teachers showed they really care.

Miscellaneous

Board Comments

Ms. Washington – Kathleen, we know that it was not easy, but you sat side by side, something that was necessary. Yes, a board member did resign. Postings went up in all the buildings and ads in the papers. We are learning. Continue to work with us and keep all feet on the floor.

Meeting Adjourned