

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Regular Meeting
August 24, 2022
Report 22-29

Present: Sarah Keyes, Ty Krauss, Rick Mowen, Shelly Ochodnick, Olga Quick, Marlene Webster

Absent: Adam Easlick

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

Board Correspondence

Dr. Tuttle informed the Board the summer has been busy with preparation for the school year. This year, the theme is “All In For One Another”; the intention is to reconnect staff, students, and Owosso team members and facilitate the building of relationships in a positive environment. The Positive Culture Committee met throughout the summer to set the table for success for the year and get a head-start on ideas for nurturing positive cultures in each building. Instructional Leadership Council has also begun their meetings to ensure everyone is on the same page as far as curriculum, instruction, and expectations. They will continue to meet throughout the year. New Teacher Orientation was held on August 11, led by Curriculum Director Mr. Steve Brooks and Mrs. Karen Michalec. The teachers had a nice breakfast and met each other, the building administrators, and participated in some introductory activities at Fortitude Fitness Center. Instructional Leadership Council meetings and staff meetings occurred to set expectations for the year. Opening Day and Professional Development for all district staff took place on August 16 in which everyone watched the documentary ‘Bully’ together in the Performing Arts Center and then went to four sessions of various team-building activities conducted by administrators. The OPS Community Pep Rally was held on August 17 at Willman Field and was so well attended the food stand ran out of food within twenty-five minutes. Dr. Tuttle thanked the YMCA for their partnership and applauded the OPS team for running an organized, well-received event. A new event this year was the “Littlest Trojan Bus Orientation”. This was a practice route for the kindergarteners so they could familiarize themselves with the bus routine, the drivers, liaison officers, and staff. The district received many positive comments about the event and are planning to do it again next year. The first day of school went well and both staff and students seem happy to be back. Over the summer OPS food service served over 34,000 meals this summer, our food service staff is to be commended for their commitment and hard work to keep our kids and community fed.

Dr. Tuttle continued with a safety and security update. The district now has five liaison officers: Officer Fiebertz, Officer Stone, Officer Stockford, Officer Schmitz, and Officer Davis. They were introduced to staff during the opening days and received a warm reception.

Dr. Tuttle finished her report with an update on the facilities. Emerson's HVAC project continues to be on schedule. Air conditioning has been installed on the third floor and the whole building will have air conditioning by next summer. New AC units were installed at Bentley Bright Beginnings. The playgrounds at each building were completed this summer, including new rubber mulch that is safer for the children. The tennis court at Emerson was turned into a parking lot that has greatly alleviated much of the parking issues parents were having. The roof at Bryant is on schedule but that is a phased progression. Unfortunately, the district is still waiting on several ordered items: new doors, radios, and buses.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported Books at Bryant was a huge hit all summer, he thanked Culvers for their participation. 254 credits were completed at the high school and Lincoln. The district is already pursuing grants for summer school next year. The district is offering virtual learning this year and we have had many students and parents show interest. The district had 19 new teachers participate in New Teacher Orientation, Mr. Brooks thanked Mrs. Michalec for her help during the event. Currently, the district has forty students participating in the YMCA Learning Zone, a before and after school program. Students work on their homework, have lessons, and engage in social activities. Mr. Brooks finished his report by saying the Bryant Golf Outing had a record setting turn out and produced record setting funds as well.

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 public participants address the board.

For Action

- Moved by Webster, Supported by Keyes, to approve the July 27, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes, the current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Krauss, to approve the tax levy (L-4029) for 2022 as presented and as discussed during the Budget hearing at the regularly scheduled board meeting on June 27th. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes, supported by Webster, to renew the contract with Baker College for Adult Education services for the fiscal year 2022-23 and authorize the Superintendent to sign the contract on behalf of the District. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Quick, supported by Keyes, to authorize the Owosso Public School's Technology department to dispose of miscellaneous outdated and/or broken technology equipment. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Keyes, to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso High School Engineering student, Wyatt Boggs a SkillsUSA MI supervised trip to Washington DC September 17-21, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Krauss, supported by Keyes, to approve the hiring of the following certified staff: Jeff Gregory – Owosso Middle School Computers, Amy Daenzer – Central Elementary Special Education, Jessica Draper – Owosso High School Vocal Music. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board will be asked to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso Middle School 8th grade students and staff on a Washington D.C. trip, to the Capital of the United States on April 26-28 in the year 2023.
- The Board will be asked to approve Navigate 360 to provide lessons and resources for mental health needs within the district.

For Information

- The Board reviewed the Purchase Agreement with Venture Inc.

Dr. Tuttle announced the following personnel changes:

Accepted Positions

- Drew Williams has accepted a Custodian II position at Owosso High School.
- Christian Herald has accepted the Student Facilitator position at Bryant Elementary.
- Jerry Benjamin has accepted the Skilled Trades, Plumber position.
- Leslie Palmer has accepted the Paraprofessional position at Bryant Elementary.
- Helen Habermehl has accepted a Paraprofessional position at Owosso Middle School.
- Jennifer Nemets has accepted a Food Service position at Bryant Elementary.
- Elizabeth Bukovick has accepted a Lead Cook II position at the 6-12 Campus.
- Mary Spencer has accepted a Food Service Worker position at Central Elementary.

- Stephanie Willett-O'Neil has accepted a Paraprofessional position at Owosso Middle School.
- Courtney Miller has accepted a Paraprofessional position at Emerson Elementary.
- Taylor Thompson has accepted a Paraprofessional position at Emerson Elementary.
- Jennifer Keiser has accepted a Paraprofessional position at Lincoln Alternative Education High School.
- Lauri Dahl has accepted a Paraprofessional position at Bryant Elementary.
- Margaret O'Brien has accepted a Bus Driver position and Monitor position at Bryant Elementary.
- Peggy Stevens has accepted a Monitor position at Bryant Elementary.
- Racheal Metzger has accepted a Monitor position at Bryant Elementary.
- Robin Nevins has accepted a Paraprofessional position at Emerson Elementary.

Resignations

- Julia Willhite, Spanish Teacher at Owosso Middle School has resigned.
- Stephanie Jordan, Third Grade Teacher at Bryant Elementary has resigned.
- Chelsea Mishler, Paraprofessional at Bryant Elementary has resigned.
- Tracy Smith, Food Service Worker at Bryant Elementary has submitted her resignation/retirement.
- Brenda Tomlinson, Paraprofessional at Bryant Elementary has resigned.
- Samantha Pearce, Food Service Worker at Owosso High School has resigned.
- Carlene Munroe, Food Service Worker at Bryant Elementary has resigned.
- Vanassa Shapas Lead Cook II at Owosso High School has resigned.
- Ben Cobb, Maintenance/Grounds resigned.

Public Participation

No public participants addressed the Board.

Board Comments

Vice President Ochodnicky thanked district staff for working with students throughout the summer. She appreciates the relationships staff has built with members of the community. She loved the practice bus route for the kindergarteners and heard great feedback from families. She welcomed the nineteen new teachers and wish everybody a great year. She ended her comments by thanking Mr. Brooks for his availability and willingness to answer questions.

Secretary Webster thanked staff for their hard work during the summer. She also thanked Dr. Tuttle for her leadership and commitment to the district.

Trustee Quick expressed her gratitude for the great progress happening in the district; particularly the additional liaison officers, the summer school success, and the actions the district is taking to welcome students and build connections. She thanked all district staff for their hard work.

Treasurer Keyes commended Julie for her work on the budget and the great audit results. She loved the pep rally and heard great feedback from parents and kids. She enjoyed all the positivity and pride, she felt everyone was excited to get the year started.

Trustee Krauss thanked district staff for their work during the summer and wished everyone good luck for the school year.

President Mowen commended staff and students for a job well done during summer school. He is grateful for the extra safety and security the additional liaison officers provide. He thanked the Board for their participation in the Board self-assessment survey.

Upcoming Dates

- **September 14:** Board of Education, Committee of the Whole, 5:30pm, Washington Campus Gymnasium
- **September 28:** Board of Education Regular Meeting: 5:30 pm, Washington Campus Gymnasium
- **September 2-5:** Labor Day Recess

Adjournment

Moved by Quick, supported by Keyes to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marlene Webster", is written over a horizontal line.

Marlene Webster, Secretary