

Financial Oversight Committee

Meeting Notes

9/23/09

The Financial Oversight Committee of the Wilmington City Schools (WCS) District held their quarterly meeting on September 23. Facilitated by Treasurer Holly Cahall, Superintendent Ron Sexton, and Business Manager, Curt Bone, the agenda included a discussion of the Ohio Improvement Process and a financial update for the school district.

Committee co-chairs Billy Arehart and Debbie Stamper have prepared the following report for the community.

The meeting opened with an overview of the Ohio Improvement Process by Nicole Quallen, WCS Curriculum Director. The WCS District is one of the first districts to go through this state initiative funded by a grant to improve instruction and learning in the classroom. The basis of the program was the development of a three year comprehensive plan to positively affect student achievement. During the past year, ten teachers and ten administrators worked as a team to write the plan. Two of four stages are now complete, with continual implementation to occur over the course of the three year plan. The comprehensive plan consists of three major goals with subsequent strategies for implementing those goals. A detailed brochure of the Three Year Plan can be obtained from Nicole Quallen.

A financial overview of the WCS District revealed the following:

- In light of the economic woes the community is experiencing as well as the state's budget shortfall, the school District is also being negatively affected.
- In anticipation of a shortfall in the '09/'10 school year, 13 positions were cut in addition to department budgets over the last two years.
- A positive cash balance of \$4.6 million was realized at the end of the last school year, however increased expenses and a reduction in revenue is anticipated in '09/'10. For example:
 - An increase of 6.5 to 7 percent was realized in the free lunch program, meaning that more children in the District are now qualifying for this program.
 - Property tax revenue to the District has not been significantly impacted to date, but is expected to decrease this year due in part to the depreciation in local property values.
 - Income tax revenue is expected to decline.
 - Funding from the state has and continues to be the same each year with no increase for inflation. This year the state used stimulus money to keep from cutting funding.
- While a media release recently reported there would be significant income to the state and the school District from the completed Rockies Express pipeline that partially runs through Clinton County, in reality there will only be minimal income generated for WCS.
- The District will receive \$518,852 in federal stimulus money each year for a two year period. This money is in place of state money. Because it is federal money, the District is strictly dictated to concerning how the money can be used. The money cannot be used to offset any prior or existing program expenditure, but instead can only be used on new programs.
- State lottery money is not additional revenue for the District but instead replaces money that the State used to give the District.

The WCS Financial Oversight Committee consists of a group of volunteers interested in the success of the District. Committee members are Gerry Schultz, Connie Hardie, Jason Walt, Chad Beam, Marsha Bennett, Jody Ames, Diane Brewer, Kay Walt, Leslie Beal, Billy Arehart, and Debbie Stamper. Any questions regarding the District may be directed to one of the Committee members or to Ron Sexton, Curt Bone, or Holly Cahall. The District number is 937-382-1641.