



WEBSTER GROVES SCHOOL DISTRICT
Open Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, December 8, 2014
Central Office
400 East Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, Missouri 63119

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Monday, December 8, 2014, by its president, Emerson Smith. The following members were present:

Emerson Smith	President
Steve Loher	Vice President
David Addison	
Amy Clendennen	
Jean Dugan	
Joel Oliver	
Michael Shipley	

Also present were:

Sarah Booth Riss	Superintendent
John Simpson	Asst. Superintendent for C&I
Diane Moore	Asst. Superintendent/COO
Linda Holliday	Human Resources Consultant
Cathy Vespereny	Director of Community Relations
John M. Thomas	Director of Student Services
Doug Copeland	Attorney
Jane Baumgartner	Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Smith called for and led the Pledge of Allegiance prior to beginning the meeting.

AGENDA

Mr. Addison moved, seconded by Mrs. Dugan, to move item 3a to follow 3d. The motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cal Fritz suggested that the proposed tax increase can be deferred another year, based on the cumulative surplus and the ability to potentially settle any debt.

CELEBRATIONS

Dr. Riss honored the WGHS Boys Soccer Team and their Class 3 State Championship. She introduced Coach Cashel, who reflected on their season and expressed appreciation for the community's continued support of the program. Coach Cashel introduced his seniors and noted that all players on the roster were 2014 Scholar Athletes. Mrs. Dugan expressed congratulations and said she looks forward to more successful seasons in years to come. Mr. Loher commended the players for successfully achieving the vision of the program and Coach Cashel for the successful development and buy-in to the soccer program. Mr. Shipley complimented the team and noted how defense is what leads to championships. Mr. Smith thanked the coaches for their leadership, guidance, and pursuit of success.

Mr. Addison attended the Inaugural Statesman Symphony. He said it was very enjoyable and complimented children who prepared for this outside of school hours.

Mr. Loher thanked everyone involved with planning Turkey Day activities. It was a great year of events that are special to WGSD.

Mr. Shipley enjoyed preparing chili at the WGHS ChiliFest.

Mr. Oliver was impressed by the efforts that WGSD schools have made this year in giving.

Mrs. Dugan attended the Hixson Holiday House Tour and complimented the PTO for its hard work and the great turnout. She also thanked WGSD administrators for their quick and calm responsiveness to issues that arise day to day.

Mr. Smith Congratulated our schools and community for their giving efforts this holiday season. He thanked parents and teachers for instilling values into children that lead to these acts of kindness.

COMMUNICATION LOG

Mr. Addison requested that BOE open meeting documents become available for public viewing starting in 2015. BOE members were in agreement.

BOE CALENDAR

Mr. Smith said that candidate filing for the April 2015 election begins December 16th at 8:00am. WGSD has two positions available with three-year terms. Mr. Smith and Mrs. Dugan both intend to run for an additional term.

Mrs. Dugan provided an update from the Foundation. January 24th is the Party at the Pageant. This event will include entertainment as well as a variety of local restaurants providing food. She encouraged BOE members to purchase tickets.

REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF

Dr. Riss presented the completed first phase of the WGSD Strategic Plan dashboard. She navigated around the web site and provided BOE members the opportunity to ask questions.

Diane Moore began with a video that will be available online in order to educate the community on tax rates in the district. Ms. Clendennen moved, seconded by Mr. Loher, to adopt the resolution calling for a special election on April 7, 2015, to increase the operating levy of the district by 70.43 cents to maintain staffing and programs within the district, creating a ceiling of 5 dollars and 99.28 cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation for all subclasses of assessed property, with an anticipated increase of 65 cents per hundred dollars of assessed valuation to the existing rate for residential property, and a rate at the maximum amount of the ceiling for commercial real estate and personal property. BOE members discussed the motion, including reasons to pass this now, and the continued importance of FDK. Mr. Smith polled the BOE to get the opinion of each member prior to the vote. Motion Passed 7-0.

Diane Moore reviewed the Building Advisory Committee's recommendations which included a \$28 million bond issue to best solve the growing need for more space in WGSD. This would include major projects such as turning Steger into an elementary school, combining grades 6-8 at the current Hixson site, and making major Moss Field improvements. Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Dugan, to adopt the resolution calling for a special election on April 7, 2015, to borrow 28 million dollars and issue bonds for the payment thereof for the purpose of financing construction and renovations to district facilities, resulting in an estimated increase in the debt service levy of 28 cents. BOE members discussed the motion. Mr. Smith polled the board to get the opinion of each member prior to the vote. Motion Passed 7-0.

Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Loher, the adoption of the resolution approving the form of the Notice of Special Bond and Operating Levy Tax Elections to take place on April 7, 2015. Motion Passed 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Clendennen moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, approval of the consent agenda:

- 006a Minutes for the November 10, 2014 Regular Meeting
- 006b Minutes for the November 15, 2014 Retreat Meeting
- Payment of Bills
 - 006c Monthly Expenditure Report: November \$3,104,084.28
 - 006d Activity Account: November \$159,104.46
 - 006e Cash Flow Summary Report
 - 006f Approve Personnel Report
 - 006g Approve 2014-15 Transportation Routes

The motion carried 7-0.

RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

At 8:10pm, Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Ms. Clendennen to recess into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel [Sec.610.201(3)RS MO]. Mr. Smith, yes; Mr. Loher, yes; Mr. Oliver, yes; Mrs. Dugan, yes; Ms. Clendennen, yes; Mr. Shipley, yes; Mr. Addison, yes. The motion carried 7-0.

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

Open session was reconvened at 9:20pm

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be brought before the board, Mr. Addison moved, seconded by Mrs. Dugan, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The motion carried 7-0.

President

Secretary