

WEBSTER GROVES SCHOOL DISTRICT
Webster Groves, Missouri

TAX RATE HEARING/SPECIAL/WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013, 7:00 P.M.
Central Office Board Room

CALL TO ORDER A tax rate hearing/special/workshop meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7 p.m., Monday, September 23, 2013 by its President, Amy O'Brien. The following members were present.

Amy O'Brien	President
Emerson Smith	Vice President
Amy Clendennen	
Jean Dugan	
Steven Loher	(arrived 7:05 p.m.)
Joel Oliver	

Also present were:

Sarah Riss	Superintendent
Linda Holliday	Human Resources consultant
John Simpson	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Diane Moore	Chief Financial Officer
Cathy Vespereny	Director of Community Relations
John M. Thomas	Director of Student Services
LaNita Harrison	Director of Staff Services

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Ms. O'Brien called for and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag prior to beginning the meeting.

AGENDA Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, approval of the agenda. The motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT There were no public comments.

TAX RATE HEARING Diane Moore discussed computation of the 2013-14 tax rate. The district must increase the residential property rate by \$0.0988 to capture the same amount of residential property tax as the previous year because assessed valuation within the district has declined 2.3090 percent. The last year of assessed valuation growth in the district was 2007.

Dr. Moore presented the proposed tax rates by fund as follows: Incidental Fund: \$3.4352; Teachers Fund: \$1.7900; and Building Fund: \$0.0625. The operating rate will be \$5.2877, an increase of \$0.0988 over last year. The proposed tax rates by property class are residential: 5.8576; commercial: 6.1373; and personal property: 6.4799.

PUBLIC COMMENT Resident Daniel Jackson asked for the per pupil cost of education in the district.

MOTIONS TO SET TAX RATE The vote to set the tax rate for the 2013-14 school year was as follows: Mr. Loher moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, that the 2013 tax rate ceiling be set at \$5.3901. Ms. O'Brien, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Mrs. Clendennen, yes; Mrs. Dugan, yes; Mr. Oliver, yes; and Mr. Loher, yes. The motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Loher moved, seconded by Mr. Smith that the 2013 operating levy be set at a blended rate of \$5.3901 and the current year rate computed by category as follows:

Residential -	\$5.2877
Agricultural-	\$0.0000
Commercial-	\$5.5674
Personal Property-	\$5.9100

Ms. O'Brien, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Mrs. Clendennen, yes; Mrs. Dugan, yes; Mr. Oliver, yes; and Mr. Loher, yes. The motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Loher moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, that the 2013 operating levy be distributed as follows:

Incidental Fund - \$3.4292

With the current year rate computed by category as follows:

Residential-	\$3.4352
Agricultural-	\$0.0000
Commercial-	\$3.6698
Personal Property-	\$3.8850

Teachers Fund - \$1.7900

With the current year rate computed by category as follows:

Residential-	\$1.7900
Agricultural-	\$0.0000
Commercial-	\$1.8351
Personal Property	\$1.9625

Capital Projects Fund - \$0.0625

With the current year rate computed by category as follows:

Residential-	\$0.0625
Agricultural-	\$0.0000
Commercial	\$0.0625
Personal Property	\$0.0625

Ms. O'Brien, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Mrs. Clendennen, yes; Mrs. Dugan, yes; Mr. Oliver, yes; and Mr. Loher, yes. The motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Loher moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, that the Debt Service Levy be set at \$0.5699. Ms. O'Brien, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Mrs. Clendennen, yes; Mrs. Dugan, yes; Mr. Oliver, yes; and Mr. Loher, yes. The motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF

CLARK SCHOOL Principal Bill Schiller and teachers Joe Hays and Hannah Peterson reported on progress at Clark. The presentation included information on the new school schedule, assessment results, actions supporting success and challenges.

STAFF DATA AREA REPORT Dr. Simpson and Mrs. Holliday presented the strategic plan Staff Data Report. They shared district strengths, including professional development, staff attendance rate, the experience of the teaching staff and the high percentage of teachers who remain in the district. Critical issues include recruiting and retaining only certified teachers of the highest quality, increasing the diversity of the staff and lowering student-teacher ratios.

ADJOURNMENT Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. The motion carried 6-0.

President

Secretary