

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**March 8, 2023**  
**Report 22-109**

Present: Adam Easlick, Nick Henne, Ty Krauss, Shelly Ochodnicky, Marlene Webster, Olga Quick

Absent: Rick Mowen

Vice President Marlene Webster 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**

No building reports were given.

**Board Correspondence**

Dr. Tuttle reported that the Owosso Middle School and Owosso High School choir and band performances were last week and had incredible turn out; at one performance every seat in the 1,000-seat auditorium was taken. Dr. Tuttle said it has been a joy to watch Owosso's talented students perform in such a beautiful, professional facility. The Michigan School Vocal Music State Choral Festival took place on March 6 and 7, and four out of five of the choirs received outstanding scores of straight ones. Dr. Tuttle applauded the students for their hard work and beautiful performances. Dr. Tuttle also reminded the Board that Owosso High School is hosting Band Festival from March 10 through March 11. She thanked everyone for attending the performances and supporting the kids. Kindergarten registration is this week, March 6 through March 10. Community Education Director Mrs. Jess Thompson created a fantastic advertisement booklet so our Owosso families stay informed about the opportunities Owosso schools offer their children, starting in Kindergarten. Unfortunately, the Kindergarten Extravaganza planned by the elementary schools was cancelled twice due to weather, but there has still been great turnout for registration. Boys Varsity Basketball had a district competition on Monday March 6. Dr. Tuttle said that although Owosso lost by four points the team played great and the game was fun to watch. She commended the athletes for a well-played game. Lincoln Alternative High School also began their spring sports season with a basketball game on March 3. The students played an excellent game and staff members and their classmates went down to the gym to support them. Dr. Tuttle said that at the Board Workshop in February the Board had brainstormed on a strategic plan for the district. Dr. Tuttle gave each member a copy of the draft strategic plan in pamphlet form. The Board will see the final product at the next Board meeting in March. Dr. Tuttle reported that the SkillsUSA regional competition took place at Saginaw Valley State University the first week of March. The competitions included demonstrations in Carpentry, Pin Design

Leadership, Job Skills, Technical Drafting and more. Dr. Tuttle wished good luck to Kloe Hayes, Ashton White, and Wyatt Boggs who applied for the State Officer position with SkillsUSA. She thanked all those who competed for stepping out of their comfort zone and representing their school district well. Bryant Elementary School students spent their time making cards for the Michigan State University Police Department last week to thank them and show support for first responders. The MSP department decorated the station's hallways with the cards and thanked the students for their kind thoughts. Dr. Tuttle also gave congratulations to bowlers Lily Kelley, Zoie Brandt, and Camden Caswell for their performance at MHS regional competition. Dr. Tuttle finished her report by informing the Board that the district is using a grant to purchase emergency bins for classrooms, buses, and any area where students congregate (cafes, libraries, etc). The emergency bins will be packed with items such as first aid kits, blankets, bottled water, battery packs, phone chargers, non-perishable food items, etc. The purpose of these bins is to provide emergency materials in the case of a lockdown that lasts several hours. All the materials will be arriving in the next couple of weeks and then distributed amongst the buildings.

Curriculum Director Mr. Brooks wished good luck to the students competing at the Future Farmers of America State Competition today and tomorrow. Gracie Meyer, Ashley Squires, Hannah Hart and Sam Nethaway will all be competing and showing off their skills. Mr. Brooks reported the district is continuing to provide excellent professional development opportunities for staff members. Dr. Taylor will be here this week to provide support for some of our newer teachers. Staff is currently preparing for summer school. The district provides a robust summer school program and Mr. Brooks expects to have even more students participate this year. Mr. Brooks reported that assessment season begins on April 12, this includes PSAT, SAT, and MSTEP. There is a lot of preparation to ensure that students have everything they need to begin testing. Mr. Brooks finished his report by commending International Baccalaureate Coordinator Mr. Lance Little and the Instructional Leadership Council. IB will be conducting an audit in December 2023 and Mr. Little and the ILC has been instrumental in ensuring that documents, assessments, policies and procedures are all up to IB's standard.

### **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 addressed the board.

### **For Action**

- Moved by Easlick, supported by Henne, to approve the January 25, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, the January 25, 2023 Closed Session Minutes, the February 8, 2023

committee meeting minutes, and the current bills and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Quick, supported by Krauss, to adopt revised policies ‘6610-Grant Funds’, ‘6114-Cost Principals’, ‘6325-Procurement-Federal Grants/Funds’, ‘6460-Vendor Relations’, ‘5160-Emergency Removal, Suspension, and Expulsion of Students’, and new policy ‘6108-Authorization to Use Electronic Fund Transfers and Automated Clearing House Arrangements’. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick approve the out-of-state travel for the Owosso High School Engineering Students to the SkillsUSA National Skills and Leadership Conference in Atlanta, GA from June 18, 2023 through June 24, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso High School Choir students and teacher Jessica Draper on a trip to New York City, NY March 22-25, 2023.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Ochodnický, to adopt the Budget Revision #1 resolutions for the 2022-23 appropriations for the General, School Service and Sinking funds as presented at the January 25, 2023 regularly scheduled board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Krauss to authorize the Superintendent to sign off on the easement to allow Consumers Energy to route new electrical services at Emerson Elementary School. Motion carried unanimously.

### **For Future Action**

- The Board will be asked to adopt the accompanying resolution authorizing and directing the Superintendent or designee to sign the Lawsuit settlement documents pertaining to the Juul Defendants on behalf of the District and to take such action regarding the settlement as necessary, subject to review and approval by the District’s legal counsel. This will allow the District to complete its part in the litigation against Juul.

### **For Information**

Dr. Tuttle announced the following personnel changes:

### **Accepted Positions**

- Lewis Ward has accepted the Custodian II position at Owosso High School.
- Russell Thomley has accepted the Sub Custodian position.
- Vicky Swan has accepted the Food Service position at Emerson Elementary.
- Gabrielle Smith has accepted the Food Service position at Bryant Elementary.
- Anna Meyer has accepted the Executive Secretary position at Lincoln Alternative High School.
- Kathleen Guth has accepted the Lunch Monitor position at Bryant Elementary.
- Racheal Bailey has accepted the Office Secretary position at Emerson Elementary.

### **Resignations**

- Sandy Klapko, Executive Secretary at Lincoln Alternative High School has resigned effective February 10, 2023
- Kerby Vogl, Secretary at Emerson Elementary has resigned effective February 10, 2023
- Fred VanNewkirk, Custodian at Owosso Middle School has resigned effective February 3, 2023
- Jennifer Keiser, Paraprofessional at Lincoln Alternative High School has resigned effective March 10, 2023
- Kelly Kline, Media Center Aide at Central Elementary has resigned effective March 9, 2023

### **Public Participation**

No public participants addressed the Board.

### **Board Comments**

Trustee Henne thanked Mr. John Klapko for his information during the district facilities tour. Trustee Henne also voiced his support for new transportation and maintenance facilities; he said an investment like that is important in hiring new staff and retaining employees.

Trustee Easlick said he was able to attend several events this week with his family. He is amazed by the amount of talent this district has and the students are so impressive. Trustee Easlick gave a special shout-out to student Isaac Feldspach for his performance in Billy Elliot at the Lebowsky. He also commended the secondary band and choirs for fantastic performances.

Treasurer Quick congratulated the choirs for their performance at the choral festival. She said the district is looking for volunteers for the band festival this weekend. She is looking forward to the performances. Treasurer Quick ended her comments by saying the Owosso postcards that have been introduced this year have been fantastic and she has personally seen the positive reactions to these postcards being sent between staff members and students.

Trustee Ochodnick reported she had the opportunity to visit classrooms and talk to students about the Homeless Angels, awareness about homelessness in Owosso, and what the shelter provides for the community. She said the kids were all engaged, respectful and had great questions. She also congratulated girls' basketball for their recent win. She ended her comments by saying she was sad to see Ms. Kerby Vogl resign and that will be a big loss to the district.

Secretary Krauss gave thanks and praise to the school district. His daughter recently completed her undergraduate degree and he appreciates the opportunities and education his daughter received while attending Owosso.

Vice President Webster used her comments to bring awareness to the mental health of our youngest students. She said that while the basics are important, we need to ensure that we are providing emotional support to our students who are struggling. She thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting.

### Upcoming Dates

- **March 6-10:** Kindergarten Registration, Elementary Buildings
- **March 8-10:** Future Farmers of America State Conference, Michigan State University
- **March 9:** OHS Dodgeball, 7:00pm, OHS Gym
- **March 9-12:** Business Professionals of America State Conference, Grand Rapids
- **March 10-11:** OMS/OHS Band Festival, All day, PAC
- **March 14:** OHS NHS Inductions, 6:00pm, PAC
- **March 20:** OHS Cornhole, 7:00pm, OHS Gym
- **March 24-31:** Spring Break Recess

### Adjournment

Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnicky, to adjourn at 6:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Ty Krauss, Secretary