

February 13, 2016

The Washington Local Board of Education met in emergency session pursuant to the rules in the Administration Building, 3505 West Lincolnshire Boulevard on February 13, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. The following members were present:

Mrs. Patricia Carmean
Mr. Eric Kiser
Mr. David Hunter
Ms. Lisa Canales
Mr. James Langenderfer

Also, Mrs. Cherie Mourlam, Superintendent,
and Mr. Jeffery Fouke, Treasurer.

Mr. Hunter asks for a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Frank Erme.

It was moved by Mr. Langenderfer and seconded by Mr. Kiser to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to enter into Executive Session to:

4. Consider the discipline of a public employee or official.

Yes: Mr. Kiser, Mrs. Carmean, Mr. Hunter, Ms. Canales, Mr. Langenderfer (5)

The Board entered into Executive Session at 11:03 a.m. The meeting was reconvened at 11:50 a.m. and did, in fact:

4. Consider the discipline of a public employee or official.

All five board members are still in attendance.

Board President, Mr. Hunter, addressed the audience regarding an issue that occurred at the Whitmer boys' basketball game involving Mr. Patrick Hickey.

"One of the promises that this 2016 Board of Education made to the community was that we were going to move forward and put the past behind us. We promised to place the students of our district first. We also promised to be as forthcoming, honest, and transparent as allowed by law. It's for this reason we call this special emergency meeting of the Board.

Last year there were lots of questions concerning the investigations, allegations, and resignation of Mr. Hickey that we, as a board, were not allowed to discuss publicly, due to attorney/client privilege and Executive Session mandates.

Last night, at our boys' varsity basketball game against Lima Senior, several incidents occurred that were disturbing, disruptive, embarrassing, and inappropriate. I know that the rumors are flying and that the social media is a "buzz" again. It's for this reason that we're going to set the record straight and make sure the facts about the board actions resulting from these incidents are understood and not exaggerated.

Last year, the board allowed Mr. Hickey to resign in lieu of an inevitable termination of his employment, which would have resulted in his separation from Washington Local and his receiving less than one-quarter of the separation package he received. Part of that separation resignation

Moment
of
Silence:

Executive
Session:
142-2/16

Board
Comment:

Board
Comment-
Continued:

package included a stipulation that Patrick will not be allowed on Washington Local property. This was done, in fact, that several of the allegations made against him included charges that he was harassing members of our staff. I urged my fellow board members to allow Patrick to attend activities and sporting events that his children were involved in and I felt, as a father of three, who plays sports myself, that this was a nice thing to do. Last night, during the course of the boys' basketball game, Mr. Hickey, became very verbally aggressive and began to shout out at the referees. He moved from his seat in the stands to the far corner of the gym, located down the out-of-bounds lines were Whitmer basketball players would enter the hallway to go to the locker.

From this point, Mr. Hickey, made a comment to the referees to the point where the referees had to ask the Athletic Director to remove him from the gym. Mr. Snook was forced to remove him from the gym three separate times, and each time he removed him, Mr. Hickey would appear from another door. On the last occasion, while in the corridor, Mr. Hickey was yelling and became verbally abusive to Mr. Snook.

I also learned that earlier in the game, Mr. Hickey, approached our Superintendent, Mrs. Mourlam. His arms were wrapped around her in a hug; she had her arms down at her sides. When she did not reciprocate the hug he became agitated and began saying, "Are you afraid you'll get in trouble?" "Are you afraid you'll get in trouble?" Mrs. Mourlam tried to move away from Patrick and he would not let her go. He said "Are you trying to get away from me?" "Are you trying to get away from me?" and at that point he released her.

This whole scene last night was extremely embarrassing for the district, most uncomfortable, and unwanted by Mrs. Mourlam. When I asked Mr. Snook what would he have done had we been any other parent other than Mr. Hickey? He responded that he would have had him arrested and law enforcement may have done more.

I would like to make it very clear that this board does not fault Mr. Snook or Mrs. Martin, our high school principal, who are also present and extremely upset and embarrassed by Mr. Hickey's behavior. Rather, under circumstances considering they were trying to deal with a man that at one time they had utter respect for and who was their boss, they did as great a job as they could to control the situation. When spoken to after the game and Mr. Hickey had left the building, both were shaken up very badly by these incidents. They were at this time promised that action would be taken by this board to make sure neither of them would be put in this type of situation again as was Mrs. Mourlam.

It is for this reason that after speaking with our board attorney who has been in contact with Mr. Hickey's council, that I am requesting a board motion, from this board, to prohibit Mr. Hickey from coming to school functions on board property. I have a resolution that each board member has that was prepared by our attorney."

It was moved by Mr. Langenderfer and seconded by Mrs. Carmean to accept Board President, Mr. Hunter's recommendation to prohibit Mr. Hickey from coming to school functions on Board property as presented:

Resolution
Re:Patrick
Hickey-
143-2/16

Resolution

Whereas, on February 12, 2016, Patrick Hickey reportedly engaged in inappropriate conduct at a Whitmer High School boys' basketball game, and specifically, Mr. Hickey:

1. engaged in inappropriate and/or abusive conduct toward one of the officials of the game;
2. was directed by a game official to leave the game;
3. was escorted out of the Whitmer High School gymnasium two or three times;
4. returned into the gymnasium after being escorted out of the gymnasium two or three times;
5. was verbally confrontational with the district's Athletic Director during the game;
and
6. embraced another district administrator and continued to embrace the administrator despite her attempts to push Mr. Hickey away, while he was at the game.

Now therefore, be it resolved that:

1. As a result of the safety concerns for its employees and the need to maintain decorum and order at its school functions, Mr. Patrick Hickey shall not be allowed to come onto Board premises, and he shall not be permitted to attend any function of the Washington Local Schools on property owned or controlled by the Board, effective following the hearing with the Board in item 2. below and until further action of this Board;
2. Mr. Patrick Hickey shall be provided with notice of this action, and an opportunity in executive session of this Board at 5 p.m., on Monday, February 15, 2016, to respond to the charges contained in this resolution and to otherwise explain his actions.

Yes: Mrs. Carmean, Mr. Hunter, Ms. Canales, Mr. Langenderfer, Mr. Kiser (5)

14462

Adjournment:
144-2/16

It was moved by Mr. Kiser and seconded by Mr. Langenderfer that this meeting be adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Yes: Mr. Hunter, Ms. Canales, Mr. Langenderfer, Mr. Kiser, Mrs. Carmean (5)

Let the record show that an audio recording of this meeting has been made and is on file in the Office of the Treasurer.

Approved: _____
(President)

Attest: _____
(Treasurer)