

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Minutes**  
**November 25, 2019**  
**Report 19-145**

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:30 pm. The meeting was held in the media center located at Owosso High School, 765 E. North Street, Owosso, Michigan.

Present: Jenc, Keyes, Krauss, Ochodnicki, Quick, Webster

Absent: Mowen (motions of the Board of Education that were unanimous did not include Mowen)

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Tim Jenc explained that the meeting's agenda has been amended. He stated that the Emergency Operations Plan that was presented during the October 28, 2019 meeting contained two minor errors. These errors have been corrected and a revised copy was at place. Additionally, due to the maintenance truck purchase that was originally quoted and presented during the October 28, 2019 is not available any longer, a new truck bid was also at place.

**Building Reports**

As part of the Celebrate Kids! segment of the meeting, Lincoln Alternative High School Principal Mr. Steve Irelan introduced Mrs. Deb Baughman, Social Worker at LHS. Mrs. Baughman also serves as President of the Michigan Alternative Education Organization (MAEO) and chairperson of the MAEO STARS (Success, Teamwork, Achievement, Recognition, Self-Esteem) Competition. Mrs. Baughman stated that it is her pleasure to serve on a Board that offers students leadership opportunities. This year each school that participated in the MAEO STARS fall kick-off event was challenged to create a "Navigating the Future" themed video. The LHS students that participated in the competition also submitted their video to the National Alternative Education Association (NAEO) video contest and earned third place in the national competition.

Mrs. Michele Schmitz, Teacher at Lincoln High School praised her students for their video. She acknowledged Alex Beal for her input and coming up with the idea for the video. Alex Beal addressed the Board and explained that her inspiration for the video came from watching time travel movies. The video entitled "Twisted Compass" reflects on the mistakes that the main character has made in the past. A local phone booth was used as a time travel machine in the video and the main character goes back in time to correct his mistakes. The video that was created by LHS students Alex Beal, Hannah Bernath, Cole Comstock, Jasmine Jorgensen, Haley Kenyon, and McKayla Stamper was shared with the Board and the meeting's audience.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle commented that the video was excellent and she can understand the awards the students have received for it.

Mrs. Deb Baughman remarked that she likes the "change the trajectory of your future" that is included at the end of the video. A check for \$200 was presented to the students for winning third place in the NAEO video contest.

Board of Education Student Representative Cayden Whiteherse was absent from the meeting.

**Board Correspondence**

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reported that several positive events have occurred in the District since the last meeting. Veterans Day was celebrated throughout the District as it has for the past decade. She formally thanked the administration, staff, and students for hosting one of the most powerful days of the school year that recognizes Veterans for the sacrifices they have made. Performances at the celebrations included the Twirlers, students singing under the direction of their music teachers, and band members rendition of Taps. It was estimated that around 500 Veterans attended the celebrations.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle remarked that the Owosso High School Music Man performance was fantastic. She applauded the performing arts students for their amazing talent.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that the Bryant Elementary Title I staff hosted an All Pro Dad's Breakfast on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Over 350 guests attended the event which was one of the largest to date. It was noted that several staff members volunteered their time to make the event a great success.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that there have been several Student of the Month celebrations throughout the District. She applauded the teachers and administrators that take the time to recognize students who do the right thing and make great choices.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle announced that the high school hosted the ABC Channel 12 School Spirit Challenge early morning pep assembly on November 22. She recognized Tim Hortons for donating donuts and hot chocolate and Vice President Rick Mowen for his assistance in serving the refreshments. A special thank you went to members of the OHS Student Government and teachers Penny Hammond and Teresa Laskowski for their assistance at the event. The band, cheer leaders and student body were also recognized for supporting this cause.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reminded the Board that this is the season for band and choir Christmas concerts. She stated that these are always wonderful events that get audiences into the spirit of Christmas.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained that the bond construction is going very well. She commented that the recent winter weather conditions have not helped with the timeframe or the budget; however, all construction is on track to finish on time with the exception of the performing arts center.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle proudly announced that OHS senior Katie Clevenger signed her letter of intent to dive at Oakland University. Brook Hemker signed her letter of intent to play softball at Mott Community College and Clover Brandt signed to play softball at Lawrence Technological University.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle applauded Mr. Steve Irelan, Sports Booster President for his time and efforts with another successful 300 Club annual fundraising event. Vice President Rick Mowen was also recognized for attending the fundraiser.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reminded the Board that the Owosso Public Schools Foundation is sponsoring Teacher of the Year and Staff Member of the Year awards. OPS staff are encouraged to submit their nominations for a deserving staff member. The OPS Foundation is accepting nominations through January 10, 2020. The award recipients will be announced during the March 4, 2020 professional development.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle presented a copy of the most recent edition of the Today's Trojan. The publication is a compilation of the many great things that are going on in the District. The entire OPS team was complimented for providing the information that was published. Community Education Director Jessica Thompson was applauded for putting the publication together and always making it look professional.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle recognized Parker Hasyn, an Owosso High School senior and member of the varsity football team for be awarded the Brandon Burlsworth Character Award. The award has been given out in Arkansas High Schools for the past 11 years in recognition of outstanding character and sportsmanship, and is now nationwide. The award honors the player who may or may not be a top athletic performer, but who represents the ideals and values that Brandon Burlsworth had: to give 100 percent on the field and to stand as a moral example to his team. We hope that the award encourages the honoree to continue on his path of excellence, and inspires others to follow his lead. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle applauded Athletic Director Dr. Dallas Lintner for personally taking the award to Parker's home and presenting it to him.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. She reminded everyone that school will be dismissed at noon on November 27<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving recess.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that in early December, eighth graders will have an opportunity to take the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test). Students achieving the highest scores in the county on the SAT are identified and recognized as academically talented students through the Shiawassee Scholars program, which is a partnership between the Cook Family Foundation and the Shiawassee Regional Education Service District. During the 2018-19 school year, eighth grade students were granted an opportunity to participate in an SAT test prep and the response was overwhelming. Students were presented with the same opportunity once again this year and over the past month, approximately 45 eighth graders have consistently attended the two hour Saturday test prep. Owosso Middle School teachers Courtney Schiller and Sarah Jurhs were recognized for providing students with highly qualified instruction. The test preparation has been so successful that the high school is now interested in offering this to students in March and prior to the April SAT and PSAT assessments.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks commented that the high school offers world class CTE experiences for our students. Over the past month, a group of OHS Virtual Enterprise students traveled to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee to participate in the VE Southern Regional Trade Show under the leadership of Mr. Mike Gregory. Mr. Brooks proudly announced that both groups of students placed in the top 200 in the country and will move on to the next round of competitions that will be held on February 18-20, 2020 in Chicago.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks informed the Board that the administrative team, instructional leadership team, and Lincoln High School students recently took part in a VERLI virtual experience. Students were able to virtually experience plumbing by changing a pea trap, change an electrical socket, build a door frame, and basic welding maneuvers. The goal is to provide these experiences to eighth grade students to help them determine specific classes that they may have an interest in before entering the high school.

### **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 Ochodnický, supported by Keyes to approve the October 28, 2019 regular meeting minutes, November 13, 2019 student hearing minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Webster to approve the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that describes the purpose, scope, situation, policies, and concept of operations for the response and recovery activities to an emergency crisis. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnický, supported by Quick to authorize the Owosso Public Schools maintenance department to dispose of one truck, one van, a mower, and three heating/cooling units that have been identified as not being needed any longer. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes, supported by Ochodnický to authorize the Superintendent to sign the Memorial Healthcare Sponsorship agreement on behalf of the District in order to obtain resources to be allocated towards purchase of equipment for the Fitness Center at the Owosso Public Schools 6-12 campus. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnický to approve the purchase of a truck with a towing package and snowplow from Signature Ford-Lincoln in an amount not to exceed \$27,458 and a snowplow from D & G Equipment for an amount not to exceed \$6,415 for a total price of \$33,873 plus license fees. It was noted by Trustee Quick that this vehicle was the lowest bid. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Webster to authorize the Superintendent to sign a contract with Royal-West Roofing & Sheet Metal, LLC out of Brighton, MI in an amount not to exceed \$670,000 (Alternate A2 and Alternate A1.a) and authorize the Superintendent to allocate \$100,500 (15%) additional funds for contingency for a total of \$770,500 to be taken out of sinking funds. The additional contingency amount would allow for any unforeseen conditions as the roofing work moves forward and allow the process to proceed without having to come back to the Board for additional approval and was not requested as part of the original bidding process. Any unused contingency would be reallocated back to the sinking fund. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that in order to protect the investment of the renovations taking place at the 6-12 campus that did not involve bond roof work, it was deemed prudent to review the status of the existing roof prior to going out to bid. During that process, it was identified that a roofing renovation was necessary for the existing roofing systems at the 6-12 campus that were not outlined in the bond work and was not and could not have been anticipated as part of the bond process. She explained that Spicer typically oversees the District's Sinking Fund projects; however, because Clark Construction is on site, they will be overseeing the roofing project in conjunction with the bond project. In December, the Board will be presented with the proposal for Clark Construction's oversight of the roofing project. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Keyes to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate an option to sell the Owosso Middle School to Community Housing Network (CHN). Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that only one bid was received. In Board discussions, it was repeatedly stated that the purchaser of the building will do something positive for the community. With the recognition that this building is a significant part of the downtown and the community, it was deemed prudent to begin looking for a viable partner that would reutilize the building in a manner consistent with the needs of the community. CHN responded to the RFP and appears to have a well thought out plan for reutilization of the current middle school. Additionally, CHN has an excellent reputation. CHN has also been in discussions with members of the Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership. The City of Owosso has also been included in these discussions in regards to the amphitheater and access to the Shiawassee River. In order for CHN to move forward, similar to the Lincoln development approved by the Board in 2014, there are some specific approvals that must be garnered including being awarded a MSHDA (Michigan State House Development Association) grant in order for CHN to make the plan financially viable. One component of the requirements for the MSHDA application is an executed Option to Purchase the property in question which allows them access to the site. A draft of such an Option was provided in the response to the RFP by CHN; however, the Option needs to contain some specific provisions that reflect the needs of the District and community during the intervening time before the sale and after the completion of the sale if the option is exercised by CHN. One such provision is to allow the District to continue to entertain other partners in the intervening time in the event that CHN's plan for the facility is not successful. To be able to facilitate working through these issues in an efficient manner, it is being requested that the Board authorize the Superintendent to enter into such negotiations with CHN with the full knowledge that any resulting agreement would be required to be put before the Board for approval. Treasurer Marlene Webster commented that she has reviewed CHN's proposal and is very impressed with the quality of their projects. Their proposal would be a phenomenal addition to the community. The Board is committed to ensuring that the middle school is used to benefit the community. Mrs. Webster stated that she also appreciates CHN's work in the community and their efforts to obtain input from community leaders. If another bid is received for the building, CHN will have the first right of refusal. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained that there are two time capsules in the middle school and she has asked the District's attorney to include language in the contract for these to be returned to the District. Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki and Trustee Olga Quick both stated that they also reviewed the bid. They both feel that it is quite comprehensive and appreciates the homework that CHN did prior to submitting the bid. Motion carried unanimously.

### **For Future Action**

- The Board of Education will be asked to approve the course listings presented for the Middle School, High School, and Lincoln High School for the 2019-20 school year. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle thanked Curriculum Director Steve Brooks for including a link in the report that accesses the extensive listing of courses offered by the District.

- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the purchase of internal signage from Shattuck Advertising in an amount not to exceed \$24,300.29 including alternates for Unit B signs and directional signs.

### **For Information**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that Justin Hill has accepted the Payroll Specialist position. Weston Humble has accepted the Custodian II position at Owosso High School. Dalton Cremer has accepted the Custodian II position at Owosso High School. Cletus Tithof has accepted the Custodian II position at Owosso Middle School. Hillary Foster has accepted the GSRP Associate Teacher position at Bentley Bright Beginnings. Tonia Pelech has accepted the Custodian II position at Washington Campus. Tyler Coleman has accepted the Computer Technician position at Washington Campus. Janell Somers, GSRP Associate Teacher has submitted her letter of resignation effective November 22, 2019. Erica Muehlhauser, Kindergarten Teacher at Bryant Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation effective November 8, 2019.

### **Public Participation**

There were no comments from the meeting's audience.

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

Treasurer Marlene Webster apologized for arriving late to the meeting. She informed the Board that she was in Ann Arbor earlier that day to hear Angela Miller, a 2015 Owosso High School graduate lecture a group of 300 undergraduates on Global and Trans National Women's Health Issues. Mrs. Webster remarked that she is very proud of this Owosso graduate that is doing some amazing things. Ms. Miller is currently working on her Master's Degree in Public Global Health and is also a graduate student instructor.

Trustee Olga Quick stated that she, along with Court Administrator Sara Edwards were recently guest speakers in Josh Dewley's classroom at Lincoln High School and she really enjoyed the experience. She remarked that the students asked some wonderful questions. Mrs. Quick commented that she liked the LHS video and its message that was presented during the Celebrate Kids! segment of the meeting. She asked Principal Steve Irelan if it could be shared, specifically with Court personnel and her caseload kids.

Trustee Olga Quick remarked that the Owosso High School Performing Arts student's presentation of the Music Man was absolutely amazing. She applauded Mr. Jerry Ciarlino and Mrs. Jessica Nieuwkoop for their incredible work with the students. Mrs. Quick commented that she is employed as a Probation Officer and believes that choir, theater, and performing arts provide students with an outlet that very few have an opportunity to do. Mrs. Quick also acknowledged the teachers and staff that attended the performances on their personal time and for their continued support of the kids. Mrs. Laskowski, Mrs. Lounds, Mr. Sterk, Mrs. Elbing, Mr. and Mrs. Lemanski, Mrs. Burzmor, Mr. Gregory, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Ketchum, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Hall, Mrs. McClung, Mrs. Van Epps, and Dr. Tuttle were acknowledged for either attending or assisting with the performances.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki reported that she attended the Veterans Day program at Central Elementary and it was awesome as always. She stated that she also attended the dad's breakfast at Bryant Elementary and believes that of all of these, it was one of the best attended to date. She commented that it was also nice to have grandparents in attendance for parents that had to work.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki congratulated Mr. Steve Irelan for his daughter's achievements in swimming at the State Finals. The entire girls' varsity swim team was also applauded for their excellent season.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki remarked that she recently participated in a student discipline hearing as a representative of the Board. She thanked the administration, teachers, and custodial staff for all that they do for OPS students. Even though these hearings are difficult, Mrs. Ochodnicki expressed her appreciation for staff treating each student as an individual and the consideration that is taken for these types of situations.

Trustee Ty Krauss thanked the staff and administration of Owosso Public Schools for all their hard work every day and it shows. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Mr. Krauss encouraged everyone to support our kids and attend the upcoming student performances that are always fantastic.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle invited the Board to attend the Senior Citizen Breakfast on Friday, December 6 at 8 am in the Owosso High School. She stated that this year's student performance will take place in the gymnasium.

Trustee Sara Keyes wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

President Tim Jenc also expressed his appreciation to all staff and also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:**

December 9: Regular Board Meeting at 5:30 pm (Note: meeting to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month due to holidays)

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

November 27: Half Day for All Students, Teacher Work Day and LHS 1st Trimester Ends

November 28-29: No School-Thanksgiving Recess

December 2: LHS 2nd Trimester Begins

December 3: OMS Band Holiday Concert @ OMS, 7 pm

December 4: OHS Band Concert @ OMS, 7 pm

December 6: Senior Citizen Breakfast at OHS Gym, 8 am

**Adjournment**

Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Webster to move into closed session at 6:24 pm to discuss the superintendent's evaluation. Secretary Ochodnicki conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Webster, Quick, Ochodnicki, Jenc, Keyes, Krauss. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Webster, supported by Krauss to return to open session at 6:43 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Webster, supported by Ochodnicki to adjourn at 6:43 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

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Shelly Ochodnicki, Secretary