

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

**WORK/STUDY MEETING**

**December 3, 2009**

The meeting opened at 6:55 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

Members of the Administrative Council Present Included:

Laura Lisiscki, Acting Superintendent  
Kelly Webb, Principal Secondary Complex  
Renee Smith, Principal Cheney Academy  
Delores Jenkins, Principal Holmes Elementary  
Joe Ann Allen, Principal Ford Elementary  
Charles Raski, Assistant Principal Secondary Complex  
Cecilia Queener, Human Resources Coordinator

**Citizens' Questions regarding the agenda**

None

President Washington called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Acknowledgements**

None

**Additions / Deletions to the Agenda**

None

**Approval of Agenda**

#0910120301 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the agenda as presented. Ms. Jenson supported.

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

**Approval of Minutes**

#0910120302 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the minutes as presented from the regular meeting of November 19, 2009. Ms. Jenson supported.

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0 – Motion carried

### **Presentations**

**Athletic Council**: no formal report; the members, Ms. Jenson, Ms. Brown and Mr. Garret are still meeting and formulating plans. Ms. Washington asked that the members share the date of the next meeting with the community.

**Educational Reform Committee**: Mr. Heister reported that the committee has met twice and is scheduled to meet again on Monday, December 7, 2009. The group has identified seven (7) main goals. The goals are: Support for the creation of, and maintenance of, School Improvement Plans (SIP); building trust; professional development to align with SIPs; Instructional coaches (a return to a historical method of instructional support termed ICTs); cost cutting; safe and welcoming environments to include instructionally safe environments for students; and, enhancing instruction with technology. Mr. Smith requested that any cost-cutting ideas are forwarded to the Finance Committee.

### **Approval of Resolution – Great Start Readiness Program**

#0910120303 Ms. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education adopt the attached Great Start Readiness Program – Participation Resolution. Mr. Wilde supported.  
Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0 – Motion carried

The **Finance Committee** report will be given by Mrs. Stewart at the next board meeting. Mr. Smaka reported on his progress toward posting the vacancy of Director of Business Services and Operations on behalf of the Board of Education. After discussion, it was determined that the posting should begin now on the state sites and remain for two weeks.

### **Approval of Job Description**

#0910120304 Ms. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the attached Job Description and position for Director of Information and Assessment. Mr. Wilde supported.  
Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0 – Motion carried

### **Discussion**

Ms. Washington read the job description and goals to the audience.

### **Acceptance of Resignation**

#0910120305 Ms. Brown moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the resignation of Jennifer Kime, Teacher, effective immediately. Ms. Jenson and 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 Leave**

#0910120306 Mr. Smith moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the FMLA of Christina Warren, Teacher, which began November 7, 2009 with an expected return date of January 20, 2010. Ms. Jenson and Mr. Garrett supported.  
Ayes – 7– Mr. Garrett, Ms. Stewart, Ms. Brown, Mr. Smith, Ms. Jenson,

Mr. Wilde, Ms. Washington

Nays – 0 –Motion carried

**Acceptance of Leave**

#0910120307 Mr. Garrett moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the FMLA of Cynthia Bowers, Teacher, which began November 30, 2009 with an expected return date of December 18, 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 Contract**

#0910120308 Ms. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the attached Agreement for Independent Contractor Services between Willow Run Community Schools and S.J. Smaka Consulting, L.L.C. for the services of Director of Business Services to run concurrent with the current contract at a rate of \$450.00 per day not to exceed a total contracted amount of \$5,000. 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**

#0910120309 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the appointment of Dr. Doris Hope-Jackson as Director of Information and Assessment, effective immediately. Ms. Jenson 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 Henry Ford Elementary**

#0910120310 Ms. Stewart moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the donation of 3 backpacks filled with school supplies from Mr. & Mrs. Stier. Ms. Stewart and Mr. Wilde supported.

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0- Motion carried.

**Acceptance of Donation to Willow Run Community Schools**

#0910120311 Mr. Wilde moved that the Willow Run Board of Education accept the donation of dictionaries for all third grade students in the district. Mr. Garrett supported.

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0- Motion carried.

**Discussion**

Ms. Lisiscki explained that the Rotary Club contacted her about donating the dictionaries. The members of the Club hope to provide nameplates for the books as well.

### **Approval of Technology Committee**

#0910120312 Mr. Garrett moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve a Technology Committee of the Board for the 2009-2010 school year to review and recommend district-wide technology strategies that support efficient and productive operations and instruction. Mr. Wilde and Mr. Smith supported.  
Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0- Motion carried.

### **Discussion**

Ms. Washington explained that the hope among board members is that this committee will give external partners a chance to help shape the future of technology in the district.

### **Approval of Special Projects Committee**

#0910120313 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve a Special Projects Committee of the Board for the 2009-2010 school year to research, design and implement projects that support the re-vitalization of the Willow Run school district. Mr. Smith and Mr. Garrett supported.  
Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0- Motion carried.

### **Discussion**

Ms. Washington explained that this committee is evolving and will work on the need to collaborate more with other communities.

### **Progress on Board Goals**

Ms. Washington expressed her desire to keep Board Goals on ‘the radar’ of the Board Members because these goals are ‘at the forefront of what we do’. Ms. Washington then shared some of the goals which include improving student achievement - to include an action plan with action steps holding individuals accountable; fiscal soundness; and increasing student enrollment. Ms. Washington stated that the benchmarks are not acceptable at this time. She urged the board and community to make these goals a priority which will require a buy-in by students, staff and parents.

### **Approval of Appointment**

#0910120314 Ms. Jenson moved that Ms. Laura Lisiscki continue her appointment as Acting Superintendent of the Willow Run Community Schools. The appointment grants Ms. Lisiscki the full authority to execute superintendent duties and responsibilities. Mr. Wilde supported.  
Ayes – 7– Mr. Garrett, Ms. Stewart, Ms. Brown, Mr. Smith, Ms. Jenson,  
Mr. Wilde, Ms. Washington  
Nays – 0 –Motion carried

### **Discussion**

Mr. Smith noted that the contract concerning the appointment provides for Ms. Lisiscki to return to her position as an Elementary School Principal after completing her assignment as Acting Superintendent.

### **Approval of Review of Superintendent Progress on Board Goals**

#0910120315 Ms. Jenson moved that the Willow Run Board of Education approve the review of the Superintendent's progress on Board goals. Mr. Smith supported.  
Ayes – 7– Mr. Garrett, Ms. Stewart, Ms. Brown, Mr. Smith, Ms. Jenson,  
Mr. Wilde, Ms. Washington  
Nays – 0 –Motion carried

### **Citizen Time**

Mr. King reported accessing the alumni website and looks forward to joining the association. Mr. King also urged the board and the Willow Run Community members to become involved in expressing opinions to their public officials concerning the economy and unemployment rates in Michigan.

Mr. Blakita read, in its entirety, his written rebuttal of the FOIA response sent him by the board which included his perception that Ms. Lisiscki was minimizing his knowledge of board governance after many years of serving on the board, and that the use of HIPAA legislation to avoid answering his questions regarding Dr. Jackson is not 'defendable even at the highest HIPAA interpretation of the rules' concerning Dr. Jackson's absence. He proceeded to give several examples of information he had determined to be legally permissible per HIPAA and further stated that he believes it is a deliberate move by the board to suggest that Dr. Jackson has abandoned the district. Mr. Blakita assured the members that he would be monitoring board actions and will be holding them accountable.

Ms. Tillerson thanked the board for taking a stand and offered her support to Ms. Lisiscki in her continued role as Acting Superintendent.

Ms. Sartorius shared that while the staff miss Ms. Lisiscki at Kaiser, she feels the board could not have selected a better person to be passionate about Willow Run.

Mr. Brooks submitted the question: "What is the Board doing to attract new students?"

Mr. Brooks also submitted the question: "What is the criteria [sic] to act or serve as the superintendent?"

Ms. Washington explained that answers would be presented at the next board meeting.

Ms. L. Sanders submitted the question: What are the Athletic Council's goals, criteria, and agenda. Ms. Sanders was disappointed that an answer could not be provided tonight, and looks forward to a response at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Miller introduced herself as the president of the teachers' union, which she described as the largest Willow Run union, thanked the board for the change in leadership and shared that she and Ms. Lisiscki had already met for 1-1/2 hours. She also offered her appreciation at seeing the open doors in central office and looks forward to meeting with this board concerning grievances. Ms. Miller offered the union's support of district goals. Ms. Miller proceeded to make a response to Mr. Blakita when members of the board and members of the audience suggested she refrain. Ms. Miller acknowledged the email sent Monday by the Acting Superintendent reinforcing her authority and began to express her disbelief to the board concerning the encounter she understood happened at the Superintendent's Student Advisory earlier today between the Acting Superintendent and the 'past superintendent' when she was stopped by Ms. Lisiscki "it's been taken care of".

**Acting Superintendent Comments**

Ms. Lisiscki confirmed her passion for Willow Run and thanked the community for their support. She reminded the audience that these are difficult times ahead with difficult choices and decisions to make. Ms. Lisiscki concluded that while the task ahead will not be easy, it can be done if we work together.

**Board Comments**

Ms. Jenson offered that centering on the district and community will produce a brighter future for Willow Run.

President Washington declared the meeting adjourned: 8:00 p.m.

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