

West Geauga Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 28, 2009
7:30 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, Mrs. Leavenworth and Mr. Patterson.

Approval of Agenda

2009-196

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

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

Motion carried

Approval of Minutes –September 14, 2009

2009-197

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mrs. Leavenworth, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2009 meeting.

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

Motion carried

Recognitions/Commendations

Student Achievement Report – Dr. Podojil reviewed the Student Achievement Report.

- West Geauga Local Schools receive an Excellent with Distinction rating from the Ohio Department of Education on the 2008-2009 State Report Card. This is the ninth year that West Geauga is being recognized as an excellent district and the second consecutive year that the district has earned the Excellent with Distinction ranking implemented last year by the Ohio Department of Education.
- Westwood Elementary School celebrates its 50th anniversary with a week of activities and festivities.
- Students at West Geauga Middle School now have the opportunity to eat their lunches outdoors on a new outdoor patio. West Geauga High School junior Nick Pirc designed the 1,200 sq. ft. Unilock paving stone patio that was completed in August. Labor and the sprinkler system for the project were donated by Pirc Landscaping of Wickliffe. Best Sand of Munson Township donated the stone for the foundation of the patio, and Arms Trucking of Middlefield donated the paving stone. One-third of the balance of the approximately \$7,000 in materials was donated by the Environmental Discovery Project (a group comprised of West Geauga High School students interested in environmental issues). The other two-thirds of the funding came from revenue generated by the district's open enrollment. Not only does the patio provide a pleasant outdoor haven for students to enjoy their meals, a vegetable garden is planted adjacent to the patio. High school students will teach the middle-schoolers about nutrition and healthy life styles, and the produce harvested from the garden is being incorporated into school lunch menus. In addition to Nick, sophomore Justin White and Anthony Pirc and Matt White (both WGHS Class of 2008 alum) assisted with installation of the project.
- The Conservation Education Award Committee of The Cleveland Museum of National History selects West Geauga High School science teacher Mike Sustin as the museum's 2009 Conservation Teacher of the Year because of his achievements in teaching and working with students. Sustin planned the summer ecology experience program, coached students with Envirothon science competition, sought grants and mentored students with projects for the Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair.

- West Geauga High School along with high school science teachers Tom Booth, Natalie Cooper, Kristin Gregory, Anna Laubscher, Aly Ledman, Mike Taurasi, Don Tobul, Brian Spotts and Mark Walton are selected to receive Governor's Awards for Excellence in Youth Science Opportunities for the 2008-2009 school year from Governor Ted Strickland and the Ohio Department of Education. West Geauga and the teachers were chosen by The Ohio Academy of Science for their engagement in project-based curricula, the central element of any STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education program.
- West Geauga High School art teacher Nancy Dvorak will receive a 30-year Circa Recognition Award and be inducted into the Ohio Art Education Association CIRCA Honor Society in November. The OAEA CIRCA Society awards honors to OAEA educators who have shown long term service and professional dedication to OAEA and the field of visual art education in Ohio.
- West Geauga High School seniors Julia Hubay and Jackson Owens are selected as National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists.
- West Geauga High School senior Karen Kruzer's summer research on the Application of Lean/Six Sigma for Reducing Troponin Turnaround Time was accepted for presentation at a national Lean Six Sigma business conference in Orlando in October. Lean Six Sigma for services is a business improvement methodology that maximizes shareholder value by achieving the fastest rate of improvement in customer satisfaction, cost, quality, process speed and invested capital.
- West Geauga High School undergraduates and Class of 2009 graduates earn excellent marks on the Advanced Placement exams in May 2009. Christopher Dawson and Jacob Gelman qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4 or higher on a 5-point scale on all AP exams taken and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. Christopher Dawson, Jacob Gelman, Michael Striegel, Andrew Wilber and Sarah Zyzanski qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Elizabeth Beers, James Cizek, Jordan Kit, David Moskowitz and Jackson Owens qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Sarah Alcorn, Natalie Christopher, Amanda Cooper, Shannon Corlett, Julia Deitz, Madeline Dicks, Julia Hubay, Elizabeth Javorek, Spencer Kershaw, Karen Kruzer, Carole McCormick, Meghan Offtermatt, Chantal Pettegrew, Christa Repas, Derek Visner and Brett Williams qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP exams with grades of 3 or higher.
- On September 12, Frank Cosenza (WGHS Class of 2006) dotted the "i" in Script Ohio when the University of Southern California Trojans came to Columbus to battle The Ohio State University Buckeyes. Cosenza is a senior at O.S.U. majoring in hospitality management and a member of The Ohio State University Marching Band. He will also dot the "i" on Nov. 21 when O.S.U. plays Michigan. Cosenza is the son of Frank Cosenza, West Geauga High School band director and West Geauga High School West Geauga Middle School instrumental music teacher, and Teresa Cosenza, West Geauga Local Schools instrumental music teacher.

Ohio State Board of Education and ODE Letter of Recognition

Dr. Podojil presented a letter from the State Board of Education and ODE congratulating the District for exemplary performance during the 2008-2009 school year.

September 2009

Dear Superintendent:

On behalf of the State Board of Education and Ohio Department of Education (ODE), we would like to congratulate you on your district's exemplary performance during the 2008-2009 school year. Achieving the ranking of Excellent with Distinction on the 20082009 Local Report Card is a testament to the hard work and dedication of your teachers, staff, students, parents and community.

To recognize your outstanding achievement as an Excellent with Distinction school district, you are receiving the enclosed banner to display in your district.

Congratulations again on your achievements in the 2008-2009 school year. If you would like to order additional

banners to display in your district, you may contact David

Grizzle, American ColorScans, (614) 895-0233 ext. 205 or Chris Smith, Marathon

Media Inc., (614) 746-0486.

Best wishes for continued success this year!

Sincerely,

Deborah Cain
Deborah. Cain

Advocacy Committee

Dr. Podojil updated the Board. The next meeting of the Alliance is October 6, 2009. Important points to discuss will be the addition of all day kindergarten and possible further reductions to State funding due to the slot machine controversy.

Meeting date scheduled:

Finance: October 9, 2009 at 4 p.m.

Treasurer's Report/Recommendations

2009-198

A motion was made by Mrs. Leavenworth, and was seconded by Mrs Gillmore, to approve the statement of Purpose and Budget for the following activities:

| | <u>Fund</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Senior Class(M. Susong) | 200-910C | \$29,300 |
| HUGS (V. Vlah) | 200-950H | \$ 100 |
| Swim Team(D. Diadium) | 300-914A | \$20,550 |
| M.S. Cheerleaders(J. Hass) | 300-953I | \$ 1,200 |
| Junior Class (M. Walton) | 200-911C | \$ 4,300 |
| Teen Institute(J. Witherite) | 300-979H | \$ 1,820 |
| West G TV(A. Myers) | 200-948H | \$ 2,050 |

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

Motion carried

District Communication Committee

Dr. Podojil presented Minutes of the September 16, 2009 District Communication Committee.

In attendance: Brenda Armstrong, Terri Stupica Bear, Mo Bidar, Ron Cotman; Jackie Dottore, Eileen Fisco, Sally Gillmore, Cathy Gorski, Bonnie Gmmtadauria, Reena Kanner, Audrey Kramer, Lynn Krouse, Scott Larrick, Meg Moosa, George Owens, Dean Patterson, Nancy Petko, Lori Petrovic, Jerry Pignolet, Dan Stafford, Tony Podojil, Kristina Port, Susan Ruminski, Sally Wajahn, Wayne Walters, Beth Williams, Linda Yanko and Kim Zannetti.

Welcome

Superintendent Tony Podojil called the meeting to order at 8:03 and reviewed the purpose of the committee.

Member introductions were held.

Minutes

The committee accepted the minutes of the May 20,2009 meeting with no changes.

Academic & Achievement

Dr. Podojil announced that the opening of school went smoothly except for some water issues that were resolved while the students were in attendance.

Director of Communications Bonnie Grutadauria reviewed the new certified staff members and their positions. This is the ninth year that West Geauga is being recognized as an excellent district and among only 116 districts in the state to receive the "Excellent with Distinction" rating from the Ohio Department of Education for districts who meet the benchmarks for academic achievement, adequate yearly progress and value-added criteria.

West Geauga High School seniors Julia Hubay and Jackson Owens qualify as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists.

Dr. Podojil reviewed the district's decision regarding President Obama's national address to schoolchildren. The speech was not broadcast live to students in grades K-8. Approximately 140 high school students, who had permission from their parents, watched the speech air live at noon on Sept. 8.

Building and Grounds

An addition to the typical projects completed each summer, the district was able to renovate the varsity baseball field and upgrade the playgrounds at the elementary schools. Through volunteer funding and labor, a patio was built at the middle school.

Volunteers were helping to clear a site owned by the school district on Cedar Road in an effort to provide more land for practice fields. However, the project is on hold while wetlands issues are being resolved ..

Since the proposed new transportation facility will be owned by Geauga County, the district is working with the Geauga County commissioners on a lease agreement between Geauga County and West Geauga. The tentative move-in date is slated for October 2010.

Technology

The district's automated call alert system is currently being updated as class rosters are formalized. Notification of the update will be reported to staff and parents as soon as it is in place.

Parents/staff/community members can receive district news and other important information about West Geauga Local Schools through e-mail by logging onto the district Web site and registering to join the e-mail list. The school sites will be merging into the same format as the district Web site over the course of this school year.

Fiscal

The district has approximately 70 open enrollment students this school year, which generated approximately \$350,000 in revenue. Only students currently enrolled in open enrollment and their siblings were accepted because of upcoming changes in state law regarding phasing out the revenue received for these students. Because the state reduced funding to West Geauga, the district placed \$140,000 generated /Tom open enrollment into the general fund to replace the loss. Some of the open enrollment funds are being used for computer upgrades and projects. The balance will be saved in anticipation of additional state reductions.

In the spring of 2008, West Geauga entered into a contract with Energy Education, Inc. (EEI). The contract guarantees the district would save at least the cost of the program or EEI would write a check for the difference. With just a few months left since it was put into operation one year ago, the district already exceeded its target goal for the year and experienced a cost avoidance of approximately \$143,000.

The district's 3.53-millevy expires at the end of 2010. To keep the level of funding generated by this expiring levy consistent, on August 17, the West Geauga Board of Education approved the placement of a 3.53-mil, five-year emergency RENEWAL levy on the November general election ballot. If the levy passes, there will be NO increase in the amount of taxes currently paid by taxpayers which reflects the commitment by the Board to keep local funding at the same level.

Communication

Westwood Elementary School is celebrating its 50th birthday. An open house and an ice cream social will be held Sept. 24, a former teacher/staff breakfast on Sept. 25, and other activities are planned for that week.

A financial aid summit will be held for parents of students in grades K-8 on Nov. 7 in room 124 at the high school. Lake Educational Assistance Foundation (LEAF) representatives will discuss financial strategies and options for parents to plan for their children's college education.

For the Good of the Order

The West Geauga Educational Foundation is having a membership drive. For more information, contact Terri Stupica Bear or Bonnie Gruttadauria, who will forward your message to her.

Tailgate parties will be held at the high school before the next two home varsity football games.

A DCC member complimented the Geauga West Library staff for their assistance with the Accelerated Reader book selections.

Dr. Podojil responded to a question about the status of the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) by saying that at some point, the OGT may no longer be given. The ACT college entrance exam and/or end-of-the-year course exams may replace the OGT.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

*Next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 21

Personnel**2009-199**

A motion was made by Mrs. Leavenworth, and was seconded by Mrs. Gillmore, to approve personnel as presented (below).

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

Motion carried

1. CHANGE IN CONTRACTS**CERTIFIED**

| Name | Bldg. | From | To | Effective |
|---------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Radel, Arla | MS | Step 13 MS+30 \$66,868 | Step 13 MS+45 \$68,707 | 8/25/09 |
| Stewart, Paul | HS/MS | Step 0 BS+15 \$36,711 | Step 0 MS \$37,521 | 8/25/09 |

CLASSIFIED

| Name | Bldg. | From | To | Effective |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|
| Georgevitch, Leah | TR | Step 0 | Step A | 9/10/09 |
| Paul, Marjory | TR | Step 0 | Step A | 9/10/09 |

* The step was listed incorrectly but the hourly rate was correct as approved on the 9/14/09 Personnel Matters.

2. RESIGNATION OF SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACT

| Last | First | Bldg/Dept | Assignment | Rate |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Hammonds | Peter | HS | Class Advisor - Sophomore | \$910.00 |

3. 2009-2010 DISTRICT SUPPLEMENTAL ASSIGNMENTS

| Last | First | Bldg/Dept | Assignment | Rate |
|-------------|--------------|--------------------|---|-------------|
| Ward | Josephine | High School | Class Advisor - Sophomore | \$910.00 |
| Perrotti | Randy | HS - Athletic Dept | Athletics: Football-Asst. 1/4 Contract | \$1,225.50 |
| Perrotti | Chris | HS - Athletic Dept | Athletics: Football-Asst. | Volunteer |
| Marino | Joe | HS - Athletic Dept | Athletics: Weight Room Coordinator - Fall | \$1,050.00 |
| Stacey | Delta | Middle School | Art Mural Club Advisor | \$1,050.00 |
| Peck | Kelly | Middle School | Dept. Head - Foreign Lang. (2) | \$700.00 |

4. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE/NON-PAID LEAVE Steve Horvath, custodian, will be on a leave of absence to begin September 21, 2009, with a return date to be determined.

5. FIELD PLACEMENT STUDENT

| Name | University | Cooperating Teacher | Placement Time Period |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Arnold, Chelsea | Hiram College | Dave Huston / Aurea Farquer | Second Semester |
| DeRose, Sarah | Notre Dame College | Linda Nixon | Field Experience – 10 wks |

6. 2009-2010 CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES – SEPTEMBER UPDATE

| LAST | FIRST | CUST | FDSR | PROC | SECL | TRANS |
|-----------|---------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Manfredi | Mary | | X | | | |
| Miller | Ryan | X | | | | |
| Powers | Valerie | | | X | | |
| Salvatore | Terri | | | X | | |

7. GEAUGA COUNTY CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES – SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

| Tutor | Last Name | First Name | Cert. | Expire |
|-------|-----------|------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| | Brooks | Debbie | 2 yr. Prov. K-12 Visual Art | |
| | Semus | Rebekah | S-T Sub Gen. Educ. | |

Donations

2009-200

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mr. Patterson to accept a donation from Breezewood Gardens and Gifts to the Middle School Garden Area and a donation from Mr. and Mrs. Finnick of children’s books to Westwood Elementary.

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

Motion carried

Class Trip

2009-201

A motion was made by Mrs. Leavenworth, and was seconded by Mr. Kilroy to approve the 7th grade class trip to Dearborn, Michigan and Sandusky Ohio, and the 8th grade class trip to Williamsburg, Yorktown, Jamestown, Monticello and the Flight 93 National Memorial.

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

Motion carried

Contracts

2009-202

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mr. Patterson, to enter into a cooperative agreement contract for the provision of comprehensive special education programs and related services with Geauga County ESC.

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

Motion carried

2009-203

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mr. Kilroy, to enter into a contract with Comp Management Inc. – 2010 OSBA Group Rating Program for Workers’ Compensation.

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

Motion carried

Policy

The following policies were discussed with no action taken.

- 5136 Wireless Communication Devices
- 5136.01 Electronic Equipment
- 7440 Facility Security
- 7440.01 Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring
- 7540.02 District Web Page
- 7540.05 Electronic Mail

Executive Session**2009-204**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mr. Patterson, to move into executive session at 8:07 p.m. to discuss the discipline of an employee, and the Superintendent's contract.

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

Motion carried

The Board returned to open session at 8:20 p.m.

Personnel**2009-205**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gillmore, and was seconded by Mrs. Leavenworth to accept the resignation of Superintendent Anthony Podojil effective 8/1/2010.

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

Motion carried

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mrs. Leavenworth, and was seconded by Mr. Kilroy, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

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

Motion carried

Board President

Treasurer