

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education Minutes

Committee of the Whole

April 11, 2022

Report 21-

Present: Adam Easlick, Ty Krauss, Rick Mowen, Shelly Ochodnicky, Olga Quick

Absent: Marlene Webster, Sarah Keyes

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

ESSER II, III, and Sinking Fund

Dr. Tuttle began with an update on Sinking Fund projects. The district is currently waiting on bids for the Bryant roof, window renovations, and Emerson's basketball and tennis courts. The bids for the replacement doors came in much lower than anticipated, with a bid of \$440,000. The sum of those projects is an estimated \$1,250,000. The bathroom air quality renovations were completed this summer, using ESSER II funds. Dr. Tuttle said the District would like to purchase five leased busses that are coming up this year using ESSER II funds and depending on the remaining funds, the District would like to purchase as least one additional bus. Continuing with ESSER II funds, Dr. Tuttle said the technology department purchased new one-to-one devices for all secondary level students and some funds were allocated for COVID supplies. The 2021-22 3% off-schedule payment is an estimated \$750,000 out of ESSER II funds. If the Board approves the therapy dogs, the funding source will be both ESSER II and III funds; the district is looking to purchase six dogs total. Dr. Tuttle continued with ESSER III funds; HVAC at Emerson was approved by the Board earlier in the year, the therapy dogs, and the remainder for learning loss. Trustee Krauss asked what the benefit is of purchasing the buses as opposed to continuing the lease. Dr. Tuttle replied to Trustee Krauss that the buses have served the District well and the cost to purchase them would be based on when the buses were first acquired, which would be more cost effective then continuing the lease. Vice President Ochodnicky asked for an update on additional liaison officers. Dr. Tuttle responded that CFO Omer wrote a grant which the District hopes to use for two additional liaison officers; the District is currently working with Chief Lenkart on this matter. No more questions were asked by the Board.

County-Wide Calendar

Dr. Tuttle stated that by statue, every school district in the county must follow the county-wide calendar. This calendar includes three dates: the first day of school, winter-break, and spring-break. OPS has always followed the county-wide calendar except for the years when the District has had on-going construction. This year, the county wrote a waiver to start on August 18 to follow the Lansing Community College calendar. The only choices the District has is to start on August 18 or submit a waiver to the county-wide waiver to start the day after Labor Day. Dr. Tuttle stated as of now, the District plans to start school on August 18.

Middle School

Dr. Tuttle stated that over spring break, maintenance staff and volunteer staff cleaned out the old middle school facility on Water Street. The clean-up crew did a phenomenal job, and the facility looks great. Dr. Tuttle said anything that was of any value was saved and any useless material was scrapped.

Dr. Tuttle stated the District is still working with Spicer Group and FEMA to redraw the map to show that the building is not in the floodplain. The next step is to receive a letter of map revision before the map can be redrawn, and the District is expecting significant progress in the following months. Dr. Tuttle said once the map is redrawn the building will go up for bid.

Kingscott

Dr. Tuttle stated moving into litigation with Kingscott will be extremely pricey, and the District would like to avoid that at all costs. The hope is that Kingscott will produce an offer in mediation, however the District should be prepared for litigation if necessary.

Principal at Bryant

At the next Board meeting, Dr. Tuttle will be bringing a recommendation to the Board to hire Mr. Taylor Sergent as the new principal of Bryant elementary. Mr. Sergent will be finishing his master's degree in administration in May. His position as principal will not begin until July 1.

Principal at Lincoln

At the next Board meeting, Dr. Tuttle will be bringing a recommendation to the Board to hire Mrs. Carrie Rugenstein as the new principal of Lincoln Alternative High School. Dr. Tuttle said she would like to forego the interview process for Mrs. Rugenstein as she is currently serving in the position in the interim, she has been in the OPS District for a long time and is highly respected amongst students and staff. Dr. Tuttle stated there is very little another candidate could bring to the table that Mrs. Rugenstein could not; Mrs. Rugenstein knows the District, the students and has been at Lincoln for several years. Dr. Tuttle encouraged the Board to let her know if they had any concerns about forgoing the interview process for this position.

Teacher/Staff Member of the Year (Michael Tolrud and Terry Carsten)

Dr. Tuttle said the Teacher and Staff Member of the Year awards were started three years ago, and she was delighted to present this year's awards to teacher Michael Tolrud and support staff member Terry Carsten. Both members received a bouquet of flowers and had their pictures taken, both are well respected in the OPS community. Dr. Tuttle shared there were numerous nominations this year.

Starfish Awards (Staff Recognition)

Dr. Tuttle shared that students who earn a GPA of 4.0 or higher have the opportunity to write a Starfish Award for the staff members that have impacted their lives the most. This year there are 27 students who have achieved this academic excellence and all 27 will be writing Starfish Awards.

KDG REG Update

Dr. Tuttle gave kudos to the elementary principals and their teams, Curriculum Director Mr. Brooks, and Community Education Director Mrs. Thompson for their tireless efforts to market the kindergarten registration week. Currently the District has 205 students registered for kindergarten, and the goal is to have 250 by the time the 2022 school year starts.

Assessments

Curriculum Director Mr. Brooks shared that this week is the start of MSTEP testing, third grade reading will begin first, and the results will be submitted back to the state before the other testing. PSAT 8,9 and SAT will take place Wednesday April 13 and Thursday April 14 at the secondary campus. Mr. Brooks gave special kudos to Mrs. Carrie Warning and the building principals for their preparation work.

YMCA/OPS Partnership

Mr. Brooks shared that OPS and the YMCA will be partnering to provide childcare. The YMCA has a grant in place that will help with childcare needs. The YMCA will oversee hiring staff, the registration, and the fees that will be charged to the families. OPS is responsible for providing the space for the YMCA to use and those spaces will be the multi-purpose room at Emerson, the gymnasium, and the music room.

Public Participation

President Rick Mowen announced the Board of Education is a public body and recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues. Time was included in the meeting's agenda for public participation. Members of the audience should announce their name and group affiliation when applicable and 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.

The following individuals addressed the Board:

- Nola Dockery

Board Comments

Trustee Easlick commented it is a busy time for his family as they are preparing for their senior child to graduate. He ended his comments by saying he thinks the YMCA partnership is a great idea and will be useful to many families in the community.

Trustee Quick commented she is excited about all the great things happening in the District and she is grateful OPS staff gets to be celebrated with recognition such as the Starfish Award.

Vice President Ochodnický commented she is excited about the partnership with the YMCA and commended all the staff involved in getting this partnership started. She said this will be a wonderful resource for OPS families and a good start in moving forward. She ended her comments by saying she is glad things are getting back to normal.

Trustee Krauss thanked the staff involved in the preparation for testing season. He also thanked Dr. Tuttle, CFO Omer, and Curriculum Director Mr. Brooks for keeping the Board well informed.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

- April 25, 2022: Board of Education Meeting, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Gymnasium
- May 9, 2022: Committee of the Whole, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Gymnasium

- May 23, 2022: Board of Education Meeting, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Conference Room

Important Upcoming Dates

- April 20: OHS Blue & Gold Awards, 6:00pm, PAC
- April 23: Prom, 7:00pm, Z Hall
- May 16: OHS Athletic Awards, 7:00pm, PAC
- May 17: OHS Honor Convocation, 7:00pm, PAC
- May 18: LHS Graduation, 7:00pm, location TBA
- May 19: OHS Commencement, 7:00pm, Willman Field
- May 21: OMS 8th Grade Awards, 6:00pm, PAC
- June 1: OPS Job Fair, 4:00pm, PAC

Adjournment

Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick to adjourn at 6:13 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Webster

Marlene Webster, Secretary