

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Special Board Meeting
February 7, 2024
Report 23-114

Present: Easlick, Henne, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnicky, Quick, Webster
Absent:

President Mowen called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Washington Campus Administration Building, 645 Alger St, Owosso MI 48867.

Pledge of Allegiance

Interim Superintendent – Temporary, Dave Schulte RESD

- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick to approve the cooperative agreement with the Shiawassee Regional Educational Service District and David Schulte for the purpose of providing Owosso Public Schools with an interim Superintendent of Schools. Motion carried unanimously. Treasurer Quick asked if the superintendent search lasts longer than expected, then will Mr. Schulte continue to serve as the interim superintendent? President Mowen responded that in the event Mr. Schulte can no longer serve as interim, then MASB will provide the district with options for another interim superintendent. Treasurer Quick asked if the Board would still be provided a list of potential interim superintendents, as suggested by MASB at the last meeting. President Mowen responded that MASB did provide a list of potential superintendents, however none have responded with interest in the position and many are located hours away. By law, the district must have an interim superintendent in place, thus Mr. Schulte and the RESD have provided the cooperative agreement for interim services. Mr. Schulte added that the agreement has been written to provide flexibility for the district, and it is imperative the district comply with state statute and have a superintendent onboard while they conduct the search for a permanent hire.

MASB Contract for Consultant Services

- Moved by Quick, supported by Henne, to approve the search proposal drafted by Michigan Association of Schools Boards to aid Owosso Public Schools in the superintendent search, including the internal posting and survey questions. Motion carried unanimously. Trustee Ochodnicky asked that the front page of the district website include a direct link to the Board of Education member and meeting information page.

Regular Meeting Minutes January 24, 2024 and Special Meeting Minutes January 31, 2024

- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick to approve the Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes January 24, 2024 and the Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes January 31, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Thrun Policy Amendment – 4405-R Reduction in Force and Recall

- Moved by Webster, supported by Krauss to amend policy 4405-R Reduction in Force and Recall, to include optional language two under section A; 1; d; v; *“If the reduction or recall decision involves more than 1 teacher and multiple teachers and all factors distinguishing those teachers from each other are equal, the Board may approve and implement a tiebreaker mechanism using a discrete part(s) of the evaluation system. For example, if the reduction or recall decision involves more than one teacher and all factors distinguishing those teachers from each other are equal, the teacher with the higher year-end effectiveness score reflected in the [insert Board preference] portion of the evaluation will have preference for reduction or recall, as applicable. If this year-end effectiveness score is also tied, seniority (as established by the most recent seniority list for the bargaining unit to which the tenured teachers belong or, if none exists, the District’s records) will determine preference for reduction or recall.”*, and to add the time frame of “12 months” to section A; 2; a; *“A teacher is eligible for recall under this Policy for 12 months from the date the District implemented the reduction in force.”* Motion carried unanimously.

Thrun Policies

- Moved by Quick, supported by Henne, to adopt Thrun policy 4503-R Performance Evaluation. This policy addresses RSC Section 1249 and 1249b amendments regarding administrator evaluation. This policy will replace current policy 1420 School Administrator Evaluation. Adoption of this policy will not go into effect until July 1, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Easlick, to adopt Thrun policy 4409-R Non-Renewal, to include language under section A; 3; a & b; *“Non-Teaching Professionals who are not subject to the Teachers’ Tenure Act are subject to 4 years of probationary service and may be non-renewed or terminated at-will by the Board; and after 4 years, the non-probationary Non-teaching Professional may be non-renewed or terminated for any reason that is not arbitrary or capricious, subject to due process.”* Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Henne, to adopt Thrun policies 4404 & 4504 - Performance Based Compensation, for administrators and professional staff. These policies address the repeal of RSC Section 1250 and amendment to SSAA Section 164h regarding teacher merit pay. Motion carried unanimously.

Retainer- School Attorney

- Moved by Quick, supported by Henne, to resolve that the Board of Education retain Thrun Law Firm, P.C., as the District’s attorney. Secretary Krauss conducted a roll-call vote; Trustee Easlick, Trustee Henne, Treasurer Quick, Secretary Krauss, President

Mowen, Vice President Webster voted aye, Trustee Ochodnický voted nay. Motion carried in 6-1 vote. Trustee Ochodnický added that she will continue to vote nay on this item until the Board researches other options for an attorney.

Board Comments

Trustee Henne thanked central office staff for keeping the district running while the Board searches for a superintendent. He thinks the Board has a great plan and has full confidence in MASB to aid the district in the search.

Trustee Ochodnický informed the Board that there was a community member question regarding a 'buy-out package' for Dr. Tuttle. She would like it on the record that Dr. Tuttle did not have a buy-out package. She appreciates the discussion tonight.

Vice President Webster apologized for not being present at the last two meetings, as she had travel plans that could not be rearranged. She is looking forward to the process of the search and is confident the Board will find a great candidate for the district.

Secretary Krauss thanked Mr. Schulte for stepping in as the interim superintendent. He thanked central office staff for all their hard work over the last couple of weeks. He is looking forward to the superintendent interviews.

Treasurer Quick thanked MASB for their communication and diligence in the search process. She appreciates the discussion tonight.

Trustee Easlick thanked Mr. Schulte and the RESD for providing the district with an interim superintendent. He thanked administrative assistant Ms. Brooke Barber for her hard work during the search process. He is looking forward to the superintendent interviews.

President Mowen thanked Mr. Brooks and all administrative staff for their hard work in the absence of a CFO and superintendent. He thanked Mr. Schulte for agreeing to be the interim superintendent.

Public Participation

President Mowen stated that the Board of Education is a public body and recognizes the value of public comment on education issues. Time has been included in the meeting's agenda for public participation. Members of the audience were reminded 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.

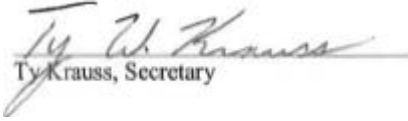
No participants addressed the Board.

Adjournment

Moved by Webster, supported by Quick to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,


Ty Krauss, Secretary