



**WEBSTER GROVES SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Open Minutes from a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education**  
**Monday, September 26, 2016**  
**Central Office Board Room**  
**400 E. Lockwood Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119**

**CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Monday, September 26, 2016, by its president, Steve Loher.

The following members were present:

Steve Loher	President
Amy Clendennen	Vice President
Emerson Smith	Director
Jean Dugan	Director
Arnold Stricker	Director
David Addison	Director (via Facetime until 8:00 pm)

Also present were:

John Simpson	Superintendent
Bruce Ellerman	Interim Chief Financial/Operating Officer
Sandy Wiley	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Cathy Vespereny	Chief Communications Officer
John M. Thomas	Director of Student Services
Shari Meyers	Board Secretary

Not in attendance:

Michael Shipley	Director
Kristen Denbow	Assistant Superintendent for Learning
Doug Copeland	Attorney

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

**AGENDA** Mrs. Dugan moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Addison then moved to have agenda item 005a placed before 002 Public Comments. Mr. Addison changed the motion to have 005a moved between 002 and 003 on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dugan and carried 6-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** Former resident Ellie Myers (2009 alumna whose parents live in Webster Groves) presented information on Yes on 3, a November ballot issue.

Resident Kim Mumm thanked Mr. Ellerman and Dr. Simpson for all of their hard work including finding new and existing funding for the K-12 programs.

Resident Stephanie Moore said she is on a wait list for afterschool care and is hoping the update on Adventure Club during this meeting will resolve this issue.

## SETTING OF TAX RATE

Mr. Ellerman presented the 2016 proposed tax rate. The tax rate was reduced by \$0.01, which the board did to offset the cost of full-day kindergarten scholarships no longer needed. Depending on the district's financial needs in the future, the board has the discretion to voluntarily rescind this after 2 years.

Mr. Ellerman checked with the county assessor's office regarding the personal property tax valuation. The county assessor adjusted the initial valuation from \$10 million to \$4 million.

The WGSD debt service reserve balance currently is less than \$200,000. Mr. Ellerman will investigate to determine if the debt service reserve is adequate. He would like to see it higher for better sustainability moving forward.

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Dr. Stricker that the 2016 tax rate ceiling be set at \$5.2075 blended and individually by category at: Residential-\$5.0886, Agricultural-\$0.0000, Commercial-\$5.2872, Personal Property-\$5.9100  
The motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mrs. Dugan, that the 2016 Operating Levy be set at a blended rate of \$5.1975 and the current year rate computed by category as follows: Residential-\$5.0786, Agricultural-\$0.0000, Commercial-\$5.2772, Personal Property-\$5.9000  
The motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Dr. Stricker that the 2016 Operating Levy be distributed as follows: Incidental Fund - \$3.3450 with the current year rate computed by category as follows: Residential-\$3.2261, Agricultural-\$0.0000, Commercial-\$3.4247, Personal Property-\$4.0475; Teachers Fund-\$1.7900 with the current year rate computed by category as follows: Residential-\$1.7900, Agricultural-\$0.0000, Commercial-\$1.7900, Personal Property-\$1.7900; Capital Projects Funds-\$0.0625 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 carried 6-0.

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mrs. Dugan that the 2016 Debt Service Levy be set at \$0.5699. The motion carried 6-0.

## BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Loher discussed the upcoming MSBA Conference and is looking forward to brainstorming with other board members from the St. Louis area.

Dr. Stricker was impressed with the turnout and conversations at the recent Equity in Education Committee meeting he attended and recommended they meet more than 4 times a year. He would like to see a WGSD community plan to implement and achieve narrowing of the achievement gap. Mrs. Dugan said another district has adopted a program that provides clean clothing and breakfast for those students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. Mr. Smith stated although we have made great strides in closing the gap, more collaboration is needed between grade levels for under-performing students. Mr. Loher said he appreciates Dr. Stricker's passion. Mr. Loher stressed the need to focus on elementary and middle school level students showing signs of under-performing.

Mrs. Dugan reported that the Foundation Golf Tournament was a success and the weather was gorgeous. She stated the golf tournament has had incredible weather since moving it from the spring to the fall. The foundation was able to present 3 mini-grants for innovation: \$800 for WAFC, \$800 for Eric Hayes, \$1,000 for Danielle Zuroweste. Mrs. Dugan also mentioned upcoming Foundation-sponsored meetings and events and encouraged staff and community to attend: Oct. 12- Foundation Meeting, Oct. 15-Run for Webster, Nov. 23-Chili Fest and Jan. 14-Party at the Pageant.

Policy Subcommittee members Amy Clendennen, Jean Dugan and Emerson Smith presented policy modifications. They will be placed on an upcoming board meeting agenda for approval.

## ADVENTURE CLUB

Sandy Wiley provided an update on Adventure Club. She stated she has been working with others to resolve the issue with the before and after-care waiting lists since July. Dr. Wiley provided the number of students currently on the wait list at each school. She compared the current pay for Adventure Club staff with other districts and has determined it needs to be adjusted. She is helping develop a salary schedule. She will meet with Mr. Ellerman to determine the finances available to sustain the pay increase and the additional staff. The openings have been posted to various staff sites, hiring fairs, as well as discussed with high school seniors who may be interested. Dr. Wiley announced an Adventure Club coordinator has been hired. Mr. Loher suggested speaking to the Oasis tutors who may have some flexibility in their schedules. Mrs. Dugan suggested calling parents on the waiting list to update them. Mrs. Clendennen mentioned the importance of getting students into the program and would like Dr. Wiley to come back to the board with an update on the wait list proposal and an ongoing update as the numbers on the waiting lists decline. Dr. Stricker asked if the district would keep in communication with the

parents on the waiting lists to let them know of the progress as well as communicate with building principals.

## COMMUNICATION REPORT

Dr. Simpson thanked Cathy Vespereny for her thoughts, energy and enthusiasm regarding the district communications work. The new superintendent blog has replaced the former superintendent's electronic newsletter. It is an open page for anyone to subscribe. It currently has 417 followers.

Cathy Vespereny shared that the WGSD Facebook page will soon open public comments for all to view. Any questions submitted will be answered within a specified timeframe from a designated district member. Strict guidelines will be in place for the public to adhere to. Mrs. Dugan liked the idea of a place for people to get accurate information. Mr. Smith suggested the district move cautiously and have the resources to maintain it in a responsible way. Mr. Loher inquired about the commitment to maintain the site and the need for possibly a larger communications department. Dr. Stricker appreciated the dialogue and conversation to solve issues.

Dr. Simpson also shared that the WGSD website will be getting a new look to keep things fresh and to easily access information. Mr. Smith liked the concept. Mrs. Dugan suggested a search feature for ease of information. Dr. Stricker thanked John and Cathy for their time and fresh approach. Mr. Loher stated the district is moving in a great direction.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Kim Mumm stated that social media makes people feel comfortable and safe and is the pulse of the community. She mentioned a need to help parents understand programs offered and how students can access them.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, approval of the consent agenda including the amended Personnel Report:

- 007a Minutes for following BOE Meeting
  - 007a1 September 12, 2016
- 007b Personnel Report-amended
- 007c Approve Finance Advisory Committee Members
- 007d Approve Building Advisory Committee Members
- 007e 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Science Curriculum Modification
- 007f Payment of Bills
  - 007f (1) Operating Check Register (9/6/16 - 9/21/16) - \$415,773.90
  - 007f (2) Activity Account Check Register (9/6/16 - 9/21/16) - \$100,518.57
  - 007f (3) P-Card Account Check Register (9/6/16-9/21/16) - \$9,716.15
  - 007f (4) Bond Issue Check Register (9/6/16 - 9/21/16) - \$0

The motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Clendennen moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. The motion carried 5-0.

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Board President

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Board Secretary