

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Minutes**  
**July 27, 2020**  
**Report 20-12**

President Mowen called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:32 pm. Due to Governor Whitmer's current Executive Order 2020-75, the meeting was held virtually using Zoom video conferencing from the Washington Campus, 645 Alger Street, Owosso, MI 48867.

Present: Keyes, Krauss, Mowen, Paez, Ochodnick, Quick, Webster (members were present via Zoom video conferencing)  
Absent: None

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Board of Education Interviews**

President Mowen announced the first business of the Board of Education will be to fill the vacant seat on the Board of Education. Candidates had the opportunity to submit their letter of interest by 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. At that time, two individuals had submitted their letter of interest, Cheryl Paez and Adam Easlick. President Mowen expressed his gratitude to both candidates for their interest in serving on the Board of Education.

President Mowen explained the format for the interviews. "The Board has established four interview questions which will be asked of each candidate in alternating order. Prior to the meeting, names were drawn to decide the order and Mr. Easlick, you will begin by answering the first question.

Once all interview questions have been asked and answered by each candidate, the Board may deliberate in open until a Board member makes a nomination or a motion to appoint an individual to fill the vacant board seat and then another Board member will need to second that motion and a roll call vote will occur.

If a majority of the Board members does not vote aye for the motion, then the Board can resume deliberation until another Board member makes a motion to appoint someone and a roll call vote occurs. If the majority of the Board is not able to agree on an individual to fill the seat, the Intermediate School district will appoint someone to the seat. Once the Board member is appointed, he/she will take the Board of Education Constitutional Oath of Office administered by notary Beverly White. The new appointee will immediately fill the position and have the rights of an acting Board member. President Mowen asked if there were any questions about the process before the interviews were to begin. Hearing none, President Mowen began with the first interview question to Mr. Easlick.

**Interview Questions**

1. Please tell us about yourself.
2. How can you positively contribute to this school district?
3. What qualities, skills and experience would you bring to the Board?
4. Is there anything we did not ask that you would like us to know/con

President Mowen conducted the interview process by asking Mr. Adam Easlick and Mrs. Cheryl Paez the four interview questions established by the Board of Education. Upon completion of the interview process, President Mowen expressed his gratitude to both candidates for stepping forward to serve the community and school district.

President Mowen stated the interview questions that have been prepared by the Board are now complete. The Board will now move into the deliberation and discussion phase if any Board member would like to make a motion to appoint one of the candidates.

### **Board of Education Appointment**

Upon commencement of open discussion and deliberation, a motion by Treasurer Webster to appoint Cheryl Paez indicating that Cheryl Paez's prior experience on the Board during these times could be of assistance and supported by Trustee Keyes. President Mowen requested a roll call vote be made by Secretary Ochodnicki:

- Trustee Krauss–Cheryl Paez
- Trustee Keyes – Cheryl Paez
- Trustee Olga Quick– Cheryl Paez
- Treasurer Webster – Cheryl Paez
- Secretary Ochodnicki-Cheryl Paez
- President Mowen – Cheryl Paez.

Motion carried unanimously to appoint Cheryl Paez to the vacant Board of Education position. President Mowen thanked both candidates.

### **Oath of Office**

Cheryl Paez accepted the office of the member of the Board of Education. The Board of Education Constitutional Oath of Office was administered to Cheryl Paez by notary, Beverly White.

President Mowen and the Board of Education members welcomed new Board member, Trustee Cheryl Paez.

### **Election of Officers**

President Mowen asked for nominations for the office of Vice-President. Trustee Keyes nominated Secretary Ochodnicki for the office of Vice-President. Support by Treasurer Webster. Secretary Ochodnicki accepted the nomination of Vice-President. With no other nominations, the nominations were closed and Secretary Ochodnicki took a roll call vote: Ayes: Krauss, Keyes, Quick, Webster, and Mowen. Abstentions: Ochodnicki. Nays: None. Nomination and election of Vice-President Ochodnicki carried unanimously.

President Mowen asked for nominations for the office of Secretary. Trustee Krauss nominated Treasurer Webster for the office of Secretary. Trustee Webster accepted the nomination for the office of Secretary. With no other nominations, the nominations were closed and Vice-President Ochodnicki took a roll call vote: Ayes: Krauss, Keyes, Quick, Mowen and Ochodnicki: Abstentions: Webster. Nays: None. Nomination and election of Secretary Webster carried unanimously.

President Mowen asked for nominations for the office of Treasurer. Vice-President Ochodnicki nominated Trustee Keyes for the office of Treasurer. Trustee Keyes accepted the nomination for the office of Treasurer. With no other nominations, the nominations were closed and a roll call vote was taken by Secretary Webster: Ayes: Krauss, Mowen, Paez, Ochodnicki, Webster, and Quick. Abstentions: Keyes. Nays: None. Nomination and election of Treasurer Keyes carried unanimously.

### **Building Reports**

Transportation Supervisor Renee Secor-Jenks recognized retirees Mrs. Marylou Essex, Bus Driver after 18 years of service with the district and Mr. David Goodrich, Bus Driver and Mechanic Assistant after 12 years of service with the district. The retirements of Mrs. Essex and Mr. Goodrich was effective June 5, 2020.

### **Board Correspondence**

#### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle stated it is difficult to address everything this evening, so for her report she will address the four topics of school reopening, the bond construction, the budget and the letter from The Owosso For Change group, which was sent to the Board of Education and to many in the community.

School Re-opening: Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reported, while many schools in the State of Michigan have already informed parents that they will be starting school with a complete virtual platform, our team of educators is continuing to hold out hope that Owosso will be able to offer options to parents including both in person instruction, as well as a total virtual option. The administrative team continues to work with the Owosso Education Association (OEA) to determine how to safely offer both options and meet the various needs and desires of our families. According to our recent parent survey, which Mr. Brooks will speak to during his Curriculum Director's report, 25% of district families are requesting an on-line only option to begin school. However, 75% of parents are requesting an in-person option. There continue to be unanswered questions from legislators which makes it extremely difficult to provide definitive answers to our families. There are questions about what phase we will be in. We are currently in Phase IV, which does allow for an in-person option with safety measures implemented, but if we move to Phase III, only an on-line/virtual option is permitted. Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reported the difficulty in making this important decision when there are so many unknown variables; things change depending on what Phase we are in, what funding we will or will not receive, what precautions we must take, etc. and in many respects, we are not in control of our destiny. It continues to be a guessing game and that is why many districts have simply decided that they are only going to offer only an all on-line learning platform at least to begin the school year. Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle stated she informed families early on that the district anticipated having an answer to them by the end of July. Even though we may not have a definitive answer, the district is making strides.

Superintendent reported, the reason people choose Owosso Public Schools is because of our incredible team of educators and the immense amount of opportunities we offer, which far exceed any district in our county. Owosso Public Schools offer five encore classes at our elementary and many electives at our secondary level, such as culinary arts, engineering, biomedical science, construction trades, fine arts, just to name a few. Many of these classes, including our core classes, are not ideal to teach on-line. Additionally, the district understands the daycare needs of working parents. The district also understands the need for in-person contact for students to build relationships and enjoy hands on instruction.

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle stated, as we determine how to provide the best educational and safety options for our students and families during this global pandemic, we have worked tirelessly to maintain the opportunities that are provided only in Owosso. To that end, if the district is in Phase IV, as determined by the Governor, as opposed to Phase III, which does not allow any in-person contact, the district hopes to offer two options for students and their families; a total on-line option, and an option which would include in-person instruction combined with on-line.

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle expressed her gratitude to the many OEA, OESPA, and non-union team members who continue to work to find the best answer, given the circumstances, since there is not a right answer. She also expressed her gratitude to the Owosso families for their continued patience and trust. The first priority at this time, is deciding on how to safely open our schools and inform parents of the options as soon as possible.

Bond: Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reported the Bond is moving along well and our contractors are working diligently to overcome the time lost due to the COVID 19 shut down. The district is still on track to have everything, except for the Performing Arts Center and the surrounding six classrooms, completed by the beginning of the school year. As shared last month, the 6-8th grade students who were slated to begin their school year at the new secondary campus, will remain for one more year at the Middle School.

The secondary campus is looking amazing. Although the public is not able to step inside the building yet, they are able to see updates, including pictures, on the districts Facebook page. The public can certainly drive up and enter through Trojan Trail, off Middleton, and see all of the changes from the outside. Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle expressed her gratitude to the community for supporting the Owosso Public Schools and public education.

Budget: Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reported, although the details of the deal are still being worked out, it appears that there is a bi-partisan plan to finalize the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget with a cut to schools, but replacement funding at \$2 for every \$1 cut, using CARES Act funds to fund COVID-19 related expenses. The plan includes a reduction of \$256 million in per pupil funding for FY 2019-20, approximately \$180 per pupil, that may not impact state aid payments until August. The details were not readily available yet, but those funds would be replaced with \$512 million in CARES Act funding.

The fiscal year 2020-2021 budget has not been resolved as of yet, but there is bipartisan agreement that to avoid cuts from the economic impact the pandemic has had on the School Aid Fund revenue sources, the Governor and Legislature will be requesting the need for additional Federal resources to shore up the losses. Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reported that the district budget is unknown and it is a waiting game. It is difficult to make decisions when we do not know the budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 and we do not even know for sure what the proration will be for 2019-2020.

Letter from The Owosso for Change group: Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reported The Owosso for Change group submitted a letter to her and the Board of Education on July 20th which included a list of demands related to social justice. Subsequently, the letter went viral on social media and elicited varying responses. She reported, she has been inundated with individuals sharing their diverse thoughts and opinions. Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle stated “I have heard all the varying thoughts and opinions that have been shared with me including the demands from the Owosso for Change group. The use of the word “demand” can be off putting to many, including me; however, when I look beyond the use of the word, I understand what Owosso for Change is working to achieve. Even prior to their “demands”, our administrative team has been keenly aware and supportive of the need for educational opportunities for all, which promote social justice and to this end, the district will continue to seek more opportunities and listen to the thoughts of others in our community on how to proceed.

Owosso is a proud International Baccalaureate district. The mission of IB schools is to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. Now more than ever, we must focus on this mission. Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” As educational leaders, Owosso Public Schools will ensure that our students continue to have meaningful discussions about current events in a safe and respectful environment. Owosso Public Schools are committed to working with our community to learn, empower change, and take action against discrimination and systemic racism.

Please understand, there are many demands placed on schools, more today than in the history of public education and there is a finite amount of time to meet all of these demands especially in the middle of a global pandemic. Schools have curricular demands, reporting demands, nutritional demands, performance demands, athletic demands, demands for a reproductive health curriculum, extra-curricular demands, student health demands, demands to assist with social emotional health issues, drug and alcohol awareness demands, budgetary demands, demands for facilities, demands for safety and security, demands for technology, transportation demands, etc. Demands are coming at schools from everywhere.

The District is currently working on the professional development demands regarding COVID-19 which include professional development on cleaning and disinfecting the learning environment and workplace, managing stress and anxiety, preparing your household, understanding the CDC Guidelines for making and using cloth face coverings. Even before Owosso for Change made their demands, the district acknowledged that we need to do better and therefore have started planning for professional development for our team regarding a variety of topics, including Cultural Competence and Racial Bias and Discrimination Awareness in the Workplace”.

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reported the district has been and will continue to work tirelessly with our community during these unprecedented times. The District’s highest priority is the current and future Owosso students, families and community.

### **Curriculum Director's Report**

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported the district has planned for a lot of Professional Development with very limited time to accomplish all that needs to be accomplished, a total of twelve hours to begin the school year. Some of the many topics that need to be covered are: Online learning to prepare teachers for a new way of teaching, including Google classroom, Google and Zoom; Science/Chemistry training; Math Recovery training for K-3 teachers; Social Emotional plans for the school year in preparing teachers to deal with gaps in learning as a result of the last year's school shut down; high school English and Social Studies training for teachers to learn how to incorporate current events into lessons and negotiating difficult conversations in the classroom. Dr. Taylor will also be returning for the 2020-2021 school year with reading training for K-8 reading support.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment mandatory updates prior to the beginning of the school year. There will be training provided to teachers on how to administer NWEA mandatory benchmark assessments even if students are online learning. The training for Project Lead the Way focus on engineering and middle school training sessions. The IB mandatory training is currently unknown at this time, as all in-person training has been canceled. Several groups are waiting for this training this year. Curriculum Director Steve Brooks listed all of the on-line SafeSchools training that is required of staff.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported on the survey results from staff and parents. There were 1600 respondents to the survey and 25-30% requested an on-line only option for the upcoming school year. Most were in favor of a hybrid option. Overall, safety is the number one concern with staff and parents. This survey also provided additional details in regards to devices.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported The COVID-19 Preparedness and Response plan is in two parts; the cleaning protocol implementation and the return to learn, which is the instruction. The learning requirements for the upcoming school year is going to look very different than the spring.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported he has also been working with ILC (Instructional Learning Council), scheduling options and staff alignment as a result of retirements. He reported the At Risk state audit was finalized and the district received glowing marks. The School Improvement Plan and Consolidated Application have been completed and new teacher orientation for staff has been scheduled.

### **Public Participation**

President Mowen 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.

President Mowen stated Secretary Webster will be keeping track of the time for public participation participants.

Public comment was heard from the following:

CJ Michalec, Owosso Public Schools alumni currently residing in Columbus, Ohio. spoke on behalf of The Owosso for Change group.

Kelsey Nover, Owosso High School Alumni, 2008 graduate currently residing in San Francisco, California spoke as an advocate for The Owosso for Change group.

Eli Jenkinson, Owosso High School Alumni, 2013 graduate currently residing in Chicago, Illinois spoke as an advocate of The Owosso for Change group.

Kyle Ashlee, PhD, Owosso High School Alumni, 2003 graduate currently residing in Minneapolis, Minnesota, group affiliation Owosso for Change.

Don Galardi community member of Owosso.

Rose Hooper, spoke as a retired educator and a community member of Owosso.

Ronald Davis of Owosso.

Michael Thornton of Owosso.

Mr. Eric Locker of Owosso.

Tom Manke of Owosso.

Gordon Pennington of Owosso.

Kari Selleck, former Owosso Public Schools Curriculum Director and lifelong Owosso resident.

Lindsey Bacigal, Owosso Public Schools Alumni, 2013 graduate and a member of The Owosso for Change group.

Crystal Grigonis, parent of an Owosso High School student and Owosso resident.

Evan Ritter, Owosso Public Schools Alumni, 2012 graduate residing in Chicago, Illinois.

Jillian Hundley community member did not state her address.

With no other public comment, President Mowen stated there will be another opportunity for public participation.

### **For Action**

- Moved by Ochodnicki supported by Krauss to approve the June 22, 2020 Budget Hearing minutes, June 22, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minute, June 22, 2020 closed session minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Secretary Webster conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Mowen, Ochodnicki, Keyes, Paez, Krauss, Webster, Quick. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Krauss to adopt the membership resolution of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the year beginning August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021. Secretary Webster conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Mowen, Ochodnicki, Keyes, Paez, Krauss, Webster, Quick. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Upon the conclusion of elaborate discussion of the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, moved by Trustee Quick to table the plan to provide for an opportunity to gather additional information and guidance. To meet the required approval date of August 15, 2020, a Special Board meeting will be required to present the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan to the Board of Education for approval prior to the August 15<sup>th</sup> date. President Mowen stated a vote was not required.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Quick to approve the 2020-2021 School Calendar and Article 5 between the Owosso Education Association and Owosso Board of Education as presented. Secretary Webster conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Paez, Krauss, Keyes, Ochodnicki, Webster, Quick, Mowen. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick supported by Krauss to adopt the Summary of Material Modification (SMM) to the Section 125 (Cafeteria) plan for Owosso Public Schools for the 2019-2020 plan year only. Secretary Webster conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Quick, Webster, Keyes, Ochodnicki, Paez, Krauss, Mowen. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Paez to adopt the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of New Policy 2266-Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in District Programs or Activities and deletion of policy

5517.02-Sexual Violence as presented. Secretary Webster conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Krauss, Paez, Ochodnický, Keyes, Webster, Quick, Mowen. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

### **For Future Action**

- The Board of Education will be asked to approve the tax levy (L-4029) for the 2020 as presented. The tax levy must be approved by the Board of Education prior to October 1, 2020 in order to be included on the December 1 (winter) tax roll.

### **For Information**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that Danielle Hiser, Paraprofessional of Owosso Middle has submitted her letter of resignation. Robin Powell, Kindergarten Teacher at Bryant Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation. Marylou Essex, Bus Driver has submitted her letter of retirement effective June 30, 2020 after 18 years of service with the District. David Goodrich, Bus Driver has submitted his letter of retirement effective June 5, 2020 after 12 years of service with District.

### **Public Participation**

President Mowen announced a second opportunity to speak during public participation. Public comment was heard from the following:

Indy Karen, parent of an Owosso Public Schools student.  
Tom Manke  
Erick Locker  
Michael Thornton  
Richard Levitski  
Mitch Hufnagle, Owosso Public Schools Alumni residing in Chicago Illinois  
Natalie Park, Owosso Public Schools Alumni residing in Owosso  
Karen Michale, Owosso Public Schools Teacher

With no other public participation, President Mowen thanked all who spoke during public participation.

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

Trustee Quick expressed her gratitude to board vacancy candidates Adam Easlick and Cheryl Paez. Trustee Quick welcomed Trustee Cheryl Paez to the Board and looks forward to working with her. She also congratulated the retirees. Trustee Quick expressed her gratitude to Superintendent Dr. Tuttle, the administration team and staff for their tireless efforts during this trying time as your efforts have not gone unnoticed and are greatly appreciated. Trustee Quick thanked all that reached out in communications to her and other Board members; she asked each and every one to stop and take a moment to look at the situation as it applies to our community as a whole. There are those that may argue that to “demand” was wrong, as she has chosen to look at the entire message and interpret what is being asked. She commented, she believes the Owosso For Change group and the other community members she has heard from have a common goal to work together for the betterment of our District. Trustee Quick expressed her confidence in the Board of Education, Admin team, Owosso Public Schools staff and community will accomplish that goal.

Treasurer Keyes reported that many times the Board members ask questions during the Board meetings in an effort to educate the audience so they can share what they know about the items that are “For Action” before the Board. Typically, these items have been discussed in a previous Board meeting which the public that is present at the current meeting may not have been present. Treasurer Keyes stated she has a tremendous amount of respect to those she serves with and never thought during any time on the Board that someone was here for an ulterior motive or has not voted in the best interests of our kids. I also want to say that many of the people behind the Owosso for Change mean well and also want what is best for our students regardless of where they live. I have seen a lot of familiar faces on this call this evening and it makes me feel so good to see people that still care and are still vested in our school district. I do believe that a few people in our community have made this a little more personal than it needs to be and for lack of better words, have put a really bad taste in other peoples mouth within our community because of their actions. I do not want those particular moments to take away from what the bigger picture is and that is

simply for Owosso to do better for our kids. I am not too naïve to believe that just because I am not personally affected by racism that it does not mean that it does not exist within our community. I am not opposed to helping our staff and students move forward in a positive light, whether through training or other means. That means that truly difficult and uncomfortable conversations need to take place. Trustee Keyes also spoke to the resignation of former Board President Jenc and all of his accomplishments and dedication during his 11.5 years in serving on the Board of Education.

Trustee Paez expressed her gratitude to the Board members for welcoming her to the Board. She also stated she was in agreement with the Treasurer Keyes comments regarding former Board member Tim Jenc and has known him to be a very strong supporter of Owosso Public Schools and the students here. She stated she did enjoy listening to comments made and it was nice to see familiar faces and voices. It is important that this is discussed and in my own thoughts I realized it is not enough to say “I am not a racist” and that there is more that goes into it. She stated she looks forward to the next few months in moving the district forward as best we can.

Trustee Krauss welcomed Trustee Paez back to the Board and glad to have her back. Expressed his gratitude to Mr. Easlick for applying for the Board vacancy and appreciated the opportunity to get to know him better. Trustee Krauss expressed his gratitude to the retirees, Marylou Essex and David Goodrich and wished them the best in their retirement. Trustee Krauss thanked everyone that came before the Board during public participation sharing thoughts, ideas and opinions. The members on the Owosso Public Schools Board of Education have been elected by the community to serve and we proudly accept that challenge to do so. We have been given the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our children and to provide the best education possible. It is important to note that with that responsibility we treat staff, students, community and fellow board members with dignity and respect. To do this, we must come prepared as much as possible and be knowledgeable because it is imperative when we make decisions that affect the education of our students. This includes continuous learning and awareness, which we promote every day and all of the time. It matters, when related to doing business as a Board that we work as a team with administrators, teachers, staff, students and citizens to promote the best learning atmosphere possible. We do represent all segments of the community and work diligently in making decisions that affect our students. We proudly serve Owosso Public Schools.

Secretary Webster: It is so good to hear all of the comments from all of the Board members. If you graduated from Owosso Public Schools, you belong to us and you will always belong to us and we care and we want you to know that we hear you. As a Board, it is our job to hear you and to listen. Secretary Webster spoke frankly and openly in her dialogue regarding Owosso and racism. She stated we all want the same thing, a great community where everyone is welcome and accepted and can make a home even if they were not born here and make them proud to call Owosso their home. This is not only a school problem, but an issue facing the entire community. Moving forward we are listening to the community. Secretary Webster hopes we can move forward as a school board and community, even though we may be on different sides, there has to be civil and respectful dialogue and to realize that change takes time and the change needs to happen in the hearts and lives of everyone in the community not just the school board and school. Be patient, listen to one another, be kind to everybody and move forward to find a solution.

Vice President Ochodnický it is important to point out as a Board member it is extremely difficult role on a normal day and expressed “When a member of this group showed up at former President Jenc’s home, it raised a grave concern for myself, my family and children. My family wanted me to resign, but that is not an option for me. I am very committed to my community and to this Board. My daughter wondered if it was safe to stay home alone if I did not follow these demands and that really raised a lot of concerns with me and then to follow the protest this past Saturday and what was going on in our downtown is not anything I care to see, did not make sense to me and does not bring any understanding to the cause. The word “demand” does not help to create positive change.” Vice-President Ochodnický read a statement that she prepared in hopes to bring clarity to where she stands at this point. “I feel it is important as a Board that we respond to the document. We as a Board are an elected body of 7 and live in a democracy that allows for all to have a voice. I personally have spent countless hours of researching and have spoken to many individuals on all sides regarding the topic of racism. As an elected body I feel that we are responsible to



make decisions that we believe that represent our students and school district. I am not willing to commit to working with a group that is making demands that speak of intimidation and unwillingness to work in a collaborate effort. We have heard you and have made a statement collectively that we do need to make changes and that we do need to address racism. Dr. Tuttle, our Superintendent has spoken with a representative of this group and has heard the concerns. I, one of seven, an elected member of this Board believe that it is part of our duty as an educational team to decide how to best proceed for our district. Our commitment is to always reflect the needs of the student body as a whole. We are living in unprecedented times as much uncertainty of what each day will even bring to our students and staff. Currently we are in the midst of a pandemic that we need to address as a Board and a district on how to proceed for this upcoming school year, as we have talked about throughout this meeting. In closing, my hope is that we can all take a moment to take in all of the information that has been shared. Take all sides into consideration and take our time to collectively create ideas and curriculum that will be a positive nonpolitical change for our students and community to move forward and address racism. I appreciate all that have come forward to share their information, thoughts and ideas. I appreciate every one of you that have spoken tonight and I have greatly listened to everyone and I have confidence that our team can and will create a plan that is fit for Owosso Public Schools to address racism. Thank you everybody tonight and I appreciate hearing all of you”.

President Mowen stated that “There are 150 people that signed into the Zoom Board meeting and a fair number of them addressed the Board during public participation. I truly appreciate everyone that signed in and listened and especially those that had the courage to speak and address the Board. Everyone has been heard by each Board member and are duly recognized of your thoughts. This Board is a very diverse Board. The actions of this Board now, and in the past has always been for the betterment of each and every student in our district to provide a great education for everyone. Those actions speak much louder than any words that I could say. I would like to say that I have had the privilege and honor calling Tim Jenc a friend and colleague the entire time on this Board. I was saddened to see what he had reposted and were not his words. I only wish that he would have prefaced that post with what he included in his letter of resignation. First he said that he apologized, “I am truly sorry”, then he continues; my intent was not to show support rather it was intended to show just what is being written and posted by people which further escalates the continued issue of racism in our country. Those words were not his and I think the reposting of it, as said by one of the Board members, may be the thoughts and feelings of other people in this community. I do want to thank Tim for his dedicated service to this district and I continue to call him a friend and honored to do so. With that being said, I entertain a motion to adjourn.”

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Quick, supported by Webster to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Bev White

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Webster  
Marlene Webster, Secretary