

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
May 13, 2019
Report 18-195

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:33 pm. The meeting was held in the media center located at Owosso High School, 765 E. North Street, Owosso, Michigan.

Present: Jenc, Keyes, Mowen, Ochodnicki, Quick
Absent: Krauss and Webster. Ochodnicki left the meeting at 6:19 pm (motions of the Board of Education that were unanimous did not include Krauss, Ochodnicki or Webster)

President Jenc reported that the 2019 Crest Marine pontoon boat raffle benefitting Owosso High School's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs was once again a success. This is the second year that Crest Marine has graciously donated a boat with proceeds from the raffle going directly to the CTE programs.

Nick Krueger, OHS CTE Coordinator and Teacher explained that "Over the past two years, the Crest pontoon boat raffle has raised over \$41,000 to support our programs. We have supported the tuition costs for 14 students taking welding courses at Baker College through lab fees and safety equipment; purchased materials to start up the Agricultural Science greenhouse and raised vegetable gardens; and purchased other CTE materials for students. We are proud to showcase that approximately 55% of our students at OHS are enrolled in at least one CTE course this school year." The raffle for a new Crest Calypso 190SL pontoon boat donated by Crest Marine, raised \$18,450 with the sale of 369 total tickets this year. The winning ticket number for this year's raffle was number 220, which was purchased by Vince and Dawn Gonyou.

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

As part of the Celebrate Kids! Segment of the meeting, the 2019 top graduates from Owosso High School and Lincoln Alternative High School were recognized for their achievements.

Lincoln High School Principal Steve Irelan announced that five LHS students were selected as their top graduates from the class of 2019. The LHS top graduates recognized were Matthew Arntz II, Lukas Lindsey, Katherine Marsh, Brianna Miller, and Aeris Sexton.

Owosso High School Principal Jeff Phillips and Assistant Principal Karen Van Epps introduced the 2019 highest honors seniors. The top graduates recognized were Johnny Brock who plans to attend Michigan Technological University. Leah Collins plans to attend Michigan State University. Garrett Feinauer will attend Lansing Community College. Braxton Hay plans to attend Michigan State University. Emily Rau will be attending Michigan State University. Morgan Louch will attend the University of Michigan. Paige Sink will be attending Davenport University. Marissa Spalding plans on attending Central Michigan University. Cassie White will attend Michigan State University. Sophia Wittum is undecided. Taylor Bowie is undecided. Taylor Estes plans to attend the University of Michigan. Abigail Christian is undecided. Lucille Popovitch will attend Michigan State University. Mr. Phillips congratulated the top graduates on their achievements and thanked their parents that were in attendance at the meeting.

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle also thanked the parents for the opportunity to showcase the District's highest honors graduates. She commented that Owosso Public Schools has been showcasing previous OPS graduates as they graduate from college on the District's Facebook page and she hopes that in four to five years the 2019 graduates will realize their own dreams and goals.

Owosso High School Principal Jeff Phillips honored Mrs. Sue Comrie, Counselor on her retirement. Mrs. Comrie is retiring after 25 years of service to the District.

Central Elementary Principal Bridgit Spielman recognized Mr. Jim Fournier, Special Education Teacher who will retire after 23 years of service.

Emerson Elementary Principal Jessica Anderson congratulated Mrs. Susan Jones, Elementary Teacher on her retirement after being employed with the District for the past 29 years.

Emerson Elementary Principal Jessica Anderson honored Mr. Scott McCuaig, Elementary Teacher on his retirement. Mr. McCuaig will retire after 25 years of service to the District.

Bryant Elementary Principal Michelle Collison congratulated Mrs. Tina Fleminger, Paraprofessional who will retire at the conclusion of the school year after 25 years of service.

Bryant Elementary Principal Michelle Collison recognized Ms. Lesa McKeon, Elementary Teacher who will retire after 23 years of service.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle remarked that collectively, the loss of retirees is always hard for the District. She wished each of them well as they retire from Owosso Public Schools.

Central Elementary Principal Bridgit Spielman informed the Board that in addition to his teaching responsibilities at Central, Jim Fournier has made a big impact on the students at Central through his facilitation of the Peer to Peer program and Student Council.

Tayloe Spielman, President of Central Elementary Student Council and Danica Dwyer, Vice President of Central Elementary Student Council explained that Mr. Jim Fournier leads their Student Council and volunteers his time to make sure good things happen at their school. They stated that Mr. Fournier has also been the “my person” for several kids that don’t have a person. He is an expert relationship builder and makes every kid feel like they are the most important kid ever. In addition to being their Student Council Advisor, he started one of the most successful elementary Peer to Peer programs in the county. Last year, their school won the ASD Peer to Peer Program Countywide award and this year Mr. Fournier won the ASD Peer to Peer Coach of the Year award.

Mr. Jim Fournier explained that Peer to Peer is a structured program that takes students that have difficulty with social interactions and pairs them with kids that have been identified as having mentor qualities that can assist other students. Over the past two years, the program has had a positive impact at Central School. They have experienced a reduction in playground incidents. In addition, some of the focus students have become mentors. Mr. Fournier thanked Mrs. Spielman for her support of the program. Currently there are 60 students at Central Elementary involved in the Peer to Peer program. There are 20 peers and an alternate mentor for all that are involved.

Sarah Bahm, Central Elementary Teacher explained that once a month they gather students for a Peer to Peer activity and pair them with a mentor that they typically do not know or interact with. The students all participate in a challenge that they work together on as a team. After the challenge they have discussions that allow them to reflect on their successes and how they can improve their peer relationships. A short video displaying Peer to Peer program activities was shared with the Board.

Board of Education Student Representative Cayden Whiteherse reported that Student Government just completed the Chalkboard project that he initiated at the high school to help students feel connected and included. The intention of the project was to help eliminate some of the separation that students feel or experience through negativity. Students and staff that took part in the project were given a blank chalkboard and were asked to write a negative word that someone had directed at them or called them. The project left the students and staff feeling very vulnerable, but the hope was to help them see that they were not alone and the words did not define them. Pictures were taken of the students with their chalkboards and later displayed in the commons for other students to write positive and kind comments during their passing times. The results were so overwhelming. ABC Channel 12 News contacted them and Student Council representatives were interviewed. A clip of the interview was shared with the Board.

Cayden Whiteherse announced that Student Government's next project was initiated by Carson Bornefeld. The project is for members of the senior class and will give them the opportunity to leave their mark at the high school. Beginning on May 13th seniors can pay \$5 to paint a brick in the building. There will be a designated area in the hallway where the seniors can display their creations. The artwork will be placed on a temporary template and receive approval from the administration prior to the actual painting.

Cayden Whiteherse stated that Student Government is working on plans for elections and events for the next school year. Cayden reminded the Board that Cabaret will take place on May 17-19. He also announced that Ava Fett and Autumn Weir recently participated in All-State Honor's Choir.

President Tim Jenc commented that he has relatives that reside in Onsted, Michigan and follow the Owosso Public Schools Facebook page. Onsted Schools have expressed an interest in the Chalkboard project and plan to start this at their school. He stated that they may be contacting Cayden Whiteherse for additional information.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reported that Staff Appreciation Week was celebrated by the District throughout the week of May 6th. She remarked that OPS has an incredible staff and tokens of appreciation were given to the entire staff during the week. The Board was also given these same gifts that included and Owosso Public Schools sticker, an "O" keychain, an "O" dot that can be placed on a computer keyboard, and Owosso sticky notes. At the building levels principals, and PTO's provided staff with snacks and treats as tokens of appreciation.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that one of the most important things that the District does every year is the Starfish awards. The recognition began several years ago at the Blue & Gold Banquet where highest honors graduates presented their Starfish Award to a person that had made a positive impact on the student. For the past five years, students District-wide have had the opportunity to give a Starfish Award. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle shared a few of the awards that were written by students and who gave their permission to publish them in an upcoming Trojan Times.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that OHS students recently held a performance of "Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind" at O-Town Café. She remarked that the performance was great and she enjoyed the laughter and fun of the student participants.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle commented that there is a lot going on in the District. She stated that seniors completed walks through their elementary buildings in their caps and gowns, the eighth grade graduation ceremony was outstanding, graduation ceremonies are being held at all levels and in all buildings, honors convocation and athletic awards will take place; along with a multitude of field trips that include the annual elementary trip to Mackinac Island. Lincoln High School Teacher Mrs. Michele Schmitz was awarded the Michigan Alternative Education Teacher of the Year. Mr. Michael Tolrud, Band Director was named the VFW Teacher of the Year.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that she participated in the annual OMS Washington, DC trip and was delighted to learn that their tour guide did some research and pointed out all of the residents from Owosso that had given up their lives and were listed on the Vietnam Memorial. She praised the students that participated on the trip for their perfect and respectful behavior.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle announced that the last day of school is June 4th which will be a half-day of school.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that students enrolled in CTE, business administration, and finance classes had an opportunity to take the NOCTE Assessment. The high school had 16 students that received college credit for their efforts and high test scores.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks informed the Board that Mr. Stephen Stauffer, Lincoln High School Teacher wrote a grant in partnership with Amazon for computer science coding classes. Training and software for the class is being provided by Amazon. Mr. Brooks commented that he is very excited that this class will be offered at LHS next year.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks announced that he is working with Bev White, Human Resources Coordinator and Jessica Thompson, Communications Director on an Owosso Public Schools Job Fair. This will take place on June 6th from 2-4 pm. Open interviews will take place during the Job Fair.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reminded the Board that bond updates are available on the District's website.

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.

Mr. Tom Manke expressed his concerns about information shared during the meeting regarding approximately 2,000 students that receive special education services. He asked if the community can be informed about the reasons for this increase. He wondered if there was a correlation to something that may be causing this.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle responded to Mr. Manke's concerns about the special education numbers and clarified that there are approximately 2,000 special education students county-wide and not just at Owosso Public Schools. She explained that special education numbers are on the rise across the entire state. As a result, school districts are having difficulties filling special education teaching positions because there are not enough certified teachers to support the increase in special education numbers.

Mr. Tom Manke shared his dismay about the time capsule that was vandalized at Washington School and had all of its contents removed. He stated that he ran a story about the time capsule a few years ago and is searching for it to determine the contents.

Commented [CJP1]:

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed Mr. Manke that the District removed the time capsule after it was vandalized for safety reasons. Unfortunately, there were no contents in the time capsule when the vandalism was discovered.

For Action

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick to approve the April 22, 2019 regular meeting minutes, April 22, 2019 closed session minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to authorize the Superintendent to sign the proposed contract for the fiscal year of 2019-20 with ESS Midwest (formerly PCMI/Willsub) to provide contracted services for the Athletic Department, for non-employee coaches, Bentley Bright Beginnings non-certified/non-Administrative staff and for special circumstances in which specialized non-union staff are needed. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen to authorize the Superintendent to sign a contract with Vector Tech Group from Holland, Michigan for technology infrastructure for the elementary additions included in the bond work in an amount not to exceed \$22,656.00. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to authorize the Superintendent or her designee to enter into negotiations with Konica Minolta Business Solutions U.S.A., Inc. for a contract for leasing and maintenance of copiers to be placed throughout the District for the next five years. President Jenc shared his concerns about the Konica Minolta lease being approximately \$9,000 higher than the other bids. Although, Konica Minolta Business Solutions did not meet the criteria of being the lowest

bidder, factors weighing the reasons for choosing this company that included quality of the machines, customer service, transition and problem solving were shared by Mrs. Omer. Mrs. Omer stated that she has been working with Konica Minolta and negotiating a lower cost than their original bid. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen to approve the resolution authorizing the District to pursue submitting a letter of interest to remove the property located at Bentley from the Michigan Land Bank. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick to authorize Owosso High School to dispose of two concert band timpani drums (kettle drums). The High School will put the drums up for sale through a closed bid process in an effort to obtain the best price for the District. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen to authorize District personnel to proceed with furniture purchases for the elementary additions from bond proceeds in an amount not to exceed \$94,050.00 including \$8,550.00 in contingency. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes, supported by Mowen to award the contracts associated with the construction categories of building demolition, building concrete, precast masonry, carpentry/general trades, elevator, plumbing, mechanical and electrical for the renovation of the secondary campus to be funded out of bond proceeds. This report was inadvertently omitted from the April 22, 2019 Board meeting for consideration as a "For Future Action" item but the information was shared electronically with the Board immediately following that Board meeting and has been brought as a "For Action" currently to move the bond project forward in a timely manner. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to award the contracts associated with the construction categories of glass and glazing, metal lockers, athletic equipment and fire protection for the renovation of the secondary campus to be funded out of bond proceeds. The items were brought as a "For Action" currently as a result of vendor time constraints and the need to move the bond project forward in a timely manner. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Jenc to adopt the Resolution to confirm their designation of Rick Mowen to be their designated representative of the Owosso Public Schools for the electoral body of the ISD biennial election to be held June 3, 2019 as acted upon at the regular Owosso Public Schools Board meeting on May 13, 2019 and Sara Keyes as an alternate representative in the event Mr. Mowen is unable to attend. In addition, resolve that the Board direct Mr. Mowen or his alternate to cast a vote on behalf of the Owosso Public Schools Board of Education at the election to be held on June 3, 2019 for two of the three candidates as follows: Dr. Timothy Atkinson and Catherine Mulholland to each serve six year terms on the SRESD Board. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick to support the Shiawassee Regional Education School District 2019-20 budget as presented and authorize the Superintendent to forward the resolution to the SRESD Board on or before June 1, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to approve the hiring of the following certified staff: Jessica Askew, Owosso Middle School English Teacher; Maggie Keech, Bryant Elementary Third Grade Teacher; and Michael Schiller, Owosso Middle School Science Teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board of Education will be asked to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso High School Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) students, Rachael Dahl, Lynnae Gilman, Maya Manuel, Lily Pirochta, and Morgan Louch. In addition, Ms. Trudy Schneider, FCCLA Advisor to travel to Anaheim, California to compete at the FCCLA National Convention.
- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to sign contracts with Sonitrol, Grand Blanc, MI in an amount not to exceed \$90,383.29 (inclusive of \$11,428.29 in contingency) for purchase and installation of access control and intercom systems; and Presidio out of Wixom, MI in an amount not to exceed \$149,610.80 (inclusive of \$5,704.89 in contingency) for IP cameras, network video recorders and licenses with both bids pertaining to the 2017 bond security project.
- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to sign a contract with Datacom Group, Holt, MI in an amount not to exceed \$163,511 (inclusive of \$7,786.00 in contingency) for the purchase and installation of structured cabling at the secondary campus for the bond work authorized by voter approval in 2017.

- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to sign the awarded contracts with the following vendors for construction services to be performed at the secondary campus to be funded out of bond proceeds:
 - Metal Panels through Architectural Metals, Inc., Portland, MI in amount not to exceed \$682,500* for Metal Panels (category 07a); Overhead/Coil
 - Bareman & Associates, Jenison, MI in amount not to exceed \$45,520* for Overhead Coiling Doors (category 08b)
 - Wm. Reichenbach Company not to exceed \$1,519,599* for Drywall Assemblies/Ceilings (category 09a)
 - Lansing Tile & Mosaic, Inc., Lansing, MI in an amount not to exceed \$610,783* for Carpet and Resilient Flooring (category 09b)
 - Kuhn Specialty Flooring, Beverly Hills, MI in an amount not to exceed \$91,100* for Wood Flooring (category 09c)
 - Niles Construction Services, Inc., Flint, MI in an amount not to exceed \$464,893* for Painting (category 09d)
 - Lansing Tile & Mosaic, Lansing, MI in an amount not to exceed \$192,227* for Hard Tile (category 09e)
 - Rayhaven Group, Livonia, MI in an amount not to exceed \$83,475* for Toilet Partitions (category 10a)
 - Agnew Sign Company, Owosso, MI in an amount not to exceed \$117,271 for Dimensional Letters, Graphics & Scoreboard (category 10b)
 - Interkal, LLC, Kalamazoo, MI in an amount not to exceed \$37,787 (category 12d) for Telescopic Seating (Bleachers) (category 12d)

*It should be noted that additional value engineering and change orders as the project progresses are expected to bring these contracts in lower than the maximum approved amounts.

- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a three-year fair market value lease agreement for three new 77 passenger gas buses and purchase two used 2016 propane 77 passenger buses previously leased by the District. The annual base lease of each of the gas buses is \$14,247.00 with the option to purchase the buses at the end of the three-year period for a cost of \$53,800 each. The cost of each of the used propane buses would be \$54,914.00 for a total cost of \$109,828. President Tim Jenc stated that he appreciates the information provided on the buses; however, he would like to meet with Superintendent Dr. Tuttle and Interim Transportation Director Renee Secor-Jenks-Jenks for further review and details. He stated that he would like to know how much it cost the District to maintain its bus fleet. Olga Quick remarked that she also has questions about the leasing and purchase of propane buses but we are looking leasing gas buses. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that she will provide the Board with additional information at the next meeting.

For Information

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that Peggy Luce, has resigned her position at Emerson Elementary as Food Service Worker, but will continue employment as a Food Service Sub. Tina Fleminger, Paraprofessional at Bryant Elementary has submitted her letter of retirement effective at the conclusion of the school year after 25 years of service. Wayne Dumond, Custodian III at Owosso Middle School has submitted his letter of retirement effective July 31, 2019 after 23 years of service.

Public Participation

There were no comments from the public.

Board Member Comments/Updates

Trustee Sara Keyes commented that she attended the eighth grade graduation ceremony and witnessed her stepson and Dr. Tuttle's son graduate. She stated that it was exciting to see that there was standing room only at the ceremony.

Trustee Sara Keyes remarked that Mr. Scott McCuaig was her fifth grade science and math teacher and he is now her daughter's teacher. She stated that he will be greatly missed.

Trustee Olga Quick congratulated the top graduates from Owosso High School and Lincoln High School. She stated that Mr. Steve Irelan said it best "There is a place for all". She remarked that it is nice to witness the success of the LHS graduates in spite of their struggles.

Trustee Olga Quick congratulated the retirees that were recognized during the meeting. Their combined years of service total 146 years. She stated that she has had the pleasure of working with many of them through her caseloads and their retirements are a huge loss.

Trustee Olga Quick remarked that the teacher awards that were mentioned by Superintendent Dr. Tuttle are a true testament to the District. She applauded Mrs. Michelle Schmitz, MAEO Teacher of the Year; Mr. Mike Tolrud, VFW Teacher of the Year; and Mr. Aaron Hughes, Golden Apple Award recipient.

Vice President Rick Mowen thanked Cayden Whiteherse for bringing the chalkboard project to the high school. He applauded the students that took part in the ABC Channel 12 interview that featured the project. The students did a great job representing Owosso High School and the project.

Vice President Rick Mowen remarked that we have a lot of jewels in Owosso's crown and Lincoln High School is one of them. To witness these students struggle through things that many of us take for granted and stay in school is a tremendous achievement. Mr. Mowen applauded the Owosso High School highest honors graduates and the great future they have ahead of them.

Vice President Rick Mowen congratulated the retirees. He remarked that he has had the privilege of working with some of them. For a number of years, he worked with Mr. Jim Fournier during contract negotiations and appreciates that he always put students first.

Vice President Rick Mowen also expressed his congratulations to Mr. Vince Gonyou on winning the pontoon boat raffle.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates.

June 10: Regular Board Meeting, 5:30 pm

June 24: Regular Board Meeting and Budget Hearing, 5:30 pm

Important Upcoming Dates:

May 14: OMS Spring Choir Concert, 7 pm

May 15: 5th Grade Field Meet at OHS, 9:30 am – 2 pm

May 16: Bryant Movie Night, 4 pm

May 17: Cabaret at OHS, 7 pm

May 18: Cabaret at OHS, 7 pm

May 19: OHS Art Walk, 1-3 pm

May 20: Senior Walk at OHS, 9:40 am

May 20: Senior Picnic at OHS, 10 am

May 20: Seniors Walk the Halls of Their Elementary School, 10:30 am

May 20: Athletic Awards at OHS, 7 pm

May 21: Honors Convocation at OHS, 7 pm

May 22: LHS Graduation Ceremony at OMS, 7 pm

May 23: OHS Graduation Ceremony at Willman Field, 7 pm

May 27: No School: Memorial Day

May 31: Half Day for All Students

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to adjourn at 7:01 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary