

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
September 26, 2016
Report 16-24

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:56 pm. The meeting was held in the media center located at Owosso High School, 765 E. North Street, Owosso, Michigan.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

Owosso High School Principal Jeff Phillips introduced the 2016-2017 foreign exchange students to the Board of Education. He thanked their host families for welcoming the students into their homes. Mr. Phillips reminded the Board that the high school will continue to host monthly luncheons that feature dishes from each of the student's home country. The Board was invited to a luncheon that will celebrate Denmark on September 29th. The student introductions included Camilla Hesel from Denmark and her host family is Karen and Shane Nelson. Carmen de Santiago is from Spain and her host family is also Karen and Shane Nelson. Belana Sieronski is from Germany and her host family is Denise and Robert Dennison. Carl Schnitker is from Germany and his host parent is Angie Mitosinka. Munechika Nonaka is from Japan and Angie Mitosinka is his host parent.

Mr. Phillips asked the foreign exchange students to reflect on their journey to Owosso and share something that they did not anticipate. One student remarked that she knew that they would change classes each period, but was not aware of how short the time was in between classes. Another student stated that Owosso High School is very fun and has a lot of school spirit. The students also expressed their surprise about everything being bigger and that there are many more athletic fields.

Superintendent Tuttle applauded the exchange students and their host families for bringing so much culture to Owosso Public Schools. She remarked that these students learn a lot about American culture during their stay, but OPS staff and students also benefit from the experience.

Mr. Jeff Phillips explained that Student Council is the heartbeat of the high school and introduced Student Council Co-Advisors Jackie Aymor and Kristen Bratschi. Ms. Aymor commented that the Student Council's E-Board truly leads by example and they are a fun group to work with. The E-Board members include Dalaney Zelecki, Treasurer; Lucy Popovitch, Co-President; Morgan Kalisek, Vice President; Paige Thornton, Secretary; and Andrew Pond, Co-President.

Board of Education Student Representative Andrew Pond reported that Student Council held its first meeting of the school year on August 31st. Approximately 35 students attended the meeting that was open to the entire student body. The students played a game during the meeting to try and get everyone out of their comfort zone. During the meeting the students split up into Homecoming sub-committees that included inter-class games, homecoming court, parade, and the first pep assembly.

Andrew Pond announced that this year's Homecoming Court includes Sally Armstrong, Riley Gale, Kiarra Harris, Katelyn Jones, Mylissa MacKenzie, Bailey Albrecht, Jacob Fisher, Gabriel Gaskin, Nathan Nicevski, and Joseph Vondrasek. The Homecoming Court attended a luncheon with Student Council Co-Advisors Ms. Aymor and Mrs. Bratschi as an opportunity for the students to get to know each other better.

Andrew Pond reported that a Hawaiian Luau is the theme for Homecoming and festivities are in full swing. Interclass games will be led by Ms. Devon Burzynski and Mrs. Kristen Bratschi on Friday, September 30th. Class Councils have been working very hard to complete their Homecoming floats and spirit week is in full swing at the high school.

Andrew Pond informed the Board that Student Council presented Owosso High School teachers with goodie bags and cookies on the first day of school to welcome them back to the new school year.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reported on just a few of the great things that are happening in the District. She explained that some community members expressed their dissatisfaction with school starting prior to Labor Day. The early start was the result of a new law that now requires 180 school days. Superintendent Tuttle was pleased to announce that the transition into the new school year was very smooth, in spite of the early start.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that there are lots of fun spirit week activities occurring throughout the District in celebration of Homecoming. She remarked that she was pleased to hear the Foreign Exchange students comment about the school spirit, which is mentioned repeatedly every year by these students.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that she attended the MASA School Superintendent's Conference during the prior week. She stated that her attendance at the conference reassured her that Owosso Public Schools is doing many great things. However, there are some hot topics that all school districts are dealing with that include human trafficking and an increase in substance abuse. She indicated that there are ways for school districts to be proactive when faced with these issues. Superintendent Tuttle stated that students need to be a part of something that is bigger than themselves and become involved in extra-curricular activities. She commented that it is a goal of OPS to offer students opportunities outside of the classroom.

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that students from the middle school, high school and Lincoln High School recently attended a "Made in Owosso" exhibit at the Shiawassee Arts Council. The exhibit showcased the background and history of Owosso. She stated that it was a great opportunity for students to learn about our great city. The Shiawassee Arts Council was thanked by Superintendent Tuttle for hosting the educational exhibit and inviting OPS students.

Superintendent Tuttle remarked that Owosso High School recently held an interesting discussion regarding "Black Lives and Blue Lives Matter". The engaging and relevant discussion was organized by OHS Teacher Mrs. Melanie Lounds. Superintendent Tuttle commented that she was very impressed by the respect that was displayed, even though there were many differences in opinions. OHS students and teachers listened to the panel of 15 speakers that each held various opinions on the topic that they were able to support with facts and respectful opinions.

Superintendent Tuttle explained that all high school students now have their own personal Chromebooks and she believes that this has totally transformed education for the students. The Chromebooks are an outstanding educational tool that provides an access to technology and deep thinking for all students.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that 307 letters were mailed to all new OPS families, inclusive of kindergarten students, welcoming them to the District. Included in the mailings was an Owosso Public Schools sticker and a "Gotcha" card to encourage random acts of kindness throughout the District.

Superintendent Tuttle applauded Food Service Department staff members Mr. John Klapko and Mrs. Michele Prince and OHS Culinary Arts students for preparing and serving food at the Community Harvest

Dinner. Approximately 250 people attended the dinner. Superintendent Tuttle stated that she has received many positive emails and remarks about the amazing students and staff of OPS. A portion of the proceeds from the dinner in the amount of \$1,300 was donated to the Owosso Cares Backpack program. Superintendent Tuttle reported that \$2,000 is spent each month filling backpacks with food for the less fortunate students of OPS. She thanked Jessica Thompson, Community Education Director for spearheading the Backpack program. She also explained that money is needed to sustain the program.

Superintendent Tuttle praised Transportation Director Mr. Steve DeLong and his team for running their department flawlessly.

Superintendent Tuttle stated that even though school has been in session for a short time there have been many exciting events for students and their families. She reported that Central Elementary hosted a Dads and Donuts event, Bryant Elementary held Grandparents Day, and Emerson Elementary celebrated employee Helen Marrah's 80th birthday.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that the District is encouraging OHS athletes to be role models for younger students by getting them more involved in activities at the elementary level. The high school's football players have been going to the elementary buildings and reading to students.

Superintendent Tuttle explained that a tour of the completed Sinking Fund projects did not occur. However, pictures of the projects and details of the projects have been shared with the Board throughout the process. She stated that this year's projects included flooring replacements and new windows on the west side of the middle school.

Superintendent Tuttle commented that several discussions have taken place in classrooms regarding the Presidential Debates. She stated that many lessons can be learned from the debates and controversial topics. These are topics that should be discussed in a respectful manner and a skill that is being taught in classrooms across the District.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that Bentley Bright Beginnings held a police and fire week to help the children understand who our helpers are, where to go if they need help, and to thank our first responders for all that they do.

Curriculum Director Dr. Kari Selleck reported that this is the first year of a reclaimed wood's project for students that are enrolled in the OHS Wood's Program. She commented that the students are very engaged and beyond just cutting and staining wood. The students are required to interact with their clients one-on-one and listen to the clients request for the pieces of furniture. The students have made six different color and stain prototypes that their clients can choose from for their furniture. The students are keeping a journal of the process and looking at their expenses and profits from the projects. The project is helping students' problem solve and work with their clients. Dr. Selleck remarked that she is anxious to see the completed projects and before and after photos.

Dr. Selleck announced that she will be attending the new Career and Technical Education (CTE) program training in October. The training will include new considerations that the District is thinking about bringing to the high school. The new programs to be considered are agri-science, computer software programming, and potentially veterinary science. She stated that it is a goal of the District to continue to offer new CTE programs. Dr. Selleck informed the Board that the District was also selected to participate in the Michigan CTE Audit. Dr. Selleck remarked that during her preparations for the audit, she was reminded of the many wonderful things that are associated with CTE that include the student organization, the advisory boards, interactions with the community and industry, and safety training requirements. The CTE programs to be

audited include Fashion Design, Culinary Arts, and Family and Consumer Science. Dr. Selleck commented that she is fairly confident that the District will pass the audit with flying colors.

Dr. Selleck reported that Title I Teachers and Para-Professionals have been participating in full day trainings. These staff members are trying a new strategy and change is always a challenge. Dr. Selleck explained that because of the looming legislation with third grade reading scores and reading performance, it was decided to take all of the District's Title I resources and pool them at the K-2 level. Para-Professionals that have previously been trained to work with upper elementary students are now being trained to work with our younger students. Dr. Selleck commented that she is extremely impressed with the Para-Professional's attitudes. They have now participated in two full-day trainings, along with Title I Teachers. These staff members are learning new interventions that they will be using with students collectively and consistently across all three elementary buildings.

Dr. Selleck informed the Board that the grades 6-12 Social Studies Department is involved in professional development with trainer Amy Bloom of the Oakland ISD. The trainings focus on how do we move away from a traditional history focused social studies curriculum while making sure that we have all of the strands of social studies from civic understanding, democratic principles, geography, and economics across every grade level.

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.

For Action

- Moved by Webster, supported by Mowen to approve the August 22, 2016 regular meeting minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Opanasenko-Lubkin to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso Middle School students and teacher Samantha Lieberman on a Washington D.C. trip to the Capital of the United States on April 26-28, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Opanasenko-Lubkin to award the bid for the purchase of a new vehicle for the Operations Department to Young Chevrolet Cadillac, Owosso, Michigan in an amount not to exceed \$31,000 plus fees. Treasurer Paez conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Webster, Paez, Mowen, Jenc, Keyes, Opanasenko-Lubkin. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Opanasenko-Lubkin, supported by Keyes to authorize the Operations Department to dispose of a 1990 ½ ton two-wheel drive truck with a V-8 engine and a 1999 Ford panel truck with a V-6 engine. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to authorize the Superintendent to sign the proposed Head Start Purchase of Service Agreement between Capital Area Community Services (C.A.C.S.) and Owosso Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Food Service Department and Operations Department to dispose of the following obsolete materials:

Food Service:

- 40 qt. Hobart mixer

Operations:

- 12 – 6' by 6' computer tables
- 8 – 40" x 16" x 32" D wood and particle board bookshelves

The Board of Education will be asked to approve the out-of-state travel by Owosso High School students to attend an Art Tour of New York City on March 22-25, 2017.

For Information

Superintendent Tuttle provided the Board with a personnel update. She explained that all of the accepted positions are to replace staff that has resigned with the exception of the three kindergarten paraprofessionals. Kathryn Aymor has accepted the Payroll Specialist position at Central Office. Joseph Watson has accepted the Computer Technician position at Central Office. Lindsey Huff has accepted the three hour Food Service Worker position at Owosso Middle School. Jeanne Pahl has accepted the 2.25 Food Service Worker position at Bryant Elementary. Heather Smith has accepted the 1.75 hour Food Service Worker position at Central Elementary. Lauri Dahl has accepted the Student Facilitator position at Bryant Elementary. Karen Nelson has accepted the seven hour Monitor position at Owosso High School. Jessica Cords has accepted the Early Childhood Special Education Paraprofessional position at Bentley Bright Beginnings. Catherine Hemenway has accepted the Kindergarten Paraprofessional position at Emerson Elementary. Mackenzie Lab has accepted the Kindergarten Paraprofessional position at Bryant Elementary. Lori Bosak has accepted that seven hour Food Service position at Owosso Middle School. Rachel Bailey has accepted the 2.75 hour Monitor position at Emerson Elementary. Andrea Struble has accepted the 3.25 hour Food Service Worker position at Owosso Middle School. Kim Walser has accepted the Special Education Paraprofessional position at Owosso High School. Gwen Schafer has accepted the 1.75 hours Monitor position at Emerson Elementary. Tracy Smith has accepted the 6.75 hour Lead Cook I position at Bryant Elementary. Kim Fauth-Newberry, Food Service Worker at Bryant Elementary has resigned. Shelley Springsdorf, Food Service Worker at Bryant Elementary has resigned. Sharon Upper, Food Service Worker at Owosso High School has resigned.

Public Participation

Jessica Thompson, Community Education Director referenced Dr. Tuttle's comments regarding the need of funds for the Backpack Program. She excitedly announced that Owosso's 100 Women Who Care organization met that evening and the OPS Backpack Program was chosen as the recipient of a donation in the amount of \$20,300. This generous donation will support the Backpack Program for the remainder of the school year.

Board Member Comments/Updates

Janice Opanasenko-Lubkin remarked that she was very impressed as she drove around District buildings and everything looks very spiffy in spite of the age of the buildings. She stated that she was also happy to see the Celebrate Success 2015-2016 video on the District's website that recognized staff and student accomplishments. She commented that she really likes the Gotcha program that spreads simple acts of kindness. She is also happy to see the District share this concept within the community. Mrs. Opanasenko-Lubkin expressed her appreciation for Secretary Ochodnický livestreaming the Snake Dance and Parade on Facebook prior to the start of the meeting.

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that Principal Steve Brooks and she met with Brian Long, CEO of Memorial Hospital regarding the Gotcha campaign. Mr. Long liked the idea and it is hoped that OPS administration will present information about the Gotcha campaign to the staff of Memorial. In addition, Mr. Brooks spoke with the Trojan Marching Band about random acts of kindness. Superintendent Tuttle

also plans to speak with Baker College President Aaron Maike about the campaign to keep the message going throughout the community.

Sara Keyes commented that it was very nice to listen to the foreign exchange students, their thoughts about school spirit at OPS, and the differences between Owosso and their home countries. She stated that her children always look forward to spirit week. Mrs. Keyes praised Student Representative Andrew Pond on his upbeat personality and informational reports at the meetings. She remarked that she is pleased to hear the positive feedback from students about the Chromebooks. Jessica Thompson was thanked for her update on the Backpack Program donation from 100 Women Who Care and for all of her efforts to sustain the much needed program.

Tim Jenc announced that Dr. Tuttle will not be attending the Homecoming Festivities. He congratulated her on her alma maters Hall of Fame Induction that will occur that same evening. He remarked that her recognition is well deserved.

Rick Mowen extended a thank you to local businesses Lance's Bakery and Foster Coffee for their contributions to the Dads and Donuts event at Central Elementary. He stated that Mrs. Friend's third grade class frequently visits the residents of Oliver Woods. The students are paired with a resident that they interact with through reading and other activities. Mr. Mowen remarked that his grandson participates in this activity and he believes that the unique interactions benefit both the students and residents.

Cheryl Paez remarked that after a very hot summer she is looking forward to a long fall and a great school year.

Marlene Webster reported that she was recently contacted by an OHS sophomore who is working on her IB personal project. The student is studying food waste and she plans on hosting a dinner and prepare food using ugly food. During the conversation, the student had her Chromebook and was looking up various local resources that will assist her with the project. Mrs. Webster remarked that she appreciated being able to assist the student. She stated that she was impressed with the student's level of engagement, deep thinking, and her passion for food that is being thrown away when there are so many hungry people.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

October 10: Board of Education Workshop, 5 – 8 pm

October 24: Regular Board Meeting, 7 pm

Important Upcoming Dates:

September 26-30: Spirit Week

September 30: Homecoming Parade & Tailgate, 6 pm

September 30: Homecoming Football Game vs. St. Johns, 7 pm

October 1: Homecoming Dance at OHS, 7 – 10 pm

October 5: Pupil Count Day

October 10: MSBOA Marching Band Festival at Willman Field, 4 – 10 pm

October 10: Lincoln High School Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5:30 – 7 pm

October 11: OHS Vocal Music Concert, 7:30 pm

October 12: Academic Achievement Awards Ceremony at OHS, 7 pm

October 15: Tour de Shiawassee and Octoberfest

October 19: Central School PTO Carnival, 6 – 8 pm

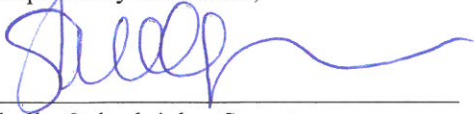
October 19: NHS Mr. Wonderful Contest at OHS, 7 – 9 pm

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen, supported by Paez to adjourn at 7:48 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shelly', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shelly Ochodnicki, Secretary