

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
May 11, 2020
Report 19-241

Present: Jenc, Keyes, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnicky, Quick, Webster (all members were present via Zoom video conferencing)
Absent: No members were absent

As the host of the District's virtual school Board Meeting, Superintendent Dr. Tuttle provided the participants with a few guidelines and procedures. She informed the meeting's audience that the participants include members of the Board of Education, District administrators, Owosso High School highest honor's graduates, Lincoln Alternative High School highest honor's graduates, Mr. Greyson Steele of the Argus Press, Mr. Tom Manke, and OPS retirees. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle thanked everyone for participating in the virtual meeting.

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:33 pm. Due to Governor Whitmer's current Executive Order and the stay at home order, the meeting was held virtually using Zoom video conferencing from the Washington Campus, 645 Alger Street, Owosso, MI 48867.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Jenc requested that the meeting's agenda be amended to include a Declaration of Obsolete Material, motion supported by Secretary Ochodnicky. Motion carried unanimously.

Building Reports

As part of the Celebrate Kids! segment of the meeting, the Class of 2020 top graduates from Owosso High School and Lincoln Alternative High School were recognized for their achievements.

Owosso High School Principal Mr. Jeff Phillips commented that on behalf of the high school and LHS administration, a book titled "Where Will You Be Five Years from Today?" will be presented to each of the highest honors graduates. Mr. Phillips stated that he is honored to introduce the OHS Class of 2020 top graduates that include Hannah Archer, daughter of Jonathan and April Archer. Hannah plans to finish the fifth year program through Lansing Community College and is undecided on her future plans. Grace Basso is the daughter of Dan and Tami Basso and she plans to attend Grand Valley State University. Abigail Box is the daughter of Jennifer Box. Abigail plans to continue her education at Saginaw Valley State University. Olivia Carlton, daughter of Scott and Julie Carlton plans to attend Mott Community College. Brendan Coffman is the son of Robert and Tina Coffman and he plans to attend Grand Valley State University. Mason Collard is the son of Jeffrey and Yvette Collard. Mason plans to attend the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Alexander Dallas is the son of Doug and Elaine Dallas. Alexander has enlisted in the National Guard and his future plans also include attending Central Michigan University. Kathleen Dignan is the daughter of Thomas and Joy Dignan and she plans to attend the University of Michigan. Jacob Evon is the son of Timothy and Michelle Evon. Jacob plans to attend Michigan Technological University. Lynnae Gilman is the daughter of Norman and Sheila Gilman and she plans to continue her education at the University of Michigan. Ashtyn Guru is the daughter of Satendra and Misty Guru and her plans are to attend Grand Valley State University. Sarah Horger is the daughter of Marty and Krisha Horger. Sarah plans to attend Michigan State University. Allie Langdon is the daughter of Eric and Lindsay Langdon and she plans to attend Grand Valley State University. Maya Manuel is the daughter of Jala and Nessrine Manuel. Maya plans to continue her education at Michigan State University. Autumn Merrihew is the daughter of Cynthia Merrihew and Sharon Dinkins and she plans to attend Baker College of Owosso. Avery Peplinski is the daughter of Daniel and Jennifer Peplinski and her plans are to attend the University of Michigan. Alexandria Pumford is the daughter of Robert and Mary Pumford. Alexandria plans to attend Michigan State University. Samantha Randall is the daughter of Tom and Karrie Randall and she will attend Lansing Community College. Andrew Savage is the son of Andrew and Lindsey Savage. Andrew plans to attend either Grand Valley State University or Central Michigan University. William Scrimger is the son of Joshua and Mary Scrimger

and he plans to attend the University of Michigan. Jordan Sowash is the son of James and Krista Sowash. Jordan plans to attend the University of Michigan Dearborn. Emily Teunis is the daughter of Greg and Naomi Teunis and she plans to continue her education at Michigan State University. Hannah Walters is the daughter of Steven and Kari Walters. Hannah plans to continue her education in creative studies and major in animation. Leah Zaleski is the daughter of Curtis and Stacie Zaleski and she plans to attend Grand Valley State University.

Lincoln High School Principal Mr. Steve Irelan announced that five LHS students were selected as their top graduates from the class of 2020. The top graduates were Jenna McMaster who plans to continue her education at Saginaw Valley State University. Justin Soldan stated that he was planning on entering the job force prior to the pandemic and is hoping to obtain employment soon. Justin would also like to attend a trade school. The remaining top LHS graduates included Cole Comstock, Haley Kenyon, and Dustin Moore.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle congratulated the Class of 2020's highest honor's graduates and wished them all well in their future endeavors. She explained that the Board and administrators continue to work together on a plan to honor the graduates in a manner that they have earned.

Owosso High School Principal Jeff Phillips recognized Ms. Pam Kurtz, Counselor on her retirement. Ms. Kurtz is retiring after 27 years of service to the District.

Owosso Middle School Principal Rich Collins honored Mrs. Maureen Cannon, Science Teacher on her retirement. Mrs. Cannon has been employed with Owosso Public Schools for the past 30 years.

Owosso Middle School Principal Rich Collins recognized Mrs. Cindy Knight, Secretary who will retire after 26 years of service.

Owosso Middle School Principal Rich Collins congratulated Mrs. Patricia Coon, Technology Teacher who will retire at the conclusion of the school year after 24 years of service.

Central Elementary Principal Bridgit Spielman recognized Mrs. Susan Weaver, Fifth Grade Teacher on her retirement. Mrs. Weaver plans to retire after 26 years of service to the District.

Bryant Elementary Principal Shelly Collison congratulated Mrs. Vickie Compton, Special Education Teacher on her retirement who will retire after 17 years of service.

Emerson Elementary Principal Jessica Anderson honored Mrs. Marie Anderson, Title I Math Teacher who will retire at the conclusion of the school year after 33 years of service.

On behalf of the Board of Education, President Tim Jenc congratulated the OHS and LHS seniors on their achievements and wished them well in their future. Mr. Jenc also applauded the retirees. He remarked that these staff members will be greatly missed and it will be hard to replace their years of service, dedication and commitment to the District.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reported that the previous week was educator appreciation week. She applauded the OPS teachers on their ability to teach, for being wonderful human beings that care for our students, are passionate in their relationships, and go above and beyond in their roles. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle expressed sincere gratitude for the OPS education team who have gone above and beyond expectations with their students during the pandemic.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle announced that bond construction resumed at the secondary campus on May 7th. Clark Construction continues to be outstanding to work with. The majority of the subcontractors have returned to work as well. Sadly, the District will not be in a position to move the sixth through eighth grade students into the new building beginning with the 2020-21 school year as was hoped for. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that North Street is currently under construction, as well as

the new connecting road. A complete schedule for the summer's sinking fund projects will be available on May 13th.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle praised the Food Service Department and volunteers for providing meals to the students of OPS. To date, 90,000 meals have been served which equates to approximately 1,150 students a week. The volunteers also continue to deliver meals to almost 300 households.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained that the 2020 graduating class continues to be at the forefront of discussions and potential options are being explored to recognize the students. A billboard honoring the graduates is located across from Wrought Iron Grill, compliments of Wolverine Sign. Community members and students were requested to send letters to a senior class member to honor their achievements. Several letters have been received and will be distributed to the graduates. The next edition of the Today's Trojan will feature the graduates. The publication will be sent to all residents of Owosso and Henderson. Additionally, a video message from Principal Jeff Phillips and Superintendent Dr. Tuttle will be sent to the seniors.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that remote learning continues to go very well. He remarked that he is extremely satisfied with the lessons and instruction that continues to take place. Teachers continue to reach out to their students through online learning assignments, Google Classroom, and Zoom meetings. These connections also allow teachers to check on their students social and emotional wellbeing. Paper and pencil packets are being produced for grades K-8 on a weekly basis and the demand for these continues to be strong.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks informed the Board that a survey has been developed to collect feedback on remote learning from parents, students, and staff. The survey information will be used to determine areas that have gone well or need improvement.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks thanked teachers, administrators, and the Owosso Education Association (OEA) for completing the majority of teacher and administrator evaluations for the 2019-20 school year.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that plans are underway for the development of summer school opportunities. Preliminary discussions have taken place while keeping in mind social distancing. Additional information will be shared once the plans are in place.

Public Participation

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

There were no comments from the public and no one notified the District of their intent to speak during public participation prior to the start of the meeting.

For Action

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick to approve the April 27, 2020 regular meeting minutes, April 27, 2020 closed session minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Secretary Ochodnický conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Webster, Quick, Ochodnický, Mowen, Keyes, Krauss, Jenc. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnický, supported by Mowen to approve the 2020-2021 student handbooks for Bentley Bright Beginnings, elementary, middle and high schools as presented. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained that copies of the proposed handbooks were provided to the Board in a previous Friday Letter. She explained that depending on what occurs in the future, the handbooks are subject to change and may need to be amended. The middle school handbook references moving to the new

location and this will need to be changed. Secretary Ochodnický conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Webster, Quick, Ochodnický, Mowen, Keyes, Krauss, Jenc. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen to support the Shiawassee Regional Education School District (SRESĐ) 2020-21 budget as presented and authorize the Superintendent to forward the resolution to the SRESĐ board on or before June 1, 2020. Vice President Rick Mowen represented the Board via teleconference at their annual budget hearing meeting on May 4, 2020. Mr. Mowen explained that it was reported during the meeting that student counts continue to decline county-wide. Currently there are 10,605 students enrolled in their programs. Despite the decline in student enrollment, the need for special education services continues to rise. It was noted during the meeting that the retirement rate for the SRESĐ is approximately 6.5% more than the school districts they serve. On a positive note, the SEV value of homes in the county continues to increase. The SRESĐ has a reserved fund balance of about 13%. Similar to school districts, the SRESĐ may have to cut programs due to potential decreases in funding. A budget deficit of approximately \$270,000 is anticipated for the 2020-21 school year. Additionally, a \$300-\$500 cut per student to each district is also expected. There is also the possibility of this amount going as high as a \$1,000 cut per student. In spite of the bad news, the SRESĐ is doing their best to maintain services to each school district. Mr. Mowen recommended that the Board support the SRESĐ 2020-21 budget. Secretary Ochodnický conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Webster, Quick, Ochodnický, Mowen, Keyes, Krauss, Jenc. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnický to authorize the Superintendent to sign the proposed contract with ESS Midwest (formerly PCMI/Willsub) to provide contracted services for the Athletic Department, for non-employee coaches, Bentley Bright Beginnings non-certified/non-administrative staff and for special circumstances in which specialized non-union staff are needed. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle pointed out that their fees will increase by .25% from the previous year. Secretary Ochodnický conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Webster, Quick, Ochodnický, Mowen, Keyes, Krauss, Jenc. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick to authorize the disposition by sale, donation, trade, or discard items in the current weight room and wrestling room that have been identified as not being needed in the new Fitness Center. The current weight room needs to be vacated as soon as possible in order to proceed with the construction at the grades 6-12 campus. A comprehensive list of the obsolete equipment was provided to the Board. Secretary Ochodnický conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Webster, Quick, Ochodnický, Mowen, Keyes, Krauss, Jenc. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation

There were no comments from the public.

Board Member Comments/Updates

President Tim Jenc expressed his amazement with the advances in technology over the past few years. Network/Computer Technician Gunnar Stinson was applauded by Mr. Jenc for his assistance with the Zoom meetings and making them possible to occur.

Treasurer Marlene Webster commented that she continues to be extremely grateful for the OPS Food Service Department, teachers, and staff's efforts at getting meals to students. She stated that it has been an honor to work with these people. The preparation and delivery has become very streamlined which has reduced her work time needed to assist with the process. Food deliveries are going out to approximately 150 homes and the families are very appreciative.

Trustee Olga Quick thanked the OPS staff, administrators, and teachers for their continued support of OPS families during these unprecedented times. She continues to be amazed by the support that is being provided, specifically the students that she works with. Mrs. Quick congratulated the retirees and commented that the District is losing a lot of experience as they move on. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle was also thanked for her support of the District as we navigate through the current challenges.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicky thanked the retirees for the time they have given to OPS. The senior class of 2020 was congratulated on their achievements. She remarked that she was saddened to see all of the end of year events and celebrations canceled. Mrs. Ochodnicky also thanked those that have participated in adopting members of the senior class and purchasing gifts for the students.

Vice President Rick Mowen congratulated the staff of OPS who have a tough job under normal circumstances. He applauded the staff for doing a remarkable job of staying in touch with their students and keeping them educated as best they can. Mr. Mowen also acknowledged the Food Service staff and volunteers for keeping students fed. The Class of 2020 graduates were congratulated and Mr. Mowen wished them the best. Mr. Mowen recognized the retirees and stated that it will be difficult to replace their experience. Mrs. Cindy Knight is a life-long friend of Mr. Mowen's and he thanked her for her service to the District.

Trustee Sara Keyes expressed her appreciation for the gifts that were given to senior class members. She remarked that her son Christian was adopted by five different individuals and this has been a big highlight and fun for him. Mrs. Keyes commented that the billboard recognizing the OPS seniors looks great. Mrs. Keyes also congratulated the retirees. She also recognized Ms. Pam Kurtz on her retirement and stated that she was her high school counselor.

Trustee Ty Krauss thanked the Food Service Department and volunteers for servicing our students. He stated that it is a wonderful gesture and very appreciated by many. The retirees were thanked for their service and contributions to the District. The Class of 2020 graduates were applauded and thanked for being Trojans.

President Tim Jenc thanked Superintendent Dr. Tuttle for everything that she does for Owosso Public Schools.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

June 8: Committee of the Whole Meeting at 5:30 pm

June 22: Regular Board of Education Meeting at 5:30 pm

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick to adjourn at 6:38 pm. Secretary Ochodnicky conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Webster, Quick, Ochodnicky, Mowen, Keyes, Krauss, Jenc. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary