



Waverly Community Schools

Regular Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2007 7:30 PM

Agenda of Regular Meeting

The Board of Education Waverly Community Schools

A Regular meeting of the Board of Education of Waverly Community Schools will be held February 26, 2007, beginning at 7:30 PM in the Board Room, 515 Snow Road, Lansing, MI.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are as listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the order shown on this meeting notice.

Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on at one time.

- I. Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag - President John Broughton
- II. Special Presentation -
 - A. Ingham ISD Presentation
- III. Correspondence - Secretary Edith Suttles
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Student Representative Report
- VI. ***Approval of Minutes 3
- VII. Board Member Comment
- VIII. Adoption of Meeting Agenda
- IX. Presentation of Reports
 - A. Enrollment Report - Bruce Johnson
 - B. Curriculum Advisory Committee Report
 - 1. ***For Information - Extended Field Trip 9
 - C. Facility & Policy Advisory Committee Reports
 - D. Finance & Personnel Advisory Committee Reports
 - 1. For Discussion: Superintendent's Contract 10

- X. Superintendent's Report
- XI. Public Comment
- XII. Other Board Business
- XIII. Adjournment

**WAVERLY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
February 12, 2007**

Opening of Meeting

The regular meeting of the Waverly Community Schools Board of Education was called to order by President John Broughton at 7:31 p.m. in the cafeteria of East Intermediate School, 3131 W. Michigan, Lansing, Michigan.

Members Present:

Mr. John Broughton, President
Mr. Cheval Breggins, Vice President (arrived at 7:40 p.m.)
Mrs. Edith Suttles, Secretary
Mr. Britt Slocum, Treasurer
Mr. Calvin Jones, Vice Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Don Knechtel, Trustee
Mrs. Mary Ann Martin, Trustee (arrived at 7:35 p.m.)

Staff Present:

Dr. Thomas J. Pillar, Superintendent
Mrs. Jacklin Blodgett, Asst. Superintendent for Finance & Personnel
Mrs. Dorothy Blackwell, Director of Curriculum
Mr. Rob Spagnuolo, Business Manager
Gloria Gonzalez
William Davis
Karen Burgess
Valerie Hendrickson-Carr
Susan Stahly
Gretchen Mikula
Shawn Talifarro
Mike Moreno
Susan Bissonnette
Jamie Holland
Peggy Baldwin
Rebecca Pease

Others Present:

Randy Talifarro
Fonda Brewer-Williams
Stephanie Smith
Dana Ranieri
Erin Sanchez
Derrick Hartwell
Marissa Helmic

President Broughton thanked Principal Gonzalez and her staff for hosting the Board meeting, noting it was a pleasure to be at East.

Pledge

Leading the pledge of allegiance were Derrick Hartwell, East Intermediate Student Council President, and Marissa Helmic, Student Council Treasurer. Both are strong students academically and have outgoing personalities. Marissa is going to perform a dance in East's Talent Show on Wednesday, February 14th.

Special Presentations

Principal Gonzalez welcomed the Board to East Intermediate. She highlighted the reading of *The Promise*, a building-wide project. This book is authored by Barbara Powers, Waverly's Exceptional Learning/Career Partners Coordinator, and Eva Schloss. It features the true life chronicles of Ms. Schloss as a Jewish child, about the age of East students, during World War II. On March 13th, Ms. Schloss and Mrs. Powers will be

Special Presentations (Continued)

at East Intermediate for the entire day working with the students. Mrs. Gonzalez extended an invitation to the Board and the community to join the students on that day. A breakfast will be held at 7:45 a.m.

In addition, Kimberly Peck, a 5th grade student, reads Hebrew and has translated Jewish folktales and songs to English. Mrs. Gonzalez introduced Jenny Spurbeck, East Orchestra Director, and a small group of students representing the entire orchestra, who played two Jewish folktales.

As a second special presentation, Jacklin Blodgett, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Personnel, provided a PowerPoint presentation on budget perspectives, which featured a basic view of the issues as Administration begins the process of developing the 2007-2008 budget.

Member Suttles asked if a copy of Mrs. Blodgett's presentation could be made available to the Board. She encouraged everyone to talk to their legislators about the importance of providing adequate funding to schools. Dr. Pillar indicated legislators' names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses would be available on the district's website. Member Jones stated in addition to our local legislators, people should contact the legislature's education committees and the appropriations committees regarding education funding.

Correspondence

Member Suttles reported correspondence dated January 23, 2007 had been received by all Board members.

Public Comment

Fonda Brewer-Williams, a candidate for the Board's upcoming election, addressed the Board.

Student Representative Report

Erin Sanchez reported Winterfest week, with the theme "Ancient Greece", went great. Spirit days included hat day; college day; class color day; and toga day. Lunch time activities included the Greek Olympics and an obstacle course. The Winterfest court looked great. Ellen Podmore was chosen Winterfest princess and David Dihn was chosen prince. There is a home basketball game tomorrow. The varsity volleyball team, which was undefeated, recently lost a match. Band members competed in Solo & Ensembles Saturday, with several obtaining a "one" rating. The high school musical, *On the Town*, will be presented in late March, one weekend only.

Board Member Comment

Member Knechtel thanked the Board for the flowers they sent him following a recent surgery in Ann Arbor. He also thanked the Board, Cabinet, and superintendent's office for the plant in remembrance of the sudden death of his father last Wednesday. He stated he appreciates all the comments, thoughts, and prayers during this time.

Member Martin expressed condolences from her family to Member Knechtel's family. She thanked Dr. Pillar for the portfolio presented to Board members for School Board Recognition Month and thanked Dr. Baldwin and the Colt family for acknowledgement of School Board Recognition Month.

Member Martin indicated she had copies of two opinion articles from the February 11th *Lansing State Journal* she found interesting and would share with other Board members if they hadn't seen them. One opinion was titled "Best way to save on school ballots is keep local control" (Justin King) and the other was "MEAP really tells us about families" (Barbara Vander-Molen).

Member Slocum stated it looks like Board members and administrators will have 3 ½ to 4 months to work on budget issues. He asked everyone to work together, like one big family. The budget process needs to be approached with eyes wide open.

Board Member Comment (Continued)

Member Slocum thanked Dr. Baldwin and the Colt Elementary staff and students for the appointment book.

Member Breggins apologized for arriving late to the meeting. He honored the student winners at the Martin Luther King, Jr. dinner, noting Waverly swept everything, and recognized the parents, relatives, teachers, counselors, and principals for providing support and encouragement. Member Breggins stated it is unfortunate these stories aren't on the front page of the paper.

Member Breggins thanked Dr. Pillar, Jacklin Blodgett, and Rob Spagnuolo for being proactive on setting the budget for the 2007-2008 school year. He thanked past Board members who pinched pennies when it was not popular. Because they watched spending, Waverly's situation is not as bad as some neighboring school districts. Member Breggins stated we need to invest on the front end and not on the back end. It is cheaper to invest on the front end as the return of the investment is much greater.

Member Suttles thanked Mrs. Gonzalez, students, and staff for their hospitality, noting she thoroughly enjoyed the orchestra students' performance. She stated it is a pleasure to know we can still have music programs in our elementary buildings. Member Suttles reported she had the pleasure of attending a performance by Theatre Works Children's Theatre Group, in which her two daughters are performing. The *Freedom Train* is the story of Harriett Tubbs. The production is being presented in schools throughout the Midwest and on the East Coast. Member Suttles indicated she would like to talk about bringing it to Waverly next year. She indicated it is an absolute marvelous story told in spirituals and words.

Member Suttles thanked Jacklin Blodgett and the administration for the budget presentation this evening. She stated it is a story worth talking about to the community as a whole as hard decisions will need to be made.

Member Jones thanked Mrs. Gonzalez, the East staff, and students for hosting the Board meeting. He stated attending the Martin Luther King, Jr. luncheon was like attending a Waverly homecoming. Member Jones read the names of middle school students who were recognized in the essay contest. First place – AiriAnah Bynum; second place – Elijah Melton; and third place – Frankie Mobley. Students receiving honorable mention were Tracy Gallihugh; Christina Goedert; Kristine Hannula; Justin Wray; and Amy Trinh. He thanked the parents, teachers and administrators for such a wonderful event which Waverly tends to dominate.

Member Jones stated he looks forward to an open, frank discussion of the budget, noting we have to make a difference by fighting for every dollar we get.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was presented by Member Suttles and supported by Member Martin. MOTION: The Board of Education adopt the meeting agenda as presented.

Member Martin asked to have the Approval of Minutes and Report #06-46 (Financial Recommendation) removed from the consent agenda.

Motion carried. VOTE: AYES – 7; NAYS – 0.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of January 8th, and the special meetings of January 22nd; January 30th; and two meetings on February 7th were presented for approval. A change was made to the 5:40 p.m. meeting on February 7th. The motion to expel should read: The Board of Education accept

Approval of Minutes (Continued)

administration's recommendation to expel the student through June 8, 2007 with restitution to be paid by June 30, 2007 in the amount of #-\$433.25. The minutes of the 5:40 p.m. meeting on February 7th were approved as corrected. The minutes of January 8th, January 22nd, and January 30th, and the 6:30 p.m. meeting on February 7th were approved as presented.

******Extended Field Trips – For Information***

David Gorbe, David Rosin, and Michael Wheaton have planned an extended field trip for 7th and 8th grade band, orchestra, and choir students to Cedar Point. The trip serves as a year-end reward for students in these programs. Approximately 150 students and 20 parents will accompany the staff advisors to Cedar Point on Friday, June 1, 2007. They will travel by tour buses. The estimated cost of the trip per students is \$75.00. Students are responsible for providing the funds for their trip. Fund-raising opportunities will be made available to help defray the cost. Students will be away from the traditional classroom setting one day.

LuAnn Stuible, 8th grade science teacher, has planned an extended field trip to Orlando, Florida for 8th grade science students. Major places to be visited are Disney's Animal Kingdom, DisneyQuest, the Magic Kingdom, MGM, Epcot, and the Kennedy Space Center. Concepts discussed during seminars directly correlate with the middle school science curriculum. The programs offer hands-on opportunities using these concepts in the real world. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the objectives taught in middle school science. They will also grow in the areas of social and personal responsibility as a result of traveling without their parent/guardian. The departure date is March 7th, with a return date of March 11th. Sixty-eight students and nine chaperones will travel via Northwest Airlines and tour buses. The estimated cost per student is \$1,175. Numerous fund-raising opportunities have been made available to help defray the cost of the trip. Students will be away from the traditional classroom setting 2 ½ days.

Financial Recommendation – Report #06-46 - For Action

A motion was presented by Member Jones and supported by Member Knechtel. MOTION: The Board of Education approve the treasurer's report as presented in Report #06-46.

Member Martin requested clarification of entries in the expense accounts for Function 285 (Other Central Services) and Function 199 (Holding Account for Employee Benefits).

Motion carried. VOTE: AYES – 7; NAYS – 0.

Personnel Recommendations – Report #06-47 – For Action

A motion was presented by Member Knechtel and supported by Member Martin. MOTION: The Board of Education approve the probation recommendation from 1st to 2nd year for Seth Berg, East Intermediate teacher, and the retirement of Stephanie Moubray, also an East Intermediate teacher.

Jacklin Blodgett stated Mr. Berg's probation recommendation comes to the Board at this time because he was a mid-year hire.

Member Suttles stated she has known Stephanie Moubray for a long time as a wonderful special education teacher known for the marvelous Thanksgiving dinners her students prepared. Ms. Moubray maintained a room with a loving atmosphere. She was a special teacher to a lot of teachers and a special friend to a lot of staff. Member Suttles stated that Ms. Moubray helped her understand special education issues. She thanked Ms. Moubray for her years of service to the students.

Motion carried. VOTE: AYES – 7; NAYS – 0.

Also included in the Personnel Report were employment of non-certified personnel; the resignation of a bus driver; and the transfer of a non-certified employee.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pillar reported this is Principals' Week in Michigan. He and the Cabinet will host a lunch in the Board Room on Thursday for the building administrators to show their appreciation. He distributed a proclamation signed by Governor Granholm.

Dr. Pillar congratulated Board member Edith Suttles for receiving CBA Certification for completing all 100-level CBA classes and the Award of Merit for attaining Level 1 certification plus 45 education credits from the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB). He also congratulated Board member Cheval Breggins for receiving the MASB Award of Merit (Level 1 plus 45 education credits) and attaining Advocacy Skills Specialty status for completing Level 1 and a designated set of 200-level CBA classes. These awards require a considerable investment of time and talent at various training sessions conducted by the Michigan Association of School Boards.

Dr. Pillar congratulated Bruce Johnson who was appointed to the Lansing Area Safety Council, which is a non-profit organization that supports various issues surrounding safety in and around the community. This organization support safety patrols and crossing guards in our area.

Dr. Pillar announced Stan Kogut, the Ingham Intermediate School District superintendent, and some of the IISD staff will do a special presentation at the next Board meeting focused on the services the IISD provides for Waverly.

Dr. Pillar reported he and Board president John Broughton recently attended a meeting at the IISD to discuss possible ways to generate additional revenue for the 12 districts within the ISD. The meeting included IISD staff and the Board presidents and superintendents of the 12 districts. There was 100% participation. The main topic was possibly exploring a future millage election for special education. This topic is only in its very early discussion stage and nothing definite has been established. Dr. Pillar encouraged Board members to share their views with President Broughton about this issue so that he can represent them at the next meeting which is scheduled for March 21st.

Dr. Pillar announced the Ingham Intermediate School District will sponsor a legislative breakfast on Friday, March 16th, from 7:30-9:00 a.m. at the Lansing Center. Board members and Superintendents from Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Intermediate School Districts will be invited to meet with legislators from their respective areas. There is also discussion of inviting Board and Superintendents from Shiawassee, Gratiot, Isabella, and Livingston counties.

Dr. Pillar asked the Board to consider modifying its April meeting schedule from one meeting in April to two meetings to be scheduled on the regular Board meeting nights of the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The first meeting would be on April 9th, which is the first day back from Spring break, and the second meeting would be on April 23rd.

Dr. Pillar notified the Board the Strategic Plan reporting schedule has been modified from late April to late June. The reason for the change is the scheduling of two separate sessions in the spring to present School Improvement reports. The secondary level reports will be presented on April 23rd and the elementary level reports will be presented on May 21st. These meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Middle School Little Theatre. Strategic Plan reports will be presented to the Board as an end-of-the-year summary on June 25th.

Dr. Pillar reported Waverly High School has a weather station, the result of an effort by high school science teacher, Chris Barrera. Now you can go to the website, click on weather and get an up to the minute report on the weather conditions in our immediate area.

Superintendent's Report (Continued)

Dr. Pillar announced a meeting is scheduled between the Board and the Student Senate on Wednesday, February 21st, starting at 1:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. The meeting should last about an hour because the school day ends at 2:35 p.m.

Dr. Pillar requested a meeting of the New Board Member Orientation Committee be scheduled to review the final details of the new board member plan. He asked committee members to check their calendars for February 22nd and 23rd at 7:30 a.m. and let Becky know of their availability.

Dr. Pillar reported discussion had been held with the Board regarding the possibility of providing child care to Kindergarten students at little or no cost pending Board approval. He asked if there had been Board consensus that Waverly should offer this program.

Member Suttles indicated she would like to see a special meeting called for the purpose of discussing this plan. It was suggested the child care discussion and the New Board Member Orientation Committee meeting be held back to back on either February 22nd or 23rd. Board members were asked to advise the Superintendent's office of their availability.

Public Comment

Addressing the Board during Public Comment was Randy Talifarro.

Other Board Business

Member Breggins thanked Principal Gonzalez for hosting the Board meeting and Shawn O'Boyle for managing the technology at the meeting. He thanked the grade school teachers, counselors, and administrators for allowing the Lansing Board of Water & Light to present its electrical safety program free of charge in the elementary buildings.

Member Martin thanked Mrs. Gonzalez and all others who made it possible to hold a meeting at East Intermediate.

Members Martin, Knechtel, Jones, Slocum, and President Broughton congratulated Member Suttles and Member Breggins for receiving MASB certification.

Board members thanked the district's principals for their outstanding leadership.

Member Slocum stated he likes the idea of receiving Strategic Plan reports after the school year ends.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edith J. Suttles, Secretary

***Consent Agenda
rlp

**WAVERLY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
February 26, 2007**

FOR INFORMATION***

Subject: Extended Field Trip

Extended Field Proposal

David Larzelere, high school band director, has planned an extended field trip for the Waverly High School Symphonic Band to travel to Chicago, Illinois to participate in the Dixie Classic Grand Adjudicators Conference/Clinic. The Dixie Classic offers a chance for students to showcase their talents and efforts on a national scale. This prestigious event is open only to groups which have been recognized for exceptional achievement as a performing group. The Waverly Symphonic Band was nominated by John Madden of Michigan State University to participate in this festival. The proposed departure date is April 13, 2007, with a return date of April 14th, 2007. Approximately 60 students and ten to fifteen chaperones will travel by motor coach to and from Chicago. Supplementary activities will include shopping and a Broadway-style show. The estimated cost per student is \$250. Ample fundraising opportunities will be made available to help defray the cost of the trip. Students will be away from the traditional classroom setting ½ day to 1 full day.

**WAVERLY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
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FOR DISCUSSION

Subject: Superintendent's Contract

Recommendation:

It is recommended by the Board President that the Board of Education extend the Superintendent's contract one year through June, 2010.

Statement of Purpose/Issue:

The addition of one year provides a three-year contract for the Superintendent, which was the Board's original intent when the Superintendent was hired. The three-year contract provides the Superintendent better job security.

Budget Impact:

The Superintendent's salary can be negotiated at a later date.

Background Information/Historical Perspective:

The current trend among most Boards of Education is to grant one-year contract extensions upon completion of a successful evaluation.

Discussion of Options/Alternatives:

The Board has the option of not accepting the recommendation and not extending the Superintendent's contract.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The Superintendent has demonstrated, through Board evaluation, successful management of the Waverly Community Schools. The contract extension offers personal job security for the Superintendent which in turn results in a higher level of job satisfaction and performance.