

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Regular Meeting
June 20, 2022
Report 21-179

Present: Adam Easlick, Ty Krauss, Rick Mowen, Shelly Ochodnicki Olga Quick, Marlene Webster

Absent: Sarah Keyes

President Rick Mowen called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. The meeting was held at the Washington Campus Gymnasium, 645 Alger Street, Owosso MI 48867.

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

Dr. Tuttle took a moment to recognize former Board president and member Mr. Greg Cobb and gave condolences to his family for his recent passing. She thanked his family for their involvement in the Owosso community.

Board Correspondence

Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that hiring continues to be a challenge, but administration is working hard to find the right candidates for the OPS team. She noted that later in the agenda the Board will be asked to approve a group of new teachers to begin at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. She thanked the administrators for continually seeking the best of the best for open positions. Dr. Tuttle said that OPS is currently serving approximately 75 breakfasts and 100 lunches a day. To maintain funding for this program students must eat their meal on site. She continued with an update on sinking fund work; old ductwork at Emerson is being removed and demolished and the two-summer HVAC project is ongoing, carpet at Bryant is being removed, grass is being planted at Central and Emerson, a busted irrigation line at the high school, wind screens, and the stadium floorboard are all being repaired, among other projects. Additionally, the District is planting four oak trees, two at Central Elementary and two at Emerson Elementary. Dr Tuttle said that she, Curriculum Director Mr. Brooks, Chief Lenkart and Lieutenant Cherry met to interview candidates for the two additional liaison officer positions. Sergeant Scott Davis will be serving the secondary campus and Officer Jason Schmitz will be serving the elementary schools. This brings the District total to four liaison officers. Dr. Tuttle continued her report saying that the District is currently working with Memorial Healthcare to hire a second school nurse. She gave a small update on the Water Street Facility; the District has heard from several interested parties and bids are due on July 5. Dr. Tuttle passed out a Flyer to the Board on the virtual learning opportunity that the District will offer to 6–12 grade students. The District hopes to bring in students from other districts that may not have a virtual option available to them. Dr. Tuttle commended students Cooper Walker and Justin Johnson for their

selection and attendance to Boy's State at Grand Valley University. They were selected to attend based on their excellent academic and extracurricular work and their outstanding leadership, character, and community service qualities. The boys were sponsored by the American Legion Post 57 in Owosso. She also congratulated the OMS Equestrian team for their recent District Championship. She ended her reported by saying the OPS baseball fields are utilized for tournaments all summer and the tournaments bring in students, athletes, and parents from all over the state; it is a great partnership for the community.

Curriculum Director Mr. Steve Brooks said 295 students are enrolled in the summer school program. The summer program Books at Bryant continues to be a hit; families can go to Bryant Elementary on Tuesdays at 7:00pm to get books and free ice cream from Culvers. Last week, 137 students came to the event. New Teacher Orientation is scheduled for August 9 and 10. The June 1 Job Fair yielded several candidates for several departments. Lastly, Mr. Brooks reminded the Board of Bryant's Annual Golf Outing on August 21.

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 individuals addressed the Board:

- Tom Manke
- Bonnie Wood

For Action

- The Board listened to a presentation given by Charmaine Fletcher from the Shiawassee Regional Education Service District on Career and Technical Education. The RESD has proposed on the August 2 primary ballot a 10-year, 1 mill request to maintain and improve current CTE programs and introduce new in-demand courses for students for all of Shiawassee County. Mrs. Fletcher listed some benefits of CTE programs in schools: CTE students achieve higher graduation rates compared to their non-CTE peers, the programs are more engaging to students with the hands-on learning approach, program completion raises a person's earning potential and CTE programs also deepen community ties with advisory committees, job shadows, mentoring, and internships. She continued to say that through Career and Technical Education programs, students get an opportunity to explore many diverse career fields. Students learn valuable professional skills that help prepare them for life after high school, whether that is in college, the workforce, or the military. All CTE programs offer college credit opportunities, and these programs offer employer recognized credentials. Currently the RESD CTE program offers auto, criminal

justice, culinary, electrical, health science, automation technology, and teaching cadet programs. As to what a CTE Millage would provide for students, Mrs. Fletcher explained the millage would centralize existing Shiawassee RESD CTE programming in the county, provide financial assistance with transportation costs, reduce local district expenses for program tuition, and fund implementation of additional CTE programs based on community need and student interest. This was an informational presentation only; no vote was taken.

- Moved by Webster, supported by Easlick to approve the May 23, 2022, Regular Board Meeting Minutes, the May 23, 2022, Board Meeting Closed Session Minutes, the Current Bills and Financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Krauss to adopt the resolutions that revise the appropriations for the General and School Service funds for the 2021-22 fiscal year. The Building and Site (Sinking fund) and Fiduciary (School organizational) funds are not being presented due to very little changes anticipated, other than timing, for the Building and Site from that presented in April and the Fiduciary funds being relatively minor in comparison to the overall activity of the district. The Fiduciary fund is only anticipated to be presented to the Board once a year as an original budget. And to adopt the resolutions presented for the 2022-23 fiscal year budget package for the General, School Service, Fiduciary and Sinking funds. Secretary Webster conducted a roll-call vote, Trustee Easlick, Trustee Quick, Secretary Webster, Vice President Ochodnicky, President Mowen, and Trustee Krauss voted aye. Treasurer Keyes is absent. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick to authorize the borrowing of \$3.4 million inclusive of \$2.3 million of "set-aside" notes and \$1.1 million in "no set-asides" for operating purposes to eliminate cash flow challenges that result from timing issues related to State Aid payments for the 2022-23 school year. Unconditional and firm bids for the purchase of the above Notes (the "Note" or "Notes") will be received by Owosso Public Schools, Shiawassee County, Michigan (the "Issuer"), at the administrative offices of the Issuer, 645 Alger Street, Owosso, Michigan 48867-0340, on Monday, the 18th day of July 2022, until 9:30 o'clock in the a.m., prevailing Eastern Time, at which time and place said bids will be opened and read. Award of the notes will be made on behalf of the Issuer by an authorized officer of the Issuer no later than 5:00 o'clock p.m., prevailing Eastern Time, on Thursday, July 21, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Easlick to approve the 2022-2023 student handbooks for Bentley Bright Beginnings, elementary, middle, and high schools as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicky, supported by Webster to amend the Board Meeting dates for 2022-2023 to include Committee of the Whole meetings on the second Wednesday of each month (excluding July, August, December, March, and June due to holiday recess) and approve that the regular meetings of the Owosso Public Schools Board of Education be held the fourth Wednesday of each month beginning at 5:30 pm in July 2022 through June 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Quick, supported by Krauss to authorize the Superintendent to renew the contracts with GST (Genesee Shiawassee Thumb) Michigan Works from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Krauss to approve the July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, Tentative Agreement between the Owosso Education Association, and the Owosso Board of Education. President Mowen and Trustee Quick refrained from participating in discussion and the vote due to conflict of interest. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Easlick to approve the July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, Tentative Agreement between the Owosso Education Support Personnel Association and the Owosso Board of Education. President Mowen refrained from participating in discussion and the vote due to conflict of interest. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Krauss, supported by Easlick to approve the July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, Tentative Agreement between Building and Central Office Administrators and the Owosso Board of Education. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Krauss to approve salary adjustments for non-union personnel to reflect parity with other bargaining groups. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Ochodnicki, to approve the hiring of the following certified staff: Kenneth Wright - Owosso Middle School Science, Macy Kurth - Owosso High School Science, Curran Jacobs - Owosso Middle School Physical Education, Melissa Lichty Bryant Elementary Title I, Benjamin Walthers - Owosso High School English, Arianna Rowley -Owosso Middle School Math, Stacy Jenkinson - Owosso High School Special Education. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board will be asked to authorize the Owosso Public School's Transportation department to dispose of two buses that can no longer meet the transportation needs of students.
- The Board will be asked to approve the ESSER III initial expenditure plan allocations.
- The Board will be asked to approve the course listings presented for the Middle School, High School, and Lincoln High School for the 2022-23 school year.
- The Board will be asked to approve the Resolve that the Board of Education approve the purchase of new math textbooks and software for all 6th-12th grade math courses payable out of ESSER III funds.

For Information

Dr. Tuttle announced the following personnel changes:

Accepted Positions

- Kathy Wheeler has accepted a Custodian II position at Owosso High School.

- Tara Codde has accepted the Behavior interventionist position at Owosso Middle School.
- Karen Bald has accepted the Title I Paraprofessional position at Central Elementary.
- Thomas Roe has accepted a Paraprofessional position at Owosso Middle School.
- David Jelinek has accepted a Monitor position at Owosso Middle School.
- Alicia Birdsley has accepted a Paraprofessional position at Owosso Middle School.

Resignations

- Alexandria Brown, Special Education Teacher at Central and Bryant Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation.
- Hope Hicks, First Grade Teacher at Central Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation.
- Amy Scott, Title I Paraprofessional at Central Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation.
- De’Nae Streeter, Agriscience Teacher at Owosso High School has submitted her letter of resignation.

Retirements

- Dawn Teichman, Paraprofessional at Emerson Elementary has submitted her letter of retirement after 23 years of service.

Public Participation

The following individuals address the Board:

- Tom Manke
- Karen Mead-Elford

Board Comments

Trustee Easlick clarified that the Board did not vote to approve the new math textbooks, the Board voted to move the textbooks to a “For Action” item at the next meeting on July 27. He also thanked Mrs. Fletcher for her presentation on CTE and CFO Omer for her thorough explanation of the budget.

Trustee Quick is excited for all the positive events in the district and congratulated all the retirees on the next chapter in their life. She thanked CFO Omer for her work on the budget.

Vice President Ochodnicky echoed Dr. Tuttle's comments on how great it is the baseball tournaments are bringing people to the Owosso community. She also said she is looking forward to Tara Codde joining the Owosso educational team.

Trustee Krauss thanked Mrs. Fletcher for her presentation on CTE. He thanked CFO Omer for her work on the budget. He ended his comments by thanking Curriculum Director Mr. Brooks for his explanation on the textbooks and course listings.

President Mowen thanked Mr. Brooks and CFO Omer for the information they presented to the Board and thanked those in the audience for coming to the meeting.

Upcoming Dates

- July 27: Regular Board of Education Meeting

Adjournment

Moved by Quick, supported by Krauss to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,



Marlene Webster, Secretary