

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Minutes**  
**July 22, 2019**  
**Report 19-11**

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:34 pm. The meeting was held in the Washington Campus located at 645 Alger Street, Owosso, Michigan.

Present: Jenc, Keyes, Krauss, Ochodnicky, Quick. Note: Mowen participated in the meeting from a remote location  
Absent: Webster (motions of the Board of Education that were unanimous did not include Webster)

President Tim Jenc informed the meeting's audience that Vice President Rick Mowen was participating in the meeting via telephone. Mr. Jenc read into the record revised bylaw 0100 as it pertains to voting. The bylaw states "A vote at a meeting of the Board of Education. Except to accommodate the absence of any member of the Board due to military duty, Board members must be physically present to have their vote officially recorded in Board minutes, unless the Board member has notified the Board President prior to the meeting that s/he must participate remotely and the Board President approves remote participation by the Board member." President Jenc confirmed that he did in fact approve Mr. Mowen's request to participate remotely prior to the meeting.

**Board Correspondence**

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reported that prior to the start of the meeting, members of the Board of Education participated in a tour of the bond construction progress. She announced that on August 21<sup>st</sup> all of the elementary buildings will host new construction open houses. Ribbon cutting ceremonies will begin at 4 pm at Bryant Elementary, followed by Central Elementary, and then Emerson Elementary. The ribbon cutting ceremonies will be preceded by a Community Cookout (formerly known as the Community Pep Rally) at Willman Field from 6:30-8 pm. Superintendent Tuttle explained that the format of the Community Pep Rally was changed after receiving input from the participants of previous rally's. The cookout will include an opportunity to meet Board members, interactive games, and a performance by the Trojan Marching Band.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle announced that Opening Days are scheduled for August 28 and 29. The schedules for these two days have been solidified. Young Chevrolet Cadillac of Owosso, Dr. Ayaz Jafri, Clark Construction, Main Beverage Company, and Janena and Kevin Kregger of Nelson House Funeral Home were all thanked for their generous contributions that will allow staff to participate in an off-site event at the Stone House Farm on August 28. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that due to capacity limits at the venue, there will be two sessions held for OPS staff. The Board was invited to attend one of the two sessions that will run from 8-11 am or 12-3 pm. Staff members will also participate in school improvement meetings at their buildings on this day. All OPS staff members will receive an invitation informing them of which session they should attend. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained that the ongoing construction at the high school and a lack of available parking was the reasoning behind holding the event off-site.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained that the OPS leadership has worked very hard on improving student and staff attendance. She proudly reported that 91(50 %) members of the teaching staff had four or fewer absences during the 2018-2019 school year. Out of this, there were eight teachers that had no absences at all. She was proud to report that teacher absences have significantly decreased. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle commented that research has shown that a good attendance record by students in addition to their teacher's attendance are contributing factors to a student's success.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle displayed a front page article from The Argus Press that featured Dr. Cathy Dwyer, Carrie Miculka and Megan Friend's week long trip to the Dominican Republic, in support of The 4 North Project, a nonprofit organization committed to providing education, sustainability, empowerment and security across the globe.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks shared an update on summer school. He reported that 32 students were enrolled in session I at Owosso High School. These students successfully completed 38.5 credits. Currently there are 26 students enrolled in session II at Owosso High School. The summer school attendance at Lincoln Alternative High School has also been great. Elementary summer school is in session II and attendance has remained good. A third session of summer school will begin in August for elementary students.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that Books at Bryant continues to be a huge success. Due to the popularity of the weekly event, an additional book order was recently placed. An average of 125-150 children have been attending throughout the summer. The District has partnered with Culver's Restaurant and they are providing free frozen custard too all students weekly.

Curriculum director Steve Brooks informed the Board that several educational materials have been ordered to kick off the 2019-20 school year. These materials will equip teachers with up to date resources.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks announced that there are currently 11 new teachers hired. A new teacher orientation is scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup>. The Board was invited to have breakfast with these new staff members from 8-9 am at the Owosso Middle School media center. This will be followed by a meeting at the Armory. Mr. Brooks stated that the orientation includes community building with a tour of Owosso and each schools neighborhood. Mrs. Karen Michalec is the teacher mentor and will assist Mr. Brooks with the orientation. The new teachers will meet with their grade level and department chairs on August 21<sup>st</sup> for a review of their teaching materials.

### **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.

There were no comments from the meeting's audience.

### **For Action**

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to approve the June 24, 2019 budget hearing minutes, June 24, 2019 regular meeting minutes, June 24, 2019 closed session minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicky, supported by Keyes to authorize the Superintendent to sign a contract with Owosso Carpet, Owosso, MI in an amount not to exceed \$40,231.00 inclusive of \$15,000.00 in contingency for abatement and renovation at Bryant, Central and Emerson school to be funded out of sinking fund proceeds. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnicky to adopt the membership resolution of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the year beginning August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen to approve the hiring of certified staff member Nicole Davis, Bryant Elementary Kindergarten Teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Keyes to approve the July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 Tentative Agreement between the Owosso Education Association and the Owosso Board of Education. Secretary Ochodnicki conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Keyes, Krauss, Jenc, Ochodnicki. Nays: none. Vice President Rick Mowen and Trustee Olga Quick abstained from voting because they each have family members that are employed by the District and affiliated with the Owosso Education Association. Motion carried.
- Moved by Krauss, supported by Quick to approve the July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 Tentative Agreement between the Owosso Education Support Personnel Association and the Owosso Board of Education. Secretary Ochodnicki conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Quick, Keyes, Krauss, Jenc, Ochodnicki, and Mowen. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Krauss, supported by Ochodnicki to authorize the Superintendent to sign off on the easement for Consumers Energy at the secondary campus located at 765 E. North Street (Owosso High School). The easement will allow Consumers Energy to route a new overhead electrical service on the west side of the secondary campus. Motion carried unanimously.

### **For Future Action**

- The Board of Education will be asked to approve the tax levy (L-4029) for 2019 as presented. The tax levy must be approved by the Board of Education prior to October 1, 2019 in order to be included on the December 1 (winter) tax roll.

### **For Information**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that Richard Hird has accepted the Custodian II position at Owosso Middle School. William Church has accepted the Custodian II position at Owosso Middle School. Heather Kirby has accepted the GSRP Associate Teacher position at Bentley Bright Beginnings. Austin Klapko, Student Facilitator at Bryant Elementary has submitted his letter of resignation. Kaitlyn Hoffman, Kindergarten Teacher at Bryant Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation.

### **Public Participation**

There were no comments from the meeting's audience.

### **Board Member Comments/Updates**

Trustee Sara Keyes remarked that she is very happy to hear that neighborhood tours are given to the new teachers. She stated that she thinks this is a great idea and offers them a better perspective of their students. Mrs. Keyes commented that she is really excited about the elementary open houses and the Community Cookout. She stated that this will be a fun way to start the new school year. She is also thrilled about the ongoing construction at the high school.

In response to Mrs. Keyes comments about the Community Cookout, Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained that the open houses and Community Cookout will be very informal. These events were planned as an opportunity to get the community together in a relaxed atmosphere, enjoy free food, and meet members of the Board of Education.

Trustee Ty Krauss thanked Clark Construction for the bond tour prior to the meeting. He stated that it has been great to witness the progress that is being made.

Trustee Olga Quick expressed her appreciation towards Karen Middleton, Project Manager of Clark Construction and for her presence at Board meetings. She remarked that she has noticed her attendance at the meetings and appreciates her availability to answer questions from the Board.

Trustee Olga Quick commented that she attended Books at Bryant on July 18<sup>th</sup> and in spite of the extreme heat, it was a lot of fun. She stated that it was a great opportunity to visit with the children. It was very enjoyable to hand out ice cream and see the kids get excited about books. Mr. Quick also expressed her appreciation of the staff that volunteer their time each week as well.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnický stated that she is looking forward to having her grandchildren in the elementary buildings this year. She remarked that she is also excited about the open house format and plans to take her grandchildren. Mrs. Ochodnický expressed her gratitude for the staff members that have responded to her messages over the summer. She stated that she also enjoyed the bond progress tour.

President Tim Jenc thanked Karen Middleton of Clark Construction for the time she provides to the Board and her attendance at the weekly bond meetings. He commented that she always comes to the meetings well prepared.

Vice President Rick Mowen thanked President Jenc and the Board for allowing him to remotely participate in the meeting. He also expressed his appreciation for the Owosso Education Association and explained that he abstained from voting on the contract because his daughter is a member of the group.

**Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:**

August 12: Board of Education Committee of the Whole, 5:30 pm

August 26: Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 pm

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

August 1: Elementary and LHS Principals Return

August 6-7: All Admin. Retreat

August 13-14: LHS Registration, 9 am – 2 pm

August 19: 10 Month Secretaries Return

August 20: New Teacher Orientation Breakfast at OMS Media Center, 8-9 am

August 20: New Teacher Orientation at Owosso Armory, 9 am – 3 pm

August 21: New Teacher Orientation, 9 am – 3 pm

August 21: OHS Trojan Day, 8 – 11 am, 12-3 pm, and 4-6 pm

August 22: ILC Meeting at Owosso Armory, 9 am – 3 pm

Central Elementary Principal Bridgit Spielman stated that on behalf of the Mike and Dee Raffaelli family, they want everyone to know that they were extremely humbled and overwhelmed by the kindness that they have received after the loss of their son. They are excited to return to work and look forward to the continued support of their Owosso Public Schools family.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnický to adjourn at 5:59 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

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Shelly Ochodnický, Secretary