

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

**WORK/STUDY MEETING**

**November 5, 2009**

The meeting opened at 6:40 PM at the Secondary Complex-High School, 235 Spencer Lane, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Those present were:

Sheri Washington, President  
Dorothy Stewart, Treasurer  
Mark Wilde, Secretary  
Anglesia Brown, Trustee  
Don Garrett Jr., Trustee \*  
Joi Jenson, Trustee  
Clifford Smith, Trustee

\* assumed role after taking oath

Members of the Administrative Council Present Included:

Laura Lisiscki, Acting Superintendent  
Dr. David Houle, Director of Finance  
Laconda Hicks, Director, Student Services  
Kelly Webb, Principal Secondary Complex  
Renee Smith, Principal Cheney Academy  
Delores Jenkins, Principal Holmes Elementary

**Citizens' Questions regarding the agenda**

None

President Washington called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m.  
The Oath of Office was administered to Mr. Don Garrett, Jr.

**Acknowledgements**

None

**Additions / Deletions to the Agenda**

Mr. Wilde announced that around 8:00 p.m. a recess would be called to permit students to leave without disrupting the meeting; students are asked to wait for the recess.

Added: VI.d. Approval of ECCBG agreement and IX.e. Approval of student discipline.

Deleted: IX.a and IX.d – Acceptance of Board Resignation and Approval of Appointment –Board Candidate.

### **Approval of Agenda**

- #0910110501 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the agenda as amended. Ms. Stewart supported.  
Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0 – Motion carried

### **Approval of Minutes**

- #0910110502 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the minutes as presented from the regular meeting of October 15, 2009. Ms. Stewart supported.  
Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0 – Motion carried

### **Approval of Contract – Supplemental Services**

- #0910110503 Ms. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the attached contract to be used with the State approved Supplemental Service providers (as required by the No Child Left Behind Act). Mr. Smith supported.  
Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0 – Motion carried

### **Approval of Overnight Field Trip**

- #0910110504 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the overnight field trip to Wilderness State Park in Mackinaw City, Michigan by the Willow Run High School Science Club students, December 10 to 13, 2009. Ms. Stewart supported.  
Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0 – Motion carried

### **Approval of June 30, 2009 Audited Financial Statements**

- #0910110505 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approved the Audited Financial Statements for the period ending June 30, 2009 as presented. Ms. Stewart supported.  
Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0 – Motion carried

### **Discussion**

Mr. David Fisher of the auditing firm of Rehman Robson was present to provide an overview to the Board and audience and to answer any questions. Of significance: annual losses since 2004 (6 years) has resulted in the current deficit of greater than 3 million. It was noted that the district is making great strides cutting costs and meeting the requirements of the state-mandated deficit elimination plan; unfortunately, funding has also been reduced. It was further noted that Food Services did very well, adding to the fund balance; that total indebtedness went down due to paying bills on time and Mr. Fisher urged the Board and management to continue on track.

**Approval of Declaration of Surplus Buses**

#0910110506 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve bus #9, bus #24, and Bus #11 as surplus items for the purpose of sale or disposal. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

**Discussion**

It was requested that future consideration of offers to purchase buses include the trade-in value from a dealership.

**Approval of Engineering and Design Proposal (ECCBG)**

#0910110507 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the engineering and design proposal from Integrated Design Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 including reimbursable costs. Mr. Smith supported.

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

**Acceptance of Resignation**

#0910110508 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the resignation of Dr. David Houle, Director of Finance and Operations, effective November 10, 2009. Ms. Stewart supported.

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

Nays – 0 –Motion carried.

**Discussion**

Dr. Houle thanked the District for the opportunity to work with some great people specifically mentioning Dr. Jackson, Ms. Hicks and Ms. Plumley and reinforced the results of the audit: the situation can be overcome by working together and shared sacrifice.

**Acceptance of Leave**

#0910110509 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the FMLA of Nancy Torossian, Teacher, which began October 15, 2009 with an expected return date of January 4, 2010. Mr. Wilde supported.

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

Nays – 0 –Motion carried

**Acceptance of Leave**

#0910110510 Ms. Brown moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the FMLA of Pamela White-Gillespie, Paraeducator, which began October 23, 2009 with an expected return date of January 4, 2010. Ms. Stewart supported.

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

Nays – 0 –Motion carried

**Acceptance of Leave**

- #0910110511 Mr. Smith moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the FMLA of Tabia Patton, Teacher, which began October 22, 2009 with an expected return date of January 6, 2010. Ms. Stewart supported.  
Ayes – 7– Mr. Garrett, Ms. Stewart, Ms. Brown, Mr. Smith, Ms. Jenson,  
Mr. Wilde, Ms. Washington  
Nays – 0 –Motion carried

**Acceptance of Leave**

- #0910110512 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the FMLA of Ana Darty, Building Monitor, which began October 5, 2009 with an expected return date of November 11, 2009. Mr. Wilde supported.  
Ayes – 7– Mr. Garrett, Ms. Stewart, Ms. Brown, Mr. Smith, Ms. Jenson,  
Mr. Wilde, Ms. Washington  
Nays – 0 –Motion carried

**Acceptance of Leave**

- #0910110513 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the FMLA of Gertrude Pearson, Bus Aide, which began September 20, 2009 with an expected return date of November 16, 2009. Mr. Smith supported.  
Ayes – 7– Mr. Garrett, Ms. Stewart, Ms. Brown, Mr. Smith, Ms. Jenson,  
Mr. Wilde, Ms. Washington  
Nays – 0 –Motion carried

**Approval of Appointment**

- #0910110514 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the appointment of Ms. Rita Ardan, as Speech Therapist, effective immediately, at a prorated salary according to the WCEA Salary Schedule, Masters, level 8, \$57,815 for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Wilde supported.  
Ayes – 7– Mr. Garrett, Ms. Stewart, Ms. Brown, Mr. Smith, Ms. Jenson,  
Mr. Wilde, Ms. Washington  
Nays – 0 –Motion carried

**Discussion:**

Ms. Arden was in the audience and explained that she had been a teacher in the past at Thurston and Kaiser and she is glad to be back at Willow Run. Ms. Ardan was welcomed.

**Approval of Appointment**

- #0910110515 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the appointment of Ms. Kamaria Dawkins, as Social Worker, effective November 9, 2009, at a prorated salary according to the WCEA Salary Schedule, Masters, level 0, \$38,109 for the 2009-2010 school year. Ms. Jenson and Ms. Stewart supported.  
Ayes – 7– Mr. Garrett, Ms. Stewart, Ms. Brown, Mr. Smith, Ms. Jenson,  
Mr. Wilde, Ms. Washington  
Nays – 0 –Motion carried

**Discussion:**

It was asked and answered if the position had been posted (yes).  
Ms. Dawkins was in the audience and thanked the Board for the opportunity. Ms. Dawkins was welcomed.

**Acknowledgment of Retirement**

- #0910110516 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education acknowledge the retirement of Barbara Van Horn, Management Support, effective December 31, 2009. Mr. Smith supported.  
Ayes – 7– Mr. Garrett, Ms. Stewart, Ms. Brown, Mr. Smith, Ms. Jenson,  
Mr. Wilde, Ms. Washington  
Nays – 0 –Motion carried

**Acceptance of Donation to Willow Run High School**

- #0910110517 Ms. Brown moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the donation of \$500 to Willow Run High School from Mrs. Dorothy Stewart and Mr. Stanley Stewart to fulfill the needs of the high school students. Mr. Smith supported.  
Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0- Motion carried.

**Discussion**

The Board thanked Mr. and Mrs. Stewart.

**Acceptance of Donation to Robotics**

- #0910110518 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the donation of a trailer, pit equipment and tool kits from General Motors to the Willow Run High School Robotics Team. Ms. Stewart and Mr. Smith supported.  
Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0- Motion carried.

**Discussion**

The Board thanked General Motors.

**Approval of Student Discipline**

- #0910110519 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the expulsion of the student known to the Board as S110509600 for 180 days.  
Ayes – 4– Mr. Garrett, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wilde, Ms. Washington  
Abstain – 1 - Ms. Brown  
Nays – 1 – Ms. Jenson. Motion carried

**Citizen Time**

Ms. Kuehnel stood to share the great news concerning the college fair where 20 representatives from colleges and the armed services were present to provide our students with options after high school. Ms. Kuehnel also thanked Mr. Smith for attending.  
Mr. Blakita began with the question, “Where is Dr. Jackson” and referred to an article in the October 29<sup>th</sup> edition of Ann Arbor.Com where neither Mr. Wilde nor Ms. Washington gave the whereabouts of Dr. Jackson and instead indicated that Dr. Jackson had been out intermittently since the beginning of the school year.  
Mr. Blakita suggested that if the members are interested in transparency and

accountability, they should refer to the attendance log and “keep the facts straight”. Mr. Blakita offered his understanding of events: Dr. Jackson was ill on October 15; she drove to Illinois where she was in a serious car accident in which her car was rear-ended by a truck that pushed her car forward into another vehicle. This information was shared with the Board and they are aware that she has been home recuperating while waiting for her doctor’s reevaluation and release. Mr. Blakita questioned if the reason was one of collective self interest. Mr. Blakita also inquired concerning the Vice-President’s resignation; Mr. Blakita stated an understanding that Mr. Wimberly’s letter was submitted in early October but no information has been shared concerning his reasons for the resignation and action had not been taken until the recent postings of the vacancy at the school buildings. He could not find an announcement of the vacancy in Ann Arbor.com. Mr. Blakita received a signal that his time was up. Ms. Hughes, rose to say that she was out eleven months with a broken ankle and is glad to be back at work.

### **Superintendent Comments**

Ms. Lisiscki shared with the audience that she takes the role of Acting Superintendent very seriously and appreciates the vote of support from the Board members.

### **Board Comments**

Ms. Wilde asked Ms. Lisiscki if she would work on arranging for a Student representative for the Board of Education.

Mr. Smith reinforced Ms. Kuehnel’s assessment of the College Fair – another successful event.

Ms. Jenson congratulated Mr. Garrett on his appointment.

Ms. Brown noted that there are now three (3) “Flyers” sitting at the Board table.

Mr. Garrett expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve Willow Run and will work to bring “Flyer Pride” back.

Ms. Washington thanked the audience for coming to the meeting and reinforced that by working together we can make it through a difficult time.

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