

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Minutes**  
**August 22, 2016**  
**Report 16-14**

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:02 pm. The meeting was held in the media center located at Owosso High School, 765 E. North Street, Owosso, Michigan.

Present: Jenc, Keyes, Mowen, Ochodnicki  
Absent: Paez, Opanasenko-Lubkin, Webster (Motions of the Board of Education that were unanimous did not include Paez, Opanasenko-Lubkin, Webster)

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Building Reports**

Superintendent Tuttle remarked that the most exciting part of any school year is the hiring of great new staff members. She turned the meeting over to building principals for introductions of their new teachers.

Owosso High School Principal Jeff Phillips presented new staff members Michele Ainslie, Special Education Teacher; Erin Moore, English Language Arts Teachers; Kevin Moore, English Language Arts Teacher; and Jerry Ciarlino, Counselor.

Owosso Middle School Assistant Principal Ed King reported that Erika Kohler has been hired as a Special Education Teacher.

Emerson Elementary Principal Terry Sedlar introduced new staff members Jacalynn Buza, Second Grade Teacher and Shelley Lindsey, Special Education Teacher at Emerson and Bryant Elementary.

Central Elementary Principal Bridgit Spielman presented new staff members Michele Smith, Third Grade Teacher and Megan Buck, First Grade Teacher.

Bryant Elementary Principal Steve Brooks reported that Hillary Skym will be teaching Kindergarten in his building.

Chief Financial Officer Julie Omer announced that Carrie Yoho joined the Administration Offices earlier in the year as the Pupil Accounting staff person and to provide payroll backup. In addition, Katie Aymor will be taking over the responsibilities of Payroll Specialist to fill the vacancy of Becky Hartnagle who moved to Bryant as their Executive Secretary.

Board President Tim Jenc commented that some of the Board members were unable to attend the meeting, but asked the members that were in attendance to introduce themselves to the meeting's audience. The introductions included Sara Keyes, Trustee; Tim Jenc, Board President; Rick Mowen, Vice President; and Shelly Ochodnicki, Secretary.

Athletic Director Dallas Lintner proudly announced that the 2016 Girls' Varsity Tennis Team that is coached by Mrs. Carrie Rugenstein was recognized last spring by being named Academic-All-State by the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association. He explained that this honor is calculated through the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association by averaging the top 12 grade point averages of the team and is compared to other teams in Michigan. The team's aggregate GPA was 3.78.

Coach Carrie Rugenstein stated that she is privileged to coach the Girls' Tennis Team and present them with their award. The team members that were in attendance included Madison Glardon, Hannah Marcotte, and Alicia Hippert.

## **Board Correspondence**

Superintendent Tuttle reported that the District's annual Grand Opening Celebration was held earlier that day and it was absolutely outstanding. Staff members were welcomed back by the OHS Cheerleaders, OMS Choir Teacher Kirsten Schaffert performed a wonderful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner, and the OHS Drumline conducted a performance for staff. Following the welcome back ceremony, the entire OPS team engaged in random acts of kindness throughout the community for one hour. Superintendent Tuttle applauded Bryant Elementary Principal Steve Brooks for coming up with the idea. The acts of kindness that were conducted by OPS staff members varied from picking weeds, helping an elderly person cut down a tree, paying people's restaurant bills, and contributions to the Cancer Center, Safe Center, Humane Society, and Owosso Memorial Hospital. In addition to providing gift certificates to homeless people in the community. Superintendent Tuttle remarked that in her opinion, it was one of the best opening days because the wide-array of kindness acts reminded staff of what they are truly here to do. All staff members received an "Owosso Gotcha!" card that they could pass on to the recipients of their random acts of kindness with the hope that the initiative will continue to be passed on.

Superintendent Tuttle encouraged the Board to visit the "Owosso Gotcha" Facebook page and to view the acts that have been shared. She reminded everyone that the goal of OPS is to get students ready for the world, but we also want them to be able to change the world in a positive manner. Random acts of kindness were carried out the entire day at each school and Superintendent Tuttle shared a brief summary of the activities that teachers participated in that were organized by their building's principal. Superintendent Tuttle thanked administrators and staff for a wonderful day.

Superintendent Tuttle acknowledged Dallas Lintner, Athletic Director for his innovative changes to the Community Pep Rally that took place on August 19<sup>th</sup> at Willman Field. Community members engaged in free activities that included games and bounce houses. Free pizza and beverages were also available to everyone courtesy of John Klapko, Michele Prince and the Food Service Department. The highlight of the event was the introduction of the fall sports teams, coaches, and players.

Superintendent Tuttle recognized Curriculum Director Dr. Kari Selleck for organizing the New Teacher Orientation where expectations were shared with teachers in a fun and engaging manner. She remarked that we are very fortunate to be bringing on some great and experienced teachers to the District.

Superintendent Tuttle stated that the day's Grand Opening Celebration was concluded with a presentation of the District's "Celebrate Success Video." Community Education Director Jessica Thompson was acknowledged for creating the video that highlights points of pride from the previous school year. The video is also available on the District's webpage.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that staff members have been very busy getting students registered for the new school year at the middle school, high school, and Lincoln. The registration process at all buildings has gone very well.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that the Owosso High School media center is being transitioned into an innovative work space for students. Administrators and teachers at the high school and Lincoln have been working very hard on the Chromebook initiative, which has allowed the elimination of one computer lab in the high school media center. The space will be used for the robotics club and the construction of an airplane.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that the sinking fund projects are going well. Contractors worked over the weekend to complete projects prior to the start of school. The new window project on the backside of the middle school is near completion and new exterior doors throughout the District are a nice improvement. In addition, new flooring has been installed where needed and the fire alarm systems have been upgraded.

Superintendent Tuttle reminded the Board of the big football game on August 26<sup>th</sup> against our cross-town rivals on their turf.

Curriculum Director Dr. Kari Selleck reported that it has been a very busy week of teacher planning and professional development. The District has approximately 30 teachers that are involved in the Instructional Leadership Council. Those 30 teachers met with Dr. Selleck after the New Teacher Orientation for over three-hours to plan the details for professional development. Dr. Selleck remarked that she is extremely proud of these teachers and their leadership roles in working with their various grade levels and departments.

Dr. Selleck remarked that she is very excited to host a trainer on August 23<sup>rd</sup> that will work specifically with Nick Krueger, Engineering Teacher; Jason Krantz, Construction Trades Teacher; Ben Smith, Woods Teacher; and all of the District's Art teachers on a new CNC machine that was purchased with CTE funds. These staff members will learn how to use the CNC machine and its software for further instruction in their classrooms.

Dr. Selleck reported that Social Studies expert Amy Blume from Oakland University and the Oakland ISD has been invited to work with grades 6-12 teachers during professional development. The trainer will be working with Social Studies teachers to help them understand the economic and political issues that are occurring every day in a student developmental appropriate fashion.

Dr. Selleck expressed her excitement with the District's Hiperlight Aircraft project, which is a result of members of the Girl's in Engineering Club and her going to the Owosso Community Airport and spending time with Mr. Ron Jones who is very active at the airport. Mr. Jones had previously worked with middle school students in Rochester to build a recreational airplane and welcomed the idea of working with OPS girls on an airplane project. Girls will be invited to join the club that will meet on a weekly basis to build a recreational Hiperlight Airplane from scratch in the former OHS media center. It is projected that some 3D printers will be brought in to the innovative space area and students will receive further training on the use of the printers.

### **Public Participation**

President Jenc stated that the Board of Education is a public body and recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues. Time has been included in the meeting's agenda for public participation. Members of the audience were reminded that they should announce their name and group affiliation when applicable and to limit their participation time to three minutes or less. Comments should be directed to the Board and be relevant to the business of the Board of Education. This is not an opportunity for dialogue with the Board of Education. The rules of common courtesy should also be observed.

There were no comments from the public.

### **For Action**

- President Jenc stated that he would like to amend the Sinking Fund Contract Award for Roof Replacements to only include the High School, Bryant, and Middle School roofs. He asked that the transportation center roof be excluded from the project.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicki to approve the July 25, 2016 regular meeting minutes and current bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to approve the tax levy (L-4029). Consistent with the taxation rate for 2015, the operating millage rate, through the renewal of the operating millage in February 2013 will be at the maximum allowable by the State for the December 2016 levy. The sinking fund levy is based on the full 3 mills voted on during the November 2013 election and has not been subject to a Headlee rollback at this time. Secretary Ochodnicki conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Keyes, Jenc, Mowen, and Ochodnicki. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicky to award the contract for specific roof renovations at the Owosso High School, Bryant, and Owosso Middle School to Ostrander Windows, Siding and Roofing of Belding, Michigan. Superintendent Tuttle explained that the original bid included the roof and wall restoration at the Transportation Center, but was listed separately on the bid tabulation. She explained that the District has obtained additional information from the City of Owosso that there may be some grant opportunities for this project and all options are being explored at this time before moving forward. Motion carried unanimously.

### **For Future Action**

The Board of Education will be asked to approve the out-of-state trip for Owosso Middle School students and teacher Samantha Lieberman on a Washington D.C. trip, to the Capital of the United States on April 26-28, 2017.

The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Operations Department to dispose of obsolete vehicles that include a 1990 ½ ton two-wheel drive truck and a 1999 Ford panel truck. If the Board declares these items obsolete, the items will be placed up for sale through a closed bid process. The funds garnered will be returned to the general fund.

The Board of Education will be asked to award the bid for the purchase of a new vehicle for the Operations Department to Young Chevrolet Cadillac, Owosso, Michigan in an amount not to exceed \$31,000 plus fees. Superintendent Tuttle explained that she is not recommending the two lowest bids from Signature Ford-Lincoln, Owosso because neither of the bids met our specifications.

### **For Information**

Superintendent Tuttle provided the Board with a personnel update. Becky Hartnagle has accepted the Executive Secretary position at Bryant Elementary. Tracy Smith has accepted the 6.75 hour Food Service Worker position at Owosso High School. Sandra Flanner has accepted the Lead Cook II position at Owosso High School. Christine Tobey has accepted the 7.5 hour Lead Cook II position at Owosso High School. Pam Spalding has accepted the 7 hour Lead Cook II position at Owosso High School. Christine Hart has accepted the 5 hour Food Service Worker position at Owosso Middle School. Barbara Adams has accepted the 3.5 hour Food Service Worker position at Owosso Middle School. Cassidy Peacock, Early Childhood Paraprofessional at Bentley Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center has resigned. Ashley Jones, Special Education Paraprofessional at Owosso High School has resigned.

### **Public Participation**

There were no comments from the public

### **Board Member Comments/Updates**

Sara Keyes commented that she attended the Community Pep Rally and it was a perfect night with great attendance. She extended her gratitude to everyone that organized the event. Mrs. Keyes stated that unfortunately, she was unable to attend the Grand Opening Ceremony; however, during her lunch time everyone at her work was talking about the random acts of kindness that were occurring throughout the community and no one knew exactly why they were happening. She stated that she thought this was an awesome activity and explained to her own children that it cost zero dollars to be kind to someone. She applauded Principal Steve Brooks for coming up with the idea. Mrs. Keyes also stated that she is very excited about the new school year.

Tim Jenc acknowledged Bath Township Police Officer Trenton Bailey for saving a life recently as reported in the Argus Press. Trenton is a Class of 2008 Lincoln Alternative High School graduate.

Rick Mowen commented that he would like to say goodbye to a long, hot, and dry summer and welcome back to a new school year.

Shelly Ochodnicky stated that she has had the honor and privilege of attending many of the festivities that

were mentioned by Dr. Tuttle during her report. She commented that she has enjoyed all of the events and also feels very blessed to have her own business that allows her to have a flexible schedule. She stated that it has been fun meeting the new staff members and she looks forward to the new school year.

**Upcoming Board Meeting Dates**

September 12 – Board Subcommittee Meetings, 5 and 6 pm

September 26 – Regular Board Meeting at 7 pm

**Important Upcoming Dates**

August 23, 2016 – Professional Development Day

August 23, 2016 – Elementary Open Houses, 5:30 – 7 pm

August 24, 2016 – Teacher Optional Work Day

August 24, 2016 – OMS Make-up Registration, 8 am – 12 pm

August 24, 2016 – Bentley Bright Beginnings Open House, 5:30 – 7 pm

August 25, 2016 – First Day of School!

August 31, 2016 – LHS Open House, 5:30 – 7 pm

September 2-5, 2016 – No School: Labor Day Recess

**Adjournment**

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicky to adjourn at 7:40 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt.

Respectfully submitted,

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Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary