

BOARD BRIEF

March 13, 2018

Board members met in regular session and conducted the following business:

- Superintendent's Report included:
 - Mike Hall, Principal of Monon Trail Elementary introduced a team of teachers, instructional coach and assistant principal to share about Cognitive Coaching. Cognitive Coaching and the addition of the instructional coach at MTES has created a "learner culture" allowing teachers to observe one another and learn. This learner culture passes through to the students as they watch and hear the teachers sharing information and learning from one another. MTES has focused on adult to adult relationships this year in the area of instruction and they believe their work is really paying off. The instructional coach has worked with 13 teachers in the building on a student centered coaching cycle and a total of 76% of teachers in the building have signed up to do this before the end of the school year. Hether Darnell, Assistant Principal, also shared that the building really celebrates their staff and their accomplishments. She shared their "Woot-woot Wagon" (a rolling cart of teachers' favorite treats), provided by their PTO, with board members and explained how this is another way to enhance the adult to adult relationships in the building. The cart and the treats on board are a way to show staff that they are valued and that they matter.
 - Dr. Grate presented a recommendation for a 30 minute delayed start each Wednesday beginning with the 2018-19 school year to allow for professional learning for the staff each week. The 20 minute late start coupled with 30 minutes of teacher contract time will allow for 1 hour of professional learning each week. The board approved this plan with a vote of 4-1.
 - Dr. Grate also presented a Calendar Update for the 2018-19 school year. The update included that building start times will remain the same next year (except for Wednesday) and a graduation date of Thursday, May 30, 2019 with a rain date of Saturday, June 1, 2019. The board unanimously approved the graduation date and rain date.
 - Dr. Grate shared an update with the board on the activities scheduled to take place at Westfield Middle and Westfield High School on March 14. Both schools have planned Kindness/School Safety related events in lieu of a walk out to remember the victims of the Florida school shooting that took place on February 14. Each school will have a 17 second moment of silence along with a 17 minute outdoor walk in honor of the victims. Additional kindness related activities will take place inside the school. Both schools required a parental permission slip to participate in the activities.
 - Board members were recognized for their commitment to our schools and children with Board Member Appreciation by Dr. Grate and other Leadership Team members.
 - Penny Dollens-Smith, a parent, spoke to the board about the importance of music education in our schools. This month is Music in our Schools month. Westfield has many upcoming music-related events coming up before the end of the year including American Pie, Rock the Arts and the high school's participation in a music trip to Boston after Spring Break.

- The following policies were approved:
 - 10000-28 (Least Restrictive Environment)
 - 10000-31 (Right to Inspect Certain Instructional Materials)
 - 10000-44 (Display of Flag, Pledge of Alliance and Moments of Silence)
 - 10000-47 (Homeless Children)
 - 10000-48 (Post-Secondary Enrollment Program)
 - 10000-50 (CIPA Internet Safety)
 - 10000-51 (Non-public Student Participation in Public School)
 - 10000-52 (Criminal Organizations)
- The following policies were rescinded:
 - 10000-35 (Equal Educational Environment)
 - 10000-38 (Graduation Waivers)
 - 10000-45 (Moments of Silence)
 - 10000-46 (Student Submission to Required Surveys)
 - 6000-03 (Use of Pesticides)

Mr. Baldwin reminded the board that many policies being rescinded have been incorporated into other policies or are covered in procedures or other administrative guidelines and do not require a board policy.

- The board was presented the following policies to review in 1st Reading:
 - 2000-01 (Membership)
 - 2000-02 (Organization)
 - 2000-04 (Meetings)
 - 2000-06 (Transaction of Business)
 - 2000-07 (Duties of Board Members)
 - 2000-14 (Board Member Compensation & Expenses)
 - 2000-15 (Exercise of Home Rule Powers)
 - 2000-17 (Superintendent)
 - 4000-06 (Travel Expenses)
- The board was presented the following policies to review in 1st Reading to be rescinded:
 - 2000-03 (Duties of Board Officers)
 - 2000-05 (Minutes)
 - 2000-10 (School Attorney)
 - 2000-16 (Complimentary Tickets)
 - 3000-01 (Superintendent Duties)
 - 3000-05 (Administrative Staff)
 - 4000-04 (Payroll)
 - 4000-07 (Food Service)

These policies will be voted on at the next regular board meeting.

- Dr. Grate presented the IDOE Digital Learning Grant for Lynn Schemel as she is at a conference. Westfield Washington Schools was one of twenty-seven schools awarded the IDOE Digital Learning Grant for the 2017-18 school year. The competitive grant application process awarded schools with a new or continued focus on STEM specific to STEM curriculum, devices for coding, robotics equipment, and/or professional development for teachers with a maximum of \$75,000. The WWS focus is to complete the current 5th-12th grade PLTW (Project Lead The Way) pathways. Funds will include enough module kits per teacher at each of the grade levels and schools, site licenses for each school for year one, additional VEX robot kits, and

A PLTW grant will provide Launch Lead Teacher training for each of the K-4 STEM teachers, one instructional coach, and Lynn. This training will allow us to teach the content to other teachers in the district as needed. (The same grant is also providing new and continued training for 5th-12th grade PLTW teachers.)

- Brian Tomamichel, CFO, explained the Casey Road Utility Easement Agreement. Citizens Water of Westfield is working on running a sewage line along Casey Rd to 193rd St. The plan will run along the east side of the district's Casey Road property. It will also allow for adequate drainage should the district decide to build on this site in the future.
- Brian Tomamichel also presented the results of the Health Insurance Committee's recommendation for a new broker. The committee met with 5 different companies and has chosen to go with MJ Insurance. There is a difference in fees; however, the committee feels strongly that the cost will be offset by the services provided. The committee is willing to review again next year if needed.
- During the Audience comment portion of the meeting, two parents spoke about the importance of safety in our schools.

The preceding is not official minutes of the Board of School Trustees of Westfield Washington Schools and is provided for information purposes only.