

# Star-Telegram

## Westlake settles lawsuit by fired academy chief

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WESTLAKE -- The town has agreed to pay \$63,474.38 to settle a lawsuit filed by the fired head of Westlake Academy and his wife.

Mark A. Rosevear filed the breach-of-contract suit after he was fired in August 2009 after leading the state's only municipally owned charter school for one year. He had a year left on his contract.

His wife, Claudia Simonetti, joined the suit because her contract to teach Spanish was not renewed.

The Town Council discussed the settlement in executive session Monday night and unanimously approved it when the meeting reconvened.

"This was insurance-driven," Mayor Laura Wheat said. "We live in a society where this becomes a business decision, not a question of right or wrong."

In their lawsuit, the couple sought attorneys' fees, court costs and unspecified damages. Damages could include Rosevear's \$130,000 salary as outlined in a two-year contract signed in April 2008, David L. Wiley, a Dallas lawyer representing the couple, said when the suit was filed.

Town Manager Tom Brymer said \$60,000 will be paid to Rosevear and the remaining \$3,474.38 will be paid to Simonetti. The settlement does not require the town to pay for Rosevear's attorney fees or court costs.

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