

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Committee of the Whole Meeting
September 14, 2022
Report 22-30**

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

Absent:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Navigate 360

Dr. Tuttle encouraged the Board to have discussion on the Navigate 360 curriculum that will be voted on during the September 28 regular meeting. Navigate 360 is a free program that offers grade-level specific lessons on social and emotional topics such as self-awareness, problem solving, friendship, gratitude, honesty, integrity, empathy, communication, self-confidence, etc. The lessons would be taught on Wednesdays and the school can choose what lessons are included. Trustee Quick said she is in support of Navigate 360 as a skill-building opportunity. As the school has control over what lessons are included or excluded, she encouraged the Board to include lessons such as ‘Cultural Awareness’ as she believes it is the schools’ responsibility to educate students on diversity and conflict resolution. Vice President Ochodnicki stated she would like the parents to have a say in what lessons are taught and would like to have a survey available to parents. Treasurer Keyes said she approves of the lessons she has reviewed and said if there are any topics that are considered controversial, this would be a controlled source of information for both students and teachers to utilize. Dr. Tuttle reminded the Board that most of the lessons available in the program are topics that are already taught from kindergarten to twelfth grade, but this program would provide consistency in the district. Many school districts in Michigan are utilizing this program and have given great reviews. She ended the discussion by saying her recommendation will be that the Board approve Navigate 360 at the Board meeting at the end of the month.

Student Count/Budget/Audit

Dr. Tuttle reported the auditors concluded the final year-end audit work the week of August 15th. For the 2021-22 final budget revision presented to the board in June of 2022, the **loss** for the year was projected to be \$1,464,000. The preliminary actual results show a modest increase to the fund balance of approximately \$140. Much of this positive change is in non-grant expenditures coming in approximately 4% lower than budgeted or about \$1.37 million less than budgeted. This variability, though higher than normal, has been partially a result of gauging what the cost

of normal operations are with school being closer to normal as well as the ability to off-set some normal costs of operations with grant resources. Non-grant revenue came in about \$100,000 higher than expected as a result of an additional \$100,000 allocated to the district in the August 2022 state aid payment to offset retirement costs. Additional detail on the variances will be provided once the audit is finalized.

The Foundation Allowance is now \$9,150/pupil. The budget that was presented to the Board in June for adoption included an estimated \$9,135/pupil, so the additional \$15 will not be sizeable change to the budget. The bigger question that will be answered in October is the district's Fall pupil count. Currently, based on the estimated headcount, the district is cautiously optimistic the count will come in better than expected but there still is a lot of work to be done to determine the number of Full Time Equivalents when the Fall count takes place on October 5th.

Moved by Ochodnicky, supported by Easlick, to move the public participation portion of the meeting to before the closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

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.

Public participants who addressed the Board:

- Vanessa Senk
- Bonnie Wood

Upcoming Dates

- September 28: Board of Education Meeting, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Gymnasium
- October 12: Board of Education Meeting, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Gymnasium
- October 26: Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Conference Room

Moved by Quick, Supported by Keyes, to move into closed session to discuss attorney-client privilege materials at 6:31pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Quick, supported by Krauss to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marlene Webster", is written over a horizontal line.

Marlene Webster, Secretary