

WILLOW RUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Ypsilanti, Michigan

WORK/STUDY MEETING

September 3, 2009

The meeting opened at 6:30 PM at the Secondary Complex-High School, 235 Spencer Lane, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Those present were:

Sheri Washington, President
Harold Wimberly, Vice President
Dorothy Stewart, Treasurer
Mark Wilde, Secretary
Anglesia Brown, Trustee * arrived at 6:40 p.m.
Joi Jenson, Trustee

Absent:

Clifford Smith, Trustee

Members of the Administrative Council Present Included:

Dr. Doris Jackson, Superintendent
Dr. David Houle, Director of Finance
Laonda Hicks, Director, Student Services
JoeAnn Allen, Principal Ford Elementary
Renee Smith, Principal Cheney Academy
Mizan Jihad, Supervisor of Transportation

Citizens' Questions regarding the agenda

None

President Washington called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

Acknowledgements

A thank you email received from Ms. Kellie Hatfield, new GearUP coordinator, expressing her appreciation for the wonderful back-to-school event on August 29, 2009.

Ms. Jenson acknowledged the support GEARUP provided Willow Run last year. GEARUP is program through Eastern Michigan University in partnership with Willow Run.

Each Board member read a thank you note from a student in the Foreign Language Club last year who experienced the trip to Quebec.

Ms. Washington acknowledged the classes of 1978, 1979 and 1980 who dedicated a willow tree to Willow Run Community Schools and presented a shovel for display.

Additions / Deletions to the Agenda

The members were asked to amend the agenda to include a decision regarding the results of a student reinstatement hearing.

Approval of Agenda

#0910090301 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the agenda as amended. Ms. Jenson supported.
Ayes – 5
Nays – 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Minutes

#0910090302 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the minutes as amended from the regular meeting of August 20, 2009. Ms. Jenson supported.
Ayes – 5
Nays – 0 – Motion carried

Discussion

Ms. Stewart requested the following amendments be made:
Pg. 4 the financial auditors “finish their field work” August 31st.
Pg. 7 should read MR. Smith vs. Ms. Smith
Pg. 8 should have Mr. Stewart’s comment denoted parenthetically

Ms Anglesia Brown arrived.

Presentations:

Athletic Boosters

Ms. Brenda Clay, Athletic Boosters’ President, distributed The Coach’s Information and the Willow Run Booster Club By-Laws to each Board member. Ms. Clay reviewed the purpose of the Booster Club which was to “sustain and upgrade the Willow Run Athletic programs by supporting the entire athletic program at Willow Run Community Schools”. The Boosters are parents active in raising funds for the program as well as promoting pride, spirit and participation. Ms. Clay shared upcoming events to which the Board members were invited to participate and the audience is invited to attend; they are: Football challenge on September 11 at Ecorse School; and the Belleville Basketball “old school” challenge on October 30th.

Satisfaction Surveys

Dr. Hope-Jackson presented the results of the first annual Parent Satisfaction survey. The survey was made available to each family. The rate of return was 49.8 %. The results were reviewed emphasizing categories where the district did well and those categories which offer opportunities to improve. We are striving to provide 5-star service to our parents and students and plans are being made to repeat the survey in October and again in May. In addition to the Parent Satisfaction Survey, each school encourages guests to complete a survey after visiting the school; and, staff exit surveys are sent to staff following a resignation offering former staff the opportunity to comment on the work environment as well as the opportunity to meet face-to-face with the Superintendent.

Financial Report

Mr. Mizan Jihad, Supervisor of Transportation and Mr. Dean Johnston, Bus Mechanic, presented to the Board the need to purchase buses. Information was given to each Board member graphically illustrating where our bus fleet is in terms of years of service. A scheduled replacement strategy for the fleet was discussed. We have two (2) buses which need immediate replacement; one for

general education students and one for special education students. While the buses remain safe for student transport, the cost to maintain them supports purchasing new ones. The Transportation staff will bring to the next Board meeting the exact cost of purchase for consideration by the Board.

Acceptance of Resignation

- #0910090303 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the conclusive resignation of Victoria Vock, Teacher, effective immediately. Ms. Jenson and Ms. Brown supported.
Ayes – 6 – Ms. Brown, Mr. Wimberly, Ms. Stewart, Ms. Jenson, Mr. Wilde,
Ms. Washington
Nays – 0 – Motion carried

Discussion

It was noted that the motion is read “conclusive resignation” because, while the teacher did not submit a formal resignation, she sent an email declining to accept a recall in lieu of having accepted a position in another district. Current staff members do not have the credentials required; and so, this position will need to be posted and filled pending board action tonight and student enrollment.

Acceptance of Resignation

- #0910090304 Ms. Brown moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the resignation of Laura Hurst, Teacher, effective September 3, 2009. Ms. Jenson and Ms. Stewart supported.
Ayes – 6 – Ms. Brown, Mr. Wimberly, Ms. Stewart, Ms. Jenson, Mr. Wilde,
Ms. Washington
Nays – 0 – Motion carried

Approval of Leave Extension

- #0910090305 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve to extend the medical leave of Michelle Glover, Custodian, which began June 2, 2009 with an expected return date of October 1, 2009. Ms. Stewart supported.
Ayes – 6 – Ms. Brown, Mr. Wimberly, Ms. Stewart, Ms. Jenson, Mr. Wilde,
Ms. Washington
Nays – 0 – Motion carried

Discussion

A question was asked if anyone was in touch with Ms. Glover. Dr. Hope-Jackson explained that while she has not been in direct contact with the employee, the Board can be assured that the information supports that the leave is in Ms. Glover’s best interest.

Approval of Leave Extension

- #0910090306 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve to extend the medical leave of Barbara Hughes, Bus Driver, with an expected return date of November 1, 2009. Mr. Wilde supported.
Ayes – 6 – Ms. Brown, Mr. Wimberly, Ms. Stewart, Ms. Jenson, Mr. Wilde,
Ms. Washington
Nays – 0 – Motion carried.

Approval of Authorize the Board President to Attend Administrative Meetings for the 2009-2010 school year.

#0910090307 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education officially remove the motion concerning authorization of the Board President to attend administrative operational meetings for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Wilde supported.
Ayes – 6 – Ms. Brown, Mr. Wimberly, Ms. Stewart, Ms. Jenson, Mr. Wilde,
Ms. Washington
Nays – 0 – Motion carried /

Approval of Student Reinstatement

#0910090308 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education support the recommendation to reinstate the student known to the Board as #S111308645o for the 2009-2010 school year. Ms. Jenson supported.
Ayes – 6 – Ms. Brown, Mr. Wimberly, Ms. Stewart, Ms. Jenson, Mr. Wilde,
Ms. Washington
Nays – 0 – Motion carried

Discussion:

Mr. Wilde discussed the possibility of a standing reinstatement committee which would include two (2) board members, an administrator, a teacher and a parent who is not employed by the district.

Citizen Time

Mr. Wall introduced himself as a former Willow Run teacher with 30 years in the District. Since his retirement, he has established the T. Wall Foundation which, in the last year, donated \$4,500 to Willow Run children in need. Mr. Wall shared his latest venture to raise funds: a golf outing at Travis Pointe. Mr. Wall asked for board and audience support both as participants and to help get the word out!

Board Comments

Mr. Wimberly read a statement he prepared recommending that action is taken to improve relationships between Board members and administrative staff. He encouraged both sides to agree on a facilitator that would assist the board and administration in improving and enhancing communication. The focus would be on building relationships and devising solutions. Mr. Wimberly also thanked Ms. Washington for removing from the agenda the motion to attend administrative meetings. Mr. Wimberly shared that he is disheartened by recent events and remembers when the Willow Run Board was considered a model for school boards in Michigan; he would like to see that status return.

Superintendent Comments

Dr. Jackson reminded everyone that Tuesday, September 8th was the first day of school and a half-day for students and September 12th is Grandparents Day. A Parent Academy on September 15th would be devoted to sharing information concerning the upcoming millage. Dr. Jackson shared her experiences during the Saturday, August 29th Back-to-School Fair in which she had an opportunity to share the good news about Willow Run with families from Ann Arbor, Canton and Belleville.

President Washington declared the meeting adjourned: 8:10 p.m.