

Webster Groves School District  
Board of Education  
Retreat Meeting  
Saturday, June 14, 2014  
8:00 A.M.  
Epworth Children and Family Services  
110 North Elm  
St. Louis, Missouri 63119

**CALL TO ORDER**

A retreat meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 8:00 a.m., Sunday, June 14, 2014, by its president, Emerson Smith. The following members were present:

Emerson Smith	President
Steve Loher	Vice President
David Addison	(via phone in from 8:00 a.m.- 10:45 a.m.)
Joel Oliver	
Jean Dugan	
Amy Clendennen	
Michael Shipley	

Also present were:

Sarah Booth Riss	Superintendent
John Simpson	Asst. Superintendent-Curriculum & Instruction
Linda Holliday	HR Consultant
Diane Moore	Asst. Superintendent-CFO
John M. Thomas	Director-Student Services
Cathy Vespereny	Director-Community Relations
Jane Baumgartner	Secretary

**AGENDA**

Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Loher, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

**LONGITUDINAL  
FINANCIAL OUTLOOK**

Diane Moore presented the Board with multiple financial reports and budget projections. The trend-line revenue/expenditure report projected a surplus of approximately \$500,000 by the end of the 2013-14 school year. This represents a little over 1% growth in revenues. Following this report was a discussion of the 5 year budgeting cycle. Dr. Moore also presented a Bond Issue Update. WGSD currently has \$2.13 million remaining in Bond Issue monies. Those funds are to be allocated to top District priorities: warehouse needs, space issues with Steger & Hixson, and the continuation of the High School master plan. Finally, Dr. Moore summarized the requirements of the Affordable Care Act and WGSD's current position in regard to employee benefits and the goal being to include all employees who work over 30 hours per week. Informal consensus was reached among the Board to include the additional cost of \$167,000 to the budget in order to provide coverage for all employees working 30+ hours per week. This will be included in the 2014-15 budget.

GUEST SPEAKER ON TAX  
LEVIES & BOND  
REFERENDUMS

David Winkler presented many do's and don'ts regarding Board involvement in Tax Levy Campaigns. He emphasized Board unity, differentiating needs from wants, staying free of distractions, and always remembering that the students come first.

DISCUSSION OF LONG &  
SHORT TERM GOALS

Dr. Riss asked Board members to provide examples of accomplishments from 2013-14. Some answers included: success with Opening Day Ceremonies, more relevant committee reports, visible Board members, positive relationships with teachers, and the receiving of an MSBA Governance Award.

Diane Moore presented updated facilities and revenue reports. The facilities report focused on the need for additional elementary space. Current elementary needs, priorities and possible solutions were discussed. The revenue report provided cost estimates for a possible bond issue and tax levy. Total bond issue costs are estimated to be \$18,902,804, which would result in a \$0.19 bond issue initiative. This would cover construction costs at the High School, improvements to Moss Field, ADA renovations at several elementary schools, Hixson and Clark expansions, as well as Steger renovations. The cost estimates to maintain salaries, budget for anticipated health insurance and retirement increases as well as cost of living increases would require a \$0.67 tax levy initiative.

David Addison exited the meeting (10:45 a.m.)

MOTION TO CLOSED

Ms. Clendennen moved, seconded by Mr. Loher, to move into closed session at 10:45 a.m. for the purpose of discussing Property [Sec. 610.021 (2) RS Mo] and Litigation [Sec. 610.021 (1) RS Mo]. Mr. Smith, yes; Mr. Loher, yes; Mr. Oliver, yes; Mrs. Dugan, yes; Ms. Clendennen, yes; Mr. Shipley, yes. The motion carried 6-0.

RECONVENE OPEN  
MEETING

The open meeting was reconvened at 11:48 a.m.

Mr. Loher moved, seconded by Ms. Clendennen to postpone discussion of item 004c-Update on 40 Acres Project until June 23 meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Smith presented the Board with their 2013-14 goals/priorities. He asked if anyone wants to update for 2014-15, they will be revisited at June 23 meeting.

Diane Moore began the Full-Day Kindergarten discussion. Based on revenues and future budgeting, it is being recommended that the BOE reduce the 2014-15 FDK tuition from \$3,000 to \$2,000 per student. The District would also continue to provide scholarships for students meeting the necessary criteria. Discussions continued about how this would communicate to the WGSD families that the District is working towards making FDK tuition free. It was suggested to evaluate options that might keep the \$1,000 tuition reduction, but also increase the percentage of students that can receive scholarship opportunities. Mr. Smith asked each Board member to state their intent for FDK and how best to proceed financially. Each member stated his/her opinion, with all members vocalizing their desire to work towards a tuition-free FDK.

Mrs. Dugan made a motion to further evaluate the decrease in the FDK tuition rate in addition to the possibility of increasing the percentage of scholarship-eligible students, not to exceed the \$108,000 budget change.

Official Motion withdrawn

Mr. Shipley made a motion to vote on immediate approval of document presented including no changes. There was no second to the motion, therefore, motion was denied.

Informal consensus was reached among BOE members for Dr. Moore to continue devising her 2 recommendations for FDK with this extra \$108,000 built in to the budget.

Dr. Riss gave a brief update on the Strategic Planning process. She stated planning was going well, teams were working well as small groups and their findings/results will be ready to present to the Board at the August meeting.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Clendennen moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, that the consent agenda be approved:

- 005a Approve Policy Subcommittee Recommendations
- 005b Approve Personnel Report
- 005c Approve Professional Development Plan 2014-15

The motion carried 6-0.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Ms. Clendennen, to adjourn at 12:35 p.m. The motion carried 6-0.