

Wayne-Westland Community Schools
Westland, Michigan 48185
March 16, 2009
Regular Board Meeting/7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: President Pitsenbarger, Vice President Monit, Secretary Schofield, and Trustees Gabriel, Turner and Walker.

RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS – Baracy

- a. Recognition: Earle Chorbagian Elementary School Spelling Bee Winner – Perkins
Melanie Bushway, Kettering Elementary School
- b. Recognition: Earle Chorbagian Middle School Spelling Bee Winner – Perkins
Jane Awoh, Marshall Middle School
- c. Recognition: Westland’s 2009 Athena Award Recipient – Kowalski
Sue Wilk, Social Worker - William D. Ford Career-Technical Center
- d. Presentation: Bright Futures Program – 21st Century Grant – Lincoln Elementary School
- Sherman

CITIZENS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AGENDA ITEMS

Public discussion began at 7:40 p.m. and ended at 7:52 p.m.

B. Smith: Questioned what we are doing as a school district to contain costs; what are the district's budget plans for the future; are there any anticipated pay freezes, etc.?

M. Blackwell: A UAW member who stated that their union groups have made concession after concession and the district should do the same and lead by example.

S. Green: Complimented her daughter’s science teacher at Marshall Middle School, Mrs. Nicastrì, whose communication skills with parents and students is phenomenal and she uses her own web site as a form of communication. Also inquired about a survey that the teacher conducted regarding the Bright Futures Program at Marshall Middle School next year.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

- a. Special Meeting Minutes: February 3, 2009

HUMAN RESOURCE ITEMS

- a. Request for Leave of Absence/Instructional Personnel
- b. Placement/Hourly Instructional Personnel
- c. Resignation/Non-Instructional Personnel
- d. Resignation/Instructional Personnel
- e. Placement/Non-Instructional Personnel
- f. Non-Affiliated New Hires/Terminations (informational)

BUSINESS SERVICES ITEMS

- a. Recommendation to Purchase Media Center Furnishings for Graham, Hicks, Hoover and Madison Elementary Schools
- b. Payment of Invoices
- c. Investment Report

DONATIONS

- a. Mr. Darryl Sheets (Sheets Collision, Inc.): 8 Gallons of Clear Activator; 8 Quarts of Clear Activator and 2 Gallons of Sealer
- b. Mr. Mel Eisenberg: 90 Graphics and Printing Books (Circa 1970-1990)
- c. Mr. Mike Papoulias (Cutting Edge Collision): 8 Gallons of Paint and 30 Quarts of Paint
- d. Mrs. Patricia Tinham: Electric Bed and Electric Wheel Chair
- e. Mr. Matt Korte: 10 Gallons of Paint; 36 Quarts of Paint and 43 Pints of Paint
- f. Ms. Sharon Wasik: Compaq Computer/Flat Bed Scanner/LCD Monitor/HP Printer/Speaker System/Software
- g. Mr. Keith Davis: Small JC Penny Refrigerator
- h. Ms. Julie Ann Jones: Kaye Posture Walker with Seat and a Pair of Aluminum Forearm Crutches
- i. Mr. Paul Roberts: Computer Monitor
- j. Mr. Mike Durston (Full Auto): 14 Gallons of Paint; 24 Quarts of Paint; 15 Pints of Paint and 2 Gallons of Clearcoat
- k. Ms. Kathleen Mae Dirusso: 1992 Ford Tempo
- l. Fabristeel/Whitesell Corporation: 11 Teacher Desks and 10 Office Chairs
- m. Hitachi Corporation: Rack and Pinions
- n. Ms. Sarah Stewart: Hardcover Books
- o. Mr. Theodore Scott: 2001 Pontiac Four Door

ACTION ITEMS (Unanimous votes unless otherwise noted):

- a. Approval of Bid Package #27: Media Center Additions & Remodeling Projects at Graham, Hicks, Hoover and Madison Elementary Schools and Marshall Middle School Tunnel Piping Replacement Project – Sinking Fund and Building & Site
- b. Approval of the W-WBAA (Wayne-Westland Building Administrators Association) Contract Agreement (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2012)
- c. Approval of the W-WCOAA (Wayne-Westland Central Office Administrators Association) Contract Agreement (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2012)
- d. Approval of Contract(s)/Instructional Personnel

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Baracy

Dr. Baracy made the following comments:

We are monitoring very carefully the Governor's budget proposal as it pertains to the School Aid Bill as well as a number of eliminations and cuts in categorical funding and other "ear marks" in legislation. There are a number of proposed cuts in the original budget that may impact Wayne-Westland Community Schools more than others. We are working with our legislative contingency on a daily basis and are monitoring the governor's proposal very closely. As you know, the Governor initially proposes legislation and then the legislators modify and adjust the proposals accordingly.

There continues to be a structural problem in Michigan in our budgeting process which has not been addressed in years. Until that structural problem is addressed, the funding problems will not be addressed. When we talk with legislators and our leaders in Lansing, we have to focus on getting these structural problems resolved. The Michigan economy has affected all of us. Last year over 30,000 students left Michigan. It is anticipated that we will lose that many and more this year. We can only continue to monitor closely what is in the best interest of our district and the students we serve.

He attended a great anti-bullying program today at Patchin Elementary which is sponsored by Wayne County Executive, Robert Ficano. The program included role playing; treating other students fairly; and building character. Dr. Baracy expressed his gratitude for the partnership the district has with the county. Also in attendance was Senator Anderson who has sponsored a number of anti-bullying legislation and policies along with Representative LeBlanc who also supports these efforts.

Dr. Baracy congratulated the bowlers from Wayne Memorial and John Glenn High Schools who again this year were outstanding. Both the girls and boys teams were bowling at the state competitions and had strong finishes. Wayne Memorial's boys' team was the state runner-up. He also congratulated the John Glenn wrestlers who competed at the state competition finals for the first time in years and had a number

of top placements. All of the students did a tremendous job representing our district, and he complimented each one of them and their coaches.

He extended his heartfelt congratulations again to Sue Wilk, the 2009 Athena Award recipient and stated that she is a pillar at the Career-Technical Center and a very humble lady who is deserving of this recognition.

Dr. Baracy thanked everyone involved in the Bright Futures Program for coming tonight and for those who are involved in the expansion of the program for next year.

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS – Pitsenbarger

Finance: Vice President Monit reported that the committee met on March 10, 2009 and the following items were discussed: Beacon Center Lease; Open Contract Negotiations; Food Service Administration Bid; Cell Phone Town Leases; Universal Breakfast Pilot; Health Insurance Transition – WWEA Contract; F09/10 State Aid Act and Stimulus Status; Five Year Forecast Review; Planning for Projected Budget Shortfalls; and Potential Land Acquisition.

Human Resources: Trustee Walker reported that the committee met on March 9, 2009 and the following agenda items were discussed: Open Contract Negotiations; Health Insurance Transition – WWEA Contract; F09/10 State Aid Act; Planning for Projected Budget Shortfalls; Other Personnel Issues; Act 18 Status; Potential Land Acquisition; and Beacon Center Lease Update.

Human Resources: Trustee Walker reported that the committee met on March 13, 2009 to discuss events and actions related to a tentative agreement reached on 3/10/09 with the Wayne-Westland Educational Secretaries Association.

CITIZENS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: GENERAL

Public discussion began at 8:25 p.m. and ended at 8:54 p.m.

B. Bovia: Expressed her gratitude for the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center and the importance of the teachers, administrators and private citizens of the community who support this program. The Center exposes the students to a variety of academic areas; they treat their students as professionals and they operate the classrooms like a workplace. She expressed her hope that this is one of the programs that the district will be able to keep for years to come.

M. Blackwell: Asked the Board to review the employment contracts for Superintendent Baracy, Gary Martin and Charlotte Sherman prior to the April 1, 2009 deadline for contract renewal to see if there are any adjustments that can be made in their salary category.

B. Smith: Asked the Board how they can justify approving administrative contracts for the W-WBAA and W-WCOAA unions which included raises.

G. Maxwell: Questioned the Board in good faith – “will they ask Dr. Baracy to take a pay cut?”

J. Bovia: Stated that Dr. Baracy has done a lot through the years as well as the Board of Education. He cited that test scores have risen, buildings have been renovated and “you get what you pay for”.

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS, BOARD OF EDUCATION – Pitsenbarger

S. Walker: Congratulated the Spelling Bee Winners – Melanie and Jane and Sue Wilk for being the recipient of the 2009 Athena Award; and announced that all Board Members received a copy of the February/2009 Head Start monthly report this evening for their review.

S. Monit: Echoed Trustee Walker's comments; stated that it was refreshing and delightful to get a report on the 21st Century Grant; he is looking forward to it being expanded next year; and congratulated Sue Wilk on being selected as the 2009 Athena Award recipient – he is very proud of her.

E. Turner: Stated that he has no problem in giving the superintendent an increase in pay because he is worth every penny that he earns; stated he could not conceive what this district would be like if we did not

have Dr. Baracy at the helm these past twelve years; and congratulated the Spelling Bee winners and Sue Wilk for being awarded the 2009 Athena – she is an excellent person.

W. Gabriel: Stated that there is a real problem as far as educational funding goes in our state; Proposal A is not working based on economy sensitive revenue; the Governor is cutting school funding and districts won't know until August what their funding level is for the 2009/2010 school year; our district faces a big challenge ahead; residents need to be working together by contacting Lansing and letting them know that we have a good district; our voices should join together as one and have our voice heard in Lansing that we want money for our schools; and commented that the Career-Technical Center is one of the hidden "gems" of our district and urged parents and residents to take a tour of the Center and see what programs and services they offer.

C. Schofield: Echoed Trustee Gabriel's comments relative to the Career-Technical Center; the Center offers a wide variety of programs and helps young adults find who they are, what they want to be and the staff is excellent; stated that she is in her ninth year on the Board and expressed her concerns with the lack of school funding and the state playing a "shell game" with the federal stimulus money similar to what they did with the lottery money; complimented Graham, Madison, Schweitzer and Walker-Winter Elementary Schools along with Stevenson Middle School as they went through the review process as part of their school improvement plan; the staff did a wonderful job on their presentations and the dedication they show our students and the amount of hours they put in analyzing data to come up with innovative programs is tremendous; and thanked all of her fellow Board Members for sitting in on committee meetings for her while her husband has been hospitalized.

M. Pitsenbarger: Congratulated everyone who was here tonight for recognitions and presentations; she is truly impressed with the Bright Futures Program and certainly hopes that we can get the grant expanded for next year; stated that the financial picture is uncertain but we do the best we can to maintain; and stated that we provide an excellent education to our students.

ADJOURNMENT: Approximately 9:10 p.m.

Note: Official Board of Education meeting minutes are on file in the Superintendent's Office at 36745 Marquette, Westland. Additionally, Board of Education meetings are shown on Cable Channel 19 (Westland Comcast) and Channel 15 (Westland-WOW), Channel 19 (Wayne), Channel 18 (Canton -2nd & 4th Mondays @ 9:00 p.m.) and Channel 20 (Inkster – Fridays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.).