

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
November 28, 2016
Report 16-40

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:01 pm. The meeting was held in the media center located at Owosso High School, 765 E. North Street, Owosso, Michigan.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

Superintendent Tuttle remarked this is always the most exciting time of our Board meeting and turned the meeting over to Emerson Principal, Mr. Terry Sedlar. Mr. Sedlar introduced Emerson fourth grade teachers Mr. Mofield, Mr. McVay and Mrs. Thornton who then introduced their students. Students introduced from Mr. Mofield's class, Hoyt Patrick; Mr. McVay's class, Kameron Marsden and Elaina Pennel and from Mrs. Thornton's class Abigail Cobb and Desiree Mofield.

Mr. Mofield announced student will be presenting on the IB unit *External Body Structures of Living Organisms and How They Help to Survive in the Planet*. Sharing the planet is our IB theme and the students will be talking about the different things they learned as each slide is shown.

Mr. McVay reported Mrs. Spielman was kind enough to loan her tarantula to the class to explore and told Mrs. Spielman they would loan the python snake if she wanted to swap sometime.

The first explored was the structure of the tarantula and Kameron Marsden reported on what he learned. Kameron stated they studied the fangs and the web spinner in the tarantula. The tarantula uses its fangs to put venom inside its pray.

Elaina Pennell reported on the snake and observed a rat in its mouth and the structures its uses so it does not choke.

Mr. Mofield reported the next project was about bees and how pollination is very important to our survival and showed a Cheetos activity where the students actually became bees themselves and took Cheetos to pollinate a flower that was right in front of them. This activity was done to represent pollination to the students.

Hoyt Patrick spoke about why pollination is important to us. He stated, it is important so we can get the food, because bees have to pollinate or we would not get the vegetables that we have.

Abigail Cobb reported students made bee boxes for a local bee keeper by gluing and hammering them together. They also learned about how the body structure of a bee helps it to survive.

Desiree Mofield reported bees pollinate and help to grow food. One-third of our food comes from bee pollination. Bees are dying out because of bug spray.

It was reported six bee boxes will be sent to a local bee keeper to help raise honey for future endeavors.

Superintendent Tuttle asked if the Board had any questions for the students. She stated we like to learn from you just as much as your teachers like to help you learn.

Mrs. Marlene Webster asked specifically what structures of a python help it not to choke? It was reported the windpipe; it sticks out the front so it can breathe.

Superintendent Tuttle asked, what do you predict will happen if the bee population continues to decrease? It was reported, eventually the bees will die out and then we will only have about 4 years to live because there will not be the pollination to grow the food that is needed.

Mrs. Janice Opanasenko-Lubkin asked if the students will have a chance to see what the bee hives look like in place or if the bee keeper was able to bring in some pictures to show what they look like?

Mr. Mofield reported a bee keeper is coming to speak to the class in December. He will be bringing pictures and the students will actually have the opportunity to dress up in the bee keeper outfit and he will have a smoker and other things to see.

Mrs. Janice Opanasenko-Lubkin reported, she agrees with the students that this is very important and that is why she let a bee keeper put a hive on her property so there would be lots of honey there. She reported honey can be very important for your health also. She expressed to the students that it was a great project they took on.

Superintendent Tuttle inquired about the type of bug spray. She asked if it was suggested that the bug spray referred to was like the mosquito spray we put on? Desiree Mofield reported it is like the spray that you use in your house to get the bugs out and the spray that is also put on the crops. Superintendent Tuttle asked if there was an alternative or something different that we should be doing? Mrs. Thornton reported the class really did not go into detail about alternatives.

Mrs. Sarah Keyes stated it is super hard to get up in front of a large group of people and the students did a good job. She stated the students are very well spoken, did a great job and expressed how very proud she was of them.

Mr. John Klapko, Operations Director introduced Mr. Russell Wing and asked him to introduce his special guest. Mr. Wing introduced his mother and stated "Thank you Mom". Mr. Klapko reported Mr. Wing started working for the District in 1992. He is an Owosso grad who has spent his whole life in Owosso. During his 24 years of service, Mr. Wing has only missed four days during his career. Two of those days were for surgery and two days his colleagues literally had to take him home. Mr. Wing was commended

for his dedication and attendance. Mr. Wing is beloved by everyone in the District and I am very honored and proud to have worked with him.

Superintendent Tuttle commented she has had the pleasure of working with Mr. Wing. She stated he is one of the kindest and most genuine individuals she has ever met. Superintendent Tuttle expressed to Mr. Wing his dedication to this District exemplifies everything we want in an employee; hard working, compassionate, prideful, kind, generous and does everything that is asked of him. Superintendent Tuttle read Mr. Wing's retirement letter as stated below.

I was hired in April of 1991 as a sub custodian. Dick Langdon was the director of Operations then. Rick Luft was the custodial supervisor. Dr. David Bowman was the superintendent.

On March of 1996 I was hired as a Custodian II. Before that I was a sub custodian from 1991-1996. Out of all the buildings I've worked in the district, Emerson School comes to mind as the one that had good memories for me. The past two years or more have been real good ones. The administrators, teachers in every building went out of the way to say hello to me. I'll always be grateful plus appreciative for the hellos. The staff at Emerson have been very helpful, kind, thoughtful, supportive. I'll always cherish the memories of Mr. Terry Sedlar plus the staff taking the time to say hello. Thank you Mr. Terry Sedlar plus the staff for the kind words always.

My most meaningful time as a custodian took place in 2012 during the time Mitt Romney was running for President. That night at Washington, Lincoln went out in a normal way on election night. When the polls were about to close at 8:00, I was about to get the sign that says Vote Here with the American flag in the middle. That's when I discovered the American flag was missing. I took action by calling 911. The officer arrived within seconds. Then the officer questioned myself about the situation. The officer then went into the nearby neighborhood to retrieve the flag. Getting the stars and stripes back to where it belongs was an accomplishment that has greater meaning each day.

I would like to also thank Dr. Tuttle along with the rest of the administrators for taking the time to say hello whenever I was on the Washington Campus. That took on a greater meaning plus a lift for my spirits. Thank you again.

I would also like to thank Terry Hoenshell, Brandon Kramer also. The three of us made a very good team at Emerson. I've learned a lot also.

In conclusion, it has been and interesting 30-year journey over the years. It is time to start a new phase of my life. May all of you in the district have good health each and every day of your lives. Best wishes always.

Respect to all of you, Russ Wing.

After reading Mr. Wing's letter, Superintendent Tuttle commented on how a simple "Hello" is profound and can make an impact in people's lives.

Student Representative Lucy Popovitch reported on the last student government meeting that occurred two weeks ago. Cayden Whiteherse was named as the member of the month because he has just been diligent coming to every meeting and working hard to make a difference in the school and the student government really appreciates that. He was presented with a card signed by everyone. The student government recently started making birthday signs and putting them on student's lockers for everyone in student government. We have exciting ideas on the rise, but will remain a secret for now.

One of the biggest events that the school hosts is the can drive and to kick it off will be a pep assembly on Friday, December 2nd when all of the fundraising events are announced. Nothing has been finalized yet, but there will be meetings this week to finalize fundraising events. As always, there is a battle of the grades and last week the student government came up with a few ideas to fund raise, such as selling hot cocoa. In addition to that, possibly bidding for a lunch with a teacher or having an additional competition between MSU and U of M fans. These are just a few ideas that have not been finalized yet.

On December 16th will be the 5:00 a.m. ABC pep assembly and as always, super excited to wake up at the crack of dawn to go to the event. Mrs. Burzmor has announced that the shirts for the can drive go on sale Tuesday, November 29th for \$10. Anyone who would like one, please email Mrs. Burzmor. The shirt says "I can, you can, we can, make a difference"

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Tuttle stated as the theme of her report, not all things that go on are necessarily in the curriculum that we do to teach kids and help others.

Superintendent Tuttle announced the 100 Women who Care made their \$20,000 donation to the Owosso Public Schools backpack program. She expressed her gratitude to those who participated in the photo.

Superintendent Tuttle announced the 300 Club event raised \$8,000 for our Athletic Boosters and is used towards our students.

The Harvest Festival Dinner at Lincoln Alternative High School was a huge success. Thanks was given to those who attended including Board Trustee Webster and Board Secretary Ochodnický. The produce was picked from the community garden and used to make lots of goodies.

Superintendent Tuttle stated Veteran's Day is her favorite day of the year. She reported on just a few of the many activities that occurred throughout the District that day. Lincoln had several Veteran's speak directly to students. Collectively, the elementary buildings had the largest attendance. The buildings looked great and the activities were great. At the middle school, students wrote on red, white and blue sticky notes what Veteran's Day meant to them. The sticky notes were displayed as an American flag and then a drone flew overhead and filmed it. The high school did a lot of educational opportunities to know what a Veteran is and how they protect all of us and the sacrifices they made.

Superintendent Tuttle reported on election activities that have occurred at the buildings since the last Board meeting acknowledging the nice job in teaching students how to register to vote and how to vote. At Bryant Elementary, students were taught how to register to vote. During the mock election at Bryant, if students

did not register they were not allowed to vote to show the reality of not being a registered voter. At Emerson Elementary, students had to choose someone they felt would make a good President and then report why. One student chose Mrs. Susan Harkema and stated the reason was she is honest, sweet and brings joy to everyone.

Superintendent Tuttle announced Emerson teacher, Mr. Scott McCuaig purchases either MSU or U of M shirts for all of the fifth grade students every year for the big game. Mr. Terry Sedlar, Emerson Principal was duct taped to a wall recently because the students met a fundraising goal. These are just some of the cool things happening in our District.

Superintendent announced the Varsity Swim Team clinched the CAAC Red Division Girls Championship. Mallory Irelan, a Junior broke the school record twice in the 50 freestyle and advanced to the State Finals where she placed 14th in 50 freestyle and 21st in the 100 fly. The Girls Cross Country team made it to the state finals. Kaitlyn Owens finished 122nd last year, 57th this year and hopes to finish minimally in the top 30 next year to clinch all-state honors.

Superintendent Tuttle reported on the Human Trafficking event that took place at the Owosso High School, presented by the Michigan State Police. She acknowledged Mr. Phillips, OHS Principal and Mrs. Van Epps, OHS Assistant Principal for organizing the event.

Superintendent Tuttle reported the Food Service Department is preparing for huge audit on Tuesday, November 29th. She acknowledged how great the fleet in the Transportation department looks and what a great job the Buildings and Grounds department is doing in maintaining our aging facilities.

Superintendent Tuttle reported Board members, Cheryl Paez, Sara Keyes and Marlene Webster attended the MASB Leadership Conference professional development.

Superintendent Tuttle reported on various activities that took place throughout the District. At Bryant Elementary, Mrs. Tuma's 5th grade class began an adopt a soldier campaign and kindergarten students in Mrs. Skym's class adopted military men and women at Hell Air Force Base.

At the Middle School, debates were facilitated by Mr. Aue and high school students interested in politics. The Middle School students were given the opportunity to choose a stance and debate who they felt was the best candidate and why. The students handled themselves with respect and dignity. Superintendent Tuttle also gave Mrs. Michalec kudos for organizing the debate.

At Central Elementary Mr. Raffaelli and Mr. Lentz organized a 4th grade Lumberjack breakfast at that included ballroom dancing with Mrs. Napier, entertainment with guitar playing and old fashion games.

At the high school, the VEI trip to Tennessee was a success. There were two teams competing this year and the students did well. Mock elections and registrations took place all over the district. The high school students had voter registration based upon their township. There were retired teachers, Mrs. Bontrager, Mrs. Furr, Mrs. Gooding, Mrs. Napier and Mrs. Optigrove registering students.

The Middle School Volleyball team participated in the Fowlerville Pink Out fundraiser.

District wide, there was Homeland Security training provided to all staff. The training ended with the Gotcha! campaign, giving a Gotcha! card to all staff.

At Lincoln Alternative High School, the students participated in a Day of Respect. The focus of the Day of Respect is to have students participate in exercises to understand what it means to show respect, and be treated in a respectful manner. The students scheduled Gotcha! activities in the community consisting of four groups. One group went to the RESD Learning Center East to help with making crafts, one group went to downtown to help with holiday baskets on the bridge and litter clean-up, another group went to the high school to help Food Service pack Thanksgiving baskets to be distributed in the community and the last group stayed at Lincoln to winterize the gardens, rake and clean-up around the school.

Superintendent Tuttle reported over 270 turkey dinners were distributed districted wide. She also acknowledged Officer Ash for sharing a Thanksgiving story to the 4 Wings, 4-year-old preschool and 3 year-old preschool students at Bentley.

Curriculum Director Dr. Kari Selleck reported on a special CTE Advisory Board event that took place on November 15th. At the special event the CTE Advisory Board provided information about Agriscience and Aviation Aeronautics. There has been good feedback about both programs. Jennifer and Diane Krajcovic were instrumental in organizing approximately 20 representatives from the farming industry including organic farms, the Farmer's Market and farmers from the field to participate in the event. The event was well attended with approximately 60-70 people. Dr. Selleck stated the CTE Advisory Board meetings are required for the CTE certification programs.

Dr. Selleck reported the Robotics Club has a competition in Grand Rapids coming up. Dr. Selleck introduced Robotics Club instructor, Mr. John Hankerd and his son Alex. Mr. Hankerd stated Alex is a good builder and has moved from one team to another. He has been working on two robots for the Grand Rapids competition. Alex described and demonstrated the two robots he is working on for the competition in Grand Rapids. The Robotics Club meets twice a week.

Superintendent Tuttle asked Mr. Hankerd if he was in charge of the Glow Parade. Mr. Hankerd reported there are six to seven individuals in charge of the parade. Superintendent Tuttle gave kudos to Mr. Hankerd for the wonderful event. Mr. Hankerd expressed his gratitude for the Lincoln students who cleaned out the flower beds during the Day of Respect event.

Mr. Hankerd also reported the students have applied for a grant and received a grant for \$1,000 as long as the Robotics Club commits to building two robots. The grant paid for one and the middle school had a team that was not able to use their parts so we are able to use those for the second robot. This entire competition is only going to cost approximately \$200 with the use of the grant, so we are going to be able to compete several times with the robot.

Dr. Selleck pointed out the wings of the airplane in the Media Center that are being built, stating the girls have had the wings out four or five sessions.

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

Mr. Tom Manke of *Friends and Community Owosso and Shiawassee News and Views* expressed comments on three issues.

First, Mr. Manke expressed his gratitude to all, especially the Administration for taking the initiative and stepping up to the plate regarding Human Trafficking. He stated he attended the meeting and unfortunately, even though it was communicated to students and parents, there was less than thirty parents in attendance. He expressed his disappointment, especially since his story went viral on his Facebook page *Friends and Community Owosso and Shiawassee News and Views* that night. Within 24 hours the story reached 250,000 readers. He also reported as of now, as he just checked his phone, there were 326,865 reads, 5200 shares, 449 comments and 667 likes. He expressed his concerns he had at the Human Trafficking meeting, stating when he asked the Michigan State Police presenting to tell about what is happening in other schools and not just what is happening in Owosso, the response was to him and other media that they were not there to discuss others, only Owosso tonight. Mr. Manke informed the Board he still wrote his story reporting that this is in every school and what he found is that there was no bashing on Owosso. When the story went viral, the census was if they have that in Owosso, we must have it in our own community.

Secondly, Mr. Manke expressed his desire to have an update on the 24 students referenced at the Human Trafficking meeting.

Lastly, Mr. Manke expressed his gratitude for all of the new programs coming up at Owosso, stating he has not seen anything like it in 30 years. He attended the CTE Advisory Board event referenced by Dr. Selleck and the Culinary reading, stating both events were awesome. Mr. Manke referenced students building airplanes and robots and commented that if that does not attract people into the school, he does not know what else will. Thank you for all you do.

For Action

- Moved by Webster, supported by Ochodnicki to approve the October 24, 2016 regular Board meeting minutes, November 14, 2016 Board Workshop minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the disposal of the following obsolete material:

Owosso Transportation Department:

- 1996 65 passenger Blue Bird School bus, VIN #1HVBBAAPZTH399116 with 244,417 miles

Owosso High School:

- Drum – used for freshmen band but no longer of use

For Information

Superintendent Tuttle provided the Board of Education with a personnel update: Lana Orrison has accepted the Title Paraprofessional position at Emerson Elementary effective November 11, 2016. Jennifer Hall, Owosso High School Monitor has resigned effective October 28, 2016. Russell Wing, Custodian at Emerson Elementary, has submitted his letter of retirement effective December 31, 2016 after 20 years of service.

Public Participation

Mr. Josh Dewley, teacher at Lincoln Alternative High School invited the Board and others to participate in the Lincoln High School Blood Drive on Friday, December 16th from 10:00 am – 2:30 pm if they were not able to make the NHS Blood Drive on December 6th. Anyone interested in participating may call or email Mr. Dewley. Mr. Dewley also expressed his appreciation to President Jenc for allowing Lincoln students to attend a field trip at Crest Pontoon. He stated it was a great opportunity for the students to get out there and see what is going on.

Mr. Chris Eveleth, introduced himself as the new Mayor of the City of Owosso and thanked everyone for all that they do. Mr. Eveleth reported he is here for any opportunities for the City and the school district to work together. Please give him a call with any questions or concerns.

Board Reports

Janice Opanasenko-Lubkin commented she loved seeing Oklahoma, stating it was very impressive and she is grateful the high school has so much talent and can put on such musicals. Mrs. Opanasenko-Lubkin also enjoyed the different Veteran's Day events, as she went to all of the elementary schools and commented even though they were different, they were all very powerful events. It was great to talk with the Service Men and to see the kids and all of the excitement. It was as a great civic opportunity for the children. Mrs. Opanasenko-Lubkin also commented on how she loved the Band festival at Willman Field, it was very impressive. She reported being sad she missed the Trojan Spectacular, but reported maybe next year and commented on how it can even be seen on Facebook as everyone has their moments posted. Mrs. Opanasenko-Lubkin announced she has enjoyed working with the Board and is looking forward to the December Board meeting.

Mrs. Sara Keyes commented on what retiree Russell Wing brought up about simple hellos. She stated every building she goes into all of the staff are so friendly, kind, always willing to help and smiling. Mr. Sedlar was taped to a wall and she had the opportunity to be there for that. She stated she loved it and the kids also loved it. It means a lot to have staff at each building that are willing to be there for all of the kids. She reported it is great to see at sporting events and at all of the buildings, it always puts a smile on her face. She also reported her children have been passing the Gotcha! kindness around, stating that her daughter, along with her grandma, put scarves around trees at Emerson and left a note to the effect of *I am not lost, if you are cold you can take me home*. She expressed her appreciation on the Gotcha! campaign and how it has the children's mind thinking about kindness even outside of school. Keep up the good work!

Mrs. Shelly Ochodnicky reported the biggest highlight was getting to be at the swim meet at the conference and watching the excitement. She also commented on how loud the Owosso fans and parents were cheering on the girls, which she felt helped them. She stated her daughter had convinced her the green and white team was going to win but the blue and gold team won, stating it was a great season and so much fun to be a part of. Mrs. Ochodnicky also reported she attended one of the debates at the middle school. It was fun listening to the kids, the debates, their closing comments and why they wanted their person. They put a lot of effort and time into it. She also commented on the Trojan Spectacular and how fun it is. Mrs. Ochodnicky reported, it is great to be in the buildings and Veteran's Day is also one of her favorite days of the year, the events are great and she looks forward to that day every year.

Dr. Tuttle thanked Mrs. Ochodnicky for speaking at Emerson Elementary on Veteran's Day.

Mrs. Cheryl Paez reported she attended the Human Trafficking presentation, which was a real eye opener. She stated she has heard members of the community say they wish a presentation would be held at the middle school, so she is glad to hear that is going to happen. Mrs. Paez reported she was grateful to attend the MASB Leadership Conference, stating it is always a great networking opportunity for Board members and hearing what is happening in the world of education.

Mrs. Marlene Webster spoke about her experience at the MASB Leadership Conference. She was able to attend the majority of the conference. The pre-conference session was the conversation with State Superintendent Brian Whiston regarding Michigan being the top 10 in 10; one of the top 10 schools in ten years. Unfortunately, Superintendent Whiston was not able to present because of surgery so he sent other staff. It was really exciting in the beginning and then there was discussion of doing away with some of the formal assessments and coming up with more organic ways to assess students on a day to day basis. There were lots of great ideas, but no idea of how to get it done, which was disappointing. She also reported the emphasis of the conference was supporting all students and focusing on under resourced students. Dr. Ruby Payne, who is a national figure was a key note speaker. I had an opportunity to attend a clinic presented by a judge from the Detroit area, a social worker and school principal from Pontiac. The focus was on how to help students to be successful who are under resourced. One of the items discussed was attendance, which is something Owosso is addressing. The district went from having 45 students to 190 receiving scholarships and from about \$200,000 in scholarships to \$14.4 million in scholarships and 50% of students are attending AP classes. They really had a turnaround in attendance and have a goal for all of their students to have a successful year in year 14 after they graduate so they keep track of how the students have done. Mrs. Webster felt it would be worth reaching out to them. They presented some really creative ideas that Mrs. Webster will be sharing with Superintendent Tuttle. It was a great conference and a lot applied to Owosso. The District is already ahead with real world education and hands on learning.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

December 12: Committee of the Whole - 5-7 p.m. OHS Media Center

December 12: Regular Board Meeting, 7 pm

Important Upcoming Dates:

November 29: District 1st & 2nd Graders to St. Paul for Guy Lewis Performance

November 30: OMS IB Learner/Athlete of the Month Breakfast
December 1: Dance Concert OHS 7:30 p.m.
December 2: Bryant Student of the Month 8:00 a.m.
December 2: Central PTO Family Movie Night Central Gym 6:00 pm/NHS Glow Dance after basketball game
December 3: Regional Honors Choir @ Flushing/OMS Band Solo and Ensemble
December 6: NHS Blood Drive
December 6: Bryant 1st & 2nd Graders to St. Paul for Guy Lewis Performance
December 6: OMS Band Concert 7:30 p.m.
December 7: Emerson Holiday Program 7:00 p.m.
December 8: Band Concert OHS 7:30 p.m.
December 9: Senior Citizen Holiday Breakfast

Superintendent Evaluation

Motion by Ochodnicki, supported by Webster to move into closed session at 8:01 p.m. for Superintendent Evaluation. Secretary Ochodnicki conducted roll call vote. Ayes: Webster, Paez, Ochodnicki, Jenc, Keyes, Opanasenko-Lubkin. Nays: None motion carried unanimously.

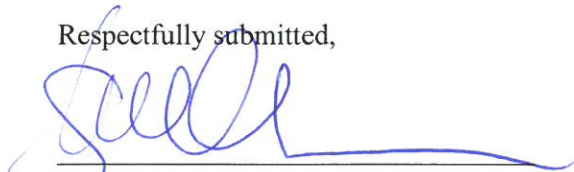
Motion by Opanasenko-Lubkin, supported by Ochodnicki to return to open session at 8:56 p.m. Secretary Ochodnicki conducted roll call vote. Ayes: Webster, Paez, Ochodnicki, Jenc, Keyes, Opanasenko-Lubkin. Nays: None motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Opanasenko-Lubkin supported by Webster to adjourn at 8:57 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Bev White

Respectfully submitted,



Shelly Ochodnicki, Secretary