

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
February 26, 2018
Report 17-106

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:01 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, Paez, Webster

Absent: Ochodnicki (Motions of the Board of Education that were unanimous did not include Ochodnicki)

Pledge of Allegiance

President Jenc asked those that were sitting at the Board of Education table to introduce themselves to the meeting's audience. The introductions included Steve Brooks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Marlene Webster, Board Trustee; Cheryl Paez, Board Treasurer; Rick Mowen, Board Vice President; Tim Jenc, Board President; Andrea Tuttle, Superintendent; Sara Keyes, Board Trustee; Ty Krauss, Board Trustee; Clara Pitt, Administrative Assistant; Julie Omer, Chief Financial Officer; and Megan Hebekeuser, Student Council Representative.

Building Reports

As part of the Celebrate Kids! segment of the meeting, Superintendent Tuttle introduced Mr. Nick Krueger, Career and Technical Education Coordinator for the District. Mr. Krueger thanked the Board of Education for allowing him the opportunity to showcase Owosso High School's CTE programs. CTE staff members were also in attendance and included Greg Freeman, Agricultural Science Teacher; Mike Gregory, Business and Finance Teacher; Chef Hannah Poyner, Culinary Arts Teacher; Robert Mallory, Construction Trades Teacher; Wally Keating, Engineering Teacher; Jason Krantz, Woods Teacher; and Trudy Schneider, Family and Consumer Science Teacher. Mr. Krueger explained that for the past two weeks' staff members have been busy showcasing their departments. CTE opportunities were recently showcased for eighth grade parents. In addition, Mr. Krueger spoke with the District's eighth grade students and shared information about the CTE courses that are available to them at the high school, credits they can earn through the CTE programs, and college credits that are available to them.

Owosso High School ninth grade student Olivia Dunn addressed the Board on behalf of the Owosso Operating Systems, which is the OPS Robotics Team. Olivia informed the Board that the team's first competition will be held during the upcoming weekend at Kettering University. OHS has had a team for the last five years and there are currently 23 members on the team. Olivia shared details about competition goals and how teams can earn points. New criteria are set for teams every year, which typically requires the students to build their robots from scratch. Olivia introduced her teammates Alexandria Landino, Lonnie Hewitt, Christian Wagner, Andrew Vreibel, and Samuel Feldpausch who were also in attendance at the meeting.

Superintendent Tuttle wished the members of the robotics team good luck at their competition. She also thanked Mr. Nick Krueger for showcasing the CTE programs and for hosting the eighth grade parent night that exposed all of the opportunities available to students at OHS.

Trustee Webster commented that two years ago the Culinary Arts Department introduced her to sushi and since then her family has become great fans of good sushi.

Mr. Nick Krueger remarked that OPS is very proud of its Culinary Arts Department and Chef Poyner. He informed the Board that on April 25, 2018 Chef Poyner and students from the Owosso High School Culinary Arts Department will be showcased at the state Capitol.

Mr. Rich Collins, Principal of Owosso Middle School recognized retiree Linda Koch. Mrs. Koch has served the District as a Para-professional for the past 22 years. Mrs. Koch commented that she has really enjoyed what she done for the past 22 years and is proud of making a difference in some of her student's lives.

Board of Education Student Representative Morgan Hebekeuser reported that members of Student Council recently attended a Flint Mero League meeting in Holly. During the meeting the students shared ideas about their winter formal, wrote letters to soldiers that will be included in care packages, discussed teacher appreciation ideas for future assemblies, played ice breaker games, and shared fund raising ideas.

Morgan Hebekeuser explained that OHS hosted the early morning pep assembly. Refreshments were provided by Tim Hortons. ABC Channel 12 Reporter Mark Jacobsen has informed the students that Owosso High School has a really good chance of winning the Spirit Cup Award. This year 5,100 pounds of food has been donated to the canned food drive and \$11,830 has been donated, which includes \$3,860 from Ayaz Jafri's fundraising efforts.

Morgan Hebekeuser announced that the Ms. Magnificent talent competition will be held at OHS on March 27.

Morgan Hebekeuser informed the Board that Student Council recently hosted a masquerade themed Sadie Hawkins dance at D'Mar Banquet and Conference Center. Several students attended the dance and had a great time.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle explained that there are a lot of great things occurring in the District.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that on February 22 the District hosted a Design Charrette for the bond. Approximately 40 people were in attendance that represented students, faculty, administration, community members, and architects. The participants of the Design Charrette broke out into four separate teams. The teams were given blueprints of the existing high school and were provided scaled pieces of the middle school addition. The teams worked together to create conceptual designs of the proposed addition. Upon completion of their designs, the teams showcased their concepts to those in attendance. The conceptual designs will be reviewed by the architects for consideration and will be presented to the middle school/high school bond steering committee at a future meeting. Superintendent Tuttle remarked that some great ideas came to fruition during the process.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that the Today's Trojan Second Edition has been mailed to every household in the Owosso area. Jessica Thompson, Communications Director and the administrative team were applauded for working together on the publication. The publication will include the bond timeline and information that sets Owosso Public Schools apart from other schools in the area.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that elementary principals are preparing for Kindergarten Registration that will be held on March 5-6. When students arrive at kindergarten registration they will receive a Class of 2031 button. Additionally, the District is focusing on marketing all that it has to offer through billboards, mailings, etc.

Superintendent Tuttle proudly announced that student count numbers were up in February. Owosso Public Schools was only one of three districts in the county, including Chesaning, that realized a pupil count increase.

Superintendent Tuttle remarked that on February 24th the annual Jazz Band Dinner Dance Fundraiser was held at D'Mar Banquet and Conference Center. The venue was packed and it was an outstanding event.

Superintendent Tuttle commented that unfortunately, another school tragedy recently occurred in Florida. She informed the Board that on March 14 a National School Walkout has been organized to support the victims of this tragedy. Superintendent Tuttle praised the administrators at Owosso High School and its student government team for working together. In lieu of participating in a Walkout on March 14, the students will have moments of silence for the victims and be encouraged to make new connections with 17 students that they are not friends with. Shirts that contain the statement “Be the change that you want to see in others, who are your 17” will also be available.

Steve Brooks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction reported that the District is exploring a Geometry/Construction cross walk. Students that are taking a Geometry and Construction Trades class would be able to align geometry to their particular CTE skills. Mr. Brooks stated that teachers are very excited about this opportunity.

Mr. Brooks reminded the Board that on March 14 the District will host a professional development for staff. Mr. Tom Mynsberge of Critical Incident Management, Inc. will present on safety and security from 1-2 pm and Superintendent Tuttle’s State of the District address is from 2-3 pm.

Mr. Brooks announced that afternoon and evening elementary parent/teacher conferences are scheduled to be held on March 1st.

Mr. Brooks reported that all of the elementary buildings have been exploring their mid-year assessment data. The results from student’s mid-year assessments have been entered into computers and the data is being reviewed by grade level teams.

Mr. Brooks informed the Board that data from the first 20 days of the first semester of school has been entered into the Early Warning System Tool for Owosso High School and Lincoln High School students. This data is being explored and addressed to help administrators assist students that may require additional support systems.

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. Andy Zeeman expressed his dissatisfaction about an incident that occurred when his family attended a basketball game at Owosso High School on February 20, 2018. An email stating his concerns was previously sent to the Board of Education. Mr. Zeeman stated that he and his wife Denise are Owosso Township residents. His oldest son is a freshman on the Corunna basketball team and his younger boys wrestle for Owosso Youth Wrestling. His younger boys have been told that if they wear Owosso gear they are allowed to attend sporting events for free. Mr. Zeeman stated his sons wore Owosso gear to the February 21 game and was upset because they were required to pay the \$10 admission into the game.

Superintendent Tuttle responded to Mr. Zeeman’s comments and stated that she sent the Zeeman family an email after the incident that explained the District’s position. It was her understanding that when the Zeeman family entered the basketball game on February 20th their boys were wearing North Carolina sweatshirts. An Owosso High School student was working the gate on February 20th and informed the administration that the Zeeman boys did not have Owosso gear on as they entered the game and asked them to pay the entry fee. Superintendent Tuttle explained that OPS instituted an opportunity for Owosso students to attend athletic events for free if they demonstrated Owosso pride by wearing Owosso gear. This opportunity is granted to OPS students as a courtesy if they want to support our athletic programs and may not be able to afford the contests or have the opportunities that Mr. Zeeman stated his children

have. Superintendent Tuttle stated that she did not see the Zeeman children wearing Owosso gear at the game in question. In addition to the fact that they attend St. Paul's School.

Brena Irelan informed the Board that the Owosso Education Association has set their annual retirement banquet for Friday, April 20, 2018. Social hour will begin at 6 pm and dinner will be served at 7 pm. The event will be held at the Comstock Inn. Information regarding the retirees that will be celebrated is forthcoming.

For Action

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to approve the January 22, 2018 regular meeting minutes, February 12, 2018 committee of the whole meeting minutes, February 15, 2018 student hearings A, B, and C closed session minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to adopt the revised resolution to the appropriations for the General Fund 2017-18 fiscal year. The projected fund balance at June 30, 2018 is \$2,551,000 which equates to about 8% of the fund balance. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes, supported by Krauss to adopt the revised resolution to the appropriations for the School Service Fund for the 2017-18 fiscal year. The projected remaining fund balance as of the end of June 30, 2018 is \$110,000. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes, supported by Mowen to authorize the purchase of high school marching band uniforms from Stanbury, high school Majorette uniforms from Donna Nault, and concert band uniforms from Orefice with a general fund cost not to exceed \$83,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to approve the hiring of certified staff member Justin McGraw for the position at Owosso High School as Science Teacher. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to authorize the Superintendent to sign a contract with Vector Tech Group, Holland, Michigan to purchase network switches and corresponding hardware for the high school, Central, Emerson, and Bryant for an amount not to exceed \$37, 688.00. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes, supported by Krauss to authorize Shiawassee Hope to use a designated room at 645 Alger Street to serve as a food pantry for Lincoln High School students as well as other community members. Trustee Webster recused herself from the vote. Motion carried.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Jenc to move the Declaration of Obsolete Material from future action to action. Superintendent Tuttle explained that the obsolete vehicle has come before the Board on a previous date; however, the VIN # was incorrect. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Jenc to authorize the Operations Department to dispose of a 1990 ½ ton, two-wheel drive GMC Sierra truck with a V-8 engine, 98,792 miles – VIN # 1GTDC14Z5LE554486 which has been declared as obsolete. The vehicle will be placed up for sale through a closed bid process. The funds garnered will be returned to the general fund. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to sign the agreement with J.P. Morgan Securities for Underwriting services for the upcoming bond issue. The District has considered a negotiated sale of the bonds in the upcoming sale of the bonds in May to be the best choice for handling the sale. In order to move forward with this type of sale, an underwriter needs to be selected.

For Information

Superintendent Tuttle reported that Diana Johnson-Zornow has accepted the Temporary Title I Aide position at Bryant Elementary. Annette Richmond has accepted the Special Education Paraprofessional position at Owosso High School. Theresa Terry, temporary Science Teacher at Owosso High School submitted her letter of resignation January 19, 2018. Jackie Hatfield, Title I Paraprofessional at Bryant

Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation effective February 12, 2018. Keagan Chapman has submitted his letter of resignation effective February 23, 2018. Linda Koch, Paraprofessional at Owosso Middle School has submitted her letter of retirement effective February 28th after 23 years of service with the District.

Public Participation

There were no comments from the public.

Board Member Comments/Updates

Trustee Ty Krauss stated that he appreciates the Owosso Public Schools billboards that have recently went up and feels that these are a great way to market the District. He also applauded Superintendent Tuttle for sending out a safety and security update letter to all OPS families. Mr. Krauss remarked that the letter was very relevant and timely.

Trustee Sara Keyes commented that her stepson Christian was able to travel to Chicago with Mr. Mike Gregory and other students from the OHS Virtual Enterprise (VE) class. She stated that he absolutely loved the trip. Mrs. Keyes remarked that she appreciates this opportunity that was granted to her stepson that he may not have otherwise had.

Mrs. Keyes expressed appreciation for the safety and security letter that was sent out by Superintendent Tuttle. She remarked that several parents have also expressed their appreciation of the letter. Mrs. Keyes stated that she has informed parents that District administration consistently stays up to date on safety and security measures and is always seeking ways to keep students safe.

In response to Mrs. Keyes remarks, Superintendent Tuttle praised Owosso Police Chief Kevin Lenkart and the District's Liaison Officers for their continued support and the relationships that have developed. The day after the Florida shooting incident Chief Lenkart met with Superintendent Tuttle to discuss safety procedures within the District.

Mrs. Keyes stated that as a parent, it gives her comfort knowing that the Liaison Officers are in our school buildings. The students look up to the officers and have developed great relationships and respect for them over the past few years.

Superintendent Tuttle commented that Owosso High School held a lockdown drill earlier that day. Prior to the drill students were informed that it would take place. Chief Lenkart and four OPD officers were in the building during the drill to ensure that everything was done correctly.

Trustee Marlene Webster reported that she and some friends were able to attend the Jazz Band Dinner Dance. Her friends had never attended the event and were extremely impressed with the talent of the young musicians.

Mrs. Webster remarked that she along with several of those in attendance at the meeting have been working over the past several months on a drug free communities grant. A requirement of the grant is to hold monthly meetings, which is called The Alliance for a Drug Free Shiawassee. Mrs. Webster stated that there is a need for student participation at the meetings. Students between the ages of 12 -18 years old need to be present at the meetings and voice what they know, because this is a youth targeted grant. Mrs. Webster asked for assistance in getting student participation at the meetings that occur the first Thursday of each month at 5:15 pm. The meetings take place at Shiawassee Health and Wellness, which was formerly Community Mental Health. The April meeting will be held on April 12 because of spring break.

Vice President Rick Mowen commented that unfortunately, sometimes it takes something drastic to realize how grateful we are. He expressed his appreciation for Chief Lenkart and the District's Liaison Officers Mike Ash and Mike Wheeler for their continued support.

Mr. Mowen praised the Owosso Public Schools CTE programs for their showcase prior to the start of the meeting and for representing the District greatly. He stated that he is very happy that the District can offer these valuable opportunities to students.

Mr. Mowen applauded all of the young students that are trying to make a difference after the recent mass shootings. He stated that these young adults are our future and are not afraid to speak their minds or get involved with issues.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

March 12: Committee of the Whole, Washington Campus. 5-7 pm

March 26: Regular Board Meeting, 7 pm

Important Upcoming Dates:

February 27: Band Festival at OMS, 7-9 pm

March 1: Half Day Elementary Only: Afternoon & Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences

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

March 5: LHS 3rd Trimester Begins

March 5-6: Kindergarten Registration

March 8: NHS Induction Ceremony at OHS, 7:30 pm

March 13: Bond Elementary Steering Committee at Superintendent's Office, 12-2 pm

March 14: Half Day for All Students – Professional Development in afternoon

March 14: Superintendent Tuttle's State of the District Address at OHS Auditorium, 2-3 pm

March 14: Bentley Bright Beginnings Preschool Round Up, 9:30-11:30 am and 4:30-6:30 pm

March 19: OHS Oscars, 7-9 pm

March 19: 4th & 5th Grade Recorder/Band Concert at Bryant, 7 pm

March 20: OHS Volleybrawl, 7 pm

March 21: County-Wide School Board Dinner Meeting at D'Mar, 6 pm

March 21: 4th & 5th Grade Recorder/Band Concert at Central, 7 pm

March 22: MS/HS Bond Steering Committee Meeting at Superintendent's Office, 3-5 pm

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen, supported by Jenc to adjourn at 7:57 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicki, Secretary