

WESTFIELD WASHINGTON SCHOOLS
322 WEST MAIN STREET
WESTFIELD, INDIANA 46074

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
AND THE WESTFIELD CITY COUNCIL

February 22, 2010

The Board of School Trustees of Westfield Washington Schools and the Westfield City Council met in joint session on February 22, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss issues of mutual concern. The meeting was held in the Multi-purpose Room at Westfield Intermediate School.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board President, Tim Gardner, called the joint meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

A. Determine if Quorum is Present

The following members of the Board of School Trustees were present:

Tim A. Gardner, President
Jane A. Catlin, Vice President
Dennis M. Ells, Secretary
David K. Mueller, Member

Thomas W. Mullins, Member, was absent.

Dr. Mark F. Keen, Superintendent, was also present for the meeting.

The following members of the Westfield City Council were present:

Tom Smith, President
John Dippel, Vice President
Robert L. Horkay, Member
Steve Hoover, Member
Ken Kingshill, Member
Ron Stokes, Member

Bob Smith, Member, was absent.

Mayor Andy Cook was also present for the meeting.

B. Welcome

Tim Gardner welcomed everyone to the joint meeting.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tim Gardner.

3. **DISCUSS TIF ISSUES**

Speaking on behalf of the school corporation, Dr. Keen complimented the members of the School Board and City Council for their good working relationship and their desire to serve in the best interest of the taxpayers. He especially noted his appreciation for the City in working with the school on TIFs and tax abatements. He then asked how the City envisions the use of TIFs going forward.

Tom Smith shared that he is amazed by the relationship between the City and the School and also expressed his appreciation for the work done by both groups.

The Council and the Board then discussed the following:

- Use of TIFs as a municipal tool
- Desire for the City to grow
- How school finance has changed
- Effect of the recession on growth
- Need for more non-residential growth in the community
- Importance of the US 31 project to Westfield

Mayor Cook then noted that the City has agreed to capture 75% of TIFs. Should there be any changes, he promised that it would be discussed with the School Board.

There was then discussion of the 1% property tax cap on residential property and the 3% property tax cap on commercial property along with the shortfall in funding they create. This shortfall could necessitate an operating referendum for the School. Attendees discussed the need to educate, inform, and communicate with the public should an operating referendum be required.

The Council and the Board agreed on the importance of being completely up front with the taxpayers in the event an operating referendum be required. Community members will need to see exactly how it will affect their tax bill.

The group then discussed working together to build community pride. Mr. Mueller cited the 4th of July celebration as an example of the groups working together. Mr. Smith reminded everyone that the Derby is scheduled for August 8, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. and stated that he is working with the school to possibly have the high school band there this year. Mayor Cook added the Farmer's Market, the skating rink, and the NUMA festival are all good examples of creating a community identity.

4. **DISCUSS ITEMS FOR POTENTIAL COOPERATION**

Dr. Keen then asked for ideas on ways to work cooperatively in the future. Mr. Smith suggested the We Can group that meets the last Tuesday of each month as a method to get information out to the public.

Tim Gardner suggested the group review the ways in which they have worked cooperatively to save the taxpayers' money. So far, the City and School have worked together in the following ways:

- Buy fuel cooperatively
- School transferred land to the City for parks and a fire station
- City buys road salt
- Fiber optic project is now making money
- School performs preventative maintenance on the City vehicles
- Fee waivers from the City to the School on building projects
- Paper purchases
- School daycare (TOTs program) open to City employees
- Use of the MPIF for community events
- School Resource Officer
- Youth Assistance Program

Mayor Cook commented that he is especially proud of the Youth Assistance Program and provided an example of two brothers who have been helped. This is the first program of its kind in Indiana and only the second program in the nation. So far, it has identified 90 at-risk children.

Steve Hoover stated that the School and City can also work together once the trail system is more complete. There are plans to have major bicycle events and the School could possibly be a staging location.

The Council and Board agreed that it is important to continue to exchange ideas and will work through the Superintendent and Mayor.

There being no further business, the joint meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Members of the Board of School Trustees:

Tim A. Gardner, President

Jane A. Catlin, Vice President

Dennis M. Ells, Secretary

David K. Mueller, Member

Absent

Thomas W. Mullins, Member

Members of the City Council:

Tom Smith, President

John Dippel, Vice President

Robert L. Horkay, Member

Steve Hoover, Member

Ken Kingshill, Member

Rob Stokes, Member

Absent

Bob Smith, Member