

WILLOW RUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Ypsilanti, Michigan

REGULAR MEETING

June 17, 2010

The Board Meeting opened at 6:34 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 – arrived at 6:30 pm
Clifford Smith, Trustee
Anglesia Brown, Trustee
Kristine Thomas, Trustee

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
Cecilia Queener, Human Resource Coordinator
Dr. Joe Yomtoob, Consultant to the Board
Bert Emerson, Finance Consultant
Lynne Schweinsberg, Director of Dining Services
Torrence Greene, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal Secondary Complex
Rod Ranger, Accounts Payable Facilitator

Ms. Washington called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Excellence in Education

Head Start Presentation

Ms. Smith gave a PowerPoint presentation on Head Start; an overview of the program “A Day in the Life of a Preschooler”. She invited the Board, next fall, to come and see our youngest learners. “You are always welcome.”

Lawson Memorial Scholarship Presentation

Mrs. Lawson introduced herself and her son Ted Lawson. Her late husband, Alan Lawson, was a member of the Willow Run Board of Education from 1969-1974. He was president for two (2) years. The scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior. Dividend funds from a life insurance policy fund the Scholarship. A good friend of Allen’s, Eugene Morita, helped her work out the criteria for the scholarship. She then turned it over to the Math Department to make the selection. The recipient of this year’s scholarship is David Martin. Ms. Webb accepted the scholarship for David. Ms. Webb described David as a bright student. He was co-salutatorian. He was a member of the Robotics Team and will be attending the University of Ohio.

Approval of Agenda

#0910061701 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the Agenda as presented.
Mrs. Stewart supported.
Ayes – 7
Nays – 0 – motion carried

Approval of Minutes

#0910061702 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the minutes as presented from the Regular Board Meeting of June 3, 2010.
Mrs. Thomas supported.
Ayes – 7
Nays – 0 – motion carried

Communications

None

Board Committee Reports

Finance – Mrs. Stewart reported that a meeting was held on Tuesday. They are putting a book together of the minutes to keep in Central Office. There are many items for the agenda for the Special Board Meeting on June 24, 2010.

New/Old Business

#0910061703 **Contract with MASB**

Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to sign a contract with Michigan Association of School Boards to revise and update policies and regulations (option 2) not exceeding \$9,000.
Mrs. Stewart supported.
Ayes – 7
Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Mr. Smith commented that this is needed; we haven't updated in the last 15 years. Once received from the State, Dr. Joe and Mr. Wilde will review. Ms. Washington wanted to know how soon we can expect to kick this off. It takes from 1-10 years. It is the hope that this summer Mr. Wilde and Dr. Joe will work together. This is a one time purchase. Ms. Washington wanted to be sure when we purchase this and log into the database that we do not incur extra costs. We need to be diligent in keeping up on changes.

Discussion of AFJROTC Program

Ms. Lisiscki invited the Board to discuss the JROTC program. We need two (2) instructors to support the program. A discussion is needed so that an informed decision can be made. The Finance Committee has discussed the program already. Mr. Emerson informed the Board that we have received communication from the Air Force. The contract was signed years ago that requires two (2) instructors; currently we have only one (1) instructor. The Air Force reimburses approximately _ the cost of an instructor. We are spending almost \$86,000 and reimbursed \$22,200, which leaves a net cost of \$60,000. My concern is the deficit; we are going in the opposite direction. We have 16 students per class, 53 students in a 5 hour day. We were up 5 students 2nd semester. Elementary classes have three times the number of students in a classroom. The budget has one (1) instructor not two (2). With this cost to the budget, we add to the deficit. Mr. Smith stated that this was discussed in the finance committee. The program was designed for 80/81 students. The first year we had 85. This is a positive program for the entire area; we had great fan fare throughout the County. Ms. Karen Butzin had sent an email in the hope of maintaining the program. One young man, Mr. Powder, received \$100,000 scholarship from U of M to attend the ROTC program there. Mrs. Thomas echoes what was said by Mr. Smith. This program is a positive influence for a lot of people. It teaches respect for others and yourself. We cannot lose another program. Mr. Wilde feels that this program should not be eliminated. A student was expelled and was declined reentry and was sentenced to him to the ROTC program and the student was very thankful. We as a district owe all of our students the opportunity. Sergeant Eddy and Mr. Wilde had a discussion on expanding the program to the middle school level. Base on dollars and cents, 40% of is covered by the Air Force. Funds are also supplied by the Air Force for Supplies and Field Trips. We should consider the course work as a science credit. Sergeant Eddy informed the Board that he has a \$6,000-\$7,000 budget from the Air Force for

uniforms and a \$1,500 budget for supplies for classroom operations. The Air Force has also supplied two (2) desks and laptops. The students have been to Tuskegee Alabama, Melton Field, Atlanta and Chicago. There are many opportunities open for students. Ms. Washington stated that we have to look at the financials, hear from students. I would like the students to share with us now. Ms. Washington asked the students to share what they think the value of the program in Willow Run School and as a district, from a personal perspective. Mrs. Katherine "Thomas" Marchland, 2008 Graduate: Many people can benefit from the program. Tom took me under his wing. Six (6) years ago I would not have been able to stand and speak; I did not have the confidence. I would hate to see the program go. Thomas Humbarger, 2006 Graduate: ROTC students are involved in community serve. We served meals at Soup Kitchens and Clark Towers. All the field trips are paid for by the Air Force and student fund raising. Steven Harris, 1st year in program: I joined 2nd semester. I was having a bad struggle. I had dropped out of one school and was kicked out of another. Once I joined, my grades shot up and I maintained them. I was in trouble with the law and the program got me out of trouble. I learned self discipline. We strive to be what we want to be. Thank you. Another student, a junior: She started the program in her freshman year and didn't care. She was wild. Once she started to embrace it, she changed. Ms Washington asked the students to think about the next question and be ready to answer it during citizen's time. If this program were to stay and expand, what kind of benefit would it have for other schools and the district?

Curriculum

#0910061704 Approval of Out of State Conference

Mrs. Thomas moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the out of state conference for Debra Swanson to the Leadership Institute in Reading Apprenticeship, August 9-13, 2010 in Plymouth Meeting, PA. Conference registration made payable to WestEd/SLI in the amount of \$4,000; travel, lodging and meals not to exceed \$2,500.

Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Ms. Lisiscki noted that Ms. Swanson is not here but Ms. Quigley can speak about the conference. Ms. Quigley stated that she attended this conference years ago. This conference will allow Ms. Swanson to assist Ms. Quigley at the secondary level to train teachers and support them in reading assessment. Mrs. Stewart acknowledged that the monies are being reimbursed through a WISD grant.

Financial/Administrative Service Personnel

#0910061705 Approval of Contract Renewal Chartwells

Ms. Brown moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approves the renewal of the District's food service management contract to Compass Group USA, Inc. by and through its Chartwells Division for the 2010-2011 school year.

Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion

Mr. Ranger explained that everything remains the same except for what is mandated by the government.

#0910061706 Approval of Monthly Bills Payable

Mrs. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the following General Fund Checks, check #53110 through and including check #53296 with the exception of voided checks as noted on page 9 of the General Fund Check Register, totaling the amount of \$1,908,499.07; and no Building & Site checks.

Mrs. Thomas supported.

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0 – motion carried

#0910061707 **Approval of Contract Renewal Head Start**

Mrs. Thomas moved that the Willow Run Board of Education Approve the service contract between Willow Run Community Schools and the County of Washtenaw, whereas, Willow Run Community Schools provides Head Start program services.

Mrs. Stewart supported.

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0 – motion carried

Discussion Item

Discussion of School Improvement Grant – Turnaround Plan

“...that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the adoption, submission and implementation of the United States government School Improvement Grant, Section 1003(g), Turnaround model. This reform initiative targets districts and schools identified as the ‘lowest 5%’ – based on academic performance indicators. Willow Run High School has been identified as a school in that category by the State of Michigan.”

Discussion

Mrs. Stewart noted that they will not be voting on this item. Ms. Washington stated that this is a discussion item and that more information is needed. Ms. Lisiscki has information that was given and everything in bold is mandated. We have very intense support from the ISD. The plan has to be signed by us, WISD and the State. The tentative dates for the plan are: the first draft due July 14th and the final draft due August 14th. The six (6) of the core planning team met at WISD today. There are defined rules on how we deal with union contracts and contract language. We need to be careful. We are moving forward as if the first draft is due July 14th. The money received has to be spent in the building that was targeted. We have to follow whatever the Federal Government guidelines are. The core planning team consists of; two WISD representatives, Administrators, High School Teachers from the core areas and we would like to have Mr. Wilde and Mrs. Thomas represent the Board. The core team meeting dates are scheduled for June 23, June 24, June 29, June 30 and July 12 in the High School conference room. Implementation factors of the plan will be monitored closely by the Federal Government.

Personnel

#0910061708 **Acceptance of Retirement**

Mrs. Thomas moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the retirement of Ruth Goldstrom, Teacher effective June 30, 2010.

Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes – 7 – Mr. Smith, Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Garrett, Ms. Brown, Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Wilde and Ms. Washington

Nays – 0 – motion carried

#0910061709 **Acceptance of Retirement**

Ms. Brown moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the retirement of Ron Palmer, Skilled Maintenance effective August 31, 2010.

Mr. Garrett supported.

Ayes – 7 – Mr. Smith, Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Garrett, Ms. Brown, Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Wilde and Ms. Washington

Nays – 0 – motion carried

#0910061710 **Acceptance of Retirement**

Mrs. Thomas moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the retirement of Gary Tooles, Teacher effective June 30, 2010.

Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes – 7 – Mr. Smith, Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Garrett, Ms. Brown, Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Wilde and Ms. Washington

Nays – 0 – motion carried

#0910061711 **Acceptance of Retirement**

Ms. Brown moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the retirement of Brenda McQueen, effective August 31, 2010.

Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes – 7 – Mr. Smith, Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Garrett, Ms. Brown, Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Wilde and Ms. Washington
Nays – 0 – motion carried

Citizen's Time

Cherie Walsh, parent of two (2) Willow Run students: We need to know what is going on with the elevated dress code. Ms. Lisiscki answered that we need to make a decision soon.

Charlotte Tillerson: Supports the ROTC program. She has seen changes in students. The students have a sense of belonging. Kids join gangs because they want to belong, give them ROTC.

Laura Lisiscki: We never said we were not going to have the program; we need to look at the price tag.

Anneatra McWilliams: I have five brothers and sisters that have no discipline. Everyone is looking up to me. You are not only taking away from us, but our families. If it weren't for this program, I would not be here.

Kathryn "Thomas" Marchand: In 7th grade I wanted to go to another district, but I continued at Willow Run because of ROTC. I stayed because of it. When I graduated 20 hours of community service per cadet were required.

Sgt. Eddy: Shared a copy of Willow Run AFJROTC report. He spoke on things that ROTC has done.

Arielle Powder: Her siblings have been in ROTC since it started. She plans to be in it for all 4 years. ROTC has taught me a lot of things: leadership, discipline, respect for the uniform and the program, and responsibility.

Miscellaneous

President Washington: Thanked everyone for sharing. Her parting comment: we know what our situation is: we need to challenge students and staff. Our vision goes far beyond the deficit. Where do we go from there?

Meeting Adjourned 8:29 p.m.