

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

**WORK/STUDY MEETING**

**May 6, 2010**

The Board Meeting opened at 6:36 p.m. at Willow Run High School, 235 Spencer Lane, Ypsilanti, Michigan, with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Those present were:

- Sheri Washington, President
- Mark Wilde, Secretary
- Dorothy Stewart, Treasurer
- Don Garrett, Trustee
- Anglesia Brown, Trustee
- Joi Jenson, Trustee – Left at 9:30 p.m.
- Clifford Smith, Trustee

Those absent were:

- 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 6:38 p.m.

**Excellence in Education**

**Freshman Academy Presentation**

Natalie Turner, Title I Teacher and Kelly Webb, Secondary Complex Principal, gave a presentation on the Freshman Academy to be implemented in the fall of 2010. The role of the Freshman Academy is to reduce stress of incoming freshman. The need was demonstrated by statistics taken from the current 9<sup>th</sup> grade class. In April, 2010, teachers were surveyed asking who was interested in being part of the Freshman Academy Team. The team is as follows:

- Kelly Webb, Principal
- Laura Frey-Greathouse, Team Training and Development
- Dina DiDario, Counselor
- Jacqueline Clegg, Math
- Matthew Siedl, ELA
- Blake Nordman, Social Studies
- Kathleen Miller, Science
- John Korican, Electives Leader
- Rhonda Williams, Special Education
- Natalie Turner, Title I

The Freshman Academy will be housed in the back hall near the counseling center.

## **Consideration of Additions or Deletions to the Agenda**

None

### **Approval of Agenda**

#0910050601 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the Agenda as presented.  
Mr. Smith supported.  
Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0 – motion carried

### **Approval of Minutes**

#0910050602 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the minutes as presented from the Work/Study Board Meeting of April 15, 2010.  
Mr. Smith supported.  
Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0 – motion carried

## **Communications**

### **Transportation Consolidation Presentation**

Mr. Brian Marcel of Washtenaw Intermediate School District and Mr. Jim Regan of Transportation Specialties LLC, gave a presentation on the consolidation of transportation.

### **Discussion**

Ms. Jenson wanted to know if current employees are guaranteed to be hired. There is no guarantee that current employees will be hired, but most will be. The hiring criteria will be fair. Mr. Smith stated to keep jobs and pensions, this is our best option. Ms. Lisiscki stated that we do not want to outsource; this will not be easy, a lot of these employees are community members. The state wants to mandate that all non-instructional services be consolidated. Ms. Stewart clarified that if we do not meet our DEP requirements, we may all lose our jobs. Mr. Korte had questions from the previous meeting that was held at the WISD; if you did not pick the state pension was there another option. Mr. Emerson explained that the DEP does anticipate a savings of \$250,000 in transportation. If the board decides not to consolidate transportation other cuts would have to be made. Mr. Marcel stated that the routing guidelines do not allow for districts to pick up students in other districts. More questions may be answered on the Washtenaw ISD website. Mr. Johnston voiced his concern regarding the bid process for aftermarket parts.

### **International Baccalaureate Presentation**

A hand out on International Baccalaureate was given by Laura Lisiscki and a presentation was given to the Board of Education.

### **Discussion**

There is a possibility for grant funding depending on the degree of need. The funding will be for teacher training. Dr. Joe intends to survey present staff to see who is interested. Willow Run would be the first school in the county to have the program at the elementary level. Ms. Washington shared with the Board that she visited an IB school in Metro Nashville and that the process is very involved. Dr. Joe is very excited about the program. He heard a comment outside the district, "You can't do this and your teachers can't handle it." He is going to prove them wrong.

### **Board Committee Reports**

**Finance** – Mrs. Stewart reported. We are close with the State approval of our DEP but they are not ready to sign off yet. There is a need for marketing.

**Policy** – Mr. Wilde stated that the committee will meet next week.

**Athletic Council** – Ms. Jenson reported on the meetings of April 14<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup>. Copies of the minutes were supplied to the Board. The next meeting will be May 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the Forum Room.

**Education Reform** – Ms. Washington gave an overview.

**New/Old Business**

#0910050603 **Acceptance of Donation to Ford Elementary**

Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the donation of plants valued at \$150.00 from Steve Sclater of Nature's Garden Center in Saline, Michigan.

Mrs. Stewart Supported

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0 – motion carried

**Discussion**

The flowers are planted in the courtyard at Ford Elementary School and that thank you notes from the students should be sent.

**Naming of the Willow Run Softball Field**

**Discussion**

A request is being made to name the Willow Run softball The "Chuck Koch" Field. Board Policy was discussed and there needs to be recorded documentation of Board discussion supporting the naming of the field. Mr. Garrett explained that there were plans to name the field on May 15<sup>th</sup> but could not be voted on; it is critical that the policy needs to be followed. Mr. McDermott stated that this has been ongoing for more than a year and somebody dropped the ball. On Saturday, May 15, 2010 the Annual Breast Cancer Alumni softball game and there are plans to have Mr. Koch's family present. He asked the board the review expeditiously. Mr. Smith stated that the board cannot change policy. The Board has a responsibility to follow policy. Ms. Washington asked to meet with Mr. McDermott and Coach Edwards tomorrow at 2:30 p.m.

**Curriculum**

#0910050604 **Approval of Out of State Field Trip**

Mrs. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the out of state field trip of Kaiser Elementary students on May 11, 2010 and May 21, 2010 to the Toledo Zoo,

Ms. Jenson Supported

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0 – motion carried

**Discussion**

Ms. Lisiscki informed the Board that Sandy Fisher came in and completed the Target Grant to fund this trip.

#0910050605 **Approval of Out of State Field Trip**

Ms. Brown moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the out of state field trip of the Willow Run Head Start Preschool Program on May 28, 2010 to the Toledo Zoo, Toledo, Ohio.

Mrs. Stewart Supported

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0 – motion carried

#0910050606 **Approval of Contract**

Mrs. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the 2011 sponsorship agreement for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. In the amount not to exceed \$5,000; to be a host site for the 2011 Scripps National Spelling Bee for Washtenaw Count.

Mrs. Jenson Supported  
Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0 – motion carried

**Discussion**

There were 28 Willow Run students that participated. The students were very excited and we had one student place in the top five and two students place in the top ten.

#0910050607 **Approval of Purchase – Cope Slots**

Mrs. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the purchase of 15 full day COPE slots for the 2010-2011 school year, in the amount of \$105,000.

Mr. Wilde Supported  
Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0 – motion carried

**Discussion**

Ms. Washington wants to look at what it would take to have a site here. Dr. Joe let the Board know that this has been investigated and that if we had our own site, the cost is much higher. Ms. Lisiscki reported that there is a study being done to consolidate Ypsilanti, Willow Run, Lincoln and Ann Arbor Alternative Education.

#0910050608 **Approval of Resolution – “Race to the Top”**

Mr. Garret moved that the Willow Run Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools and the Board President to act upon the Memorandum of Understanding for the “Race to the Top” grant application as it becomes available.

Ms. Stewart Supported  
Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0 – motion carried

**Discussion**

This resolution was previously done. Michigan didn’t make the first cut, and there is new state grant.

#0910050609 **Approval of Purchase of Training**

Mrs. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the purchase of the training listed on the attached purchase order to the Boomerang project in the amount of \$13,170.090 which is training for the leaders to run the program for the Freshman Academy mentoring Program.

Mr. Smith Supported  
Ayes – 5  
Nays – 2 – motion carried

**Discussion**

Ms. Washington confirmed that Board approval is not needed for the program. Mr. Garrett wanted to know if the freshmen are in a designated hall; will they be able to interact with 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. He also wanted to know if there is another school district similar to our demographics, comparing Pinckney and Willow Run is like comparing apples and oranges. Ms. Turner stated that there are schools in Dayton, Kentucky and many others with schools like ours. Ms. Brown wanted to know about the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades; they have many issues that need attention. This is for the freshmen, when they start receiving credits for graduation. We are not ignoring the other grades. Pinckney was visited after many discussions. They have a huge diversity. Ms. Washington wanted to know why more staff were mentioned than are listed on the PO. A couple of the team have previous commitments; it is the last week for seniors. The Link Crew will involve the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders mentoring the 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Ms. Washington would like to see this have an identity, believe in

it and brand it. Teams have been formed and they will design t-shirts. Ms. Washington would like to see it branded at the program level. Parents are being asked to commit to four weeks in the summer. There is a process for orientating students.

#0910050610 **Approval of Purchase of Supplemental Materials**

Mr. Garrett moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the purchase of the materials listed on the attached purchase order to School Specialty in the amount of \$6,859.92, which are supplemental materials needed for the project based learning re: Freshman Academy.

Mrs. Stewart Supported

Ayes – 5

Nays – 2 – motion carried

#0910050611 **Approval of Overnight Field Trip**

Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve Henry J. Kaiser Elementary fifth and sixth graders' overnight field trip to the YMCA Nature Center, Kimball Camp in Reading, Michigan on May 10<sup>th</sup> through May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Mrs. Stewart Supported

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0 – motion carried

**Financial/Administrative Services**

#0910050612 **Approval of Board Resolution Granting Trustee Status**

Mr. Garrett moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the Board Resolution, the appointment of Bert Emerson as the institution's designated Trustee, Rodney Ranger as the Alternate Trustee and Bert Emerson as Risk Management Coordinator.

Mrs. Stewart supported.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0 – motion carried

#0910050613 **Washtenaw Intermediate School District Budget Resolution**

Ms. Brown moved that the Willow Run Board of Education adopt the following resolution concerning Washtenaw Intermediate School District budget:

**WHEREAS**, Section 624 of the Revised School Code, as amended require the intermediate school board to submit its proposed budget not later than May 1 of each year to the board of each constituent district for review; and

**WHEREAS**, not later than June 1 of each year, the board of each constituent district shall review the proposed intermediate school district budget, shall adopt a board resolution expressing its support for or disapproval of the proposed intermediate school district budget, and shall submit to the intermediate school district board any specific objections and proposed changes to the constituent district board has to the budget.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The board of education has received and reviewed the proposed intermediate school district budget in accordance with Section 624 of the Revised School Code, as amended, and by the adoption of this resolution, **expresses its support for the proposed school district budget.**
2. The secretary of the board of education or his/her designee shall forward a copy of this resolution to the intermediate school board or its superintendent no later than June 1, 2010.
3. All resolutions insofar as they conflict with this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0 – motion carried

**Personnel**

None

**Citizen's Time**

Mr. Ray Korte, Chief Stewart, AFSCME Local 3451, wanted to discuss his concerns in regards to the consolidation of transportations. There are no guarantees that our employees will be hired and

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those that are will be at will employees. Ann Arbor schools worked something out that should be looked into. He also wanted the Board to be aware that we now have a new council representative, Leroy Carter.

Mr. Phil McDermott wanted to let the board know about a positive thing that happened. A group collected money to contribute to offset the cuts. AFSCME Local 3451 did this unselfish act. This group includes maintenance, transportation, kitchen and janitorial staff. I want to be sure they get the recognition they deserve and thank them.

**Miscellaneous**

**Board Comments**

Mr. Garrett – Keep the course; keep the drive; keep positive.

Ms. Washington – Our situation is dire not impossible. Our DEP is not approved yet.

#0910050614 **Closed Session**

Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education move to closed session for personnel matters at 9:45 pm.

#0910041508 **Open Session**

It was moved that the Willow Run Board of Education move to open session.

Meeting Adjourned