

WEBSTER GROVES SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Webster Groves, Missouri

TAX RATE HEARING/SPECIAL/WORKSHOP MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014, 7:00 P.M.  
Central Office Board Room  
400 E. Lockwood Ave.  
Webster Groves, MO 63119

CALL TO ORDER A workshop meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:01 p.m., Monday, September 22, 2014 by its President, Emerson Smith. The following members were present.

Emerson Smith	President
Steven Loher	Vice President
David Addison	
Amy Clendennen	(entered at 7:15 p.m.)
Jean Dugan	
Joel Oliver	
Michael Shipley	

Also present were:

Sarah Booth Riss	Superintendent
Linda Holliday	Human Resources consultant
John Simpson	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Diane Moore	Chief Operations Officer
Cathy Vespereny	Chief Communications Officer
John M. Thomas	Student Services Director
Doug Copeland	Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mr. Smith called for and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag prior to beginning the meeting.

AGENDA Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, approval of the agenda. The motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT There were no public comments.

2014-15 TAX RATE The district held a public hearing on setting the tax rate for 2014-15. Chief Operations Officer Diane Moore explained how her department arrived at the proposed rate, which at \$5.2885 is less than one cent more than the current residential rate and ten cents higher ~ \$6.6617 ~ for commercial property. Property assessed valuation determines whether the rate goes up or down. Following a discussion, the board set the tax rate as follows. There were no public comments on the tax rate.

Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Loher, that the 2014 tax rate ceiling be set at \$5.4028.

Residential -	\$5.2885
Agricultural -	\$0.0000
Commercial-	\$5.6617
Personal Property-	\$5.9100

The motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Loher, that the 2014 Operating Levy be set at a blended rate of \$5.4028 and the current year rate computed by category as follows:

Residential-	\$5.2885
Agricultural-	\$0.0000
Commercial-	\$5.6617
Personal Property-	\$5.9100

The motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Loher, that the 2014 Operating Levy be distributed as follows:

Incidental Fund-	\$3.5503
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With the current year rate computed by category as follows:

Residential-	\$3.4360
Agricultural-	\$0.0000
Commercial-	\$3.7641
Personal Property-	\$3.8850

Teachers Fund-	\$1.7900
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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
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With the current year rate computed by category as follows:

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

The motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Loher, that the 2014 Debt Service Levy be set at \$0.5699. The motion passed 7-0.

- FOUNDATION Mrs. Dugan reported on a variety of upcoming Webster Groves School District Foundation events including the annual golf tournament and auction party in September, a raffle for the Masters Golf Tournament in April and Party at the Pageant in January. She said that the Foundation awarded a minigrant recently to Lisa Picker at Steger.
- MSBA Board members discussed details related to the Missouri School Boards' Association conference this weekend. All are planning to attend.
- AMENDMENT 3 Mrs. Clendennen presented information on the proposed Amendment 3 to the Missouri Constitution, which is on the November ballot. She asked the board to consider approving a resolution opposing the amendment. She said that the measure requires that teacher evaluations be based on state performance standards set in Jefferson City, eliminates tenure, dilutes local control and, if approved as a constitutional amendment, would be difficult to change.
- Mr. Addison moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, that the board approve a resolution opposing the amendment provided by MSBA, striking the third paragraph beginning "Whereas..." The motion carried 7-0.
- AUDIT Darrell Songer of Larson, Allen, Weishair & Co. LLP presented the district's annual audit. His firm examined financial statements, federal and state programs as well as attendance, transportation and the food service program. He said his firm issued a clean opinion - the best comment possible - on district finances. He commended the central office staff for their timely, courteous responses to auditor requests.
- AVERY SCHOOL REPORT Principal Tony Arnold and three students presented a progress report on Avery School, including academic achievement, adoption of a new logo and mascot and playground improvements.
- STAFF REPORT John Simpson and Linda Holliday presented the annual staff data area report, which covered staff strengths, areas for growth, leadership, professional development, teacher evaluation, experience and other topics.
- CURRICULUM REPORTS John Simpson presented curriculum reports for English Language Arts and Fine Arts, including information on the process, standards, learning goals and proficiency scales.
- CONSENT AGENDA Mrs. Clendennen moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, approval of the

consent agenda a through j including

- 006a Minutes from the August 25, 2014
- 006b Minutes from September 9, 2014
- 006c Approve Personnel Report  
Payment of Bills
- 006d Monthly Expenditure Report: August \$2,724,743.24
- 006e Activity Account: August \$145,777.86
- 006f Cash Flow Report: August
- 006g Approve Art Curriculum
- 006h Approve English Language Arts Curriculum
- 006i Approve Audit for 2013-14 School Year
- 006j Approve Finance Advisory Committee Membership

The motion carried 7-0.

RECESS INTO  
CLOSED  
SESSION      Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, to recess into closed session at 8:46 p.m. for the purpose of discussing litigation [Sec.610.021 (1)RS Mo], property [Sec.610.021 (2) RS Mo] and student matter [Sec. 610.021 (6) RS Mo].

The motion passed 7-0 with a roll call vote as follows: Mr. Shipley, Yes; Mr. Oliver, Yes; Mrs. Dugan, Yes; Mr. Smith, Yes; Mr. Loher, Yes; Mrs. Clendennen, Yes; Mr. Addison, Yes.

ADJOURNMENT      Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, that the meeting adjourn at 9:45 p.m. The motion carried 7-0.

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President

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Secretary