

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Workshop Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2019
Report 18-118

President Jenc called the Board of Education Workshop Meeting to order at 5:00 pm. The meeting was held at the Fortitude Outdoor Fitness, 4377 S. M-52, Owosso, MI 48867.

Present: Tim Jenc, Sara Keyes, Ty Krauss, Rick Mowen, Olga Quick, Shelly Ochodnicky, and Marlene Webster
Absent: All members were in attendance

Pledge of Allegiance

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.

Team Activity

Members of the Board engaged in a team building activity facilitated by Owosso High School teacher Kristen Bratschi. Superintendent Tuttle explained that the activity was to help the Board understand how outcomes are unique to each student even when receiving the same instruction. The activity required the participants to be risk-takers and move outside their comfort zone, something that students are asked to do every day.

Mona Lisa Smiles

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle displayed two separate clips from the movie "Mona Lisa Smiles" to demonstrate the difference between a 20th and 21st century education. After reviewing the clips, it was clear that 21st century educators are facilitators not teachers. The biggest difference between the two is the placement of the problem statement or the essential question that is asked of students. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated with a 21st century education, teachers do not need to have all of the answers to questions or problems, but should model how students can obtain the answers.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reviewed the IB Propensities with the Board. IB learners strive to be inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective. She informed the Board that Owosso Public Schools focuses on relationships, opportunities, engagement, relevancy, and rigor.

Shiawassee County's Median Household Income

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle referenced an MLive article from her February 8, 2019 Friday Letter. The article provided statewide demographic information. She remarked that the data is quite startling, specifically where Owosso falls demographically. The data is not great news for Owosso, but it further showcases how well the District performs educationally when you consider all the factors working against us. Owosso has the lowest median income for families with kids in the county. The data indicates that 20% of Owosso's population lives in poverty and 58% of the households with kids have two parents. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that her point in sharing the information is to show that in spite of these factors, the District continues to win awards that take into account these elements. In addition, Owosso Public Schools has the highest graduation rates in the county and this is partially due to the opportunities at Lincoln High School.

Thoughts on What We Do Better

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle asked the Board to reflect on areas they feel we can do better as a District. Members of the Board shared their thoughts on what we are good at and areas they feel could improve.

Bond

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle announced that a ground breaking ceremony for the secondary campus will take place on Friday, March 1 at 4 pm at the high school (weather permitting). Friday, March 15 at 4 pm is the makeup date.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle shared the most recent dates for the bond bids and when they will be presented to the Board for their approval. The Board was asked to review the dates and make note of Board meeting date changes.

Sinking Fund Proposed Timeline

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle shared a proposed timeline for the high school access drive and bus facility preliminary schedule.

Security Grant Proposed Timeline

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle shared the proposed Security Grant timeline for when the card readers would be presented to the Board for approval. She explained that they are still working on the safety film/glass portion of the grant.

Owosso Middle School

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that a company that has expressed possible interest in the middle school is scheduled to tour the building on February 11. She stated that the City of Owosso may also have an interest in the building.

SMART Hour/Hybrid Classes

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle announced that she is still holding discussions about the possibility of SMART Hour/Hybrid classes at Owosso High School. She stated that Steve Brooks has been working with social workers about student behavior issues and how the SMART Hour concept could benefit these students.

Legislative Breakfast

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that the annual Mid-Michigan Legislative Breakfast will take place on Friday, April 12 from 7-9 am at Hawk Hollow Golf & Conference Center. Board members need to inform Clara Pitt of their attendance by Friday, March 15.

County School Board Dinner

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reminded the Board that the annual Shiawassee County School Board Dinner and Meeting is on Wednesday, March 13 and will be held at D'Mar Banquet and Conference Center. Board members were asked to send their RSVP to Clara Pitt no later than Friday, March 1.

Bond Funds

Chief Financial Officer Julie Omer explained that there has not been a significant amount of changes to the bond funds. The interest earned on the funds has benefited the fund and there is about two million dollars more in the fund than expected.

Bond Meetings

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reminded the Board that they are always welcome to attend the weekly bond construction meetings that are held on Thursday.

Board Correspondence

Vice President Rick Mowen thanked Superintendent Dr. Tuttle for a fun evening. He stated that he enjoyed the creativity. Mr. Mowen commented that it is a real eye-opener when he reflects on his education and how education is approached now.

Trustee Olga Quick referenced the discussions that have been taking place in the community about the jail millage.

Trustee Olga Quick commented that in her job she deals with several school districts. She stated that the staff of Owosso Public Schools is very receptive and caring in comparison to other schools.

Trustee Sara Keyes inquired about the high school counselors and their roles with seniors.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicky expressed her appreciation for the District's staff and the many hours they put in above and beyond their normal work day.

President Tim Jenc commented that the team activity was a lot of fun.

Meeting Dates

- February 25: Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 pm – “For Action” (skipping For Future Action) for site and utility bids, “For Future Action” for foundation bids. Goal is to break ground in March 2019.
- March 11: Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 pm – “For Action” for foundation bids.
Note: No Committee of the Whole meeting in March. March 13: County School Board Dinner Meeting at D'Mar, 6 pm.
- March 13: County School Board Dinner Meeting at D'Mar, 6 pm
- April 1: New Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 pm – “For Future Action” – balance of secondary campus bids.
- April 8: Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 pm – “For Action” – balance of secondary campus bids.
Note: April 8 was originally scheduled for Committee of the Whole meeting.
- April 12: Legislative Breakfast at Hawk Hollow, 7 am
- April 22: Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5 pm (date was originally scheduled as a regular Board meeting)

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen, supported by Jenc to adjourn at 7:51 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary