

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
October 23, 2017
Report 17-43

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held in the media center located at Owosso High School, 765 E. North Street, Owosso, Michigan.

Present: Jenc, Krauss, Mowen, Paez, Webster
Absent: Keyes, Ochodnický (Motions of the Board of Education that were unanimous did not
Keyes or Ochodnický)

Pledge of Allegiance

President Jenc informed the Board of Education that the meeting's agenda had been amended to include the addition of a report for the recommendation of a new teacher hire and a revision to the Personnel Update report.

Building Reports

As part of the Celebrate Kids! Segment of the meeting, Superintendent Tuttle welcomed Central Elementary Principal Bridgit Spielman, third grade teacher Megan Friend and a few of her students for a presentation of the Our Safer World program. Mrs. Friend reported that her class has been working very hard to collect 400 pounds of used school supplies, which will be delivered over spring break to schools and orphanages in Haiti. For the past three years, Mrs. Friend's students have collaborated with Matt Gewirtz and Venture6 Studios of Bay City to help spread kindness to children in third world countries as part of Our Safer World, a corporate social responsibility group. Mrs. Friend commented that she is extremely fortunate to have been asked to travel with the company to Haiti over spring break and hand deliver the supplies to the children of Haiti.

Matt Gewirtz, Global Corporate Social Responsibility Specialist at Venture6 Studios explained that Our Safer World is a five-part film series that focuses on the safety and security of women and children in under developed countries. Mr. Gewirtz stated that his organization is honored to have worked with Mrs. Friend and her students over the past few years on their Kindness Projects, which have given back to the countries of Tanzania and Kenya. Mr. Gewirtz remarked that Mrs. Friend has represented Owosso Public Schools with great leadership and courage. He also thanked the Board of Education for allowing him to share his experience with Mrs. Friend and her third grade class on their Kindness Projects. Mr. Gewirtz displayed a preview of a video titled "Our Safer World: Uganda" and encouraged everyone to visit oursaferworld.com to view the full film.

Mrs. Friend introduced her third grade students Kai Miller, Cy Thompson, Evan Krawczyk, Anna Gobel, Ainsley Lintner, and Dylan Pauldine. The students shared what they have learned during their Travel Tuesday lessons and what helping the children of Haiti means to each of them.

Superintendent Tuttle thanked Mr. Gewirtz, Mrs. Friend, and her students for their presentations.

Vice President Rick Mowen expressed his utmost admiration to Mrs. Friend's students for the way they spoke and for the care and consideration they have for other people. He stated that he hopes their kindness carries with them throughout their lives.

Trustee Marlene Webster complimented Mrs. Friend and the parents of her students for raising such articulate and empathetic children.

President Tim Jenc praised Mrs. Friend and her students on a great job. He also mentioned that the Argus Press recently featured a news story about their acts of kindness.

Owosso High School student Lucy Popovitch announced that she was filling in for Andrew Pond as the Board of Education Student Representative. Lucy reported that Student Council has implemented some innovative initiatives that recognize new, long-standing, actively involved, and compassionate members of the organization. She informed the Board that Student Council members recently attended a leadership conference at Michigan State University and were provided different fundraising ideas. Student Council will host a sock-hop on November 3rd. The cost of admission to the dance is three-dollars per person or a pair of socks that will be donated to local homeless and women's shelters. Student Council has also implemented awareness month in an attempt to bring more awareness about current issues in the world. A specific topic will be focused on for an entire month and facts about will be shared with the student body each day during announcements. The topics will include sexual assault, diversity problems, bullying, texting and driving, etc.

Lucy Popovitch reported that homecoming was very successful and over 700 students attended the dance. Members of the homecoming court were Daniel Clevenger, Andrew Dallas, Andrew Pond, Eamon McClintock, Anna Raffaelli, Katelyn Kincaid, Brittany Barone, and Elissa Chavora. Mallory Ireland was crowned Homecoming Queen and Homecoming King was Nick Porter.

Lucy Popovitch announced that planning has begun for the annual Owosso Cares Food Drive and winter formal. She stated that Student Council is also very excited about their new fund raising efforts.

In recognition of National Principals Month, Superintendent Tuttle remarked that it takes a village and several different types of personalities to make a school district great. Owosso Public Schools is very fortunate to have outstanding administrators with an average tenure of 12 years in the District. In addition, each administrator lives in Owosso and are #allin4owosso. Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that two years ago the administrative team was assigned a task to read the book titled "What Great Principals Do Differently: Fifteen Things That Matter Most." She stated that each administrator brings something unique and different to the table, which makes the team awesome. Using the book as a guide, Superintendent Tuttle shared the qualities and practices that distinguish each administrator from the other. Superintendent Tuttle formally recognized Julie Omer, Chief Financial Officer; Terry Sedlar, Emerson Elementary Principal; Karen Van Epps, Owosso High School Assistant Principal; Cathy Dwyer, Owosso Middle School Assistant Principal; Steve Brooks, Bryant Elementary Principal; Jeff Phillips, Owosso High School Principal; Amanda Rowell, Bentley Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Director; Bridgit Spielman, Central Elementary Principal; John Klapko, Director of Operations and Food Service Director; Rich Collins, Owosso Middle School Principal; Randy Miller, Director of Technology; Dallas Lintner, Athletic Director; Steve DeLong, Transportation Director; Jessica Thompson, Community Education Director; and Steve Ireland, Lincoln High School Principal.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Tuttle reminded everyone of the bond proposal on November 7th.

Superintendent Tuttle stated that Veterans Day will be celebrated throughout the District on November 10th with various programs and events. In past years approximately 250 veterans have participated in the celebrations.

Superintendent Tuttle acknowledged that the varsity football record has not been great; however, the character of the coaching staff, players, and fans has been delightful to witness. She recognized OHS senior Rocky Brant for his school spirit and attendance at all of the games in spite of his disability. Coach Devin Pringle was praised by Superintendent Tuttle for allowing Rocky to participate in two plays during the final varsity home football game against Linden High School. Superintendent Tuttle commented that these are the type of things that sets Owosso apart from other schools and sets the tone for a wonderful school district.

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.

Tom Manke of the Friends and Community News Group commented that he doesn't know when it occurred in school history, but schools are rated based on their sports and after-school programs rather than academics. He expressed his frustration with people in the community that are more focused on sports teams winning when they should be fun after-school events. These people are not as compelled to be as interested in the school. He stated that sports are great in schools but have to be kept in a balanced atmosphere. The focus should be on academics. Mr. Manke applauded the OPS coaching staff, administrators, and teachers for everything that they do for students.

For Action

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to approve the September 25, 2017 regular meeting minutes, October 9, 2017 Board workshop minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to approve the out-of-state travel by Owosso High School students to attend an Art Tour of New York City on March 14-17, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Paez to approve the audit report for the 2016-17 school year. Superintendent Tuttle thanked CFO Julie Omer for the very positive audit and the staff of OPS for helping the District achieve close to a 13% fund balance. Mr. Dave Raeck of Maner Costerisan, P.C. reported that their report indicates an unmodified opinion on the financial statements. There were no internal control issues identified and no compliance issues were identified for the year ending June 30, 2017. He remarked that the financial statements were properly presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The general fund balance was \$3,911,650 for the year ending June 30, 2017. The food service balance was \$241,083 for the year ending June 30, 2017. The sinking fund balance was \$3,041,039 for the year ending June 30, 2017. The capital projects fund balance was \$90,439 as of June 30, 2017. Mr. Raeck reported that there is a projected budget deficit for the year ending June 30, 2018, which would drop the fund balance down to 7%. Mr. Raeck commented that general concerns for school districts across the state is the challenge to maintain a fund balance between 10% to 15%, uncertainty of state aid increases, declining enrollment, retirement and health care costs, and the continuation of mandated curriculum modifications. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Krauss to approve the out-of-state travel by Owosso High School students to attend and compete in the VEI Midwest Trade Show in Pigeon Forge, TN on November 19-22, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Jenc to approve the hiring of certified staff member Theresa Terry as an Owosso High School Science Teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Operations Department to dispose of a 1995 Chevrolet ¾ ton pickup truck as an obsolete vehicle.

For Information

Superintendent Tuttle provided the Board with a personnel update. She reported that Barbara Waldorf has accepted the Food Service Lead Cook I position at Emerson Elementary. Andrea Savage has accepted the 7-hour Food Service Worker position at Owosso High School. Nathan Struble has accepted the Bus Driver position. Melissa Brecht has accepted the Monitor position at Bentley Bright Beginnings.

Amanda Zelenka has accepted the Special Education Paraprofessional position at Emerson Elementary. Cloe Kregger has accepted the Special Education Paraprofessional position at Owosso Middle School. Eric Murray, Owosso High School Science Teacher has submitted his resignation to accept other employment.

Public Participation

There were no comments from the public.

Board Member Comments/Updates

Trustee Marlene Webster reminded everyone that the Alliance for Drug Free Shiawassee will hold an action planning meeting on November 4, 2017. She stated that the group is looking for people from different sectors within the community to participate. Mrs. Webster commented that she is looking forward to passing a bond on November 7th.

Treasurer Cheryl Paez thanked principals and administrators for everything they do each day. She applauded the alumni band for their wonderful performance at the homecoming game and hopes the tradition continues.

Vice President Mowen stated that Owosso Public Schools is truly blessed for its greatness on the athletic fields and in its classrooms, regardless of wins or losses. He praised the dedication of staff and students for their sportsmanship which he has observed first hand. He stated that sportsmanship can be taught, but believes that it is learned in the home. Mr. Mowen remarked that he is very proud to be a part of Owosso Public Schools.

President Jenc echoed Mrs. Paez's comments about the District's principals and administrators. He also applauded Chief Financial Officer Julie Omer for continually doing a great job on the annual financial audit report and never having any issues identified by the auditors.

Trustee Ty Krauss thanked the administrative team for doing a fantastic job. He praised Owosso Public Schools for their excellent impact marketing of the Today's Trojan circular. The circular is exactly what is needed to help the OPS community understand what is occurring in the District. Mr. Krauss remarked that he hopes the District continues to publish and distribute the circular.

President Jenc commented that he placed a few of the Today's Trojan at his son's workplace and when he returned three days later they were all gone. He also agreed that this is an excellent marketing tool.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

November 13: Board Subcommittee Meetings, 5 and 6 pm

November 27: Regular Board Meeting, 7 pm

Important Upcoming Dates:

October 24: OMS Choir Concert, 7 pm

October 25: OHS Band Concert, 7 pm

October 26: Half Day of School for Elementary Only: Afternoon & Evening Parent Teacher Conferences

October 27: End of Marking Period

October 30: Spooky Science Night at all Elementary Buildings, 5:30 pm

October 31: Half Day of School for All Students: Teacher Work Day

October 31: LHS Community Breakfast, 7:45 am

October 31: Bentley Bright Beginnings Parent/Child Day, 10 am – 12 pm

November 1: OMS Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5-8 pm

November 1: OHS Dodgeball Tournament, 7 pm

November 2: OMS and OHS Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5-8 pm

November 3: OHS Sock Hop, 7 pm

November 4: OHS Princess Tea, 2 pm
November 4: 300 Club Sports Boosters Party, 7 pm
November 6: OHS Band Banquet, 6:30 pm
November 7: No School: Election Day
November 8: OHS Trojan Spectacular, 7 pm
November 9: OHS Mr. Wonderful Contest, 7 pm
November 10: OMS Fun Night, 3 pm
November 11: Band Boosters Craft Show at OHS, 10 am – 4 pm
November 17-18: Beauty & the Beast Live Performance at OHS, 7 pm
November 19: Beauty & the Beast Live Performance at OHS, 2 pm
November 20: LHS 2nd Trimester Begins
November 21: Half day of School for All Students: Professional Development in PM
November 21: LHS Community Breakfast, 7:45 am
November 21: OHS Winter Sports Parent Night, 6 pm
November 22-24: No School: Thanksgiving Recess

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to adjourn at 7:59 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicki, Secretary