

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
August 26, 2019
Report 19-20

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:30 pm. The meeting was held in the Washington Campus located at 645 Alger Street, Owosso, Michigan.

Present: Jenc, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnicky, Quick, Webster
Absent: Keyes (motions of the Board of Education that were unanimous did not include Keyes)

Building Reports

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reminded the meeting's audience that because of the ongoing construction at the Owosso High School campus, the Board of Education meetings have been held in the Washington Campus. She informed the Board of Education that beginning with the September 23 meeting, the meetings will relocate back to the Owosso High School media center.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle commented that in addition to kindergarten registration, the introduction of new teachers is one of the most exciting events that occur annually in the District and she is proud to have the new teachers introduced to the Board of Education.

Bryant Elementary Principal Shelly Collison stated that she has four new teachers to start the school year at Bryant. Mrs. Collison announced that Stacey Coleman has been hired to teach first grade; Erica Muehlhauser, kindergarten teacher; Nicole Davis, kindergarten teacher; and Maggie Keech will teach third grade.

Emerson Elementary Principal Jessica Anderson introduced Holly Schultz. Ms. Schultz will teach first grade. Ms. Anderson also introduced Krista Cross who will teach third grade at Emerson.

Central Elementary Principal Bridgit Spielman introduced Stacey Willyerd. Mrs. Willyerd has been hired as a special education teacher in the resource room at Central. Mrs. Spielman also introduced Mrs. Carrie Miculka who will teach first grade.

Owosso Middle School Principal Rich Collins announced that Michael Schiller will teach seventh grade science at OMS and Jessica Askew will teach seventh grade English.

Owosso High School Principal Jeff Phillips introduced new teachers Janine Elbing, special education teacher; Derek Woltjer high school counselor; and Alicia Lonteen who will also teach special education.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle asked that the Board of Education and those seated at the Board table to introduce themselves to the new hires. The introductions included Ms. Clara Pitt, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Steve Brooks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Mrs. Olga Quick, Trustee; Mrs. Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary; Mr. Rick Mowen, Vice President; Mr. Tim Jenc, President; Mrs. Marlene Webster, Treasurer; Mr. Ty Krauss, Trustee; and Mrs. Julie Omer, Chief Financial Officer. Mrs. Sara Keyes, Trustee was absent.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle remarked that this is one of the most experienced group of teachers to be hired by the District and she is very excited to have them join the Owosso Public Schools staff.

Vice President Rick Mowen commented that the new teachers are joining a great school district and a great family.

President Tim Jenc thanked the new teachers for attending the meeting and welcomed them to Owosso Public Schools.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reported that since the last Board meeting, the administrative workdays have taken place which were outstanding. She commented that every time she works with the administrative team it reminds her of how fortunate the District is to have an amazing group of tenured leaders, especially with their additional workloads that are associated with the bond. She also applauded the great members of the Board of Education.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle remarked that several members of the Board attended the elementary ribbon cutting ceremonies. She stated that she was very pleased with the attendance and to witness the reactions of community members and students that were seeing the improvements for the first time. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle thanked the elementary principals for organizing the ceremonies in each of their buildings.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained that this year's community pep rally was a little different than those that have been held in the past. She remarked that she has received some positive and negative responses to the changes, which will all be taken into consideration when organizing future events. Overall, attendance was greater than in the past. She stated that it was great to witness the administrative team and Board members working at the event and having fun. Dr. Dallas Linter, Athletic Director and Mrs. Jessica Thompson, Community Education Director were thanked by Superintendent Dr. Tuttle for organizing the event.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle announced that bond work continues in the District. The elementary punch list was completed the previous week. A final cleaning of construction areas at the high school was accomplished prior to the open house. Owosso High School administrators Jeff Phillips, Karen Van Epps, Dr. Dallas Lintner, and their staff were applauded for their patience and understanding over the summer while their offices were being relocated and remodeled. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that a final inspection of the summer construction work is scheduled for August 27th. Clark Construction was commended for their continued collaboration with the District throughout the construction phases of the bond work. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle forewarned the Board that there may be some unanticipated glitches at the high school during the first days of school. She stated that there is a new front entrance at the high school and traffic will be allowed to use the new access road.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that the District is always moving forward with the latest in technology. As a result, additional training will be required by staff so they feel comfortable using these tools.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that the secondary campus is still on schedule to be completed in August of 2020. However, she is saying December 2020 in case there are any unexpected delays in construction.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that Bus Routes for the 2019-20 school year were recently posted.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle expressed her sincere gratitude to Young Chevrolet Cadillac Buick GMC of Owosso, Dr. Ayaz and Laura Jafri of Mid-Michigan Dental, Kevin and Janena Kregger from Nelson-House Funeral Home, Keith Maiké of Main Beverage, and Clark Construction for their generous donations that allowed the District to hold the opening day activity at Stone House Farm in Bancroft.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that open houses are scheduled at all school buildings this week. She commented that all of the facilities are looking great, especially with the amount of bond work that has been completed.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle announced that fall athletics are in full swing. The first official varsity football game of the season will take place on August 29th at Lansing Eastern High School.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained that with the ongoing bond construction at the high school, the Trojan Marching Band has been practicing at Emerson. She remarked that several residents that live near Emerson have expressed how much they love listening to the band practice.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle thanked Kevin Lenkart, Director of Public Safety for the City of Owosso for providing additional crossing guards at the high school to assist with student pedestrians and traffic flow for the new access road and ongoing construction. She stated that north and south traffic is being allowed on the new access road.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that 43 students attended summer school at Owosso High School during session's one and two. These students completed 75 classes for a total of 37.5 credits earned. Lincoln High School had 21 students that participated in their summer school program and completed 20 courses with 10 credits being earned. At the elementary level, three two-week sessions of summer school were completed with an average of 80 students participating in each session.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks praised Bryant Elementary Principal Shelly Collison on the success of the Book's at Bryant summer program. Culver's Restaurant, Baker College of Owosso, and Kiwanis Club of Owosso were thanked for their support and sponsoring the event. Additionally, several OPS teachers volunteered their time over the summer and helped make the weekly event a huge success. Approximately 1,600 books were distributed to children throughout the summer and participation increased significantly from the previous year.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks announced that a variety of professional development activities have been planned for staff during the opening days. The activities will include Social Emotional activities, Illuminate, writing, math, International Baccalaureate, Trojan Time, flat panel technology training, and Positive Behavior Support Interventions (PBIS),

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that New Teacher Orientation encompassed two days of training. During the training teachers were acclimated to the District and community. Teachers were also introduced to their curriculum, teaching materials, Google drives, and necessities to help them be successful. Mr. Brooks expressed appreciation to Mrs. Karen Michalec for helping organize the event. The District's grade level and department chairs were also thanked for helping lead some of the discussions with new the teachers. Mr. Brooks stated that academically, the District is ready to start the new school year.

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 meeting's audience.

For Action

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick to approve the July 22, 2019 regular meeting minutes, August 12, 2019 committee of the whole minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to approve the tax levy (L-4029) for 2019 as presented. The tax levy must be approved by the Board of Education prior to October 1, 2019 in order to be included on the December 1 (winter) tax roll. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained that the millage requested to be levied on December 1, 2019 is inclusive of 18 mills for operating cost, 2 mills for the sinking fund, and 4.73 mills for the bond. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicky, supported by Mowen to approve the hiring of certified staff members Janine Elbing, Owosso High School Special Education Teachers and Holly Schultz, Emerson Elementary First Grade Teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board of Education will be asked to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso Middle School students and staff on a Washington, D.C. trip on April 22-24, 2020.
- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to sign the Head Start Purchase of Service Agreement between Capital Area Community Services (C.A.C.S.) and Owosso Public Schools (OPS).

For Information

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that Rhonda Nations has accepted the Student Facilitator position at Bryant Elementary. Alyse Bleisner has accepted the Paraprofessional position at Emerson Elementary. Chelsea Mishler has accepted the Special Education Paraprofessional position at Bryant Elementary. Jannel Somers has accepted the GSRP Associate Teacher position at Bentley Bright Beginnings. Ashley Woodworth has accepted the GSRP Associate Teacher position at Bentley Bright Beginnings. Linda Skinner has accepted the 6.5-hour Food Service Worker position at Owosso High School. Carrie St. John has accepted the Paraprofessional position at Bryant Elementary. Sandra Smith has accepted the Paraprofessional position at Bryant Elementary. Andrea Savage has accepted the Monitor position at Owosso High School. Tammy Shurlow has accepted the 4.25-hour Bus Driver position. Trudy Schneider, Family and Consumer Science Teacher at Owosso High School has submitted her letter of resignation. Jennifer Thiel, Special Education teacher at Owosso High School has resigned. Jeanne Pahl, Food Service Worker at Bryant Elementary has resigned. Cinthia Salcedo-Aliga, Monitor at Bryant Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation. Alexandra Lenard, First Grade Teacher at Emerson Elementary has resigned.

Public Participation

There were no comments from the meeting's audience.

Board Member Comments/Updates

President Tim Jenc commented that he has spoken to several community members and their feedback about the new access road at the high school has been very supportive. He stated that he also met with alumni from the OHS Class of 1974 and they were very impressed to see the progress that is being made in the District, especially at the secondary campus.

Trustee Ty Krauss stated that he is hearing a lot of great feedback about the improvements being made at the high school. Mr. Krauss stated that he was able to attend the elementary ribbon cuttings and open houses was pleased with the attendance at these events.

Treasurer Marlene Webster thanked the Board for their patience and understanding about her inability to attend all meetings lately. She stated that she was able to attend all of the elementary ribbon cutting ceremonies and the community pep rally. She stated that the format of the pep rally was great and it felt like a big party.

Vice President Rick Mowen commented that the elementary ribbon cutting presentations went very well. He was very pleased with the attendance and support of the community at the ceremonies. Mr. Mowen stated that he also enjoyed the pep rally at Willman Field and thought it was a great evening spent with the kids and students of OPS.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicky remarked that the elementary ribbon cutting ceremonies were a historical event. She stated that it was great to see this finally come to fruition. Mrs. Ochodnicky commented that she is looking forward to participating in the elementary open houses with her granddaughters.

Trustee Olga Quick echoed the previous comments about the ribbon cutting ceremonies and pep rally. She remarked that the events were fun and she really enjoyed participating in them. Mrs. Quick stated that she also enjoyed having breakfast with the teachers at New Teacher Orientation, but she was especially pleased to learn that the District takes them around the community to tour neighborhoods and see where our students are coming from.

Treasurer Marlene Webster commented that the Pleasant Valley Trailer Park's back to school party was held on Saturday, August 24th. A teacher that has taught at Bryant Elementary School for many years attended the party and commented that it was her first time to visit the trailer park. Mrs. Webster stated that many of the students that live in the trailer park attend Bryant School and it is her personal goal to have every Bryant teacher visit the park.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

September 9: Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5:30 pm

September 23: Regular Board Meeting, 5:30 pm

Important Upcoming Dates

August 27: Teacher Work Day

August 27: OHS Open House & Registration Make-up, 4-6 pm

August 27: Bentley Bright Beginnings Open House, 5-7 pm

August 28: Professional Development Day

August 28: OMS Open House, 4-6 pm

August 28: Elementary Open Houses, 5-7 pm

August 28: Bus Garage Open House, 5-7 pm

August 29: Professional Development Day

August 30-September 2: No School-Labor Day Recess

September 3: First Day of School

September 11: LHS Open House, 5-7 pm

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicky to adjourn at 6:09 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary