**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:**  January 28, 2025

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 5:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNED:** 6:38 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Attending Members Absent Members

Keith Graves, Chair Josh Bain

John Barth Michael-Paul Hart

Dan Boots Jessica McCormick

Derek Cahill Carlos Perkins

Leroy Robinson

**AGENDA**

PROPOSAL NO. 7, 2025 - amends Chapter 271 of the Revised Code of the Consolidated City and County to add a Public Education Fund Program

“Do Not Pass” Vote : 5-0

PRESENTATION - Overview/explanation, Dr. Nikki Woodson, Washington Township Superintendent

PRESENTATION - City Connects program and partnership with the city supported by ARPA, Jillian Lain, Director of City Connects Midwest for Marian University’s Center for Vibrant Schools

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The Education Committee of the City-County Council met on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, in the Public Assembly Room of the City-County Building. Chair Keith Graves called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present: John Barth, Dan Boots, Derek Cahill, and Leroy Robinson. Absent were Josh Bain, Michael- Paul Hart, Jessica McCormick, and Carlos Perkins. General Counsel LeAnnette Pierce and Chief Admin/ Policy and Director Greg Stowers represented Council Staff.

PROPOSAL NO. 7, 2025 - amends Chapter 271 of the Revised Code of the Consolidated City and County to add a Public Education Fund Program

Councilor Boots moved, seconded by Councilor Robinson to send Proposal No. 7, 2025 to the Full Council with a “Do Not Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

**Presentation, Washington Townships Schools Superintendent**

Dr. Nikki Woodson, Superintendent Washington Township reviewed a PowerPoint presentation in detail attached as Exhibit A Some key points are as follows:

**Points of Pride - 10 Year Review**

* Secured over **$500 million in additional funds** to support learning environments, staff compensation and resources and supports to students
* Highest **enrollment increases** in MC last 2 years making it our largest in WT since 2016-17 SY
* **Increased teaching staff** by nearly 170 with new highly qualified diverse teachers
* **Improved teacher pay & retention**
* Implemented programs, resources and staff to support **reduction in out of school suspensions**
* **Improved graduation rates** by nearly 10% (over 200 students), including improvement of all subgroups and increase of nearly 100 students receiving advanced diplomas

**Continuous Improvement Efforts**

* WT District Strategic Plan
* Individual School Improvement Plans for Each WT School

Ensuring Equitable Achievement in WT Schools

* **Equitable Achievement Strategies:** 
  + Cultural Awareness, Responsiveness, & Representation
  + Data-Driven & Differentiated Instruction
  + Ongoing Data Monitoring
  + School Improvement Planning
  + Teaching & Learning; Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) & Professional Learning Communities (PLC)
  + Family & Community Engagement
* **Opportunities to Engage Equity Work:** 
  + ELEVATE Instructional Framework
  + District Equity Leadership Team (DELT)
  + Community Coalition
  + Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)
  + Expansion of College & Career Courses (Secondary): *AP African American Studies, Exploring Education Professions, Quantitative Reasoning, and Computing for a Digital Age.*
  + AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)
  + High Ability/Honors Program
  + Comprehensive Curriculum & Instruction Framework: Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum
  + Panorama (Student, Staff, Parent/Guardian)
* **WT Student Services** 
  + Whole Child Approach
    - Continuum of Services Career & College Counseling Coordinator
    - District Behavior Team Work-based Learning Coordinator
    - *Special Educators Student Support Specialists*
* **WT Early Learning Center Highlights**
  + Academic Program Highlights:
    - 2024-25 Enrollment: 247
    - 50% of students receiving special services
    - 2024-25 Evaluations: 169
    - Certified ***Paths to Quality Level 3***
    - Now accepting ***CCDF*** and ***On My Way Pre K***vouchers. Increasing availability & affordability
  + Academic Achievements:
    - All teachers have also been trained on **ISPROUT**
    - Team is collecting data on **7 essential skills**
    - Full implementation
      * ***Creative Curriculum***
      * ***Pyramid Model***
    - Piloting 2 SEL curriculums
      * ***Everyday Speech***
      * ***Als Pals***
* **WT Middle School Highlights**
  + Academic Program Highlights:
    - We have over 2,600 middle school students enrolled in our schools - an increase of more than 200 students from the previous year.
    - Our schools received a Robotics grant to grow our program in all three schools.
    - We offer engaging Project Lead the Way STEM courses, such as Automation & Robots, Medical Detectives, and APP Creators.
    - We offer AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) and focus on WICOR instructional strategies of Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading.
    - All of our students use Success Bound curriculum to support employability skills
  + Academic Achievements:
    - Dual Language Immersion will be offered at Westlane MS for upcoming Willow Lake 6th graders.
    - 28% of our middle school students are enrolled in high school credit courses.
    - We offer a robust high ability course selection, including World Language, Biology X, Algebra and Honors Geometry.
    - We have an award winning performing arts programs.
    - 43% of our students are enrolled in the 21st Century Scholarship Program.

**WT High School Highlights**

* Academic Program Highlights:
  + Robust course offerings include:
  + 27 Advanced Placement (AP) courses
  + 6 Dual Credit courses in which students can earn college credits through Indiana University’s Advanced College Project (ACP).
  + International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and Diploma Programme
  + All students participate in North Central’s Panther Exploration Personal Project. This student-directed, inquiry-based investigation, allowing our students to demonstrate academic mastery of interdisciplinary skills
* Academic Achievements:
  + $25 million earned in merit-based scholarships.
  + 93 Advanced Placement Scholars, more than half with honors or distinction
  + 2024 SAT Results
  + Evidence-Based Reading & Writing – 8 points above the state average
  + Math – 10 points above the state average
  + 56 Seniors in the Class of 2024 earned the Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency upon graduation.

WT Career Center Highlights

* Academic Program Highlights:
  + The J. Everett Light Career Center provides career-focused classes for high school students, using a hands-on approach.
* 2023-24 Academic Achievements:
  + 73% of eligible students earned college credit while enrolled at JELCC. Students saved over $1 million in tuition.
  + 99% of students are participating in embedded or stand alone work based learning.
  + 93% of JELCC students earn at least one industry certification.
* **Programs include**
  + Animation & Film Production
  + Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing
  + Automotive Maintenance & Detailing
  + Automotive Service Technology
  + Building Facilities & Maintenance
  + Cosmetology
  + Culinary Arts
  + Dental Careers
  + Digital Designs & Advertising
  + Education Professions
  + Emergency Medical Technician
  + Health Careers, CNA Prep
  + IT Pathways
  + Medical Assisting

WT Innovation Through Technology

* **Family Tech Tables**
  + Family Engagement
  + Stay Informed
  + Software Instruction
* **AI Instruction**
  + Teaching students to ethically use AI
  + How GPT’s work
  + Leveraging for efficiency
* **eSports Team**
  + 30% Increase in participation
  + Ranked 2nd in Eastern Region (SB)
  + Ranked 5th in Eastern Region (RL)
* **Robotics Team**
  + Received a $81k grant
  + Tripled in participation
  + 3rd place qualifiers for state

Impact of Operating Referenda on Staffing & Compensation

* **Apx. $ 3.9 million annually**
  + *In order to maintain our high quality  staff and recruit the finest new employees to MSDWT  we commissioned an independent evaluation of our  current compensation and benefits for all staff. Based on this analysis and feedback from multiple stakeholders we have identified the following priorities:*
* **$1.5 million to increase teacher pay**
  + November 2020- Teachers received an ongoing base salary increase of  1% plus $1500. Starting teacher salary was raised to $45,000**.**
* **$1.5 million to increase ALL classified staff compensation**
  + such as Bus Drivers,Transportation Staff, Instructional Assistants, Custodians, Maintenance & Child Nutrition Staff, Office Staff, Support Staff, Etc.
  + February 2021- Staff received an ongoing base salary increase of  4%
* **$900,000 to target** **compensation adjustments** to identified staff positions across the District where we are not competitive with surrounding districts
  + February 2021- Staff received these targeted increases

**Construction Referendum Accomplishments**

* Transformed ALL Teaching and Learning Spaces
* Expanded space for Student Support Programs
* Provided building wide Safety improvements
* Replaced Mechanical and Plumbing systems
* Improved Access for Individuals with Disabilities
* Improved Site Circulation to improve traffic flow/safety and parking
* Renovated Kitchen and Dining Spaces
* Replaced Furniture and Casework
* Upgraded Interior and Exterior Lighting

**Energy Savings Program**

* AES Indiana 2022 and 2024 Award Winner Energy Efficiency Excellence in Education
* Preschool Rebates Received – $43,334.70
* Elementary School Rebates Received - $313,481.88
* Middle School Rebates Received – $268,500.48
* High Schools Rebates Received - $180,617.85
* Total Rebates Received - $805,934.81
* Rebates in Progress – $291,560.40

**Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)**

* This federal program allows schools to provide breakfast and lunch to all students at no cost to families.
* To be eligible schools should have 40% of students directly certified for free meals.
  + Benefits include
    - Increases access to nutritious meals.
    - Reduces stigma associated with free meals.
    - Promotes student health, academic performance, and overall well-being.
    - Simplifies meal service and administrative processes.
    - Reduces negative debt for unpaid student meals
* Community Eligibility Provision is a vital initiative in combating food insecurity in schools, by fostering a healthier learning environment for all students.

**Fiscal Responsibility**

* Develop & Manage Budgets
  + $200M in Regular Funds
  + $500M in Capital Referendum Project Funds
  + $100M in Grants/Donations
    - Over $33M in ESSER grants (Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief funds)
* Banking & Investments = $1M interest revenue increase
* Debt Management = Regular GOBs & Leases
* State Audits = Positive audit results
  + Internal controls and good practices
* Regular Financial Updates throughout the year at Board meetings

Councilor Boots asked about the achievement gap and what is the pool that the data is being pulled from. Dr. Woodson answered when looking at the data they are referring to the comparison to large urban public schools. There are eleven school districts that look like Washington Township with similar demographics. Over ten thousand students. Over half are on free or reduced lunch and students of color. There are eleven school districts that meet those criteria and out of the eleven schools the entire data sheet is measuring against the other schools. They are first or second in all the categories above but because they have the top performing white students in the state their students of color have the largest racial achievement gap and that is one of the areas they are working on in their district strategic plan.

Councilor Graves asked who is eligible to be a student at J. Everett Light Career Center. Dr. Woodson and Dr Sever answered at J. Everett Light courses are open to sending schools therefore if there are other school districts that want to partner with J. Everett Light they reach out and sign a memorandum of understanding to be able to send their students to courses at J. Everett Light. North Central is one of the sending schools and because they are right there on campus it is very convenient to walk over to the center. The majority of students that attended courses at J. Everett Light are North Central students. They have around 800 students enrolled in career and technical education classes. There are nine other school corporations that send their students to their career center because of the offerings that the career center has.

**Presentation, City Connects program and partnership with the city supported by ARPA**

Jillian Lain, Director of City Connects Midwest for Marian University’s Center for Vibrant Schools:

Chair Graves stated.

This Presentation will be heard at a later date.

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Keith Graves, Chair

KG/KB