

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 16, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Erika Wiecenski at the Hall Memorial School Library.

PRESENT: Erika Wiecenski, Mark Jones, Heather Estey, Michelle Cunningham, Barry Wallett, Leo Mercado, Superintendent David Harding

ABSENT: Herb Arico

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Val Moseley stated that as a parent of a second grader (and a kindergartener next year) she loves Willington schools, the small class sizes and that she values how the schools are run. She does not want programs cut.

Patricia Locke stated that as a grandparent of four in Willington schools she would like the quality of their education to continue and to keep the current programs.

Tracey Anderson stated that she has two children in the Willington schools, one in Center and one at Hall, and that she is impressed with the education that the schools provide and hopes that programs in place continue.

Peter Latincsics stated that he would like the Board to look at the schools and give a long term view of what is needed for buildings before an investment in energy improvements is made and invest our energy dollars wisely.

Alex Strong questioned the need for three sections for kindergarten based on current enrollment. Suggested next year's 7th grade with 46 projected students have 2 sections of 23 instead of 3 sections of 15-16.

Patricia Locke stated that she provides the projected number of kindergarten students to Superintendent Harding and that last year we had the same number of students enrolled as this time last year. Historically the number increases.

Val Moseley stated that as a teacher herself, it is nice to have the smaller class sizes especially with the security issues and it provides a better connection between the teacher and student.

David Harding discussed the Board's capital improvement requests and what was decided by the Capital Improvement Committee. The Committee approved the replacement of doors and sidewalk repairs at Center. The Committee moved the Hall ventilation system, classroom air conditioner, replacement windows and the playground equipment to next year's funding projects. Playground mulch request was removed and the Committee stated that it should be part of the Board's maintenance budget.

David Harding explained details of 128 as requested at last week's meeting.

The Board discussed class size.

MOTION: By Barry Wallett, seconded by Leo Mercado, to eliminate Center Math Interventionist position

VOTE: Yes – Barry Wallett, Heather Estey
Abstain – Leo Mercado
No – Erika Wiecenski, Mark Jones, Michelle Doucette Cunningham.

Motion failed.

The Board discussed the temporary Center Math Intervention position. The board wanted to know how long the position would be needed and wanted data to support it. One member commented that the CMT scores looked good from last year and felt the position was unneeded. Principal Stevens noted that the position was being used to benefit all students, not just 3rd grade. During the discussion it was noted that CMT results from this school year would be utilized, along with other data, to determine the need for the position.

MOTION: By Michelle Doucette Cunningham, seconded by Mark Jones, to add \$5,000.00 for mulch to budget

VOTE: unanimous yes

Motion passed.

The board discussed other possible cuts such as Teacher Mini Grants, a reading program at HMS and a reduction of online assessments contract.

MOTION: By Mark Jones, seconded by Michelle Doucette Cunningham, to cut \$18,000.00 from budget

VOTE: unanimous yes

Motion passed.

Membership in CABE was discussed

MOTION: By Barry Wallett, seconded by Leo Mercado, to cut \$3,651.00 membership in CABE

VOTE: Yes – Barry Wallett, Leo Mercado, Heather Estey
No – Erika Wiecenski, Mark Jones, Michelle Doucette Cunningham.

Motion failed.

Board asked to discuss class size at next budget workshop

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.