

BOARD BRIEF

November 12, 2013

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

- Accepted the Energy Excellence Award from Cenergistic for excellence in environmental and financial resource stewardship. To date, Westfield Washington Schools has saved \$1,035,000 through energy conservation and cost avoidance. The following schools have reduced energy use by 20% and are now Energy Star Partners: Monon Trail, Oak Trace, Washington Woods, and Westfield Intermediate School.

Matt Kettlebar, our Energy Specialist presented the award to Board President Tim Siefker. Members of the Sodexo team were also recognized for their conservation efforts including Larry Lipker, Rick Dawson, Barb Morris, Frank Woten, Randy Minardo, James Stone, and Matt Heckaman.

- Heard a report from Lynn Schemel, Tom Hundley, and Amber Van Den Berg on Benchmarking the New Curriculum. Mr. Hundley reviewed the instructional model demonstrating the gradual release of responsibility from the teacher to the students. Mrs. Van Den Berg shared a handout explaining the elements of a Reading/Writing Workshop. Mrs. Schemel then explained how teachers create an effective learning environment in the classroom.
- Accepted Dennis Ells' resignation from the Board of School Trustees effective January 1, 2014. Mr. Ells has served in this capacity for 21 years. He said that he will certainly miss everyone and he plans to visit all of the buildings to say good-bye.
- Approved the proposed High Deductible Health Plan offering for administrators and eligible support staff and canceled the VEBA benefit for administrators and eligible support staff as presented. The district contribution to the Health Savings Account (HSA) will be \$1,500 for individuals and \$3,000 for the family plan and result in savings of over \$90,000 to the district due to reduced premiums. In addition, canceling the VEBA contribution will result in savings of \$120,000.
- Approved the easement and transferred ownership as presented. The easement will connect the water plant to the Westfield Intermediate School parking lot. The transfer of ownership is for a small piece of land at Carey Road to allow the City to build a roundabout at 161st Street and Carey Road.
- Approved the purchase of athletic equipment at a cost of \$400.00 as presented.
- Approved the 2014-2015 Westfield High School course guide with the existing updates and changes to course offerings as presented.

- Approved advertising additional appropriations as presented. The amounts being requested for appropriation are:
 - General Fund - \$348,298
 - Referendum Fund - \$52,459
 - Transportation Fund - \$776,094
 - Rainy Day Fund - \$719,000
- Approved the Indy Eleven proposal as presented. This will allow the Indy Eleven developmental team to play their home games on the soccer field this summer. They will host 8-10 games from May to July.
- Approved the Microsoft Licensing Agreement for the 2014-15 school year at a cost of \$16,195.08 as presented. This is a savings of \$2,844.60 over last year.
- Conducted the first reading of Policies 10000-06 (Student Attendance Age) and 10000-06-01 (Kindergarten Entrance). If approved at the December meeting, these changes will move the entrance date from September 1 to August 1 effective with the 2014-15 school year.
- Approved the State High Ability Program and Title II – Improving Teacher Quality Elementary and Secondary Education Act grants as presented.
- Approved the Sunday usage requests as listed below.
 - Washington Township Parks & Recreation – Lifeguard Certification Class
 - After Prom
 - After Prom Clean Up
 - Indiana Bulls Annual Meeting

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