



WEBSTER GROVES SCHOOL DISTRICT  
The Board of Education  
Tax Rate Hearing/Special/Workshop Meeting  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2012  
Webster Groves High School Library  
100 Selma Avenue  
Webster Groves, Missouri 63119

CALL TO ORDER

A tax rate hearing/special/workshop meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:35 p.m., Monday, September 24, 2012, by its president, Amy O'Brien. The following members were present:

Amy O'Brien	President
Emerson Smith	Vice President
Amy Clendennen	
Jean Dugan	
Steve Loher	
David Addison	joined by telephone at 7:05 p.m., left meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Also present were:

Sarah Riss	Superintendent
Diane Moore	Assistant Superintendent/COO
Katie Brookes	Secretary

Arrived at 7:00 p.m.

John Simpson	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Linda Holliday	Human Resources Consultant
Cathy Vespereny	Director of Community Relations
John M. Thomas	Director of Student Services
Jon Clark	WGHS Principal

SETTING TAX RATES  
WORKSHOP

Dr. Moore introduced Greg Bricker and Sondra Denk of George K. Baum & Company who led a special workshop on setting tax rates. They shared information concerning the estimated tax rate and possibility of recalculation at a later date by the state auditor, additional tax money available from the railroad/utility tax, and reclassification of property.

They also discussed the Consumer Price Index effect on the tax rate and noted that a tax levy over \$6.00 requires a 2/3 majority to pass. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions throughout the presentation.

The Board agreed that a joint meeting with the Webster Groves City Council and the county assessor would be advantageous. The date of the meeting is set for November 8 at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE

At 7:00 p.m., Ms. O'Brien called for and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag prior to the regular meeting.

AGENDA

Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, approval of the agenda as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

PUBLIC HEARING  
ON SETTING OF  
THE TAX RATE  
FOR 2012-2013

Ms. O'Brien described the process of the meeting to set the tax rate for 2012-2013.

Dr. Moore reviewed highlights impacting the tax levy rate for 2012-2013. The district is permitted to capture the same amount of revenue as the previous year. The district will not capture any additional revenue due to the consumer price index increase. In order to capture the same local revenue as the previous year, the district must roll the tax rate up when the assessed valuation declines. The overall decline in assessed valuation was -0.1270%, reflecting declines in residential and commercial property.

Dr. Moore shared the proposed 2012 tax rates by fund as follows: Incidental Fund: \$3.3364; Teachers Fund: \$1.7900; and Building Fund, \$0.0625. This adds up to an Operating Rate of \$5.1889. Combined with a Debt Service of \$0.5699, the total proposed tax rate is \$5.7588, an increase of \$0.0033 over last year. Proposed 2012 tax rates by property class are as follows: residential: 5.7588; commercial: 6.1927; and personal property: 6.4799.

Following the opportunity for board and citizen discussion and questions, board members will vote on the 2012 tax rate.

BOARD  
DISCUSSION

Board members commented that it is good to keep the tax rate stable and that the district is a good steward of funds.

PUBLIC COMMENTS     There were no public comments or questions specific to the proposed tax rate.

MOTIONS TO SET  
TAX RATE  
2012-2013     Following the presentation and opportunity for comments, the vote to set the tax rate for the 2012-2013 school year was as follows: Mr. Loher moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, that the 2012 tax rate ceiling be set at \$5.3156. Ms. O'Brien, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Mr. Addison, yes; Mrs. Clendennen, yes; Mrs. Dugan, yes; and Mr. Loher, yes. The motion was approved 6-0.

Mr. Loher moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, that the 2012 Operating Levy be set at a blended rate of \$5.3156 and the current year rate computed by category as follows:

Residential -	\$5.1889
Agricultural -	\$0.0000
Commercial -	\$5.6228
Personal Property -	\$5.9100

Ms. O'Brien, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Mr. Addison, yes; Mrs. Clendennen, yes; Mrs. Dugan, yes; and Mr. Loher, yes. The motion was approved 6-0.

Mr. Loher moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, that the 2012 Operating Levy be distributed as follows:

Incidental Fund - \$3.4631

With the current year rate computed by category as follows:

Residential -	\$3.3364
Agricultural -	\$0.0000
Commercial -	\$3.7252
Personal Property -	\$3.8850

Teachers Fund - \$1.7900

With the current year rate computed by category as follows:

Residential -	\$1.7900
Agricultural -	\$0.0000
Commercial -	\$1.8351
Personal Property -	\$1.9625

Capital Projects Fund - \$0.0625

With the current year rate computed by category as follows:

Residential -	\$0.0625
Agricultural -	\$0.0000
Commercial -	\$0.0625
Personal Property -	\$0.0625

Ms. O'Brien, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Mr. Addison, yes; Mrs. Clendennen, yes; Mrs. Dugan, yes; and Mr. Loher, yes. The motion was approved 6-0.

Mr. Loher moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, that the 2012 Debt Service Levy be set at \$0.5699. Ms. O'Brien, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Mr. Addison, yes; Mrs. Clendennen, yes; Mrs. Dugan, yes; and Mr. Loher, yes. The motion was approved 6-0.

## REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF

### WGHS PRINCIPAL REPORT

High School Principal Dr. Jon Clark presented the 2012 High School Report. He started off by stating that he has experienced the most exciting eight weeks in his 17 years with the district. Approximately 2000 visitors attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new high school addition. Teachers are excited, and students seem to be calmer because of the additional space. He mentioned Guidance Department successes and student involvement in clubs, sports, and activities. He also noted the new Robotics Program.

Additional celebrations include increased opportunities for AP courses and college credit courses, high SAT, ACT, and AP test scores, as well as EOC scores which are significantly higher than the state averages. More than 65% of seniors from the class of 2012 earned at least one scholarship, with a total of \$18 million earned.

Dr. Clark discussed activities associated with the goal of ensuring the success of all students. These include implementation of The Art and Science of Teaching and the success of the Experiential Learning Center and the Webster Challenge. He also noted the Silver Award received by the high school for PBIS implementation. He also discussed the goal of improving EOC scores for all students.

Dr. Clark then introduced high school senior Spencer Newcomb. Spencer shared his enthusiasm for the Robotics Program and the internship he participated in during the summer. The Robotics Program offers a great experience, teaching problem solving and teamwork. In July, Spencer worked with Dr. Riss and Dr. Clark, toured the new addition, worked with the maintenance and construction crews, and visited projects at Avery and Steger. Spencer was very positive and appreciative of this opportunity. He then introduced his parents.

#### STAFF DATA AREA REPORT

Dr. Simpson and Mrs. Holliday then delivered the Strategic Plan Staff Data Area Report. Mrs. Holliday started by explaining the various indicators measured in connection with this data area and noting that changes had been made to the indicators as a result of the work of the Strategic Planning Committee. She and Dr. Simpson then shared identified strengths, including professional development, an excellent staff attendance rate, the high percentage of teachers who remain in the district, experienced teaching staff, an increase in the percentage of staff with advanced degrees, an increase in the percentage of teachers participating in action research, and an increase in participation with administrator performance feedback.

Critical issues include recruiting and retaining only certified teachers of the highest quality, increasing the diversity of staff to more closely reflect our student population, maintaining the amount and quality of professional development available, and lower student-teacher ratios.

Dr. Simpson and Mrs. Holliday then discussed the Leadership indicator. The district ranks at the satisfactory level for most leadership-related performance measures. Surveys regarding quality leadership are conducted on administrators in their first three years in the position, with experienced administrators receiving feedback every three years unless performance review merits more frequent feedback.

All measures in connection with the Performance indicator are excellent. Administrators are committed to giving feedback, parent feedback is solicited at conferences and the survey results may help determine future goals.

Professional Development measures are rated excellent. Dr. Simpson shared information on The Art and Science of Teaching, Common Core Standards, and Social Justice. Board members discussed plans for implementation of the Common Core Standards.

In the Education and Experience indicator, four of the five performance measures rated excellent or satisfactory. Since less than 10% are certified staff of color, this performance measure is below satisfactory. The Human Resources Department has identified additional avenues for job postings to improve this performance measure and is tracking the sources of new applicants to determine their value.

For the Culture and Climate indicator (formerly Satisfaction), all performance measures rated excellent or satisfactory.

Board members agreed that the target of 0% annual turnover was not reasonable and that Mrs. Holliday should change the goal to 2-3%.

Progress is being made toward targeted objectives.

PUBLIC COMMENTS    There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT        There being no further business, Mr. Loher moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. The motion carried 5-0.

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President

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Secretary