

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES OF THE WILLOUGHBY-EASTLAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

A work session meeting of the Board of Education of the Willoughby-Eastlake City School District was held Tuesday, **April 30, 2019** at 7:32 p.m. at the Administration Building located at 35353 Curtis Blvd., Eastlake, Ohio with the following members present: Thomas Beal, Brian Jones, Rena Perchinske, Margaret Warner and Amy Zuren.

All members of the Board and media were notified of this meeting in compliance with §121.22 of the ORC, effective November 28, 1975.

The meeting was called to order by President Warner.

WORK SESSION

The BOE came together to share and discuss their findings from other districts on communication as a district and particularly of the BOE. Members of the Board reached out to other BOE's in NEO and the state to ask general governance questions. The members of the Board reported back from nine different districts. The major concern was communication. The questions asked were: What works for you? What does not work? And, if it didn't work, how are you making improvements?

It is fair to say that W-E is tracking with these districts. All districts reported very few in attendance at Board meetings, unless there was a big concern, like a strike or a riff situation. All districts have public comment sections at their Board meetings. One district had two public comment sections: one for agenda items only and then one for personal concerns. The W-E process is standard when compared to these other districts. One difference was when a question is asked at a public meeting, the response will be delivered at the next public meeting, so all can hear the response. If the person delivering the question needs a response sooner, the administration or the Board can be reached for clarification before the next public meeting. The W-E Board liked this approach and discussed implementing and communicating this at the next BOE meeting.

Another point of interest was that Board members' phone numbers are generally not listed on websites, etc. The main point of contact is through email. After several issues this year, our Board is interested in making email our main point of contact with the stipulation that the President, the spokesperson for the Board, will send a timely response that the email was received. The full response will be given once research has been done and the correct answer has been found. The Board will be requesting that their phone numbers be removed.

Other than District Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts, there were no Boards with their own accounts. It was generally frowned upon.

The districts surveyed had newsletters, Facebook live and other social media tools, superintendents' reports, use of the newspaper, website, regular coffee hours, committee work, and a few town hall meetings to communicate with the district stakeholders.

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It was noted that while parents are huge stakeholders, BOE's should be aware that in many communities, there are more homeowners who do not have kids in the district than do. Boards should focus on the community as a whole.

The BOE was looking into our policy concerning disparaging the school district in social media, especially as an employee of the district. The districts talked with have a policy very similar to ours. One Board member went online and looked up at least ten other districts' policies. Our policy is right in line with all of these. The school attorney was contacted for his advice. If the Board should choose to change the policy, the Board would work with the school attorney and likely NEOLA.

Bullying was also a question asked of other Boards. Bullying is an issue in most districts. However, several of the districts believe that the problem is getting better. The mental health issue of anxiety/depression among students is a huge concern. Our Board will be investigating what our district does about bullying: how bullying is defined, what has been effective or not effective, and bullying on buses. The Board knows we are working to address mental health issues. Does the school psychologist have a role in this issue? The family liaison? Community health groups?

The other big question asked was regarding test scores. The Board received answers from teaching to the test and reaching out to the whole child.

It was a good exercise. The BOE was affirmed that we are doing many good things to communicate with our community and realize we can always do more.

At 10:03 p.m., it was moved by Dr. Beal and seconded by Mrs. Zuren to adjourn the work session meeting.

On a call of the roll, the following vote was cast: 5 Yes Votes. Motion carried.

President

Treasurer