

WALDRON AREA SCHOOLS  
Board of Education

A regular meeting of the Waldron Area Schools Board of Education was held on November 9, 2009 and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Dick Storehalder. Members present were Dick Storehalder, Jay Williams, Sabine Young, Joe Fether and Tom Schaedler. Administrator present was Superintendent William Stitt. Members of the audience joined the Board in reciting the Pledge to the American Flag.

A motion was made by J. Williams, supported by Tom Schaedler to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2009 meeting as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion was made by T. Schaedler, supported by J. Fether to approve the payment of general funds bills with check numbers 24541-24587. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Comment- Lisa Baker spoke on behalf of the Senior Class to request clarification on the use of funds raised by class fundraisers and their application for students that do not attend the Senior trip. Specifically, she asked for clarification as to whether or not funds unused for the trip can be used to offset graduation expenses for those not taking part in the trip. Board Answer: Historically, auditors have stated that funds raised by the class cannot be used for individual students even though funds are tracked by student. Mr. Stitt will further research the issue both for the upcoming Senior class as well as for possible consideration in School policy.

Committee reports were presented for the School improvement Committee as well as the Budget Committee. The School Improvement Committee met on 11-2-09 and discussed methods to build the district both in School pride and in attracting new students. One idea that is being further developed is promotion through yard signs such as have been seen by other schools in the area. The Budget Committee deferred their report to item 2 on the agenda for New Business.

There was no Old Business presented.

New Business item #1: Snowplow bids.

Three bids were received for the plowing of the school parking lots this winter. Discussion was held on improving the bid process including adding language in the bid sheet to improve the consistency of the bids. Mr. Douglass was also on hand and provided a positive report on the service provided by Larry Siegel Excavating last year and that the time estimates provided were realistic. A motion was made by J. Fether, supported by S. Young to accept the bid offered by Larry Siegel Excavating for the 2009-2010 snowplowing. Motion passed 5-0.

New Business item #2: Budget Cuts

In response to the first round of cuts passed down from the State of Michigan, the Budget Committee submitted their recommendation for cuts to the Waldron Area Schools budget as outlined in the board packet. Several of the cuts have already taken place and/or reflected unused or anticipated unused budgeted funds. For example, the recommended cut of the JV football coach reflected a savings that had already taken place due to the reduced participation in the sport and the recommended cut of the heating of the FFA greenhouse reflected the fact that

there were no classes that would be using the greenhouse this winter. The recommended cuts totaled \$22,805 versus the reduction in State funding of approximately \$29,000. The Budget Committee and Mr. Stitt are exploring further cut options to account for the remaining reduction amount as well as to prepare for the State's potential additional \$127/student cut. The \$127 cut may be offset by the Legislature's use of 2010 stimulus funds. The final decision on this additional cut is expected by 11/30/09. A motion was made by J. Williams, supported by J. Fether to accept the recommendations from the Budget Committee as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

New Business item #3: Winter Coaching Recommendations

A motion was made by T. Schaedler, supported by J. Fether to accept the winter coaching recommendations as presented within the Board packet. Motion passed 5-0.

New Business item #4a: Student Expulsion

A motion was made by J. Williams, supported by J. Fether to accept the recommendation by Mr. Stitt for the expulsion of a student as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

New Business item #4b: Early Graduation

A student requested a 1/1/10 graduation date while the teacher and Administration has recommended a 5/28/10 graduation to allow the student to enter Army Basic Training. A motion was made by T. Schaedler, supported by J. Williams to allow a 5/28/10 graduation date for the student. Motion passed 5-0.

New Business item 5: Closed Session-Employee

Into Closed Session : 8:18 p.m.

Out of Closed Session: 8:26 p.m.

Mr. Stitt offered his Superintendent's report. 220 students had signed up for the Flu Shots being offered on 11/12/09. Parent/Teacher conferences went well and school surveys were given out. Three students participated at the State Cross Country Meet. Mr. Stitt again addressed the use of 2010 stimulus funds to offset all but \$10/student of the proposed \$127 budget cut. The school gained 5 students for count day and there is the potential for 2 additional students in the near future.

There was no further Public Comment or Board of Education comments.

A motion to adjourn was made by J. Fether, supported by T. Schaedler. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned: 8:40 p.m.

\*\*Notes taken and minutes written by Board Vice President, Jason Williams