

West Geauga Board of Education
Wednesday, March 11, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Middle School Community Room

Roll Call

Board President Mr. Thoreson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present:

Mrs. Dottore, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Kotowski, Dr. Phelps and Mr. Thoreson.

Mr. Thoreson led the Board in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda/Addendum Items

2015-065

A motion was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mrs. Dottore to approve the agenda as amended.

Roll Call: Yes: Dr. Phelps, Mr. Thoreson, Mrs. Dottore, Mr. Douglas and Mr. Kotowski
Motion carried

Superintendent's Report

Results of Testing

Ms. Benincasa, Director of Curriculum and Mr. Sean Whelan, Director of Technology reported to the Board of Education on the current status of testing at the District.

Ms. Benincasa indicated HB 7 is ready to be signed by the Governor. It will grant safe harbor to students who do not take the standardized tests except for those taking tests for high school graduation and the third grade guarantee. Districts will still report a zero to the state for those students not taking the test, thereby, impacting the performance indicator on the report card. The District currently has an 89.6. The District may not drop a whole letter grade, but we anticipate a lower score due to students opting out of testing.

Dr. Phelps asked if the state cared about the grade for the District.

Mr. Kotowski said districts could game the system by having students who perform badly on tests opt out of testing.

Mr. Thoreson asked how many students opted out of testing.

Ms. Benincasa:

Elementary Buildings - 16 total

Middle School – 25 total

High School – 3 total, however 13 high school students did not take the government exam. It is not on the report card.

The principals reached out to families who opted out of testing to discuss testing and the impact for their student, but a number of requests came at the last minute.

Dr. Phelps's shared some of his concern for students with IEPs and their readiness for the exam.

Ms. Benincasa said while the testing was given over a longer period of time, the test time on the PARCC test was similar to that of last year's OAA. She believes the district can shorten the length of the testing period next year based on the student and teacher feedback.

Mrs. Dottore said she was "not a fan of PARCC testing" but said her kids thought the testing went well for them.

Ms. Benincasa replied, "We are lucky because we prepared our kids with technology" and we were able to properly schedule the testing but other districts were not so lucky. She did say the math portion of the test was more challenging just because it was on a computer versus a paper and pencil test.

Mr. Whelan indicated the district overcame several challenges regarding numerous operating systems, 10 different browsers used, last minute updates from the state, new proctor cache software and updating student data. The staff did a terrific job front loading problems before the testing started. He thought Brenda Harriss, Coordinator for Testing, should also be commended for her work.

Ms. Benincasa indicated our issues were very minor and applauded everyone involved in the current testing.

Mr. Thoreson asked if one school used paper and pencil instead of computer for testing and did we lack any technology. Mr. Whelan said only the third grade at Westwood used a paper and pencil test. iPads were used with external keyboards. The middle and high school used Chromebooks and desktops in the media centers. Mr. Bishop and Mr. Kish prepared testing schedule which worked well and rotated teachers to help students with problems. The district had enough technology support in every building during the testing.

Mrs. Dottore asked if we will be able to determine whether or not the District improved given the students who opted out of testing. Ms. Benincasa indicated it will be very difficult to determine that this year but individual test results will be available to teachers for next year.

Mr. Douglas asked if parents had to give a reason for opting out of testing. Ms. Benincasa said they did and the two reasons most cited were the common core and drastic increase in testing.

Mr. Thoreson asked what the students did who opted out of testing. Ms. Benincasa said they received educational instruction in the classroom.

Mrs. Dottore asked about students commenting that if they don't take the test, they don't need to do the test prep. Ms. Benincasa stated we teach a West Geauga approved curriculum based on state standards. Anything we are doing in the classroom is curricular in nature and not test prepping. Data collection from practice can be used by teachers to improve instruction. PARCC testing measures standards and curriculum.

Mr. Whelan stated we increased instructional technology over the past years and this provided students with adaptive skills during the test if something went wrong. We did not do a lot of test prepping. Students will use a lot of the skills necessary for the test as they progress through West Geauga and into college.

Ms. Benincasa said “we are not growing widgets – we are laying the foundational work that may take years and is not measurable in one year.” We are testing a skill versus test taking. An example would be to compare and contrast a story.

Mr. Douglas said “taking tests is a skill.” Test taking anxiety is a real issue with students.

Ms. Benincasa ended by saying “We have been successful. We should be bursting with pride of our (district’s) success and you should be proud.”

Mr. Thoreson asked if they needed anything for next year. Ms. Benincasa said they are collecting feedback from students and teachers to determine what changes need to be made for next year. Mr. Whelan indicated we would need to address the aging XP computers discussed earlier this year since they will not work next year. He believes the VDI solution will help address some of these concerns.

Superintendent’s Recommendations

2015-066

A motion was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Dr. Phelps to approve the superintendent’s recommendations.

OSC Recycling Resolution

WEST GEAUGA LOCAL SCHOOLS

Administrative Offices
8615 Cedar Road
Chesterland, Ohio 44026
(440) 729-5900 / Fax: (440) 729-5939
www.westg.org



RESOLUTION 2015-66

Ohio Schools Council Cooperative advertising and receiving bids for waste and recycling services

WHEREAS, the West Geauga Local Schools Board of Education wishes to advertise and receive bids for waste and recycling services from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018 through the Ohio Schools Council's Waste and Recycling Program. There is no fee to participate in the Ohio Schools Council 2015-2018 Waste and Recycling Program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the West Geauga Local Schools Board of Education wishes to participate and authorizes the Ohio Schools Council to advertise and receive bids on behalf of said Board as per the specifications submitted for the cooperative purchase of waste and recycling services for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. It is understood there is no fee to participate in the Ohio Schools Council 2015-2018 Waste and Recycling Program.

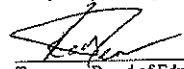
Motion Michael Douglas 2nd Dr. Thomas Phelps

Aye 5 Nay 0

TREASURER'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate and correct excerpt from the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education of the West Geauga Local School District held on the 11th day of March, 2015, showing the adoption of the resolution hereinabove set forth.

March 11, 2015
Date



Treasurer, Board of Education
West Geauga Local School District,
Ohio

Approve New Substitute Position and Rate Recommendation

S-2

NEW SUBSTITUTE POSITION AND RATE RECOMMENDATION

To: Mike Nutter, Superintendent
From: Jim Russo, Operations Manager
Subject: Board Recommendation re maintenance substitute
Date: February 26, 2015

It has become necessary to add a Maintenance Department substitute. It is my recommendation that this position be at a rate of \$12.00 an hour.

**Roll call: Yes: Mr. Kotowski, Dr. Phelps, Mr. Thoreson, Mrs. Dottore and Mr. Douglas
Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Penler presented a PowerPoint on the Proposed State Funding levels for West Geauga for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. These are currently proposed in the biennial budget and have not been approved by the legislature. West Geauga is projected to lose state funding of \$236,150 in FY 2016 and \$233,788 in FY 2017.

Mr. Thoreson announced the next Board Meeting

Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
March 23, 2015
Middle School Community Room
8611 Cedar Road
Chesterland, OH 44026

ADJOURNMENT

2015-067

A motion was made by Mrs. Dottore and seconded by Mr. Douglas to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

**Roll Call: Yes: Mr. Thoreson, Mrs. Dottore. Mr. Douglas, Mr. Kotowski and Dr. Phelps
Motion carried**



Board President



Treasurer