

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
February 24, 2020
Report 19-220

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:30 pm. The meeting was held in the media center located at Owosso High School, 765 E. North Street, Owosso, Michigan.

Present: Jenc, Keyes, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnick, Quick
Absent: Marlene Webster (Motions of the Board of Education that were unanimous did not include Treasurer Marlene Webster)

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

As part of the Celebrate Kids! segment of the meeting, Lincoln Alternative High School was recognized as the Michigan Alternative Athletic Association's (MAAA) overall winners of the State Volleyball Tournament and the State Bowling Tournament. Lincoln High School Principal Steve Irelan acknowledged LHS Teacher Stephen Stauffer and SRES Social Worker Deb Baughman for coaching, scheduling the sporting events and organizing transportation. Mrs. Baughman addressed the Board and stated that there are many things that connect students to school and sports is very important as well. Sports provide students with motivation, inspiration, and a sense of community as was evident during the tournaments. Members of the MAAA Volleyball team included Alex Beal, Hannah Bernath, Damean Dibeau, Sandra Garcia, Mattie Holden, Brianna hunt, Stewart Iler, Sebastian Jameson, Preston Keyes, Kya Palmer, Karynn Sherburne, and Connor Stinson. Mrs. Baughman thanked the Board for allowing the students the opportunity to participate and compete in sporting events.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle praised the Lincoln student athletes for achieving a state championship title in volleyball. She stated that she was very impressed with the talent, sportsmanship, and the encouragement they displayed among themselves and with their opponents. The coaches that volunteered their time and the student participants were also applauded by Superintendent Dr. Tuttle.

Vice President Rick Mowen remarked that the virtues described by Superintendent Dr. Tuttle are great on the court but will also serve the students well in life. He thanked the LHS winning athletes for representing the District so well.

Lincoln Alternative High School Principal Steve Irelan recognized the members of the Michigan Alternative Athletic Association State Bowling Tournament overall winners. The winning team members were Cole Comstock, Sebastian Jameson, Gavin Palmer, Caitlyn Prichard, and Jared Snyder. Mr. Irelan remarked that after winning the State Volleyball and Bowling Tournaments, he observed the most joy he has witnessed from the LHS student body since he has been their principal.

President Tim Jenc expressed his sincere gratitude to the LHS coaches and players for winning two state championships in one season. He recalled LHS also winning the state boys' basketball championship a few years ago.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle thanked the parents of the LHS athletes for their support.

President Tim Jenc welcomed Board of Education Student Representative Tyler Hoag to his first meeting.

Board of Education Student Representative Tyler Hoag thanked the Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Tuttle. He explained that this past month has been very busy at Owosso High School.

Tyler Hoag reported that in sports related news Colton Blaha is the Regional Wrestling Champion and will be competing at Ford Field on March 6 and March 7 for the State Championship Title. The boys' varsity swim team recently completed their "Hell Week" practices where they swam over 26 miles in the

course of one week in preparation for their conference meet. The varsity bowling team will travel to regionals during the upcoming weekend with hopes of going to the state meet again this year.

Tyler Hoag announced that the Virtual Enterprise team lead by Mr. Mike Gregory recently traveled to Chicago for the Great Lakes Trade Show Competition. The team placed in the top 25% of schools for their newsletter design. The team also received honorable mention for their sales pitch and marketing plan.

Tyler Hoag informed the Board that in the fine arts department choir is wrapping up preparations for a pre-festival choir concert that will take place on February 26. The choir will participate in festival on March 2 at Saginaw Valley State University. Tyler stated that a meeting will be held later that evening for choir students to finalize plans for their upcoming New York City trip. A select group of band students participated in Solo and Ensemble in Bay City on February 8 and each student from OHS received a one which is the highest rating possible. The OHS Drama Club earned first place in the regional competition and qualified for the state competition where they received third place out of six competing schools for the third consecutive year. The Drama Club is preparing for their next performance that will take place the first weekend in May titled "Little Shop of Horrors".

Tyler Hoag reported that on February 14 the Model UN team traveled to Central Michigan University to compete in the Chipmunk Conference. The entire team received an outstanding delegation award which is one of the highest awards given at the conference. Peer awards were also earned by OHS senior Nathan Turner and junior Tyler Hoag.

Tyler Hoag stated that the OHS Student Government is hard at work preparing for the Domino Effect Project that demonstrates how one small change can make a difference. The OHS Robotics Team will travel to Kettering University on February 28 to compete in a series of task.

Tyler Hoag thanked the members of the Board of Education for the opportunity to represent Owosso High School. He stated that he is grateful to be the voice for his school. His predecessor Caden Whiteherse was praised for showing him the ropes and being a great friend during the transition.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle invited the Board to her State of the District address that will occur on March 4th. This year a Teacher of the Year and Staff Member of the Year will be announced during the address by OPS Foundation President Matt Van Epps. A reception honoring the recipients will occur prior to the March 23 Board meeting from 4-5 pm.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that currently kindergarten registration numbers are good with 170 students already registered. Elementary buildings will host their annual registration the first week of March. The goal is to have 250 students registered for kindergarten by the start of the new school year.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle remarked that the Jazz Band Dinner Dance was once again a great event.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks applauded Tyler Hoag on a fantastic job of covering high school events.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that March is Reading Month festivities are planned at the elementary buildings. The annual event promotes reading.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks announced that Owosso Public Schools is the recipient of an Amazon grant for the second consecutive year. The grant money will be used to teach computer science I and II at Lincoln Alternative High School. LHS teacher Stephen Stauffer was instrumental in obtaining the grant and the necessary training.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that the District is preparing for the MiPHY student health survey that will be administered to seventh, ninth and eleventh grade students. The survey will take place after parent notification letters have been sent out.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks stated that the first of nine District videos promoting kindergarten registration was recently released on Facebook. The next video is expected to be released the first week of March.

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.

Michele Schmitz, LHS teacher announced that the second annual Chopped fundraising event that is similar to the television show will take place on March 16 from 5-7 pm at the Washington Campus. She encouraged the Board to promote this event. Tickets are \$10 each if purchased in advance and \$15 at the door. Chefs Aaron and Hannah Poyner were recognized for their efforts and assistance. Proceeds from the event will help sustain the community food pantry that is located in the Washington Campus.

Nathan Henne, City Manager of Owosso commented that he was in attendance at the meeting to offer the city's support of the middle school purchase agreement. He thanked Community Housing Network (CHN) for taking a risk in the community. He remarked that the middle school is a sizeable building in the heart of downtown Owosso and he is confident that CHN is the group to make the project a reality. He stated that it is very important to the community that the historic building be preserved and repurposed. The staff of OPS specifically Mr. Rich Collins, Mr. John Klapko, and Superintendent Dr. Tuttle were thanked for the amount of time and effort they have put in to make the deal happen. Justin Horvath, Mayor Chris Eveleth and representatives from CHN were also thanked for their support.

City of Owosso Mayor Chris Eveleth echoed City Manager Nathan Henne's comments. Mayor Eveleth pointed out that the Presidential Primary is March 10 and included on the ballot is a ten-million-dollar street bond to continue the city's investment in infrastructure. An identical street bond was passed by voters in 2016 and the city has gone through over half of this budget. The entire budget for the City of Owosso is between six and seven million dollars and since 2016 they have invested 18 million dollars in infrastructure improvements. It is hoped that the proposed street bond will do the same. The city is attempting to complete several of its mid-level streets which cost approximately .5 million dollars per mile to reconstruct. Streets that are in serious disrepair cost about four million dollars a mile to reconstruct. The city is targeting mid-level streets in an attempt to get as many miles repaired as possible. Mayor Eveleth informed the Board that plans are in place to reconstruct North Street this summer. He stated that it is hoped that tax payers will once again make another investment in the City's infrastructure.

For Action

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to approve the January 27, 2020 regular meeting minutes, February 10, 2020 committee of the whole minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt revised policies 1420 – School Administrator Evaluation and 3220 – Professional Staff Evaluation as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt new policy 2265 – Child Care Center Staff and Volunteers as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt revised policy 2450 – Community and Adult Education as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt revised policy 2628 – State Aid Incentives as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt revised policy 3210 – Staff Ethics as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt new policy 5230 – Late Arrival and Early Dismissal as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt revised policy 5330.02 – Opioid Antagonists as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt revised policy 6800 – System of Accounting as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt revised policy 7300 – Disposition of Real Property as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt new policy 7440.03 – Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt revised policy 8462 – Student Abuse and Neglect as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt revised policy 2410 – Prohibition of Referral or Assistance as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt revised policy 2414 – Reproductive Health and Family Planning as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt revised policy 2418 – Sex Education as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Keyes to adopt the revised resolution to the appropriations of the General Fund for the 2019-20 fiscal year. The projected fund balance as of June 30, 2020 is \$3,464,455 or roughly 10% in fund balance and is higher than the fund balance that was originally projected primarily due to the increase in state aid that came in after the original budget was presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick to adopt the revised resolution to the appropriations of the School Service Fund for the 2019-20 fiscal year. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reminded the Board that the District is required by law to spend down this fund which is essentially the food service fund. It is estimated to have an ending fund balance of \$4,470 as of June 30, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes, supported by Mowen to authorize the purchase of fitness center equipment for the new fitness center that will be located in the secondary campus. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle commented that she is extremely grateful for the sponsorship agreement between the District and Memorial Healthcare that allows for \$90,000 to be garnered over a three-year fiscal period for the purchase of fitness equipment to outfit the new fitness center at the secondary campus. The majority of the equipment will be purchased from Extreme Training Equipment which was the lowest bidder in an amount not to exceed \$70,432. Additionally, equipment will be purchased from Wright Equipment in an amount not to exceed \$4,190.69 and from Rogue, Perform X, Rae Crowther, BiggerFasterStrong.com and Amazon in an amount not to exceed \$8,355.02. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contract with GST (Genesee Shiawassee Thumb) Michigan Works through June 30, 2020 to take effect immediately upon signature at the February 24, 2020 meeting. Michigan Works has proposed a contract with the District to provide On-The-Job Training (OJT) for eligible employees whereby the GST Michigan Works would reimburse the District training costs associated with “onboarding” new support staff as outlined in the agreement. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to authorize the Superintendent to sign the contract for the audio system for the secondary campus with Digital Age Technologies from Davison, MI in an amount not to exceed \$75,910 (base bid of \$70,944 with 7% or \$4,966 for contingencies). The proposed audio systems are to be installed in the new middle school gym, current high school gym, cafeteria and pool, as well as provide a new portable audio system for the secondary campus to be used primarily for Board of Education meetings. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen to authorize the Owosso Public School’s transportation and food service departments to authorize the disposition by sale, donation, trade, or discard of two buses and one Hobart mixer. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to authorize the Superintendent to sign the proposed purchase agreement with CHN (Community Housing Network) for the sale of the current Middle School located at 219 N. Water Street. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle commented that it is very impressive to have the individuals sitting in the audience that have supported, worked with and assisted the District in not only this purchase agreement, but past ones as well. The Board of Education has continuously stated that they are more interested in what will become of the building than the revenue from the sale, noting that the revenue is also important to the community. CHN has proven itself in its attempts to resolve flood plain issues with the river. It was noted that CHN has to achieve certain milestones for grant and approval processes in order to proceed with the purchase. CHN has a good reputation in moving forward with projects of this nature and since the plan is consistent with the desires outlined by the Board in the request for proposal for the prospective buyers of the property, it is considered to be worthy of presenting the agreement to the Board for consideration for approval and is supported by Superintendent Dr. Tuttle. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen to approve the contract with Spicer Group, as presented, for retention of their services for the Sinking Fund Project Administration for the Summer of 2020 projects. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle commented that the District has been satisfied with the service provided by Spicer for assisting with the administration and architectural services for the sinking fund over the years. The total estimated fee for the summer of 2020 projects is \$133,500 which is inclusive of administration, procurement, field service and design. Fess will be paid out of sinking fund proceeds. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board of Education will be asked to adopt the accompanying pre-approved IRS plan documents “Volume Submitter Plan Document No. 04” and “Volume Submitter 403(b) Agreement #04002 as presented. Chief Financial Officer Julie Omer informed the Board that adoption will assure that the District’s plan documents are compliant with the provisions for plan documents outlined in the IRS code for 403(b) plans.

For Information

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that Vickie Petitti has accepted the 4.25-hour Bus Driver position.

Public Participation

There were no comments from the meeting’s audience.

Board Member Comments/Updates

Trustee Ty Krauss thanked Mayor Chris Eveleth, City Manager Nathan Henne, Justin Horvath, and the Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership (SEDP) for their efforts to promote the sale of the middle school. He stated that it means a lot to the Board of Education to know that they have partners within the community that support the District.

Trustee Sara Keyes also expressed appreciation for the support that the District and community has received from the City and representatives of SEDP. Mrs. Keyes stated that she works for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and they annually hold a big celebration to recognize Earth Day. She stated that she spoke with Owosso Middle School Principal Rich Collins about the Earth Day celebration and they plan to send students on April 22 to experience their free exhibits.

Vice President Rick Mowen stated that during the meeting the Board listened to the value of teamwork among our students, as well as the Chamber of Commerce and City of Owosso working together on the sale of the middle school. He remarked that downtown Owosso will benefit greatly from the CHN middle school proposal. Mr. Mowen referenced the day’s edition of the Argus Press and a very nice article about Owosso High School Teacher and Chef Hannah Poyner.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki thanked Community Education Director Jessica Thompson and Curriculum Director Steve Brooks for their hard work on the creative videos that are being released by the District and the phenomenal Kindergarten Registration packets. Mrs. Ochodnicki also recognized OHS graduates Christopher and Nicolas Pilon for creating the videos.

Trustee Olga Quick also echoed her sentiments regarding the sale of the middle school and the support the District has received from the City of Owosso. She also thanked CHN for attending the meeting and the time and energy they have invested in the purchase agreement. Mrs. Quick applauded the LHS volleyball and bowling teams for winning their state tournaments. She remarked that it is wonderful to witness the sense of pride exhibited by the students. Mrs. Quick commented that the recent Jazz Band Dinner Dance was quite an event and was very well attended. She stated that the talent of the student musicians is incredible. Mr. Jordan Sterk, Mr. Mike Tolrud and the Band Boosters were acknowledged for the time they put into making the event a success. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle was also thanked for attending the Dinner Dance. Mrs. Quick announced that Band Festival is coming up soon and encouraged the Board to attend. She remarked that she is always impressed with the student's ability to site read and perform a piece of music in a matter of five minutes.

President Tim Jenc referenced an article that was in the Argus Press over the weekend about the SRES and Career and Educational Training courses that are available to students in the county. Mr. Jenc highlighted the numerous classes that Owosso High School provides to its students in comparison to other school districts in the county.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

March 9: Committee of the Whole, 5:30 pm

March 23: Board Meeting, 5:30 pm

Important Upcoming Dates:

February 25: OMS Band Festival Concert, 7 pm

February 26: OHS Choir Concert @ OMS Auditorium, 7 pm

February 27: Half Day for Elementary Only: Parent/Teacher Conferences (1-3:30 pm and 5-8 pm)

Parent Teacher

March 2: Kindergarten Registration, Central Elementary, 4:30-8 pm

March 3: Kindergarten Registration, Bryant Elementary, 4:30-8 pm

March 4: Half Day for All Students. District-wide PD in afternoon

March 4: Superintendent Dr. Tuttle's State of the District Address @ OHS Gym, 2:30-3 pm

March 4: Bentley Bright Beginnings Preschool Registration, 9-11 am and 5-7 pm

March 5: Kindergarten Registration, Emerson Elementary, 4:30-8 pm

March 6: MSBOA District V Band Festival, Perry High School, 6-10 pm

March 7: MSBOA District V Band Festival, Perry High School, 10 am-7 pm

March 10: OHS Host Girls' Basketball Regionals, 5 pm

March 10: Shiawassee Scholars Reception @ D'Mar, 7pm

March 11: County Wide School Board Dinner Meeting @ D'Mar, 6 pm

March 11: Bryant Elementary Third Grade Music Concert, 7 pm

March 12: Emerson Elementary Third Grade Music Concert, 7 pm

March 13: End of 3rd Marking Period and End of LHS 2nd Trimester

March 16: OHS Host Boys' Basketball Regionals, 5 pm

March 16: Chopped 2 Competition @ LHS Gym, 5 pm

March 16: Central Elementary Third Grade Music Concert, 7 pm

March 16: OHS Oscars, 7 pm

March 17: OHS Spring Sports Parent Meeting, 6 pm

March 18: OHS Host Boys' Basketball Regionals, 6 pm

March 22: OHS Art Show 1 pm

Adjournment

Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to adjourn at 6:18 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicki, Secretary