

W-E SOI PTO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2018

Attendance: Brian Patrick, Hannah Oreh, Christy Brady, Steve Atkins, Melissa Janson, Melissa Zappola, Courtney Zappola, Stacey McGuigan, Paul Garcia, Eric Wernet, Rachel Legerski, Lisa Reed

6:30 PM- Representatives from the W-E SOI School Districts addressed the meeting. Also in attendance were district residents.

Chuck Murphy- Assistant Superintendent

Bill Parkinson- Treasurer

Cather Beads - Public Relations

Past school boards had noted the trend that they were only able to get temporary/emergency levies passed by district voters. These levies had a set time frame of either 5 or 10 years unless they were re-approved. So for the past two decades, the school district is funded with a series of five emergency levies. The current levy on the ballot is a 5-year levy and in November the 10 year levy is coming up for renewal.

If it seems the school district is always asking for more money, you are right they are and the reason is because levies are fixed revenues while costs continue to rise over 5 to 10 year periods. Due to a 1976 Ohio HB 920 law, it makes school levies fixed so that even if property values rise, new housing is built, the amount the levy collects does not change. Utilities, supplies, transportation costs, AP tuition to local colleges, salaries, etc. all rise over 5-10 year periods while the revenue remains fixed.

Right now the current levy is grandfathered into a past state funding formula, where the state contributes 12.5% of the levy... if this levy fails there will be no additional commitments from the state in future

levies. The district will lose the additional state money, making the deficit even larger.

The school district has already cut building costs across the district and is operating at a slight deficit. If the current issue 2 fails, it will create a \$6 million dollar district deficit. Hypothetically, if all the levies failed, it would be a \$66 million dollar deficit.

Its been 20 years since the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that Ohio's funding of public schools is unconstitutional, and has re-affirmed that ruling in 4 decisions, little has changed. Until there is solution, this is how schools are funded.

To learn more, you can visit the district's website:

www.supportweschools.org

7:30p General Meeting:

Principals Report (Brian Patrick):

- Outdoor Recess is Back
- Lottery Application is over for 3rd grade. Official lotter is next week. In May there will be an orientation night.
- 8th grade electives will have a schedule sheet soon.
- 9th grade scheduling possibilities are being explored. Visiting HS and private schools looking for 'best practices' and poss. partnerships.
- Condo raffle ticket sales end March 23rd.
- W-E SOI currently in top 20 based on percentage of students in northeast Ohio schools.

Proposed bylaw changes: Steve Atkins addressed the membership:

1. Current Bylaws read:

Article III, Section 2: TERM OF OFFICE -- The term of office for all officers is one year, beginning August 1 and ending July 31 of the following year. Officers are elected for one year and may serve no more than 1 term (1 year term-limit) in the same office with the exception of Treasurer. The Treasurer is limited to 2 consecutive 1 year terms (2 year term-limit) and must be confirmed.

1. Propose Change term limits from 1 year to 2 years:

Article III, Section 2: TERM OF OFFICE -- The term of office for all officers is one year, beginning August 1 and ending July 31 of the following year. Officers may be re-elected for an additional year, but can serve no more than 2 consecutive 1year terms (2 year term limit).

2. Current Bylaws read:

Article VI Section 7: ENDING BALANCE --The organization is authorized to carry over funds for the following fiscal year as recommended by the Executive Board. The annual carryover amount shall not exceed \$10,000. The exception to this carry-over limit is a "Special Project" that may require multiple years of funding. In these cases with the Executive Board and general membership approval a "Special Project Fund" can be established for a specific project/purpose, time period, and amount. Funds deposited into this account can be set aside and not included in the \$10,000 carry-over limit.

2.Propose Change the carry over amount from \$10,000 to \$50,000:

Section 7: ENDING BALANCE --The organization is authorized to carry over funds for the following fiscal year as recommended by the Executive Board. The annual carry over amount shall not exceed \$50,000. The exception to this carry-over limit is a "Special Project" that may require multiple years of funding. In these cases with the Executive Board and general membership approval a "Special Project Fund" can be established for a specific project/purpose, time period, and amount. Funds deposited into this account can be set aside and not included in the \$50,000 carry-over limit.

General membership unanimously approved the changes without modification to be submitted for final vote at April meeting.

In addition the membership approved setting up a bylaws review committee to further review and propose changes at the Sept. 2018 meeting.

Old Business

-Hilton Head Sales are at 369 tickets (\$7,380) not including what is at
-Begin buying your 50/50 raffle tickets now for April 13th. Any donations can be dropped to Dawn. There are letters for donations if needed.

New Business

Mr. Eric Wernet

Address the membership requesting help in funding a business related curriculum to teach enterpenurialship, "Lemonade Day". Last year students participated at Sun Plum Market and raised approx. \$600 with 1/2 proceeds going to the Humane Society. In past money was borrowed from principal fund and parent donations but requested funding for it through PTO.

A motion was made to approve \$300 for "Lemonade Day" for Mr. Wernet's 6th grade business class. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Lisa Reed

W-E SOI is hosting "Camp Invention" for students from kindergarten to 5th grade. 6th & 8th graders are CIT (Counselors in training). 9th grade- HS Sr.'s are Leadership Interns (Counselors).

A motion was made to approve the request from Lisa Reed & Eric Wernet for two \$225 scholarships totaling \$450 was made. The motion passed unanimously from the general membership.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Stephen Atkins