

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education**  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**June 26, 2024**  
**Report 23-233**

Present: Adam Easlick, Nick Henne, Rick Mowen, Olga Quick, Marlene Webster  
Absent: Ty Krauss, Shelly Ochodnicky

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

**Building Reports**

Athletic Director Steve Irelan introduced Girls' Varsity Track & Field Coach Brock Holtsclaw to the Board of Education to recognize him as the Flint Metro League Track Coach of the Year for the Stars Division, stating this is a well-deserved honor as Holtzclaw lives and breathes his work, not for the money but for the love of developing student-athletes and tonight we're highlighting the outcome of a positive culture and strong work ethic. Irelan stated we've focused on building relationships, accountability, growth, character, integrity, and compassion among coaches and athletes, and Holtzclaw embodies these values daily.

Coach Brock Holtsclaw introduced student athlete Libby Summerland to recognize her as an All-State athlete. Coach Holtzclaw shared Libby is one of the most hardworking individuals he's ever met. Libby puts all her effort into everything she does in athletics and in the classroom. This year, she achieved All-State status both athletically and academically. Athletically, she placed fifth in the pole vault at the State Finals. Her height throughout the year was the second-best of all time, just behind Claire Agnew from last year. Libby also competed in the 400m dash at States for the third time. Libby is the highest career point scorer since keeping track starting in 1994, surpassing the previous record by seventy-six points. Coach Holtzclaw finished his recognition by stating that her consistent performance week after week is truly remarkable.

Coach Brock Holtsclaw introduced student athlete Gabi Hufnagel to recognize her as an All-State athlete. Coach Holtzclaw shared that Gabi was tremendous as a freshman last year. Gabi qualified for the state meet in the 4x400m relay. Gabi was hungry for more; she returned this year and qualified in two events: the 100m hurdles and the 300m hurdles. Although she didn't make it to the finals in the 100m hurdles, she performed incredibly in the 300m hurdles. Gabi led the race after 200m, and although she ran so hard that she tired out, she still managed to finish seventh, which was a huge accomplishment for her. Coach Holtzclaw finished his recognition by stating Gabi is truly outstanding, and he's very excited to see where she goes from here. Gabi still has two more solid years ahead, and he doesn't think we've even scratched the surface of her potential. Gabi's times keep improving, and she's the eighth-highest single-season point scorer we've had. Considering that three of those spots are held by Libby Summerland, that's a significant achievement.

Coach Holtsclaw recognized student athlete Peyton Spicer as an All-State athlete who could not attend. Coach Holtsclaw shared Peyton has been a remarkable athlete and a familiar face at our events. Next year, she will attend Central Michigan University to compete in track and field. Her coach has informed her that she will be training for the heptathlon, which involves seven different events—a huge challenge she is well-equipped to handle due to her immense talent. This year, Peyton competed in four field events: shot put, discus, high jump, and long jump. She qualified for state in two events and was named All-Conference in three, just narrowly missing out on the fourth. Coach Holtsclaw finished his recognition by stating Peyton's versatility and skill make her a tremendous talent, and we are excited to see her continue to excel at the next level.

Coach Holtsclaw introduced Boy's Track & Field Coach Aaron Gillett.

Coach Gillett introduced student athlete Gavin Mecomber to recognize him as an All-State athlete. Coach Gillett shared that he thinks he's never seen an athlete improve as much as Gavin did between last season and this past. He had some remarkable achievements: Gavin was just an inch and a quarter off the high jump record and missed our 110m hurdle record by only 0.01 seconds. He set a personal record in the 300m hurdles at the state meet, coming just 0.02 seconds short of the school record. If his calculations are correct, Coach Gillett shared that Gavin scored 224 points this season, the highest total in Coach Gillett's 11 years as head coach. Gavin qualified for the long jump, 110m hurdles, and 300m hurdles at the state meet. Despite the weather, he set a personal record in the 300m hurdles, finishing sixth place and earning All-State honors. Coach Gillett believes that if the weather had been better, Gavin would have broken the school record in the 300m hurdles. Coach Gillett finished his recognition by stating Gavin's achievements are a testament to his mental toughness, physical competence, and skills. These accomplishments show how everything clicked for Gavin this season, resulting in an outstanding year.

Coach Gillett introduced Girls' Varsity Softball Coach JoEllen Smith.

Coach Smith introduced student-athlete and senior graduate Lexi Hemker, noting that she first met Lexi eight years ago when her sister played for her as a freshman. Over those eight years, the Hemker family has been a wonderful part of the program. Coach Smith recalled how Lexi's sister, Brooke, was moved to tears, expressing how special these years had been for their family—a sentiment Coach Smith echoed for the program. Lexi made an immediate impact as a freshman on the All-State team, starting as the second baseman and then moving to third base, starting every game and helping the team to a state championship. Over the years, she has earned All-Conference honors and was named Academic All-State this year, an accolade reserved for seniors with a GPA of 3.6 or higher. Lexi has also set several school records, including most career hits and most career runs, and she ranks third in career hits within Coach Smith's 41 years of coaching, which is an impressive feat. She will continue her career at Mott Community College and has made the All-Star and All-State teams. She is set to play with the other All-State players on July 17th at Davenport College. In addition to her softball achievements, Lexi has been a letter-winner in basketball and volleyball for four years, demonstrating her dedication and athleticism across multiple sports.

President Mowen congratulated Coach Holtsclaw on his recognition, acknowledging that his contributions might have been overlooked. Superintendent Brooks added that being an All-State athlete is a true honor, and it takes a lot of hard work, dedication, and pushing yourself to limits you didn't think you could reach. He is very proud that our students not only excel on the track or field but also in the classroom, as we've heard tonight. That is the true definition of a student-athlete: excelling both in sports and academics. Superintendent Brooks thanked our coaches for their dedication and effort, stating our coaches deserve a lot of credit as well; they play a crucial role in our athletes' success, dedicating countless hours and working incredibly hard.

Superintendent Brooks introduced Transportation Director Steve Delong.

Director Delong acknowledged Janice Coppersmith, who has been with our District since 2018 and has been a bus driver for 17 years, working with other districts before joining us. Delong stated it's fantastic to have someone with such quality experience, and when she joined, he was thrilled—we had very little training to do with Janice except for showing her the ropes in Owosso. Janice has been a safe and caring driver, well-regarded by her coworkers, and loved by the students and families she served. Janice was always punctual, always here every day, and rarely missed any time. Her consistency was a constant presence for the students, which is incredibly important. Janice will now be splitting her time between up north, down south, out west—you name it. Delong stated it has been a pleasure to have Janice on our team and that she will be missed. Janice thanked Delong for hiring her and the Board for accepting her. She stated that she would miss her students the most, which would hurt her come August.

### **Board Correspondence**

Superintendent Brooks began his report by stating the school year ended on June 6th, and it was marked by beautiful celebrations across the District, including graduations at Owosso High School and Lincoln High School, fifth-grade graduations, kindergarten graduations, and various end-of-year events. It was a joyful conclusion, with many happy children heading into summer. Superintendent Brooks shared that despite school being out, our District remains active with numerous summer programs. We're particularly proud of our Books at Bryant program, which started on June 12th with a huge success. Every Wednesday at 6 p.m., students and anyone aged 13 and under can come for a free book and frozen custard in partnership with Culver's. The community support has been outstanding, with events like "Touch a Truck" featuring police and fire department vehicles and a performance by the drama club last week showcasing their upcoming play. Superintendent Brooks continued stating that Summer school is in full swing for students from pre-K through 12th Grade, with about 300 participants. We're the only district offering pre-kindergarten summer school, providing a "kindergarten boot camp" for incoming students—special thanks to Kristina Crandell and all our summer school teachers for creating these opportunities. Superintendent Brooks informed the Board that our "Meet Up and Eat Up" program is another source of pride. We offer free breakfast and lunch Monday through Thursday at Emerson, Bryant, and the secondary campus. On Thursdays, we provide additional meals for the weekend. Our food service director, Mrs. Hartman, reports we're exceeding last year's numbers, highlighting the significant need we're meeting.

Additionally, we received a \$36,000 grant for fresh fruits and vegetables for the upcoming school year, ensuring our students have access to healthy food. Superintendent Brooks stated that Bentley Bright Beginnings daycare is at total capacity this summer, which is the highest in years. Superintendent Brooks informed the Board that our maintenance and custodial teams are working tirelessly in the hot weather to prepare for the 2024-2025 school year—special thanks to Mike Hendrickson and his team for their hard work. Superintendent Brooks ended his report with transportation, stating you may see our school buses around town, as we've partnered with the YMCA to shuttle kids between the YMCA and Bancroft summer camp.

### **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

### **For Action**

- Moved by Webster, supported by Easlick, to approve May 22, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, June 10, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes, Current Bills, and Financials as presented. President Mowen conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Quick, Webster. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Henne, to approve the purchase of new AP Biology textbooks and electronic software, including online versions of the textbook and teaching resources. Additional funds may made available for training on the use of these resources. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick, to approve the purchase of new AP Psychology textbooks and electronic software including online versions of the textbook and teaching presentations. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Quick, to approve the 2024-2025 student handbooks for Bentley Bright Beginnings, elementary, middle, and high schools. Treasurer Quick emphasized the importance of changing the attendance policy, stating that reviewing and understanding our policies and procedures is imperative. Trustee Easlick expressed concern about the requirement for students to fully cover their torsos, noting that it affects lower-income families. He pointed out that parents with limited financial resources may struggle to afford separate outfits for school. As a parent of two daughters, he highlighted the difficulty in finding longer clothing options, making it challenging to adhere to this dress code requirement. President Mowen conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Henne, Mowen, Quick, and Webster. Nays: Easlick. Motion carried 4 to 1.

- Moved by Quick, supported by Henne, to authorize the Superintendent to sign and renew the proposed contract with Baker College for Adult Education services for the fiscal year 2024-25. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick, to authorize the Superintendent to sign and renew the proposed contract with GST (Genesee Shiawassee Thumb) Michigan Works from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Henne, to authorize the Superintendent to sign and renew the proposed contract with the City of Owosso revised agreement for two “part-time” officers with the City of Owosso, pending City approval. To enhance the public safety of the City of Owosso and Owosso Public School District through the provision of police officers to serve as School Resource (liaison) officers for the contract year of fiscal year 2024-25 through fiscal year 2028-2029. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick, to approve the out-of-state travel for Carrie Warning to travel to Sturtevant, WI, July 21-25, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Quick, to approve the out-of-state travel for Carrie Warning to travel to Eden Prairie, MN, August 5-9, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Webster, to authorize the Superintendent or his designee to enter into a contract with Konica Minolta Business Solutions U.S.A., Inc. for leasing and maintenance of copiers for the District for the next five years. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Easlick, to approve the 2024-2025 Board of Education regular meeting and committee meeting dates. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Henne, to adopt the resolutions that revise the appropriations for the General, School Service, Capital Projects, and Building and Site Funds for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Henne, to adopt the resolutions to be presented for the 2024-25 fiscal year budget package for the General, School Service, Fiduciary, and Building and Site Funds. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Webster, to authorize the borrowing of \$2,100,000 inclusive of \$1,470,000 of “set-aside” notes and \$630,000 in “no set-asides” for operating purposes to eliminate cash flow challenges that result from timing issues related to State Aid payments for the 2024-25 school year. This includes passage of the accompanying resolution provided by the attorneys allowing for borrowing through the Michigan Finance Authority or accepting a competitive bid from an authorized bank. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Henne, to approve the July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, Tentative Agreement between Building and Central Office Administrators and the Owosso Board of Education. Mowen abstained due to conflict of interest. Motion carried.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Henne, to approve salary adjustments for non-union personnel to reflect parity with other bargaining groups. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Henne, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of the following certified staff:

| Name           | Building/Grade               | Recommending Administrator     | Salary Schedule Step  |
|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Amber Arend    | Bryant/Kindergarten          | Superintendent<br>Steve Brooks | BA Step 5<br>\$51,205 |
| Shaun Vogan    | LHS/Social Studies           | Superintendent<br>Steve Brooks | BA Step 1<br>\$43,332 |
| Zebulon Perrin | OMS/Dean of Students         | Superintendent<br>Steve Brooks | Step 1<br>\$85,000    |
| Jordan Forbes  | Bryant/1 <sup>st</sup> Grade | Superintendent<br>Steve Brooks | BA Step 1<br>\$43,332 |
| Kaitlyn Cook   | Bryant/4 <sup>th</sup> Grade | Superintendent<br>Steve Brooks | MA Step 3<br>\$49,689 |
| James Stanhope | LHS/Math                     | Superintendent<br>Steve Brooks | BA Step 5<br>\$51,205 |

Motion carried unanimously.

### **For Future Action**

- The Board will be asked to approve the course listings presented for the Middle School, High School, and Lincoln High School for the 2024-25 school year.
- The Board will be asked to authorize the District to purchase two used 77-passenger buses and lease one additional buses.
- The Board will be asked to adopt the membership resolution of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the year beginning August 1, 2024, through July 31, 2025
- The Board will be asked to adopt the suggested changes to the Owosso Performing Arts Center Facility Rental Information Agreement. Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick, to move the Owosso Performing Arts Center Facility Agreement from For Future Action to For Action and adopt the suggested changes. Motion carried unanimously.

### **For Information**

Superintendent Brooks announced the following personnel changes:

#### **Accepted Positions**

- Lauren Lake has accepted the Accounts Payable position.
- Steve Delong has accepted the Transportation Director position.

#### **Resignations**

- Justin Hill, Accounts Payable resigned effective June 11, 2024.
- Thomas Ogle, Teacher at LHS resigned at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year.
- Katelynn Fletcher, Teacher at LHS resigned at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year.
- Christine Greko, Teacher at Emerson resigned at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year.
- Racheal Metzger, Monitor at Bryant resigned at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year.
- Rachel Walker, Paraprofessional at Central resigned at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year.
- Stacey Coleman, Teacher at Bryant resigned at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year.
- Tara Shorey, Teacher at Emerson resigned effective June 18, 2024.
- Madalena Huyck, Teacher at Bryant resigned effective June 20, 2024.
- Stacey Willyerd, Teacher at Central resigned effective June 20, 2024.

### **Retirements**

- Janice Coppersmith, Bus Driver has submitted her letter of intent to retire at the conclusion of the 23/24 school year.

### **2024-2025 School Calendar**

Superintendent Brooks informed the Board about the 2024-2025 school calendar. He stated that we have agreed with the OEA to publish and publicize the calendar. He wanted to inform the Board of the agreed-upon schedule and any changes for the upcoming school year.

### **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 Henne thanked the budget team, Mr. Dame, Dr. Dwyer, and Julie Omer. He recently thanked Mrs. Omer in person for leaving us in such great shape. Henne also congratulated all the student-athletes on their vast accomplishments, welcomed the new hires and those who received promotions, and hoped everyone was having a great summer.

Treasurer Quick commended our summer school program, which she thinks is one of the most extensive in the county. She also gave kudos to the "Meet Up and Eat Up" initiative for making a significant impact, especially with the additional supplies provided on Thursdays, which has been incredibly beneficial for families facing food emergencies. Quick also welcomed the new staff members and congratulated those who received promotions. She also had the pleasure of participating in the Pride event and a panel discussion on Sunday at Baker College. Though attendance was low, the information shared was very informative. She encouraged the District to consider similar initiatives for professional development to promote inclusivity. She stated that seeing our District becoming more inclusive is encouraging, but we still have work to do in this area.

Trustee Easlick welcomed all the new teachers aboard and congratulated all the student-athletes on their achievements. He's looking forward to seeing the play this weekend and had the privilege of attending the Pride event downtown last week. He stated that seeing so many of our students, teachers, and community members coming together in a safe space to celebrate who they are was heartwarming.

President Mowen said all of our staff is genuinely dedicated. He gave special thanks to Mr. Dame for stepping into his new role and learning so quickly. He said his hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated.

### **Upcoming Board Meeting Dates**

- July 24: Board of Education Regular Meeting 5:30 PM, Washington Campus Gymnasium
- August 14: Board of Education Committee Meeting 5:30 PM, Washington Campus Gymnasium
- August 28: Board of Education Regular Meeting 5:30 PM, Washington Campus Gymnasium

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Quick, supported by Henne, to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Stephanie Goetzinger.



Respectfully submitted,

  
Ty Krauss, Secretary