

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2024
Report 23-140

Present: Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnicki, Quick, Webster
Absent: Henne, Easlick (Webster left at 6:35pm)

President Rick Mowen called the board of Education Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Washington Campus Administration Building, 645 Alger St, Owosso MI 48867.

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

Mr. Brooks introduced Principal Bridgit Spielman and her group as they will present on Peer to Peer. Central Elementary Social Worker Mrs. Olivia Satkowiak, teachers Sarah Bahm, Stacey Willyerd, and students Jase Becker and Carter Marcum.

Social Worker, Mrs. Satkowiak reported, once a month at Central, staff meet with students and do an ice breaker activity, a lesson, video and a group activity for teamwork, social and friendship skills. The program focuses on students with autism, but we also we have a fair number of students who do not have Autism, but can benefit on social and friendship skills. This year we have a total of 42 students in our Peer to Peer program. Mrs. Willyerd stated this year they applied for a project unified grant. Project Unified is for Special Olympics Unified to help foster community and school inclusion for respect and to get students involved in sports. This year we chose bowling. Mrs. Bahm reported with the grant we were able to purchase Peer to Peer t-shirts for staff and the students, Peer Autism books, and added an inclusive basketball league that was a huge success. At Central, every April to celebrate Autism acceptance month, we provide teachers with resources and books to share with students for acceptance of children with autism. Students, Carter Marcum and Jase Becker reported on the Peer to Peer group.

Carter Marcum stated he is in third grade and his favorite part of Peer to Peer is participating in activities. This year we have decorated cookies, watched movies, played fun games.

Jase Becker reported, Peer to Peer has given me confidence and I use to be very shy. Peer to Peer has given me the confidence to stand right here in front of you. Peer to Peer teaches you that everyone is different; we are all different, but we are all special, Peer to Peer teaches you that. We get to do fun games, make so many new friends, it teaches kindness, acceptance and we make so many friends.

Mrs. Willyerd expressed how proud she is of the Peer to Peer group.

Treasurer Quick congratulated the students, excellent job gentlemen. I give you credit for it is not easy talking before a group of people.

Mr. Stephen Brooks introduced Athletic Director, Mr. Steve Irelan to celebrate athletic successes; Zach Rye, Wrestling All-State Honors and Metro Coach of the Year Mrs. Marcy Binger. Thank you for having us here. I am starting with Zach Rye, Wrestling All-State Honors and Coach Poyner, Wrestling Coach, will be presenting. Coach Poyner stated, Zach Rye is not only head captain, but he has shown diligence and true leadership in that position. He takes that with pride and develops both male and female wrestlers. He is all state this year taking 6th place at States. He also made states, division 2 as well, which is a huge honor. He is a dedicated three (3) sport athlete and dives in and also aims at academics. He is looking at attending IT. He represents what Owosso is and should be. We Honor Zach Rye, a great student kid and citizen. Zach Rye stated he is here with his family and commented Coach Poyner gives all the tools he needs to be successful. Secretary Krauss asked Zach, being a leader and a great leader do you plan on coaching some day? Zach responded, he will probably fall into that, coaching. Trustee Ochodnicki congratulated Zach on his hard work. Mr. Brooks acknowledged the nice Owosso shirt Zach was wearing at states commenting, way to represent Owosso.

Mr. Irelan introduced Coach Marcy Binger, Coach Binger is well-known at Owosso Public Schools. Three years ago, she stepped up when we were in a pretty tough spot to be the Boys Head Swim/Dive Coach. Recently, Coach Binger was announced Flint Metro League coach of the year. Under Coach Binger's leadership she has guided our team to great success. Under our team, she has guided her team to an undefeated all season and are the new Flint Metro League Champs. Not only this achievement but also her dedication to our program. Coach Binger has developed student athletes through her guidance and leadership excellence in her team. What is possible of athletes and ambassadorship to Owosso Athletics. Athletes of the swim program stood and were recognized along with swim parents and grandparents. Acknowledged the dedication of the swim group of parents and grandparents that cheer, make food, travel and are essential for a true support system for a team. The culture Coach Binger has created, makes this team stronger.

Coach Binger responded, I am honored they chose me to be the representative. Every single coach is in it and they put all the pieces of the puzzle together. We have the honor of our league championship but also districts. Coach Binger expressed her gratitude to all the kids, athletes and parents, stating we had some fabulous community members this year. We have a team of people behind us. This title was received in 2015 but it is the first time in the Flint Metro League, which is a huge accomplishment.

Amend Agenda

President Mowen informed the board of a request to amend the agenda to add the Superintendent Contract (at place) as the next agenda item prior to Board Correspondence and add Teacher New Hire (at place) to For Action on the agenda and move #7 Obsolete Materials – 2 buses from for Future Action to Action because of a necessary deadline. Moved by Vice-President Webster to approve the agenda as amended and supported by Quick. Trustee Ochodnicki explained she did not have time to review the Superintendent contract and ask questions since it was just received.

President Mowen conducted a roll call vote: Webster, Mowen and Krauss, Ochodnicky and Quick voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Student Representative Kate Lee informed the Board of happenings at Owosso High School.

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.

The following participants addressed the board:

None

Superintendent Contract Discussion

President Mowen referenced the Superintendent Contract at place and a copy was also sent to the Board of Education in an email.

Interim Superintendent Schulte informed the board the at place document, Superintendent Contract Draft 2 is the same as what was sent to the Board on Monday, March 18th with the technical correction made to adjust the numbering in Section 8. Interim Superintendent Schulte asked if there were any financial questions.

Secretary Krauss has been doing research on contracts and various contracts in Shiawassee and Genesee counties and asked how does this contract compare?

Interim Superintendent Schulte responded, we looked at contracts in county and out of county, worked with MASA and MASB and multiple entities for comparison.

Vice-President Webster shared, the Executive Committee had all of the data of other district superintendent salaries and MASB salary recommendation. Based upon the data, a salary amount was presented to Mr. Brooks. The amount we agreed upon is quite a bit under the range of what MASB recommends. Vice-President Webster explained, the amount is very much in line with what superintendents are being paid in this county based upon per student data and this contract represents very much the low end.

Treasurer Quick expressed her concern with where we started and how the increase in future years is incorporated in the contract. She would be more comfortable with having the raise reflect the same as the district bargaining units.

Trustee Ochodnicky expressed her concerns with the process and how things progressed upon the resignation of former Superintendent Dr. Tuttle at the December board meeting. She expressed her concern with not having more information and having the at place contract in a timelier manner

to have an opportunity to review and ask questions. She commented she went through the at place contract today and how it compares to Dr. Tuttle's first year contract as Superintendent, which is where her questions arose from. Trustee Ochodnicki asked what the ORS reimbursement is?

Interim Superintendent Schulte responded, because there is a pending ORS litigation where they denied administrators pension and that money belongs to the employee.

Vice President Webster spoke to the process and explained it is the same as it has been in the past. The Executive Committee has done this work and we had input from the attorney. Vice-President Webster explained the reasoning for the communication, is the Superintendent contract has always been negotiated with the Executive Committee. There were times when only the Board President met with the Superintendent and presented the contract to the Executive Committee. The process could not begin until former Superintendent Dr. Tuttle was officially gone. The process has been followed as in the past. The process has been very forthcoming, as both Interim Superintendent Schulte and MASB representative Mr. Dave Moore have made sure the board was informed and communicating all of the details. Vice-President Webster stated, she did not want this Board to be mis-represented as we did not do our work and follow this process, as the Board has followed the process.

President Mowen spoke to the process that has occurred, we had a board retreat January 10th with a presentation from the attorney. The board continued to meet at special board meetings to discuss the next steps and options. The board was provided with three options. President Mowen expressed he felt the board did follow the proper procedure. Dave Moore of MASB conducted the Superintendent internal search and was the moderator at the special board meetings during the process. A survey was sent out to the community for input. The Superintendent contract was sent to attorney Mr. Ray Davis of Thrun for review. The contract was drafted exclusively by Mr. Ray Davis of Thrun. Once the contract was finalized by Mr. Davis, the contract negotiations involved the Executive Committee, Interim Superintendent Mr. Dave Schulte and Mr. Stephen Brooks. Salary information was compiled from MASB, Interim Superintendent Schulte looked up salaries based upon the student size and budget. Based upon salary information compiled, the recommendation was a starting salary of \$180,000 to \$200,000, which the original offer to Mr. Brooks was considerably lower than the recommended salary.

Trustee Ochodnicki expressed the importance of the processes and communication.

For Action

- Moved by Webster, supported by Krauss to approve the Superintendent Contract as presented at place. Secretary Krauss conducted roll call vote; Webster, Krauss, Mowen voted aye, Ochodnicki and Quick voted nay, Henne and Easlick were absent. Motion did not pass as four aye votes are required for the motion to pass.

President Mowen shared, even though two of our board members are not here, he received support from them in favor of the Superintendent Contract.

Interim Superintendent Schulte informed the board we have a contract in place for two months as Interim Superintendent and we are two weeks past that.

Board Correspondence

Mr. Brooks reported on happenings in the District. We have had 56 staff members trained in CPR in the past month. Additionally, I would like to tack on what Kate Lee said on the superior ratings of our bands receiving straight 1's at the band festival and give a big shout out to our band directors, NHS, staff volunteers, students, facilities, administrators and Mike McClung, who does all the magic behind the scenes. Our Owosso band program continues over a decade both on the stage and marching field. As the previous report on our elementary unified basketball league, I would like to read a short Facebook post from a parent; *"I am so proud that my kids go to Owosso Public Schools, where inclusion and diversity are celebrated. My student signed up for what I thought was just a regular basketball team through his elementary school. While watching yesterday and today, I learned that, while this was a basketball team with the opportunity for each elementary school to play against each other, this was also the schools' effort in promoting inclusion for students with special needs. During these two games I was able to watch many kiddos (including my own) forfeit their chance at having the ball or making a basket to instead offer the ball to a student with special needs. Owosso Public Schools truly embody values of empathy and compassion and to see them actively fostering inclusion was nothing short of beautiful. Kudos to these elementary schools for setting the bar high for our future generations."* One of the things we are organizing, we are creating a signing day for our CTE students that are going to attend a trade school on May 7, 2024 in an effort to create the same atmosphere for them as signing for sports. Eleven students attended the Business professionals of America State Leadership Conference in Grand Rapids, March 7-10. A special thank you to teachers Greg Klapko and Carrie Warning. The 2024-2025 Professional Development (PD) planning has begun to provide our staff top notch PD.

The Kindergarten numbers are great and spaces are filling up fast. Our Pre-School spaces are very limited as well.

March is reading month and is concluding this week with teachers planning some very exciting events to promote reading. Spring assessments are ready to go at all levels.

Our spring assessments are ready to go at all levels. Secondary students will be doing the bulk of assessments on April 10-11 with some altered schedules. Communication is going out to parents in mail form this week and a School Messenger after spring break outlining all of the changes.

Also, I wanted to mention to you that our district has been dealt some very devastating news over the past month; a staff member whose child passed away earlier this month was a student in the district, a recent OHS grad 2015 tragically passed away at the end of February and we had an OHS student involved in a serious car accident last week. Our staff, students and community have shown an outpouring of support to our school family member as they deal with some very difficult time. A special thank you to RESD Superintendent, Dave Schulte for arranging additional social work services for those who have been really struggling.

Bingo for books at Emerson last week as part of March's Reading celebration. The 5th grade students at Emerson are wrapping up their 5th Grade Exhibition projects.

We had our first certified handler training for Charlie, the Central therapy dog. She will begin the week of April first three days a week, and will be placed with Mrs. April Schwab, Student Success Coach, and her family in June. Central 5th graders are working on their PYP exhibition project. A shout out to the area business support for our March is Reading Month celebrations.

The Shiawassee Scholars Banquet was last week, nine OMS Shiawassee Scholars scored in the top 47 in the county. Peer to Peer did an Easter Egg Hunt for their monthly activity. Mr. Wright did a "Food Truck" competition during his Culinary Foods class during Trojan Time. Quiz Bowl completed their season with a second-place finish behind Fenton.

The OHS CTE program held its 2nd annual Etiquette Dinner on March 19th, dinner occurred last night. Spring sports athletics have started, March 11th and rosters were set. I would like to give a special thank you to building and grounds for all prep of field work. I would also like to announce Mallory Irelan was selected as girls Varsity Swim coach.

For Action

President Mowen reported a couple of corrections are needed on the February 21, 2024 regular meeting minutes and closed session minutes to reflect the Board of Education returned to open session to read the decision of the closed session. The minutes will be corrected.

Moved by Krauss, supported by Ochodnicky to approve the February 21, 2024 regular meeting minutes (as corrected), the February 21, 2024 Closed Session Meeting Minutes (as corrected), the current bills and financials as presented. Secretary Krauss conducted a roll call vote; Ochodnicky, Krauss, Quick and Mowen voted aye, No nay votes. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnicky to authorize the district to purchase 2 used 77 passenger buses and lease 1 additional bus. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnicky to authorize the Owosso Public School's Transportation department to sell two obsolete buses. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Brooks reported one bus did not pass inspection because of rust, breaking system and other issues. The second bus was a 2005 and had over 225,000 miles with a cracked frame and the muffler was not in great shape. These buses did not pass inspection.

Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnicky to authorize the Superintendent to contract with Technical Building Automation in an amount(s) not to exceed \$216,194.07 for the purchase and installation of building controls at Bryant and Central. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Quick supported by Krauss to approve the hiring of Bryant/STEM teacher Keegan Neitzke. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board will be asked to adopt the Budget Revision #1 resolutions for the 2023-24 appropriations for the General Fund and School Service as presented. Mr. Brooks expressed special gratitude to Dr. Cathy Dwyer, as she is working in the business department and put together the budget amendment. Mr. Brooks informed the Board, the budget amendment outlines all revenue and expenses and we are on par for a great budget. Budget amendment was reviewed by our consultant Shebi Fryer and she gave a great recommendation, Dr. Dwyer is doing a fantastic job. Moved by Ochodnicky, support by Quick to move Budget Revision #1 to For Action at the April 24, 2024 Regular Board of Education meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board will be asked to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso High BPA students, teacher (tbd) and parent chaperones on a trip to Chicago, May 10-14, 2024. Mr. Brooks informed the board, this is a trip that has been completed in the past. The trip is funded using grant funds, CTE fundraising and students have to pay a portion. Superintendent recommended to approve the trip. Moved by Krauss, supported by Quick to move CTE – Out of State Travel BPA National Leadership Conference to For Action at the April 24, 2024 regular Board of Education meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board will be asked to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso High School SkillsUSA students, teacher (tbd) and parent chaperones on a trip to Atlanta, Georgia June 23-29, 2024. Mr. Brooks informed the Board that one of our students is looking to become a National Officer for the 2024-2025 school year. Will also be looking at state officers. The trip is funded using grant funds, CTE fundraising and students will pay a portion. Moved by Krauss, support by Ochodnicky to move CTE – out of State Travel SkillsUsa National Leadership Conference to For Action at the April 24, 2024 regular Board of Education meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board will be asked to approve the purchase of 60 Career Connections Project Book 2 and 60 Math for the Trades workbooks, ISBN: 978-1-63776-704 and accompanying workbook, and Instructor online curriculum suite offered by the Carpenters International Training Fund. Mr. Brooks reported the new books have been available to the Board to review. Mr. Brooks commented, in construction there is a ton of math and one of the books highlights the math and teaches the student math skills to be successful. The total cost is \$1,838.00 and these books will be used over multiple years. If purchased before May 1, 2024, will be able to use this year's 61a grant funds. No general fund dollars are used to purchase the books. Moved by Ochodnicky, support by Quick to move CTE Purchase of New Textbooks – Construction Trades to For Action at the April 24, 2024 regular Board of Education meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
- The Board will be asked to approve the purchase of 30 Exploring Woodworking textbooks by Zimmerman. McWard, and Blazek ISBN: 978-1-63776-704 and accompanying workbook, and online curriculum access from G-W Publishers. Mr. Brooks informed the board there is a discount if the textbooks are purchased early and will be able to use this year's 61a grant funds. Moved by Ochodnicky, support by Quick to move to For Action at the April 24, 2024 regular Board of Education meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

For Information

Interim Superintendent Schulte announced the following personnel changes:

Accepted Positions

- Shannen Acord has accepted the Sub Custodian position.
- Andrea Hileman has accepted the Sub Food Service Worker position.
- Taylor Ladd has accepted the Sub Monitor and Sub Custodian position.

Resignations

- Caleb Harris, Sub Custodian resigned effective January 19, 2024
- Vickie Petitti, Bus Driver resigned effective February 14, 2024.
- Brooke Barber, Administrative Assistant resigned effective March 8, 2024.
- Ryley Turk, OMS Aide resigned effective March 4, 2024.
- Brionna Sarnik, OMS Aide resigned effective March 5, 2024.

CTE Perkins Allocation Purchase – 2024 John Deere Gator TE

Mr. Brooks reported, our CTE program received additional funding of \$12,000 to purchase local district CTE equipment for program improvements from a recent surplus allocation of Perkins Grant Funding which had to be secured by April 5th. A John Deere Gator was purchased to be used for several CTE programs. All of our CTE programs will be utilizing the Gator. Bids were secured for the purchase and the lowest bid selected.

Owosso Public Schools – Continuity of Learning Plan

Mr. Brooks informed the Board this is an item that has been presented to the board several times, as it is a requirement to be discussed every six months. The plan includes all of the professional development, benchmark assessments and all of those funds used for ESSER. The ESSR funds will end in September.

Arbiter Sports Pay

Mr. Brooks informed the board that the payment of district sports officials takes an enormous amount of time for the business department. Arbiter is a service that takes care of all of our payments directly to officials through a third party. With this service, the district will no longer need to worry about W9 or 1099 at the end of the year. A quote for \$2200 for a year was initially received and we were able to negotiate down to \$1500 a year for a 5-year contract. This will save the business office time and energy and will be a big savings to the district. Almost every district uses this for ref pay with the exception of two that I am aware of. This contract starts July 1, 2024 and they allowed us to try for free for this spring season.

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.

The following participants addressed the board:

None

Board Comments

Trustee Ochodnicky congratulated Zach Rye and the swim team and commented, as a swim mom, back in the day beating Fenton was nearly impossible. Trustee Ochodnicky expressed her concern on the superintendent contract in regard to the pay out of certain benefits for our now Superintendent and questioned if it was done when Dr. Tuttle moved from Principal to Superintendent back in 2011. She expressed her total support for Mr. Brooks, as she has always supported him. Trustee Ochodnicky commented on the MASB recommendation, stating unfortunately we are not a private sector we are a public entity, this is our budget and we are accountable to the tax payers. There is still a need to hire a CFO and possibly an accountant. I am looking forward to working with Mr. Brooks next year and seeing where we can go.

President Mowen reported one correction, we do not have a superintendent at this time.

Treasurer Quick commented, Mr. Brooks mentioned earlier about the Band Festival, there were 15 different schools and all of our Middle School and High School bands received ones, which is a huge accomplishment. Specifically, the site reading of the symphony band and the Owosso Band is known state wide. That young man today said it all, the Peer to Peer and the Unified basketball; those kind of things in our district will make a huge impact and will affect our kids for years to come. Treasurer Quick expressed her gratitude to everyone.

Secretary Krauss agreed with all, with one addition, he wanted to wish Mr. Little a great season on the Quiz Bowl.

Mr. Brooks shared the Quiz Bowl team went up against the teachers and the teachers won.

President Mowen agreed with what Treasurer Quick mentioned about the band. He was able to set through the 7th grade performance, the pieces they have to perform, they sound wonderful and after they do the performance and they go back to their site reading and they have five minutes to turn over and look at it. You are awesome you are great. They start in 5th grade. He was amazed they still start in 5th grade. The kids were excited. all of our bands did well. President Mowen attended the CTE Etiquette Banquet. It was set up as a stylish restaurant. It was very interesting and a presentation on proper etiquette was given. It was great meal and interaction with students

and staff. President Mowen congratulated the athletes and Mrs. Binger for her honor as coach of the year.

Upcoming Dates

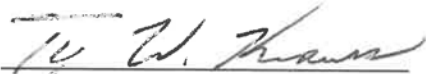
- April 10: Board of Education Committee of the Whole, 5:30 p.m. Washington Campus
- April 24: Board of Education Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Washington Campus
- March 22-29: Spring Break Recess
- April 3-5: Emerson's 5th Graders to Hartley
- April 17: Owosso High School Starfish Awards, 7:00 p.m. in the PAC

Adjournment

Moved by Quick, supported Ochodnicky, to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Bev White

Respectfully submitted,



Ty Krauss, Secretary