

The Worthington Board of Education met for a Regular Meeting on the 23rd day of May, 2016, at 7:30 p.m., at the Worthington Education Center.

Mr. Schare called the meeting to order with roll call:

Mrs. Best	present
Mrs. Keegan	present
Mr. Schare	present
Mr. Shim	present
Mr. Wilson	present

The meeting began with introductions, the call to order and the pledge of allegiance.

16-074 Mrs. Best moved to appoint board member Julie Keegan, treasurer pro tempore, for the purpose of recording the proceedings of this meeting in the absence of the district treasurer.

Mr. Shim seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes

Mrs. Best, Mrs. Keegan, Mr. Schare, Mr. Shim, Mr. Wilson

Nays

None

Motion passed.

16-075 Mrs. Keegan moved the adoption of a resolution whereby the agenda be approved for the regular Board of Education meeting.

Mrs. Best seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes

Mrs. Keegan, Mr. Schare, Mr. Shim, Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Best

Nays

None

Motion passed.

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOGNITION

A-3-a Board Recognition

The Board recognized Granby's school secretary, Sheri Fitz, who was recently named OAESA's Secretary of the Year. On Friday, June 17, OAESA will be having their awards luncheon to recognize this year's award winners. Sheri is incredibly deserving of this award as she works tirelessly to keep the school running, "serving the customer" at every turn, going "above and beyond" consistently, "being kind to kids" ALWAYS, and does it all with a smile and sense of humor.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

B-1-a Visitor Comments

There were no visitor comments.

B-1-b Graded Courses of Study

Jennifer Wene, Chief Academic Officer, and representatives from the Graded Courses of Study writing teams, presented revised curriculum for Foreign Language (French, Spanish) and Wellness for Life.

B-1-c Participation Fees

The Board of Education led a discussion regarding Pay to Participate Fees. Mrs. Keegan started the discussion stating that she is now on the SPAC Committee and hearing from parents at SPAC that there is a sense of what the district is not paying for and wanted a board level discussion regarding the athletic budgets.

Mrs. Keegan explained that Treasurer Jeff McCuen inherited the district practice of splitting the pay to participate fees 50/50 into the general fund and athletic budget. Mrs. Keegan, who spoke of how she believes this practice began in the early 2000s during the time of a levy failure, stated that it is time to revisit this practice as the athletic directors have reminded the board that times have changed. Mrs. Keegan said that the percentage of economically disadvantaged students continues to grow in the district which has led to the receipt of fewer pay to participate fees, and when you add the increased costs of athletics, most notably costs for officials and lower gate receipts, the athletic budgets and general fund fees are both decreasing.

Mrs. Keegan stated that there are 32 varsity sports offered at the high school level with a minimum 40 percent participation at each high school (677 at TWHS and 614 at WKHS) and she feels like the district is making the athletic directors manage more sports on less money. Mrs. Keegan said she would like to see the district change the practice of putting 50 percent of the pay to participate fees into the general fund but to allocate all fees to the athletic budget.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES

REGULAR

MEETING

Held on

May 23, 2016

7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Keegan added that this change would not affect the district's budget but would allow our athletic directors to allocate funds better based on specific needs.

Superintendent Dr. Bowers spoke next stating that co-curriculars help create well-rounded students and it's possible that we are under-funding our co-curricular programs. Dr. Bowers explained that the co-curricular budget is determined by the revenue from gate receipts and 50% of the pay to participate fees – and then you divide this number by the number of programs. Dr. Bowers spoke of big ticket items that need to be funded, such as a blocking sled for the WKHS football team that is a \$10,000.00 item. Dr. Bowers added that there is no space for this amount in a budget like we currently have, so families are left fundraising for items they feel the district should pay for. Dr. Bowers also stated that he would not support raising the pay to participate fees on families.

Assistant Treasurer Cusick spoke and said that we don't know the "true cost" of any of these sports without taking into account all of the booster support. Mr. Cusick added his recommendation that whatever decision we make, we make based on putting ourselves in the parents' shoes and determine what is equitable in that fashion.

Mrs. Best said that she would need to know what other schools do and asked Mrs. Keegan what SPAC's recommendation was. Mrs. Keegan responded that last year it was a 70/30 split, but that would return the athletic budgets to only 2009 levels.

Mr. Wilson said that he believes public education should not charge for pay to participate fees, especially if there is no levy needed. Mr. Wilson added that he wants to see the district go back to a time when we only impose fees after a levy failure and to not have fees after a levy passes. Mr. Wilson stated that if we can't offer a sport in a first rate fashion, then we shouldn't offer the sport.

Mr. Shim said that he is unsure of the 50/50 split, and added that he doesn't see an issue with a 70/30 split or even giving 100 percent to the athletic budget. Mr. Shim added that the difference is not a huge amount and will not affect our students academically. Mr. Shim stated that fundamentally, we should be budgeting a little differently and brought up having an athletic contingency fund.

Mr. Schare asked what dollars are under discussion and Dr. Bowers responded that we can't make this an athletic issue but a co-curricular issue, such as any parent that gives money to co-curriculars like the marching band. Mrs. Keegan responded that the total on the table is \$188,500 from the Five-Year Forecast. Mr. Schare said this would move money from the general fund, which can go to Operations and create an additional subsidy for the co-curricular programs at \$188,500. Mrs. Keegan asked if Mr. Schare was questioning how the athletic budgets are allocated or how much the district gives to the athletic budgets. Mr. Schare responded that before increasing the subsidy, we should look at the contingency dollars of bond funds that we have. Mrs. Keegan stated that she wants 100 percent allocated from the General Fund and Mr. Schare responded that we should look at the current and future needs.

Mr. Wilson said that we need to disassociate revenues from expenditures and thinks the athletic directors should justify their budgets, the board should approve these budgets, and the athletic directors should have to spend within their budgets. Mr. Wilson added that he doesn't believe in just allocating money.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES

REGULAR

MEETING

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May 23, 2016

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Dr. Bowers stated that he will let Mr. Cusick and Mr. McCuen give him an accounting of the referenced fund and then he will make a recommendation at a future board meeting.

B-1-d Board/Committee Reports, Announcements and Updates

Mrs. Keegan stated that there were many invites to exciting district events, such as the Worthingway Middle School Honors Recognition, the WKHS Senior Recognition, and that she thought the Delaware Career Center Graduation was a touching event as the ceremony was very meaningful to many of the families of our district's high schools.

Mrs. Best, who attended the Robotics competition Saturday afternoon, said that it was great to see that the district's high schools work together to have a robotic team and that she was glad to see the team's robot in action.

Mr. Schare provided a policy update explaining that he, Assistant Superintendent Randy Banks, and Mr. Shim met with various district administrators the last few weeks to review and align the district's current policy manual with the NEOLA policy manual. Mr. Schare added that he and Mr. Shim will continue to power through this process as the district's current policy manual is roughly 937 pages compared to the NEOLA policy manual which is going to come in at around 1,500 pages with 437 policies. Mr. Schare explained that in the end, he thinks the overall approach is going to be one that increases administrative flexibility wherever possible.

Mr. Schare said that the last two weeks of the school year are a fantastic time to be a school board member due to the end of the year activities. Last week, he went to the WKHS Choir Spring Concert and watched students give an emotional farewell to choir director Mr. Zabiegala, who is departing for Rutgers. The next day, Mr. Schare attended the WKHS Senior Projects and discovered that one of the students will be attending the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, while other students interned at religious organizations, law firms, and the Ohio Democratic Party. Mr. Schare also thanked Principal Kellenberger for inviting board members to Worthingway Middle School's Honors Recognition, and on Friday, Mr. Schare went to his very first Superintendent's coffee where the topics of discussion ranged from high school sailing to providing support in middle school for the First Lego League, a precursor to some of the robotic competitions that occur in high school.

Mr. Schare attended the Walkabout presentations at Linworth, where he learned that some seniors spent their walkabouts working with animals, charities and teaching English in other countries. Mr. Schare emphasized that the Linworth Walkabout continues to be a signature program in our district and our state. Finally, Mr. Schare attended the Ohio First Robotic State Championship at WKHS Saturday to watch our Worbots battle other district robots from across the state of Ohio. Mr. Schare added that the Worbots did the district proud, finishing in the runner up position.

Mr. Shim also stated that the Linworth Walkabouts are a phenomenal experience for students because they help students figure out what they want to be as an adult. Mr. Shim explained that the walkabouts either help students solidify a career path or realize that while this path may be interesting, it's really just a hobby. Mr. Shim also said that he wanted to send best wishes to all of the district's retirees and congratulated the volunteers who won the Friends of Education this year.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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REGULAR

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Mr. Wilson, who said that the Worthington Educational Foundation met last week and are thinking of hiring an Executive Director, explained that he would like to see the district work with the foundation on this. Mr. Wilson also attended the Sutter Park Picnic and said it was a fun event with a great band and that there seemed to be an enormous amount of energy about Sutter Park and what's going on there.

ACTIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT – NEW BUSINESS

16-076 Mr. Shim moved the adoption of a resolution whereby the authorization of payment not to exceed \$250.00 per student in lieu of bus transportation to non-public schools for the 2015-2016 school year (a student who started at the middle of the school year would receive 50% of the reimbursement) be approved as indicated in Enclosure C-1-a.

Mrs. Keegan seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes

Mr. Schare, Mr. Shim, Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Best, Mrs. Keegan

Nays

None

Motion passed.

16-077 Mrs. Keegan moved the adoption of a resolution whereby the authorization of the treasurer to advertise for bids in accordance with Sections 3313.46 and 153-01 of the Ohio Revised Code for the replacement of boilers at Worthington Kilbourne High School be approved.

The failure of both boilers this winter requires immediate replacement prior to the next heating season. Boiler sections and other critical components are no longer available for replacement and repairs are no longer economically feasible.

The project design and engineering including specification development are being finalized in preparation for an anticipated contract award recommendation at the June 27th board meeting. The project is estimated to be completed by September 30, 2016. The project is estimated to be \$400,000.00 and will be funded from the 2012 Bond Issue contingency funds.

Mrs. Best seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes

Mr. Shim, Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Best, Mrs. Keegan, Mr. Schare

Nays

None

Motion passed.

REQUESTS / QUESTIONS / CONCERNS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Schare asked for guidance on whether the administration or the board should facilitate the goal setting discussion at the June 7 special board meeting. Mrs. Keegan responded that since the board has worked with Dr. Bowers for a year now, the administration should guide the discussion while the board participates and added that no facilitator would be needed, Mrs. Best, Mr. Shim, and Mr. Wilson agreed and Mr. Schare requested that board members and administrators come to the meeting with one or two district priorities.

Dr. Bowers reminded the board that high school graduations were this Sunday at the Columbus Convention Center; 12:00 p.m. for WKHS and 4:00 p.m. for TWHS. Dr. Bowers added that the Worthington Educational Foundation is also looking to replace 10 of its 21 trustees and to let him know of any supporters so that the district can get names and applications to the Foundation.

16-078 Mrs. Keegan moved for adjournment, there being no further business to come before the Board. Mr. Shim seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Ayes

Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Best, Mrs. Keegan, Mr. Schare, Mr. Shim

Nays

None

Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Portions of the meeting described in these minutes is recorded on an audio tape recording which is on file in the office of the Treasurer of the school district and which is available for inspection at reasonable times during the regular business hours.

Approved: _____

President

Approved: _____

Treasurer Pro Tempore