

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education
Willow Springs Consolidated School District No. 108
Tuesday, December 15, 2015
Willow Springs School Library**

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, Ciota and L. McSweeney

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Kent.

Acceptance of the Superintendent's Agenda

Motion 15-163 by Kent, seconded by McSweeney as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the superintendent's Agenda.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, Ciota and L. McSweeney

Audience Participation

Lori Smuda, Principal, Teachers: Audrey Elvikis & Ann Musto, Students: Labrini Duru Bratsos, her mom Nebaht Bratsos, Emma Szponder and her mom Edyta Medla along with Nick Cavaliere from Baker Tilly Virchow Krause.

Financial Report

The Auditor's report for the month of November is in your packet. Nick Cavaliere was here to answer questions.

2015 Levy Adoption

As in last months, the superintendent included the letter from Nick Cavaliere at Baker Tilly outlining the strategy behind tax levies, and ours in particular. It is a pretty clear analysis of the current taxing situation and the rationale behind the levy.

The superintendent, along with Nick, is recommending an increase in the levy for 2015 of 4.9%. This rate would only be in place for any new properties. Existing properties are treated by the PTELL(property tax caps) and CPI(consumer price index) caps, so that will be a 0.8% increase (CPI), which is generally what we can expect. Once the ceilings and CPI and PTEL have all been applied it amounts to a real increase of \$29,556 (the most pessimistic scenario with an EAV drop and no new property). The teacher raise alone for next school year is right around \$60,000. The total 2015 levy will be for \$3,881,820. This levy strategy also maximizes the amount of the levy by anticipating a transfer from the Transportation Fund.

As well will be levying less than a 5% increase, we are not required to hold a special meeting or hearing to adopt the levy. It will be part of the regular meeting.

The superintendent recommends the adoption of the resolution and ordinance levying and assessing taxes of the Willow Springs School District 108 for 2015 with a 4.9% increase as presented.

**Motion 15-164 by McSweeney, seconded by L. McSweeney as recommended by the superintendent to adopt the resolution and ordinance levying and assessing taxes of the Willow Springs School District 108 for 2015 with a 4.9% increase as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and L. McSweeney
Nays: Ciota**

Minutes

The superintendent recommends the approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting for November 24, 2015.

Motion 15-165 by Ristić, seconded by Kent as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on November 24, 2015.

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and L. McSweeney
Abstain: Ristić, Ciota**

Consent Agenda

The superintendent recommends the approval of the consent agenda.

Motion 15-166 by Ciota, seconded by McSweeney as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the consent agenda.

Consent #1

The superintendent recommends the approval of the payroll and the approval of the bills in the amount of \$193,321.08 (7A-1-2-3), the reimbursement of the Imprest Fund in the amount of \$384 (7B) and approval of the Activity Fund balance of \$58,408 (7C) for the month of December 2015.

Consent #2

The superintendent recommends the approval of the financial report of the auditor for the month of November 2015. Fund balances: Educational: \$3,925,919; Operations & Maintenance: \$650,773; Debt Service: \$829,796; Transportation: \$92,718; IMRF: \$204,966; Capital Projects: \$88,358; Working Cash: \$448,123; Tort: \$484,336; and Fire Prevention & Life Safety \$470.

Consent # 3

The superintendent recommends the acceptance of a \$139.90 donation from Suzanne Fox and \$5,000 from the William R. Edmondson Post of the American Legion.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, Ciota and L. McSweeney.

Notices and Communications

The superintendent presented the following news articles:

A-a. 2 journal articles related to National and Illinois Education Issues at this time.

1. From Daily Herald, about the PARCC scores. It focuses on northwest suburban high schools, but it's pretty relevant.
2. A description of the new Title 1 law – No Child Left Behind replaced with Every Student Succeeds. A great deal of power is being transferred from the Federal government to State government.

A-b. 1 newspaper and articles related to Willow Springs School.

1. The District's Annual State of Affairs statement as published in the DesPlaines Valley News .

A-c. 0 newspaper and articles related to early childhood education.

Item 8B Legislative/SCOPE report: 0 Items.

There are no reports here. Sadly, the Legislature has not been meeting. Let's hope that there're things happening behind the scenes.

Item 8C State Board of Education Correspondence: 0 Items.

Item 8D Illinois Association of School Boards Correspondence: 0 Items.

Item 8E AERO Correspondence items: 0 Items.

Item 8F EBC Health Insurance Co-op Correspondence items: 0 Items.

Item 8G Village of Willow Springs Correspondence: 0 item.

Item 8H County Clerk Correspondence: 0 items.

Item 8I Intermediate Service Center Correspondence: 0 items.

Item 8J Township Treasurer Correspondence: 0 items.

Item 8K

Superintendent Correspondence Received: 0 items.

Superintendent Correspondence Sent: 1 item.

1. The letter sent home with Progress Reports and PARCC scores. A version is also posted on the website.

Item 8 K-A Freedom of Information Act Requests and Notices 0 items

Item 6 Special Education

Dr. James Gunnell at AERO followed up from last meeting with the information that was requested. The superintendent included his memo in the packet. He projects, for 108, an increase of \$4,205 for the Overhead revenues.

On the tuition side, the superintendent looked at where our students are enrolled, that also have 123 students enrolled where the tuition will change.

| | With 123 | Without 123 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| STAR 3 students | \$42,799 per 128,397 | \$43,615 130,845 \$2,448 more |
| Early Childhood 12 students | 22,271 267,252 | 23,199 278,388 \$11,136 more |
| PRIDE 3 students | 32,783 98,349 | 36,426 109,278 \$10,929 more |

Total Tuition Increase: \$24,513

With the tuition, there are many caveats. Tuition varies each year by program because AERO really does determine the exact cost to run the program and divides by the number of students to get the tuition. In any year, there can be great change depending up the enrollment. We're looking to bring most of our EC kids home, so the tuition there will change drastically. Also, there's no way 123 can replicate the PRIDE program. The superintendent expects that 123 students will remain in the program, so the change in tuition for PRIDE should not be so drastic.

Audience Participation

No audience participation.

Principal's Report

Principal Smuda reported:

The students have been anticipating the Holiday Program that will occur on Thursday. They've been memorizing their songs, learning hand motions, and singing as a whole group.

The 2nd and 3rd grade classes participated in an "Hour of Code". Students used Blockly and their trial and error skills to move objects on the screen. It was a successful lesson in basic computer code writing.

Midterm reports for Quarter 2 were distributed yesterday. PARCC results were included.

The 8th grade classes took the high school entrance exam, Explore Test. It was the first time that the test was taken on the computer.

The Holiday Fair was a huge success this year! Many volunteers came to help including former retirees Karen Triezenberg and Pat Coglianese.

The 7th and 8th grade classes studied Charles Dickens and then went on a field trip to see the play, A Christmas Carol. The theater mentioned to our staff that the Willow students were the best behaved group of the year!

Leading to Reading (LTR): The second rotation will be finishing up this week. A group was added to instruct the students on Greek and Latin roots. The final list tests each student on their knowledge of 45 roots. Another group is in the planning stages and being created by Margaret Schomburg and Ann Musto.

The 8th graders in Spanish will be taking ARGO's Semester 1 final exam tomorrow. Students that receive a passing grade can start in Spanish 2 as a freshman.

In January, Mr. Adam Lee is planning to participate in the National Geographic Bee. It's competition that measures students' knowledge of the world and its geographic features. He is planning an informal competition to get 8 semi-finalists from amongst the 6-8th graders. One student will be our school's representative and take a written test for entry to compete regionally.

Class Size Information

Enrollment remains fairly steady, but still many ins and outs. We don't know what to anticipate over winter break.

Item 12A Summer Projects

Gaspare and the team at ARCON are prepared updated estimates on the gym floor project. The superintendent shared the details at the meeting. We have 3 estimates, 2 for Rubber Flooring and 1 for Harwood Flooring.

ARCON does not recommend the following:

1. Our gym was not designed to take a wood floor. Because a wooden floor is thicker, it will require ramping up into the gym. Adjustments will need to be made from the hallway, from the backdoors, to the locker rooms, to the balcony, to the storage rooms. ARCON's opinion is that it will always look like a wood floor is an afterthought.
2. The ramping adjustments in the Estimate are the cheapest route, not the recommended route. While this technically ADA, the ramping would be too steep for a person in a wheelchair to handle independently.
3. As wood hates moisture, Gaspare has great concerns about the doors from the outside as well as the janitor's closet with the sink.

ARCON recommends:

1. Synthetic flooring.
2. Both are "Olympic" quality. ARCON reports that Olympic Games are played on synthetic floors. They have an added level of safety. There's additional performance and absorption of shocks making these floors safer and less injuries occur on them.

3. Both of the floors in the estimates have more absorption than the one in the student lunchroom.
4. Mondo and Gerflor are comparable products. Mondo is better known, hence the additional estimated cost.
5. 15-20 year life for regular adult usage.

Both flooring systems require buffing as the maintenance.

It is not recommended to reinstall the existing bleachers. The bleachers in the estimate are similar in style to those that currently in the gym.

The capital Projects fund has \$88,358. There's a \$6,796.59 invoice from ARCON on this month's bill list that will reduce that fund to \$81,561.41. There's a \$168,272 estimated fund balance in Operations and Maintenance.

The January Board meeting is very late, 1/26. If the Board would like to award the bid in February, to take advantage of being early in the bid cycle, ARCON will need direction now.

Board decided to table it until January meeting.

Item 12B Board Meeting Calendar Adoption

The dates for the 2016 and 2017 Board meetings are in the packet. For 2017, the superintendent followed the same logic as has been practiced.

The superintendent recommends the adoption of the 2016-2017 Board Meeting Calendar. This was tabled until January meeting.

Item 13 Calendar Information

Item 14 Closed Session

The superintendent did not have any need to go into closed session.

Item 15 Final Actions

Item 16 Adjournment

Motion 15-167: Adjournment

Motion made by Estrada, Seconded by Ciota.

Hearing no objections so moved.



President



Secretary