

**Webster Groves School District
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Monday, October 12, 2015
7:00 P.M.
Board of Education Room
400 East Lockwood Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63119**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:02 p.m., Monday, October 12, 2015, by its vice president, Amy Clendennen. The following members were present:

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

Also present were:

Sarah Booth Riss	Superintendent
Diane Moore	Asst. Superintendent-COO
John Simpson	Asst. Superintendent-C&I
John M. Thomas	Director-Student Services
Cathy Vespereny	Chief Communications Officer
Lori Medlin	Secretary
Doug Copeland	Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Clendennen called for and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag prior to beginning the meeting.

AGENDA

Mr. Shipley requested the agenda be amended to remove the approval of last month's minutes from the consent agenda. Mr. Loher moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed 6-0.

In addition, Mr. Shipley wanted to know why the Board president, Mr. Addison, asked the Board at the September 28 meeting whether the Board wanted to discuss the VICC program at the October 12 meeting, or wait until the winter retreat. Ms. Clendennen explained that Mr. Addison had surveyed the Board only as a courtesy to Mr. Shipley, who was not in attendance at that meeting. Ms. Clendennen further explained that she and Mr. Addison believed it would be more appropriate to have the VICC discussion at a later date. After a consensus from the Board during the September 28 meeting, it was decided that the VICC discussion did not need to take place imminently. Mr. Shipley again expressed his desire to discuss the VICC program during tonight's meeting.

Mr. Shipley asked that the name of Voluntary Choice Corporation Chief Executive David Glaser be added and the acronym for the ASBR be spelled out in the minutes from September 28, 2015. The Board decided to consider the request. Mrs. Dugan then moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the minutes from the 9/28/15 workshop meeting as amended. The clerical changes were made to the minutes during discussion. The motion passed 6-0.

COMMUNICATIONS LOG

There were no comments/questions resulting from review of the communications log.

**NATIONAL MERIT
RECOGNITIONS**

Dr. Riss recognized several National Merit Semi Finalists and Commended Students. Students were introduced individually and had the opportunity to introduce their families and communicate their future plans.

RECOGNITIONS FROM
BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Loher commended Avery Principal, Tony Arnold and students for their presentation at the MSBA Conference. Mr. Smith thanked the community for their feedback and participation in the superintendent search meetings for the public. Mrs. Dugan reported the sixth grade students had wonderful weather and experiences at Camp Wyman this year. Mrs. Dugan is also looking forward to the WGHS fall production of Hamlet, and noted that the lead role will be played by a female student. Mr. Oliver congratulated the teacher-sponsored trivia night at Hixson. All funds raised are to support the implementation of the Rachel's Challenge program. Mr. Shipley reported the new Avery front patios and walkways are near completion, and that commemorative bricks were still being offered for sale.

RECOGNITIONS FROM
ADMINISTRATORS

Dr. Riss congratulated the Board and staff members who presented at the MSBA Conference. Ms. Vespereny congratulated WGHS teacher Nicholas Kirschmann for being selected for the Dede Freeman Smith Award through the Gifted Association of Missouri.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lisa Mueller spoke about the membership of the WGSD Strategic Planning Committee for this school year. Ms. Mueller stated that the district and the board should do a better job of obtaining community members to serve on the committee.

FOUNDATION UPDATE

Mrs. Dugan encouraged everyone to attend the Ivory Crockett Run for Webster this Saturday. There will be a 1 mile fun walk, 5k race, coffee, and a pancake breakfast following the run.

POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS

There was no discussion or questions pertaining to the pending policy updates and revisions.

SUPERINTENDENT
SEARCH UPDATE

Ms. Clendennen reviewed the updated timeline in the superintendent search process. The Board will meet with the search firm October 26th to finalize the criteria for posting and advertising the position. The deadline for applications will be January 7, 2016, with preliminary screenings and recommendations through the 18th of January. Final candidate interviews will begin during the week of January 25, 2016. The Board's goal is to announce the new superintendent on February 8, 2016.

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT PLAN
UPDATE

Dr. Riss shared the updated Community Engagement Plan. Designated committees have started their review of the survey information and comments received during the community engagement sessions. Both the Building Advisory and Finance Advisory Committees are beginning their work on presentations for public forums on WGSD facilities and on school finance. The Legislative Committee also received and discussed presentations from Dr. Moore and the Kirkwood CFO on school finance and one from the deputy county assessor on property assessments. These presentations have been placed on the legislative committee webpage for viewing. The legislative committee will also be working on how to best share with the broader community what they have learned. Ms. Vespereny and Dr. Riss recommend the community engagement subcommittee work together to develop a proposal of dates and topics for future community engagement sessions for Board consideration in November. The first online Q and A event will be held on October 21.

MSBA CONFERENCE
REPORT

BOE members each shared highlights from this year's recent MSBA Annual Conference. Many conference sessions were highlighted including: a panel discussion by the State Board of Education, School Safety, Meaningful Legislative Advocacy, Communicating in a Digital Age, Ferguson: Navigating the Unrest, Negotiating Superintendent Contracts, The Leader in Me: Young Student Leadership (presented by Avery Elementary School Students), Using Google Sites and The Power of Movement: Kinesthetic Learning.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Dr. Diane Moore presented the first set of recommended budget adjustments for the 2015-16 school year. The district reduced the operating budget by an estimated \$1.6 million for the 2015-2016 school year. The goal is to provide a balanced budget by the end of the year. Dr. Moore explained that the budget is a fluid document; and projecting an exact amount of revenue and expenses between June 2015 and June 2016 is difficult. The board has an established beginning to end budget variance of 3% or less as a successful data measure.

The adjustments outlined in the budget reflect an overall increase in operating revenue of \$251,689 and a decrease in expenses of (\$320,138). These adjustments provide a projected surplus of \$218,526. The Business Office will monitor property tax, Prop C sales tax and state revenue to provide needed updates for future budget adjustments this school year.

Personnel reductions within the 2015-2016 Budget:

The district eliminated one facilities management position, the technology software coordinator position and a custodian position from support salaries. In addition, the district reduced 10% in aide hours. This reduction is the equivalent of 12 aide positions. The district reduced certified staff by a total of 11 positions. Seven full time teachers and 1.4 FTE made up of 4 part time certified staff were reduced. The district anticipated the possibility of needing two additional teacher positions at the start of this school year due to increases in enrollment. One of these two positions was hired to open an additional kindergarten classroom at Edgar Road Elementary School. The district administration will continue to evaluate enrollment and any future staff vacancies this school year.

Mr. Shipley asked Dr. Moore if the VICC line item included transfer students from other districts. Mr. Shipley suggested that the District should increase the number of VICC students enrolled as a way to increase revenue. Mr. Shipley made several more statements in support of increasing VICC enrollment. Ms. Clendennen reminded Mr. Shipley that the agenda had been approved and there would be no discussion regarding increasing or decreasing VICC enrollment at this meeting. Ms. Clendennen asked Mr. Shipley to keep his questions relating to the topic at hand. Mr. Loher commented that the District receives less money from the VICC corporation than it spends to educate students, therefore enrolling more students would not generate more revenue. Mr. Shipley pointed out that the estimated 80 students attending WGSD tuition free that are children of nonresident teachers are a significant cost to us. Ms. Clendennen again asked that discussion returns to the budget adjustments only.

EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE DISCUSSION

Dr. Moore shared the concept of a possible retirement incentive. The Board agreed to discuss a formal proposal for consideration based on possible scenarios that will be prepared and presented at the October 26th board meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

The proposed memberships for the Building Advisory, Finance Advisory, and Strategic Planning committees were presented. The Building and Finance Advisory committees were expanded to broaden community participation. Dr. Riss shared that all volunteers for committees were placed on at least one of the committees they requested. Ms. Clendennen stressed that all residents are welcome to participate in the district committees. The district is actively seeking community involvement in district committees whether they have students enrolled in district schools or not.

SSD EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Dr. Riss shared the new SSD Educational Partnership Agreement with the Board highlighting a more collaborative relationship with the partner districts. The Board decided not to vote on the agreement until the November 9th meeting pending further review.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tammy Barry commented that the district has more revenue this fiscal year than last. With the defeat at the polls and with the decrease in property taxes, it became a win-win for the community.

Dave Buck asked the Board to consider the future of the football program at WGHS. With the statistics of life threatening injuries on the rise, he said it warrants serious consideration for the safety of our students.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Loher moved, seconded by Mrs. Dugan, that the consent agenda be approved:

- 007b Monthly Expenditures: September \$3,249,811.39
- 007c Activity Account: September \$133,894.66
- 007d Cash Flow Report: September
- 007e Approve Personnel Report
- 007f Approve Budget Adjustments
- 007g Approve Building Advisory Committee Membership
- 007h Approve Finance Advisory Committee Membership
- 007i Approve Strategic Planning Committee Membership

The motion carried 6-0

RECESS TO
CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Loher moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, to reconvene into closed session at 8:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Personnel, including hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting employees [Sec.610.021(3) RSMo]. The motion passed by roll call vote: Mr. Loher, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Mrs. Dugan, yes; Ms. Clendennen, yes; Mr. Oliver, yes; Mr. Shipley, yes.

RECONVENE OPEN
MEETING

Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to reconvene the open meeting at 8:50p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, to adjourn at 8:52p.m. The motion carried 6-0.

Board President

Board Secretary