

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
September 23, 2019
Report 19-106

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, Ochodnicki, Quick
Absent: Webster (motions of the Board of Education that were unanimous did not include Webster)

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

Owosso High School Principal Jeff Phillips welcomed the 2019-2020 foreign exchange students to the meeting. The students introduced themselves and their host parents to the Board of Education. The student introductions included Alexander Kammerloch from Germany, who is residing with Roy and Sally Thelen; Niccolo Contini from Italy and his host parents Candy and Jeremy Flatter; Dara Beatriz Silva Coelho from Brazil and her host parent Nessrine Manuel; Ying Ma from China and her host parent Kristina Burr; Angela Bueno Villarroya from Spain and her host parent Dianne Rodgers; and Lucas Bedore Fioroni from Brazil and his host family John and Amy Gibson.

Mr. Phillips asked the foreign exchange students to share their biggest surprise since coming to the United States. One student remarked that his school has about 300 students and Owosso High School has around 900 students, which seems like a small city to him. The students stated that everyone is so helpful at Owosso High School and are always willing to offer assistance even when they don't ask for help. Another student commented that at his school they do not change classes and remain with the same students throughout their entire school day. A student commented about the landscape and the numerous trees we have in comparison to her home country. The students also remarked about how different the weather is here.

Mr. Phillips expressed his gratitude to the host families for welcoming the foreign exchange students into their homes. He commented that the staff and students of Owosso High School benefit from the experience as much as the exchange students. Mr. Phillips informed the Board that the high school will continue to host monthly luncheons that feature dishes from each student's home country as a means to thank the students and allow them to share information about themselves and their country.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle also thanked the host families for their hospitality and the opportunities they provide to the exchange students. She stated that her family was fortunate to have an exchange student reside with them for one month over the past summer.

Mr. John Klapko, Director of Operations and Food Service recognized retiree Chris Conrad for his 23 years of service as a custodian for the District. Ed Van Strate, Jr. was also thanked for his service to the District for the past 25 years as a plumber.

Board of Education Student Representative Cayden Whiteherse announced that "A Blast from the Past" is the Homecoming theme. The celebration will highlight the 1950's, 1960's, 1970's, and 1980's.

Cayden Whiteherse reported that the new Student Council Executive Board members include Vice Co-Presidents Tyler Hoag and Elizabeth Tolrud. The student advisor is Mrs. Penney Hammond. Cayden informed the Board that "Spirit Star" is a new activity that student government will focus on throughout the school year. The activities will involve classes competing against each other to earn points. The senior class is currently leading in the competition.

Cayden Whiteherse announced that the Madrigal's are working on a piece that was specifically written for them by a world renowned composer. The students will perform the song titled "What Ships Are For" during their October 16th concert in the Owosso Middle School auditorium.

Cayden Whiteherse reported that the theme for this year's yearbook is "Under Construction". OHS student Tess Passinault is working on a documentary series called "The Reality of High School" that will include film and features about OHS students. The yearbook will include QR codes (barcodes) that students will be able to scan with their phones and view the videos that are being filmed by Ms. Passinault.

Cayden Whiteherse announced that this year's homecoming floats will be judged by administrators. President Tim Jenc was asked to represent the Board as a judge.

Cayden Whiteherse stated that on behalf of the OHS student government, he would like to thank the administrators for always being the back bone of the District. Owosso Public Schools would not be the District of opportunity without these great leaders.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle thanked the sponsors for their generous donations that allowed the District to hold the opening day professional development for all staff at the Stone House Farm. The sponsors of the event were Young Chevrolet Cadillac Buick GMC of Owosso, Dr. Ayaz and Laura Jafri of Mid-Michigan Dental, Kevin and Janena Kregger from Nelson-House Funeral Home, Keith Maike of Main Beverage, and Clark Construction. Opening days was an opportunity to remind staff that we are here for engagement and relationships.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that the bond project is still on schedule. Adjustments are being made to stay within the confines of the budget. Nick Henne, Project Manager from Clark Construction has been welcomed and recently replaced Karen Middleton. Mr. Henne is from Owosso and wanted to be involved in the project at its inception but was completing another assignment.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle echoed Cayden Whiteherse's comments about the great staff at OPS. She extended her gratitude to parents and staff, particularly at the secondary level for their patience and understanding with the construction. She remarked that there was some apprehension about the changes, traffic flow and buses on the first days of school. She commended everyone for their understanding and the limited issues with the ongoing bond work. The OPS custodial team and Clark Construction was praised for their diligence and efforts to get the secondary campus ready for students and the new school year. There will be transitions throughout the school year as new classrooms are completed in the building.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that opening days were very successful. Staff participated in a variety of activities that included technology, mathematics, writing, social emotional training, and advanced placement breakout sessions. September 27th is a half-day of school for students and teachers will participate in professional development during the afternoon. The PD will provide additional support to the trainings that occurred during opening days. The day will also include a safety and security refresher by Mr. Tom Mynsberge of Critical Incident Management.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks stated that Owosso High School initiated a Facebook page at the start of the school year. The building is doing a wonderful job highlighting the great things that are occurring in the building. Mr. Brooks applauded Mr. Aaron Hughes, Jackie Burzmor, and Jessica Thompson for organizing the page. The Board was encouraged to like the page that now has over 600 friends.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks announced that beginning with the week of September 30, PSAT data analysis from the 2019 spring assessments will be analyzed by core teachers. Teachers will be reviewing the data and looking for student strengths and weaknesses, which will be reported back to all staff at the November 14th professional development. The data will also be integrated into each building's school improvement plans.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that fall data collections have begun. Teachers are collecting this data as a starting point for each student to determine growth and progress at the end of the school year. This data is also used in teacher evaluations.

President Tim Jenc asked where the District currently stands with student count.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle responded to President Jenc's inquiry and reported that the District budgeted to be down 75 students. As of September 23, 2019 the District was down 40 students. It is hoped that the GSRP and LHS enrollment will improve. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reminded the Board that the District has a very transient population. It is hoped that student enrollment will improve by the October 2 count day.

Public Participation

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

Mr. Robert Tyrrell, OPS parent expressed his concerns about a student that has an opportunity to earn a college scholarship. He explained that in order to obtain this scholarship the student would be required to perform as a baton twirler in a featured spot with the Trojan Marching Band during half-time at a sporting event. The Board was asked for their assistance and to start a conversation to allow this to happen.

The Board and Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed Mr. Tyrrell that they were confused about his request and asked him to provide additional information about the requirements for this student's scholarship opportunity.

For Action

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to approve the August 26, 2019 regular meeting minutes, September 9, 2019 committee of the whole minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso Middle School students and staff to Washington, D.C. on April 22-24, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to authorize the Superintendent to sign the Head Start Purchase of Service Agreement between Capital Area Community Services (C.A.C.S.) and Owosso Public Schools (OPS). Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to adopt Revised Bylaw 0100 – Definitions as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to adopt Revised Bylaw 0167.2 – Closed Sessions as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to adopt New Policy 1422.01 – Drug Free Workplace as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to adopt Revised Policy 2210 – Curriculum Development as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to adopt Revised Policy 2414 – Reproductive Health and Family Planning as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to adopt Revised Policy 3120 – Employment of Professional Staff and Revised Policy 3120.04 – Employment of Substitutes as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to adopt Revised Policy 5113.01 – Schools of Choice (Intra-District) and Revised Policy 5113.02 – School of Choice Options Provided by Federal Law. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to adopt Revised Policy 5200 – Attendance as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to adopt Revised Policy 6321 – New School Construction, Renovation as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to adopt Revised Policy 6325 – Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to adopt Revised Policy 6605 – Crowd Funding as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to adopt Revised Policy 8400 – School Safety Information as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to adopt New Policy 8402 – Emergency Operations Plan as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to adopt Revised Policy 8500 – Food Services as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Keyes authorize District personnel to proceed with furniture purchases for the secondary campus for the area that will be occupied starting in December of 2019 in an amount not to exceed \$135,564.36. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to authorize the Superintendent to sign off on the easement to allow Consumers Energy to route a new overhead electrical service on the access road of the secondary campus to allow for lighting of the road. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board of Education will be asked to approve the out-of-state travel by Owosso High School students to attend and compete in the VE Southern Regional Trade Show in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on November 16-19, 2019
- The Board of Education will be asked to approve the out-of-state travel by Owosso High School students to attend and compete in the VE Great Lakes Regional Trade Show in Chicago, Illinois on February 18-20, 2020.

For Information

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that Pauline Fernette has accepted the 1.75-hour Monitor position at Bryant Elementary. Charlene Porubsky has accepted the 2.75-hour monitor position at Central Elementary. Edward Van Strate, skilled trades plumber has submitted his letter of retirement effective September 30, 2019 after 25 years of service with the District. Chris Conrad, custodian at Washington Campus has submitted his letter of retirement effective October 19, 2019 after 23 years of service with the District.

Public Participation

There were no comments from the meeting's audience.

Board Member Comments/Updates

Trustee Ty Krauss commented that he has heard some feedback about the start of the school year. He thanked everyone for their hard work in making this a success and is appreciative of their efforts. Mr. Krauss stated that the construction progress looks great and he is happy to see walls going up at the secondary campus.

Trustee Sara Keyes remarked that she is looking forward to the homecoming football game on September 27th. She stated that she also enjoys witnessing all of the school spirit that is being displayed by students.

Vice President Rick Mowen commented that people seem to like to share the bad things more than good things and he is happy to report that he has not heard any negative comments about the start of school. The school year is off to a great start and things are coming along fine.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki remarked that she is hearing positive feedback as well, in spite of the construction. She stated that she has a granddaughter at Bentley Bright Beginnings in Mrs. Lorigan's class and another at Central in Mrs. Gobel's kindergarten class. It has been fun for her to witness the children's excitement about spirit week.

Trustee Olga Quick stated that it is nice to have Student Representative Cayden Whiteherse back and reporting at the meetings. She remarked that she also believes that the start of the year has been great. She stated that the District has an incredible staff and through her job, she is blessed to work with the teachers and administrators from the middle school and high school. She commented that she likes the new programs that have been implemented at the middle school and high school, which are in the best interest of our kids. Mrs. Quick expressed her appreciation for staff and their adaptability to all of the changes.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

October 14: Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5:30 pm

October 28: Regular Board Meeting, 5:30 pm

Important Upcoming Dates:

September 27: Half Day for Students and Professional Development in Afternoon

September 27: Homecoming at Willman Field, 7 pm

October 2: Pupil Count Day

October 2: LHS Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5:30 – 7 pm

October 7: District Marching Band Festival at Willman Field

October 11: OHS Varsity Football Game vs. Corunna at Willman Field, 7 pm

October 14: District Marching Band Festival (Rain Date)

October 14: Bryant 5th Grade Concert, 7 pm

October 16: Central 5th Grade Concert, 7 pm

October 16: OHS Choir Fall Concert at OMS Auditorium, 7 pm

October 17: Half Day for Elementary Students Only

October 17: Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1-3:30 pm and 5-8 pm

October 18: End of First Marking Period

October 21: Emerson 5th Grade Concert, 7 pm

October 22: OMS Choir Fall Concert, 7 pm

October 23: OMS Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5-8 pm

October 24: OMS & OHS Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5-8 pm

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicky to adjourn at 6:25 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary