

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
November 26, 2018
Report 18-64

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:30 pm. The meeting was held in the media center located at Owosso High School, 765 E. North Street, Owosso, Michigan.

Present: Jenc, Keyes, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnicki, Paez, Webster

Absent: All members were present

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

President Jenc announced that the Celebrate Kids presentation will not take place because school was canceled that day due to inclement weather.

Mr. John Klapko, Director of Operations recognized retiree Terry Hoenshell. Mr. Hoenshell served as the Day Custodian at Emerson Elementary and is retiring after 17 years of service to the District. Emerson Elementary Principal Jessica Anderson commented that Mr. Hoenshell will be very missed by her students.

Superintendent Tuttle shared Board of Education Student Representative Cayden Whiteherse's report with the Board. Cayden's report stated that Student Government hopes that everyone had a great Thanksgiving Break and is feeling refreshed and ready to finish first semester. This is the time of year that is full of festivities and opportunities for giving. The rest of the 2018 year will be filled with initiatives for the Owosso Cares Food Drive. Student Government is working on some new plans for helping out with the Owosso Cares Food Drive. All proceeds will be donated directly to Owosso Public Schools students through the Backpack program, and all non-perishable food will be donated to different food banks in our community.

The official kick-off for the Owosso High School Canned Food Drive is December 3rd with an afternoon pep assembly. At the assembly, students will hear about all of the awesome opportunities during the month of December. One opportunity will take place on November 27th, Student Government will be doing a 50/50 raffle during the triple header boys' basketball game. Additional activities will take place in December as follows:

- December 11: Chili Cook-Off and Cupcake Cook-Off Competition. This will take place in the OHS cafeteria from 4-7 pm with a cost of \$8 to taste test both the chili and cupcakes.
- December 13: Painting with a Twist. This will take place in OHS Room 215 beginning at 3 pm.
- December 14: Movie Day in the OHS auditorium from 5th – 7th hours.
- December 18: Pasta Bar Dinner – This event is open to the public and will be held in the OHS cafeteria from 5-7 pm. The cost is \$7 per person. Music will be provided by the Madrigals.

While these events are taking place, OHS will host a Spirit Week to help students stay in the holiday spirit and the spirit of giving. Spirit Week(s) will begin on December 4th and go until December 14th with a different theme each day.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reported that the District received approximately \$80,000 in a technology grant. The grant funds will be used to purchase new Chromebooks for the Freshmen Class. Chromebooks from the graduating class that are still in good condition will be used to replace broken Chromebooks at the middle school and elementary levels and ensure that all of the Chromebook carts

contain working Chromebooks. If there are more working Chromebooks than needed to fill existing middle school and elementary carts, additional carts will be purchased and filled with the additional working Chromebooks.

Superintendent Tuttle stated that Bond updates have been shared with the Board during Committee of the Whole meetings. She announced that it is her intent to have the architects and construction managers provide updates on the secondary campus during the January or February Board meetings. The bond process is moving quickly and a multitude of decisions are being made on a weekly basis. The bond construction at the elementary buildings is on schedule with the exception of Emerson, which is currently on hold because of Consumers Energy.

Superintendent Tuttle remarked that she is very pleased that middle school students were provided the opportunity to travel to Chicago by bus and see the musical Hamilton at a relatively inexpensive cost.

Superintendent Tuttle expressed her appreciation to the community for their continued donations to students in need. She acknowledged the Shiawassee Goodfellows for purchasing clothing for needy students. Mark Agnew and his staff at Agnew Graphics purchased 300 winter hats for Owosso elementary students. In addition to anonymous donors who contact the District and wish to donate items to needy families.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that starting this year, the Owosso Middle School is offering a PSAT prep course on Saturdays to any eighth grade student that signed up to take the PSAT on December 1st. The top 50 scorers of the test become Cook Family Foundation Scholars that provides them with scholarship opportunities.

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that the District was awarded a Safety and Security grant for \$164,000. The money will be used to improve security on the exterior of buildings.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that several administrators and staff recently attended the Orange Frog initiative at the Genesee Intermediate School District. The premise behind the initiative is that happy employees are more productive.

Superintendent Tuttle commented that Veterans Day is one of her favorite days and she is very pleased to witness the celebrations expand over the past few years. Approximately 500 veterans were recognized at all of our school buildings during this year's celebrations. Superintendent Tuttle expressed sincere gratitude to her administrators and staff for organizing the programs.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that 138 Owosso High School students earned perfect attendance during the first marking period of school. In recognition of their achievement, each student received a token of gratitude from the high school's administration.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that the District's Building and Grounds Department received an Energy Star award from Consumers Energy. The award is granted to schools, commercial properties, hospitals, etc. that have energy use that is below the average usage of similar sized buildings. In order to achieve this status, boilers are tuned up yearly, set points are kept for heating and cooling at levels that conserve energy, and schedules are set to optimize heating and cooling. Being an Energy Star recipient means that the District is doing its part to save tax payer money and conserve energy.

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that Lincoln High School will hold its Annual Day of Respect on November 27th. Lincoln students will be traveling around the community to help out at homeless shelters, shoveling driveways, and supporting the LiNC Food Pantry by collecting and stocking can donations. Guest speakers have also been invited to facilitate discussions on self-respect, respect for others and respect in the world. Superintendent Tuttle commented that the annual event requires a great deal of planning. She thanked LHS Principal Mr. Steve Irelan and his staff for organizing the event.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that a District-wide Professional Development occurred on November 15th. The PD comprised of K-12 teams that reviewed SAT, PSAT, M-STEP, academic data, test taking strategies, vocabulary skills, and deficiency data that will be used in daily lessons. Paraprofessionals also participated in the trainings. Title I paraprofessionals received literacy training and K-12 special education teachers and paraprofessionals received training in specific strategies.

Steve Brooks commented that with the progression of the bond project, students are experiencing real-life lessons during the construction phase. Students have been discussing the various careers that apply to the construction, along with mathematical equations for the square footage of the additions.

Steve Brooks stated that Owosso High School Career and Technical Education students have been invited to participate in an upcoming bond meeting with architects. Fine Arts and Construction Trades students will have an opportunity to experience real-life applications during the meeting.

Steve Brooks reported that District staff have been busy preparing for the Title I, At-Risk, and International Baccalaureate audits that will occur in March 2019. He remarked that the audits require a great amount of time and preparation.

Steve Brooks informed the Board that he has been working with CFO Julie Omer on the Title II budget for professional development and outlining details for the remainder of the year. He stated that he appreciates Mrs. Omer's assistance with meeting the requirements for approval by the state.

Steve Brooks announced that he has been working with administrators on the 2019 kindergarten and Bentley Bright Beginnings student registration. He stated that kindergarten registration will occur on March 4-7, 2019.

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.

Kimberly Springsdorf, Executive Director of the Steam Railroading Institute stated that on November 17th there was a commercial line freight train derailment and 900 of their passengers on the 1225 were stranded in Ashley. Mrs. Springsdorf thanked the District for their assistance in providing school busses and drivers to transport the passengers back to Owosso. She commented that she is very proud of her community for their support and coming together in a very short time to resolve the issue.

Kevin Lenkart, Director of Owosso Public Safety thanked Interim Transportation Director Renee Secor-Jenks for her quick response with getting the OPS bus drivers and eight school busses to assist with transporting the 1225 passengers back to Owosso. He remarked that he appreciates the positive support they received from everyone on a Saturday evening.

Rick Mowen commented that it is truly amazing how the District comes together to help the community. In addition to Interim Transportation Director Renee Secor-Jenks, he extended his gratitude to OPS Bus Drivers Joyce Malzahn, Denise Hudson, Vicky Tobey, Lorraine Pelikan, Dave Goodrich, Debbie Desser, Janice Coppersmith, Nathan Struble, Alyne Rubelman, Steve DeLong, and Tammy Shurlow for answering the call and taking their busses to assist getting the 1225 passengers back to Owosso.

Superintendent Tuttle commented that Renee Secor-Jenks demonstrated her leadership as the Interim Transportation Director and deserves the majority of credit for providing the bus drivers to transport the passengers. She remarked that it was quite impressive to witness the OPS busses lined up to transport the 1225 passengers.

Tom Manke commented that he wanted to thank the OPS bus drivers as well for their assistance. He stated that he was the first of the media to arrive at the derailment at 8:20 pm. By 9:20 pm all OPS school busses were lined up, along with the Owosso Township Fire Department, Chief Kevin Lenkart, and personnel from the Owosso ambulance. Mr. Manke remarked that all of the passengers were laughing and smiling as they exited the train. It was absolutely fantastic how quickly everyone responded.

Tom Manke stated that the public wants to know what the criteria is to close schools during inclement weather. He asked if the District was going to start closing schools like they do in the south during winter.

For Action

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to approve the October 22, 2018 regular meeting minutes, November 12, 2018 committee of the whole meeting minutes, November 12, 2018 closed session minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicky, supported by Mowen to authorize the Superintendent to sign the awarded contracts for elementary bond work for carpet and resilient flooring, painting and food service equipment as outlined and presented for the area of work delineated and authorize the Superintendent to approve any contingencies of 6.5% and general condition work up to 2% of the overall contract work not to exceed \$224,194. President Jenc commented that for the record, no bids were received from local businesses or contractors. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to authorize the Superintendent to proceed with pursuing options for disposing of the Cass and Cedar Street facilities if an alternative location for the services provided out of these buildings is found that is acceptable to the Board. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Mowen to authorize the Owosso High School to dispose of the Freshman Band uniforms. If the Board declares the uniforms obsolete, the items can be sold to outside parties/schools with the proceeds to go back to the band to offset the current cost of the new uniforms. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicky, supported by Keyes to approve the contract with Spicer Group, as presented, for retention of their services for the sinking fund Project Administration. In response to questions from Trustee Webster, Superintendent Tuttle stated that all fees for services from Spicer Group are taken out of the Sinking Fund. The fee structure for Spicer Group was also clarified. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported Paez to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate on behalf of the Board for the property at Precision Electric and enter into a Buyer Agency with Re/Max of Owosso solely for the Precision Electric property. It should be noted that any price that is negotiated would come before the Board for approval prior to solidifying any offer. The Precision Electric property located at 1750 E. South Street has been found to meet the needs for relocation of the Transportation facility in addition, the ability to relocate and vacate the current Cass Street, Cedar Street, and Tahyio Road locations. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Krauss to adopt Revised Bylaw 100 – Definitions pertaining to: Apps and Services; Due Process; Family Member; Principal; Shall, and Superintendent as a first reading. The Board was in agreement to include the optional language that states, “Under the “Voting” section of the bylaw, there is optional language for the Board to consider to allow for remote participation and voting by a Board member, if notification and approval by the Board president has occurred”. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt Revised Bylaw 0122 – Board Powers as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Krauss to adopt Revised Bylaw 0131.1 – Bylaws and Policies as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt Revised Bylaw 143.1 – Public Expression of Board Members and Bylaw 144.1 – Compensation as their first readings. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes, supported by Mowen to adopt Bylaws in the 160's as they pertain to Board Meetings: New Bylaw 165.6 – Cancellation and 167.6 – Use of Social Media; Revised Bylaw 166 – Agenda, 167.1 – Voting, 167.2 – Closed Session, and 167.3 – Public Participation at Board Meetings as their first readings. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to adopt Revised Policy 1220 – Employment of the Superintendent as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to adopt New Policy 2261.03 – District and School Report Card, Replacement Policy 2261.01 – Parent and Family Member Participation in Title I Programs; and Revised Policies 2112 – Parent and Family Engagement, 2261 – Title I Services and 2700 – P.A. Annual Reports as their first readings. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to sign awarding contracts for elementary sinking fund flooring renovation work at Central and Emerson as identified and bid out based on the recommendation of Spicer Engineering. The intention is to have all work performed during the 2018 winter holiday break.
- The Board of Education will be asked to approve the purchase of a truck with towing package and optional snow plow. The Operations Department is in need of a reliable vehicle to accomplish tasks that require hauling of items between buildings and, during inclement weather, can assist in the task of snow removal. President Jenc asked if the bids will be open to local dealerships and if used vehicles were being considered for purchase. CFO Julie Omer explained that requests for bids have been placed as required by law, which includes local dealerships. The bids received can be inclusive of any used truck meeting the specifications with less than 5,000 miles.
- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to sign off on two permanent easements proposed by the City of Owosso located behind the current Middle School located at 219 N. Water Street and through the amphitheater property.

For Information

Superintendent Tuttle reported that April Schwab has accepted the Kindergarten Paraprofessional position at Central Elementary. Megan Richmond has accepted the Special Education Paraprofessional position at Emerson Elementary. Alyne Rubelman has accepted the Bus Driver position. Sharry Little has accepted the 2.75-hour Monitor position at Emerson Elementary. Gina Norman has accepted the 2.75-hour Monitor position at Emerson Elementary. Nichole Carsten has accepted the Custodian II position at Owosso High School. James Flagg has accepted the Custodian III position at Emerson Elementary. Gayla Ehlert has accepted the Custodian II position at Bryant Elementary. Heather Dorn, Monitor at Emerson Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation effective November 2, 2018. Paul Clark, Bus Driver has submitted his letter of resignation effective October 26, 2018. Steve DeLong, Transportation Supervisor has submitted his letter of resignation effective November 13, 2018. Michele Prince has submitted her letter of resignation effective November 16, 2018. SherryLynn Breece has resigned her position of Paraprofessional at Emerson Elementary effective November 21, 2018.

Public Participation

There were no comments from the public.

Board Member Comments/Updates

President Tim Jenc commented that the most recent edition of the Today's Trojan contains valuable information about the District. The publication is mailed to all residents within the Owosso Public Schools, including Henderson. Mr. Jenc remarked that it's too bad that it cannot be published more often. Mr. Jenc thanked everyone involved in the creation and distribution of the publication.

Trustee Ty Krauss thanked everyone at Central Elementary School. He stated that he recently had an opportunity to visit the school where his grandchildren attend for lunch. Mr. Krauss commented that he was greeted at the door and everyone was very helpful and kind. The students knew exactly where they needed to be at all times and it was a great experience to be a part of.

Trustee Sara Keyes remarked that she along with several parents were very appreciative to receive word at 8:30 the previous evening notifying them that school would be canceled the following day. She remarked that the early notification helped parents find alternate child care for the snow day.

Mrs. Keyes stated that her children attend Emerson Elementary and they will miss Custodian Terry Hoenshell. Mr. Hoenshell possessed great work ethics and built wonderful relationships with the students. Mrs. Keyes commented that she is looking forward to all of the Christmas festivities in the District.

Vice President Rick Mowen stated that he recently had an opportunity to have lunch with a kindergartener at Emerson Elementary Schools “Strive for Five” perfect attendance celebration. He commented that it was fun to watch the students interact with each other. Mr. Mowen also praised the school for recognizing students with perfect attendance.

Vice President Rick Mowen stated that many times we take leadership for granted. WikiLeaks defines leadership as “a practical skill encompassing the ability of the individual to lead or guide other individuals, teams, or an entire organization.” Mr. Mowen commented that it is bitter sweet knowing that Treasurer Cheryl Paez will no longer be on the Board as of January 1, 2019. He stated that leadership is not determined by gender or size and Mrs. Paez has made a great impact on the Board of Education. Mrs. Paez has demonstrated her leadership on the Board through communication, awareness, honesty, integrity, relationship building, and innovation. Mr. Mowen praised Mrs. Paez for her courage to serve on the Board for the past several years and commented that it has been a privilege to work with her. He stated that it is his hope that members of the future Board recognize the true value and guidelines of leadership that encompass, “Before you assume learn the facts, before you judge understand why, before you hurt someone feel, and before you speak, think.” Mr. Mowen stated that Mrs. Paez has epitomized the definition of leadership over the past eight years.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnický echoed Mr. Mowen’s comments about Mrs. Paez and added that he spoke on behalf of the entire Board. She added that Mrs. Paez is the quiet one on the Board; however, she thinks things through very eloquently, and has a great eye for details. Mrs. Paez will be greatly missed.

Mrs. Ochodnický reported that she attended the elementary Veteran’s Day programs and enjoyed them very much. She stated that the community also enjoys this event and has come to expect them. Mrs. Ochodnický expressed her appreciation to the administrators and staff that work hard to make these events a huge success.

Mrs. Ochodnický stated that she also attended the “Strive for Five” perfect attendance lunch. During the lunch she got to know a kindergarten student that expressed an interest in bowling through the Blue and Gold After School Program. Mrs. Ochodnický stated that she happily agreed to sponsor the student in the program for the next six weeks. She encouraged others to do the same for students that may not be able to afford the programs.

Mrs. Ochodnický commented that the decision to close school is always a challenge. Social media can also be a challenge, especially when people do not agree with the decision. Mrs. Ochodnický stated that she appreciates that Superintendent Tuttle decided to close school after a very thoughtful process. Owosso Public Schools was not the only school that closed that day because of the weather conditions.

Mr. Mowen remarked that paved roads were somewhat passable that morning; however, the District's busses do not travel on just the main roads. He stated that he was on some gravel roads earlier that day and they were very treacherous. The decision to close school is always a hard call but feels that the right decision was made for the safety of all.

Treasurer Cheryl Paez remarked that she received a telephone call from a friend that resides in Fowlerville this morning and was notified as they were leaving their home that school was closed.

Mrs. Paez expressed her gratitude for all of the kind words she has received.

Trustee Marlene Webster remarked that technology is now available that can predict weather far better than in 1978. As a result, we now know what type of weather we can expect and it is usually correct. Based on these predictions we can call school off and keep everyone safe. We are more cautious because we have technology that allows us to keep people safe. Mrs. Webster stated that the decision to close school that day was made in collaboration with Superintendent's throughout the county. The consensus was to close all schools in the county and she believes that the right decision was made.

Mrs. Webster reported that the Lincoln Food Pantry located in the Washington Campus has been utilized more than what was anticipated when it initially opened in May 2018. Funding from other sources have helped to maintain the pantry even though the funds used to initially open the pantry are gone. Lincoln High School students in Mrs. Michele Schmitz Social Justice class brainstormed on ways to keep the pantry open. The students came up with the idea to hold a fundraising competition similar to the television show Chopped. Three local chefs have agreed to participate in the competition that will be held on Martin Luther King Day. The goal is raise around \$10,000 to maintain the pantry for another year. Mrs. Webster applauded the students from LHS on their innovative ideas.

Mrs. Webster announced that Shiawassee Hope and seventeen other non-profit organizations are participating in Giving Tuesday on November 27th. Shiawassee Hope will be raising money to pay for one year's rent at the Pleasant Valley Impact Center. The Impact Center supports many students from Owosso Public Schools. Mrs. Webster reported that many of the donations will be matched and encouraged people to support the non-profits.

Mrs. Webster remarked that with the outcome of the recent election, Cheryl Paez will be greatly missed. She stated that the current Board has created an incredible culture and her experience continues to be very positive. Mrs. Webster commented that the Board needs to be intentional in maintaining this positive culture as a new member becomes assimilated to the Board.

President Tim Jenc informed the Board that he and Superintendent Tuttle will be meeting with newly elected member Olga Quick for an orientation to the Board of Education on November 30th.

Vice President Rick Mowen stated that the local newspaper recently had an article about a neighboring school districts drama program, which is similar to a new Owosso Public Schools program. Mr. Mowen shared the following quote from the article, "Drama teaches you those life skills like, how to look people in the eye, have a conversation, being confident, and how to walk and hold yourself, which are skills everyone needs to have." Mr. Mowen stated that he believes that the theater program will greatly benefit the students as adults and believes it was a great move to add theater to the District's curriculum.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

December 10: Regular Board Meeting at 5:30 pm (Note: meeting to be held on 2nd Monday of the month due to holidays)

Important Upcoming Dates:

December 3: Owosso Cares Canned Food Drive Starts (ends on December 14)

December 4: OMS Band Holiday Festival, 7 pm

December 5: OHS Band Concert, 7 pm

December 7: Senior Citizens Holiday Breakfast, 8 am

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to move into closed session at 6:49 pm for the purpose of the Superintendent's evaluation. Secretary Ochodnicky conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Webster, Paez, Ochodnicky, Mowen, Jenc, Keyes, Krauss. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to return to open session at 7:32 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicky to adjourn at 7:32 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary