

West Geauga Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Monday, December 14, 2009
6:30 p.m.
West Geauga Middle School Conference Area

Roll Call

Board President Beers called the meeting to order with the following members present: Mr. Beers, Mrs. Gillmore, Mr. Kilroy, and Mr. Patterson.

Superintendent Search

Mr. Matthew Galemmo of the Geauga County Educational Service Center presented the Board with a superintendent search option using their services.

Executive Session

2009-245

A motion was made by Mr. Patterson, and was seconded by Mrs. Gillmore, to move into executive session to discuss administrator evaluations.

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Gillmore, Kilroy, and Patterson.

Motion carried

Regular session reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

2009-246

A motion was made by Mr. Kilroy, and was seconded by Mr. Beers to request Board permission for Mr. Kilroy to address the audience at the end of the remarks of the public section of the meeting.

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Kilroy.

No: Gillmore, Patterson

Motion denied

2009-247

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mr. Patterson, to approve the agenda.

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Gillmore, and Patterson.

No: Kilroy

Motion carried

Approval of Minutes – November 30, 2009

2009-248

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mr. Patterson, to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2009 Board Meeting.

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Gillmore, Kilroy, and Patterson.

Motion carried

Advocacy Committee

Mr. Kilroy presented the advocacy committee meeting minutes from December 11, 2009.

In Attendance: Michael Kilroy, Committee Chairperson/Board Member; Bill Beers, Board President; and Tony Podojil, Superintendent

The meeting began at 9 a.m.

1. HB 318 Update

Tony Podojil provided the committee with an update concerning HB 318 in regard to its current status. The senate has not yet passed their version of the bill. We will continue to monitor this situation with the hope that it will be resolved prior to December 31, 2009

2. Alliance Activity Update

The Alliance, in addition to HB318, is advocating extending the deadline for compliance in regard to full-day kindergarten as well as extending the TPP beyond the two years currently guaranteed.

3. **Energy Projects**

Mike Kilroy inquired into the district possibly pursuing projects associated with energy conservation including both wind and solar power. Those items will be worked on through the district's operations committee.

4. **Drug and Alcohol Policies**

Mike Kilroy suggested that in addition to the information the district sends home in the spring regarding "those who host, lose the most," that an additional letter or communication be made in the fall to parents about rules and responsibilities concerning alcohol use for underage students as well as drug awareness.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

2009-249

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mr. Patterson, to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2009 Advocacy Committee.

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Gillmore, Kilroy, and Patterson.

Motion carried

Meeting date scheduled:

Curriculum – December 16, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

Remarks of the Public

Mr. Kilroy recused himself from the Board to be a member of the public during the remarks of the public section of the meeting.

Speaker: George Owens

To: West Geauga School Board

Subject: Recent 3.53 Emergency Renewal Levy

I firmly believe that if the voting public had spent the time and effort to look at the true facts and the additional costs associated with a later application for the levy they would have voted no for this renewal.

How interesting that there was an article by Sue Hoffman on November 20th in a local newspaper citing how this levy may well have been a mistake at this time. Much of this pertained to the potential need for additional monies when the 2012 renewal levy comes due. As stated by School Superintendent Dr. Podojil, much of these funds are due to the new state mandates such as all day kindergarden classes. Even though there will be a two year time frame to work these in, we are looking at a short time frame for these additional monies to keep our system viable financially.

None of you will disagree that our finances are in a dire state. Why would you not have taken Mike Kilroy more seriously to take the time to look into upcoming financial needs? Why did four of you feel that the small savings gained by placing this renewal levy on the November ballot vs. an early request in 2010? Would it not have been more efficient to spend some additional money so that additional research could be done for the potential upcoming costs? What will your answers be when you must come to the voters asking for additional funding? Will it be something like "oh, our costs have gone up, the national economy did not rebound as well as expected or the new bus garage cost was higher than projected"?

Though you may not always agree with Mike Kilroy, there have been a number of instances where his thoughts and ideas have proven out to be cost effective, which in turn benefited our children and district. Why must you continue to deal in the "same old methodology of running the district the same way as years gone by"? Why must you be so afraid of changes, whereby you will not spend the time looking at possible scenarios to save monies for better efficiency in the long run?

Come 2012, I dare say that you well may be asking that we renew not only the 5.6 levy but you will find yourselves asking for a new emergency and/or operating levy request. Personally, I hope that I am wrong on this.

If the economy does not rebound or new jobs for the workers are not found in large numbers, the tax base will continue to erode. The yes vote that you have come to assume will not happen. Then where will our school district be?

Please look at and consider all potential facts that not only will benefit our children but the overall future of our school district.

Speaker: Mike Kilroy

Response to a Letter(s) from Mr. Mandel and M. Hancock and Mr. Passafiume,

I would like to respond to various letters read by Mssrs. Hancock, Mandel and Passafiume at recent board meetings. I appreciate passionate teachers and I am sorry I was not at the October board meeting to hear your letter. Unfortunately, my octogenarian father was hospitalized with pneumonia and flu and we were afraid he might die. I was at the hospital. Reporters, with that dire information choose to say Mr Kilroy was not at the meeting. While true in its simplest form, it is very misleading. I hope this helps teach the children present tonight about the value, or lack of value, of what they read and hear at the Board meetings. It is very important to double check information, you do not have to take at face value what people throw out, in all walks of life, remember to do your own research. Do you believe everything the salesman tells you? Of course not.

Mr Mandel and Mr Hancock have for years written letters blindly supporting the school district and bashing anyone with a different idea. Often they failed to thoroughly research major issues. On many a major occasion these two individuals have been absolutely wrong or masters of the half truth. Mr. Hancock's statement that the 44% of people who voted against the recent levy are "educational terrorists" is way over the line and inexcusable. We are at war with terrorists and any association with terrorists demonstrates just how far this individual will go to disparage anyone to accomplish his agenda. Furthermore, when given an opportunity to really help the District by putting in their names to fill an open Board seat they did nothing. Mr Mandel and Hancock are nowhere in site, no shows, all talk and no action. Actions always speak louder than words.

But let's address a few items anyway. 1) I am not promoting divisiveness between the schools. All I said was that "the right technology for the right age group really makes a difference" The SmartBoards did make a difference and I stand by that statement. Mr Mandel says he understands SmartBoards are obsolete, Do your Homework Mr Mandel, the director of technology for the OSBA with access to 600 school districts and thousands of Elementary school teachers specifically recommends SmartBoards. Mr Mandel your thoughts are obsolete not the technology. Mr Passafiume, while I appreciate your right to comment you are not even at the Elementary school. You are a Middle School teacher and not even close to the action.

To prove the point, let me read letters from some of the teachers who are in the trenches and townspeople regarding the SmartBoard effort. I have shown the teacher emails and other letters to the District treasurer to protect their identities so they are not subjected to the same vitriolic abuse by some people.

- 1) one elementary teacher writes about the SmartBoards , "Dear Mr Kilroy you're a real sunshine maker" "This saves so much time" ... the students benefit paying attention more because they like the technology.
- 2) In another letter an elementary teacher wrote "the interaction that these tools give is. priceless to the students learning. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to making learning meaningful in our district.
- 3) In another letter an Elementary teacher wrote" thank you for taking the initiative to enhance our classrooms with updated technology" "The kids are focused and motivated because of it" Our curriculum has been good for some time now, but updated technology was a missing piece"
- 4) I received a letter from a past treasurer/business manager at the Andrews School that says "thank you for all you do ... my sons both graduated from WG" "J can't agree more with you that technology is a priority in our Children's education"
- 5) Our own 5th graders put SmartBoards in their 50th anniversary growing and learning mural ... Our children seem to get it. Mr Hancock and Mandel could learn from the 11 year olds

And thank you for pointing out the middle school uses SmartBoards. I am fully aware of this and as early as 2007 My wife and I, Mr Gabrielsen and my company gave donations to help buy 3 SmartBoards for the Middle School, Westwood and Lindsey. That was how I discovered the district did not have a comprehensive technology plan that was adequately budgeted. I applauded Mr Kish's efforts to purchase SmartBoards in spite of the lack of district funding.

I know nothing I do will satisfy Mr Mandel or Mr Hancock. Helping initiate and negotiating a \$90,000 computer deal does not count, sponsoring an after school computer class does not count, starting 2 scholarships For Tech kids does not count and now I will help sponsor after school Spanish class and I am sure they will criticize that. Instead they will make up stories like I called a teacher 5 times, an error, or that it is against the West G by-laws .. error again. Mr Mandel led the committee for the 2007 levy + less than 2 campaign and said it was against the law to include delinquencies ... error again and a \$2 million mistake. It is not against the law just ask our new treasurer. His committee said the district would have to cut \$750,000 from the district ... error again. These guys are seldom right but never in doubt.

I challenge Mr Hancock and Mandel to stop complaining and do something . I challenge them to raise the bar of excellence and help Mr Passafiume get new technology to help his science classes . Maybe you two can come up with a \$50,000 campaign to help the middle school.

Michael Kilroy.

Speaker: Terry Palermo

To: The West Geauga School System Board of Education

12-14-09

From: Terry Palermo

7900 Arlington Drive Chesterland, OH 44026

My personal view of the board and its decision making is that no one likes any disagreement or friction of any type. When this was the norm 2 years ago, this school board ran into a major resistance from the residents to pass any additional property tax increases and the addition of an income tax that would have taken any further voting from the hands of the residents. As we all now know the financial budgeting was wrong and personal emotions of many misled tax payers were totally misplaced.

A school board or for that matter any group decisions that lack tolerance to listen to others, in this case a newly elected member, lacks respect for their own positions. At the same time I have heard requests for a "team" approach to making decisions. I will assume that is the request to all 5 members of this board even when it is not convenient.

I have heard talks questioning the competence of one board member. The definition is legally qualified or adequate. In the past much of the vetting of our school budget and financial requirements going forward were very incompetent. I have noticed though that this has improved substantially over the past 2 years.

With the mess of our economy and the lack of State funding going forward this board needs to plan for the worst and hope for the best. The State of Ohio is not going to be there for us to help with any budget deficits. The people of this community are owed good and sound financial management of the school system budget.

All of the residents young and old need to know that costs are being curtailed like everywhere around us and there are no sacred cows beyond the reach of your voices.

There are people in the community and some in this room who are for everything whether it is needed or not. The issue is that they are in the minority. They voted for increased levies, the income tax that was proposed, and will keep on voting for increased funding for schools. You will likely get no increases from the voters in the near future whatever the circumstances are due to high unemployment, no increases in social security and lack of increases (and many decreases) in everyone's paycheck.

To each board member ... lack of planning now to take unnecessary cost out of the budget will take us down a path that will cause financial issues in less than 2-3 years. Please know that if the monies we have are not spent properly now there will be little chance that the community will support any new increases. Do not underestimate the external issues and the ongoing issues of the tax payers who are footing the bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Palermo", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Speaker: Dave Hancock

Dave Hancock read the following letters that had been published in the paper.

Voters smarter than naysayers

• Dear County Line: I'd say that the intelligent voters of Chester and Russell showed you how dumb **your favorable reporting on West Geauga School Board member Michael Kilroy** - and especially **your opinion column attempting to enhance his credibility** - really were.

Despite Mr. Kilroy's scurrilous **advertising against the recent** school levy, the voters approved it **by a wide margin. proving, even in** these difficult economic times, that they support local education and that they understand the need for funding. Not only that, they reelected William Beers and Sally Gillmore to the school board, proving that they trust sensible leadership **over irresponsible nonsense.**

Furthermore, even with passage of the renewal levy, West Geauga, like most other school districts, still faces deficits in the future and the need for ' more local funding **because of increasing state mandates** and decreasing state financial assistance, Your paper should be talking more to the four school board members who support our children and less to the one who doesn't.

Levi Newall, Chester

• Dear Levi: Since Mr. Kilroy was legitimately elected to the school board two years ago by the intelligent voters of Chester and Russell I **believe that does give him a certain** amount of credibility. However, you do have a point that, as just **one person on a five-member** board, he represents only 20 percent of its voice. ~ Also, since Mr. Beers and Mrs. Gillmore were **unopposed in the recent election, it could mean that** Mr. Kilroy is a lonely voice in the crowd.

By Dave Lange, County Line

Re-Examine school levy

I firmly believe that, if the voting public' had spent the time and effort to look at the true facts and the additional **costs associated with a later application** for the West Geauga levy, they would **have voted no this renewal. How interesting that there was an** article on Nov. 20 citing how this levy may have been a mistake at this time. Much of this pertained to the **potential need for additional monies** when the 2012 renewal levy comes due. As stated by School Superintendent Anthony Podojil, much of these funds **are due to the new state mandates such** as an-day kindergarten. Even though **there will be a two-year time frame to work these in, we are looking at a short time frame for these additional monies** to keep our system viable financially. None of you will disagree that our **finances nationally are in a dire state.** Why would you not have taken school **board member Mike Kilroy more seriously** to take the time to look into upcoming financial needs? Why did four board members feel that the small savings gained by placing this renewal levy on the November ballot vs. an early request in 2010? Would it not **have been more efficient to spend some additional money** so that additional research could be done for the potential **upcoming costs? What will your answers be when you must come to the voters asking for additional funding?** Will it be something like, "Oh, our costs have gone up, the **national economy did not rebound as well as expected, or the new bus garage** cost was higher than projected "? Though you may not always agree **with Mike Kilroy, there have been a number of instances where his thoughts and ideas have proven out to be cost effective, which in turn benefited our** children and district. Why must you **continue to deal in the same old, same the same way as years gone by?** 'Why must you be so afraid of changes whereby you will not spend the time looking **at possible scenarios to save monies for better efficiency in the long run? Come 2012, I dare say that you may well be asking that we renew not only** the 5.6-mill levy, but you will find **yourselves asking for a new emergency and/or operating levy request.** Personally, I hope that I am wrong on this. If the economy does not rebound **or new jobs for laid-off workers are not found in large numbers, the tax base will continue to erode. The yes vote that you have come to assume will not happen.** Then where will our school district be? Please look and consider all potential facts that not only benefit our children but the overall future of our school district.

George F. Owens . Chester

Speaker: Bernie Mandel

Responded to Mr. Kilroy that he has research on everything he has said; Is 76 years old and time to rest and write letters.

Speaker: Scott Roller

Expressed distaste with Mr. Kilroy's behavior. Suggested the Board have two sections for hearing the public – one at the beginning of the meeting and one at the end.

Treasurer's Report/Recommendations

Financial Reports A-G

Treasurer Tullai presented the Financial Reports A-G for November 2009 (see attached)

Warrants – November 2009

2009-250

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and seconded by Mr. Kilroy, to approve the warrants for the November check register (see attached).

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Gillmore, Kilroy, and Patterson.

Motion carried

Now & Then Statements –November 2009

2009-251

A motion was made by Mr. Patterson, and was seconded by Mr. Kilroy, to approve the November 2009 now and then statements(attached)

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Gillmore, Kilroy, and Patterson.

Motion carried

Fund to Fund Transfers

2009-252

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mr. Patterson, to approve the following fund to fund transfers:

From 300-7200-910-900Z to 300-5100-954H \$1,695

From 516-9009 to 516-9010 \$221.42

From 573-9009 to 573-9010 \$ 2.42

From 590-9009 to 590-9010 \$ 30.69

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Gillmore, Kilroy, and Patterson.

Motion carried

Inventory Reduction

2009-253

A motion was made by Mr. Patterson, and was seconded by Mr. Kilroy, to approve the inventory reductions as attached.

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Gillmore, Kilroy, and Patterson.

Motion carried

Contracts

2009-254

A motion was made by Mr. Kilroy, and was seconded by Mr. Patterson, to approve the Anthem Blue Access Agreement for January 2010 through December 2010.

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Gillmore, Kilroy, and Patterson.

Motion carried

2009-255

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mr. Patterson, to approve the Anthem HSA Agreement for January 2010 through December 2010.

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Gillmore, Kilroy, and Patterson.

Motion carried

2009-256

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mr. Patterson, to approve the Humana Dental Agreement for January 2010 through December 2010.

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Gillmore, Kilroy, and Patterson.

Motion carried

2009-257

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mr. Kilroy, to approve the Flexible Benefit Plan Agreement for January 2010 through December 2010.

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Gillmore, Kilroy, and Patterson.

Motion carried

2009-258

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mr. Kilroy, to approve the COBRA Benefit Plan Agreement for January 2010 through December 2010.

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Gillmore, Kilroy, and Patterson.

Motion carried

Superintendent's Report/Recommendations**Personnel****2009-259**

A motion was made by Mr. Beers, and was seconded by Mrs. Gillmore, to approve the personnel as presented

1. 2009-2010 DISTRICT SUPPLEMENTAL ASSIGNMENTS

| Last | First | Bldg/Dept | Assignment | Rate |
|------------|----------|--------------------|---|------------|
| Wilson | Jenny | District | Destination Imagination | \$1,050.00 |
| Ledman | Aly | High School | Academic Decathlon - 1/2 Contract | \$700.50 |
| Painter | Joy | High School | Academic Decathlon - 1/2 Contract | \$700.50 |
| Crissinger | Mike | HS - Athletic Dept | Athletics: Basketball Boys-Asst. - Varsity (30% Contract) | \$1,281.60 |
| Lozon | Leslie | HS - Athletic Dept | Athletics: Tennis Girls-Asst. - JV | \$2,451.00 |
| Pavilonis | Jillian | HS - Athletic Dept | Athletics: Gymnastics - Asst. - 1/2 Contract | \$1,488.00 |
| Pavilonis | Lindsey | HS - Athletic Dept | Athletics: Gymnastics - Asst. - 1/2 Contract | \$1,488.00 |
| Murray | Joe | Middle School | Athletics: Basketball Girls 8th grade - Asst. | \$3,151.00 |
| Sargent | Michelle | Middle School | PANDA - 2/3 Contract | \$700.00 |

2. LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENTS

| Name | Assignment | Bldg. | Time Period | RATE OF PAY | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------|------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| | | | | Day 1 to 30 | Day 31 and after |
| 1. Bryne, Christine | Kindergarten Teacher | WW | 10/23/09 – 6/7/10 | \$88.42 | \$200.08 (BS/1) |
| 2. Taddeo, Ann | 4 th Grade Teacher | WW | 8/25/09 – Undetermined | Waived | \$231.58 (BS/5) |

- Long-term substitute for Samantha Engoglia, kindergarten teacher at Westwood Elementary.
- Long-term substitute for Traci Chase, 4th grade teacher at Westwood Elementary. This is an intermittent substitute assignment. Mrs. Brewster and I recommend that the long-term substitute 30-day stipulation be waived for Ms. Taddeo.

3. GEauga COUNTY CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES – DECEMBER 3, 2009

| Tutor | Last Name | First Name | Cert. | Expire |
|-------|------------|------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| X | Acken | Robyn | 2 Yr. Prov. P-3 | 2011 |
| X | Andre | Donald | L-T 4-12 Integ. Bus&Marketing | 2010 |
| | Braden | Beau | S-T Gen. Educ. | 2010 |
| X | Brzozowski | Christine | Perm English, French | Perm |
| | Davidson | Brad | S-T Gen. Educ. | 2010 |

2009-262

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mr. Patterson, to accept the resignation of Mrs. Leavenworth from the West Geauga Board of Education.

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Gillmore, Kilroy, and Patterson.

Motion carried

Mr. Beers announced the Board will accept applications for the vacant School Board position until noon on December 18, 2009. Applications are to be sent to the Treasurer.

2009-263

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mr. Patterson, to establish a meeting on December 21, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. for purposes of filling the vacant school board member position.

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Gillmore, Kilroy, and Patterson.

Motion carried

2009-264

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mr. Kilroy to move into executive session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss negotiations with legal counsel.

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Gillmore, Kilroy, and Patterson.

Motion carried

The Board returned to open session at 9:40 p.m.

President Beers set the organizational meeting date for January 11, 2010. President Beers will contact OSBA and Finding Leaders to set up meeting dates to discuss the Superintendent Search.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mr. Kilroy, to adjourn the meeting at 9:55p.m.

Roll call: Yes: Beers, Gillmore, Kilroy, and Patterson.

Motion carried

Board President

Treasurer