

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

**REGULAR MEETING**

**September 17, 2009**

The meeting opened at 6:40 PM at Willow Run High School, 235 Spencer Lane with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present were:

Sheri Washington, President  
Harold Wimberly, Vice President  
Dorothy Stewart, Treasurer  
Mark Wilde, Secretary  
Joi Jenson, Trustee  
Clifford Smith, Trustee

Absent:

Anglesia Brown, Trustee

Members of the Administrative Council Present Included:

Dr. Doris Hope-Jackson, Superintendent  
Dr. David Houle, Director of Finance / Operations  
Kelly Webb, Principal Secondary Complex  
JoeAnn Allen, Principal Ford Elementary  
Renee Smith, Principal Cheney Academy  
Delores Jenkins, Principal Holmes Elementary  
Laconda Hicks, Director Student & Teacher Services  
Laura Frey-Greathouse, Title I Coordinator  
Mizan Jihad, Transportation Supervisor

**Citizens' Questions concerning the Agenda**

None

Call to order by President Washington at 6:44 p.m.

**Acknowledgements**

A request was made to add a closed session at the end of the meeting regarding a pending legal matter.

**Approval of Agenda**

#0910091701 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the agenda as amended. Mr. Stewart supported.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

**Approval of Minutes**

#0910091702 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the minutes as presented from the meeting of September 3, 2009. Ms. Jenson supported.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0 – Motion carried.

#0910091703 **Approval of Bills**

Ms. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the following General Fund checks, check #51363 through and including check #51503 with the exception of voided checks as noted on page 7 of the General Fund Check Register totaling \$1,443,482.56; and no Building and Site checks.

Ms. Jenson supported.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

**Presentations**

Dr. Jackson announced that a Silver Star award was to be presented to Ms. Cheryl Plouffe tonight for her volunteer leadership during the enrollment blitz this summer. Ms. Plouffe was unable to stay this evening and the award will be presented at the next meeting.

**Approval of Contract – Kaplan K-12 Learning Services**

#0910091704 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the contract with Kaplan K12 Learning Services Division, Inc. for the 2009/2010 school year in an amount not to exceed \$19,800 for services provided to middle school students. Mr. Smith/Ms. Stewart supported.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

**Discussion**

A Kaplan representative was present to answer questions by the Board.

**Approval of Contract – Kaplan K-12 Learning Services**

#0910091705 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the contract with Kaplan K12 Learning Services Division, Inc. for the 2009/2010 school year in an amount not to exceed \$12,100 for services provided to high school special education students. Ms. Stewart/Ms. Jenson supported.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

**Discussion**

A Kaplan representative was present to answer questions by the Board.

**Approval of Contract – Kaplan K-12 Learning Services**

#0910091706 Mr. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the contract with Kaplan K12 Learning Services Division, Inc. for the 2009/2010 school year in an amount not to exceed \$13,300 for services provided to high school general education students. Ms. Jenson supported.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

**Discussion**

A Kaplan representative was present to answer questions by the Board.

**Finance Report**

Ms. Stewart provided the Board with minutes of the Finance Subcommittee meeting.

**Approval of Contract – Michigan Coalition of Essential Schools (MCES)**

#0910091707 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the contract with the Michigan Coalition of Essential Schools for the 2009/2010 school year in an amount not to exceed \$30,000. Mr. Smith/Ms. Jenson supported.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

**Discussion**

It was noted that the partnership with Michigan Coalition of Schools and the District has been long-term and successful.

**Approval of Contract – Head Start**

#0910091708 Mr. Smith moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the contract between Willow Run Community Schools and Washtenaw County Head Start for the 2009/2010 school year in an amount of \$475,554. Ms. Jenson supported.

**Discussion**

Ms. Renee Smith, Principal Cheney informed the Board of Education that she had just come from a county Head Start meeting where the District was informed the amount had changed due to new federal guidelines. Ms. Smith provided the Board with the new information.

**Approval of Contract – Head Start: restated**

#0910091709 Mr. Smith moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the adjusted contract between Willow Run Community Schools and Washtenaw County Head Start for the 2009/2010 school year in an amount of \$464,212. Mr. Wilde/Ms. Jenson supported.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

**Discussion**

Mr. Wimberly congratulated the program on the excellence in providing services to our families.

**Finance Report**

Ms. Stewart provided the Board with minutes of the Finance Subcommittee including adjustments requested by Dr. Jackson.

**Approval of Bus Purchase - tabled**

#0910091710 Mr. Smith moved that the Willow Run Board of Education table the motion to approve the purchase of buses. Ms. Jenson supported.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

**Discussion**

It was noted that, as the buses are safe to transport children, and given the district financial status - additional information regarding the option to lease buses should be investigated. Further, that a needs assessment related to actual district enrollment following “count day” should be made.

**Approval of Police Services Contract**

#0910091711 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the service contract with the County of Washtenaw for police services at football games during the 2009-2010 school year at the rate of \$63.00 to \$82.00 per hour per deputy, depending on rank. Mr. Wilde/Ms. Stewart supported.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

**Discussion**

It was asked if the Athletic Director, Mr. Greene could respond to the timing of the contract being brought before the Board of Education given services have begun. It was noted that a security presence is needed for football games every year and a more proactive approach by the Athletic Department would be helpful.

**Acceptance of Resignation**

#0910091712 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the conclusive voluntary resignation of Nancy Wade, Teacher, effective September 8, 2009. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes – 6 –Mr. Wimberly, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wilde,  
Ms. Jenson, Ms. Washington

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

**Discussion**

Ms. Jenson asked for the contact information for Ms. Wade.

**Acceptance of Resignation**

#0910091713 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the resignation of Tracy Almany, Food Service Cook, effective immediately. Mr. Smith/Ms. Stewart supported.

Ayes – 6 –Mr. Wimberly, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wilde,  
Ms. Jenson, Ms. Washington

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

**Discussion**

Ms. Jenson asked for the contact information for Ms. Almany.

**Approval of Intermittent Leave**

#0910091714 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the Intermittent FMLA of Patsy Ebeler, Paraeducator. Ms. Stewart supported.

Ayes – 6 - Mr. Wimberly, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wilde,  
Ms. Jenson, Ms. Washington

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

**Approval of Leave**

#0910091715 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the FMLA of Linda Shettleroe, Food Service Cook, beginning October 1, 2009 with an expected return date of November 1, 2009. Ms. Stewart supported.

Ayes – 6 - Mr. Wimberly, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wilde,  
Ms. Jenson, Ms. Washington

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

### **Approval of Leave**

- #0910091716 Mr. Smith moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve to extend the medical leave of Darlene Bentley, Custodian, which began July 8, 2009 with an expected return date of September 14, 2009. Mr. Wilde supported.  
Ayes – 6 - Mr. Wimberly, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wilde,  
Ms. Jenson, Ms. Washington  
Nays – 0 – Motion carried

### **Discussion**

It was noted that Ms. Bentley has returned to work.

### **Approval of Recall**

- #0910091717 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the recall of Ms. Christina Onyskin to Food Services, effective September 18, 2009. Mr. Wilde supported.  
Ayes – 6- Mr. Wimberly, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wilde,  
Ms. Jenson, Ms. Washington  
Nays – 0 – Motion carried

### **Approval of Appointment**

- #0910091718 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the appointment of Jennifer Marengi, as Speech Pathologist, effective September 18, 2009, at a salary of \$42,473; according to the WREA Salary Schedule, MA, Step 5. Ms. Jenson supported.  
Ayes – 6- Mr. Wimberly, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wilde,  
Ms. Jenson, Ms. Washington  
Nays – 0 -Motion carried

### **Discussion**

A brief discussion was made concerning using contracted employees vs. hiring staff.

### **Approval of Standing Reinstatement Committee**

- #0910091719 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the a standing student reinstatement committee for the 2009-2010 school year to include two (2) board members, one administrator, one teacher and one parent of a child attending Willow Run who is not employed by Willow Run. Mr. Smith supported.  
Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0 Motion carried

### **Acceptance of Donation – Ford and Kaiser**

- #0910091720 Mr. Smith moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the donation of \$300 each to Ford Elementary and Kaiser Elementary, from Mrs. Dorothy Stewart and Mr. Stanley Stewart to full the needs of the Ford and Kaiser students. Mr. Wilde supported.  
Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0 Motion carried

### **Discussion**

The Board thanked Mr. and Mrs. Stewart for their generosity.

**Acceptance of Donation – Cheney and Holmes**

#0910091721 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the donation of \$300 each to Cheney Academy and Holmes Elementary, from Mrs. Dorothy Stewart and Mr. Stanley Stewart to full the needs of the Cheney and Holmes students. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0 Motion carried

**Discussion**

The Board thanked Mr. and Mrs. Stewart for their generosity.

**Acceptance of Donation – Borders Books**

#0910091722 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the donation of school supplies, from Borders Books for use by Willow Run Elementary students. Ms. Stewart supported.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0 Motion carried

**Discussion**

The Board thanked Borders Books for their generosity.

**Approval of Contract – Athletic Trainer**

#0910091723 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the contract by and between Willow Run Community Schools and Yaminah Smith, to serve as Athletic Trainer from September 1, 2009 through June 1, 2010, in the amount of \$16,000. Mr. Smith supported

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

**Discussion**

Ms. Jenson asked for a copy of the contract.

**Approval of Student Reinstatement**

#0910091724 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the recommendation to reinstate the student known to the Board as #S111308645 conditionally for the 2009-2010 school year with the improvement plan to include, but not limited to credit recovery classes, counseling and a weekly travel card. Ms. Jenson supported.

Ayes – 6- Mr. Wimberly, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wilde,

Ms. Jenson, Ms. Washington

Nays –0 - Motion carried

**Board Comments**

Mr. Smith noted that he is reconnecting with the home-school community on behalf of the Board of Education.

### **Superintendent**

Dr. Hope-Jackson reminded the audience that the Ashford and Simpson concert was September 20<sup>th</sup> and tickets were available in the business office. Washtenaw County was holding the annual “Career Jam” on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. September 22<sup>nd</sup> is the first Parent Academy of the year and would concern MEAP testing. Dr. Jackson encouraged board members to volunteer to host a Parent Academy and a Community Forum.

### **Board Comments**

Mr. Wimberly was pleased to see the discussions this evening concerning what is working for our students. He requested that an agenda item be added so that the board can regularly discuss how to meet students’ academic needs – what services are working, what may need to be adjusted.

A spirited discussion followed regarding where such discussion should take place – via email or at the Board table. It was noted that the Open Meetings act requires a public body, with few exceptions, to hold such discussions at the Board table.

Ms. Washington reported that the WISD has organized an effort to come together and discuss shared services and that a consultant has been contracted to meet with schools to assess possibilities. She stated that the district should be a part of these conversations. Ms. Washington also reported her efforts in maintaining the existing faith based partnerships and working with University of Michigan to maintain that long-term relationship. Ms. Washington cautioned the audience and her colleagues that partners will not come forward if “we don’t get it together”.

### **Move to Closed Session – Legal Update**

#0910091725 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education move to closed session to discuss pending litigation. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes – 5- Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wilde, Ms. Jenson, Ms. Washington  
Nays – 1 – Mr. Wimberly. Motion carried

### **Move to Open Session**

#0910091726 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education move to open session. Ms. Stewart supported.

Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0 Motion carried

President Washington declared the meeting adjourned: **9:30 p.m.**