



WEBSTER GROVES SCHOOL DISTRICT
Open Minutes from the Special Workshop Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, August 8, 2016
Central Office Board Room
400 E. Lockwood Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119

CALL TO ORDER: A special workshop meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at approximately 7:03 p.m., Monday, August 8, 2016, by its president, Steve Loher. The following members were present:

Steve Loher	President
Amy Clendennen	Vice President
Jean Dugan	Director
Arnold Stricker	Director
Michael Shipley	Director
Emerson Smith	Director
David Addison	Director (via Facetime)

Also present were:

John Simpson	Superintendent
Kristin Denbow	Assistant Superintendent for Learning
Bruce Ellerman	Interim CFO/COO
Sandy Wiley	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Cathy Vespereny	Chief Communications Officer
John M. Thomas	Director of Student Services
Tim Brown	Director of Learning Technologies
Doug Copeland	Attorney
Shari Meyers	Secretary

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

AGENDA Mr. Smith moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Dugan. Mr. Shipley then moved to amend the agenda by adding a second opportunity for Public Comments as item 003b. Mrs. Clendennan seconded the motion. Mr. Smith motioned to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mrs. Dugan. The motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT Resident Kim Mumm thanked administrators for their hard work in discovering the district's ability to capture state revenue for full-day kindergarten since the district moved from hold harmless status to the foundation formula.

REPORTS FROM THE
SUPERINTENDENT &
STAFF

Dr. Simpson shared that during a financial review of state funding, it became clear that the WGSD could offer free full-day kindergarten beginning this school year 2016-17. In addition, the district may be able to apply to the state for funds to cover last year's full-day program and return 2015-16 tuition to parents. Refunds will be contingent on receiving funds from DESE. Based on the state foundation formula that funds public school districts, WGSD will benefit by approximately \$600,00 a year from the program. This is due to the increase in available state aid stemming from a change in the district's status from a "hold harmless" school system. Offering free full-day kindergarten has been a long-term goal of the WGSD.

The board members were thrilled the district is able to achieve this long-term goal and are fully supportive of the tuition-free, full-day kindergarten. They thanked Dr. Simpson and Mr. Ellerman for the Q & A session and for their explanation of the formula involved in reaching the decision.

Mr. Smith moved to implement tuition-free, full-day kindergarten for the 2016-17 school year, seconded by Mr. Stricker. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Smith moved to approve the refund of full-day kindergarten tuition payments to families for the 2015-16 school year, seconded by Mrs. Dugan. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Stricker moved to implement tuition-free, full-day kindergarten for the 2016-17 school year and refund the full-day tuition payments to families for 2015-16 full-day kindergarten contingent on the funds being received from DESE, seconded by Mr. Smith. The motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Emily Bremmer was thankful for the possibility of the 15-16 refund. She requested that more time be given to students to eat lunch and that Adventure Club be more flexible about taking on students mid-year.

Resident Kim Mumm questioned the year the district left hold harmless status. She suggested the Walter Ambrose Family Center be used as additional space for kindergarten if the tuition-free, full-day kindergarten creates a space issue.

Resident Greg Mueller commented that the free full-day kindergarten is good for the kids and good for the parents. He questioned the oversight of funds by the prior administration and board of education.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Dugan moved to approve consent agenda items:
004a Meeting minutes for July 18, 2016
004b Personnel Report - Amended
Seconded by Mr. Smith. The motion passed 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mrs. Dugan, to adjourn the meeting
at approximately 8:04 p.m. The motion passed 7-0.

Board President

Board Secretary