

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
March 26, 2018
Report 17-118

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held in the media center located at Owosso High School, 765 E. North Street, Owosso, Michigan.

Present: Jenc, Keyes, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnicki, Paez, Webster
Absent: All Members Present

Pledge of Allegiance

President Jenc explained that the meeting's agenda had been amended to include Board Report 17-117 (at place) that will authorize the Superintendent to move forward with the necessary legal steps to promote the safety for all students.

- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to add Board Report 17-117 to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Building Reports

As part of the Celebrate Kids! segment of the meeting, Superintendent Tuttle introduced Mr. Steve Irelan, Principal of Lincoln Alternative High School to the Board of Education. Mr. Irelan reported that Lincoln High School has been participating in a two-year Reach Higher grant through the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN). The school and staff have worked hard to create a college going culture in their building by arranging college tours. Local businesses are invited to attend reoccurring community breakfast events and talk to the students about different career paths. In addition to job shadowing opportunities that connect students to their specific interests. Mr. Irelan explained that MCAN uses the term "college" to refer to the attainment of valuable postsecondary credentials beyond high school, including professional/technical certificates and academic degrees. The goal of MCAN is to increase the percentage of Michigan residents with degrees or postsecondary certificates. Mr. Irelan introduced Gizelle Ross, Paraprofessional who has been instrumental with assisting LHS students in the Reach Higher grant initiative. The staff at Lincoln have also developed a senior checklist of items that students must accomplish prior to graduation. A few LHS seniors were in attendance that have completed their checklist, which includes obtaining a driver's license, familiarity and the importance of attaining insurance, Education Development Plan (EDP) completion, FAFSA submission, applying for the Tuition Incentive Program, and a college application.

Lincoln High School senior Makenzie Soldan informed the Board that she submitted an application to attend the Mott Community College School of Cosmetology and will begin in September 2018.

Marialena Gonzalez stated that she has attended LHS for two years. She informed the Board that she applied to attend Lansing Community College and was accepted. She also submitted an application to the Aveda Institute. Marialena explained that she is uncertain about her future plans but is sure that she would like to further her education.

Kaitlyn Matlock announced that she applied to attend Lansing Community College and was accepted to begin in the fall of 2018. Her goal is to become a Social Worker and help others.

Dustin Holloway commented that he submitted his college application to Lansing Community College and would like to pursue a career in Criminal Justice and Criminology.

Claudia Jorgensen stated that she has attended LHS for approximately two years. She applied to attend Lansing Community College and is interested in photography and counseling.

Mr. Ireland commented that in addition to the students that presented to the Board, other LHS students have applied and been accepted to attend college as well. He stated that the staff at LHS strive to assist the students so their aspirations do not end once they receive their high school diploma. Mr. Ireland remarked that LHS students are faced with many obstacles and he is very proud of their accomplishments.

Lisa Truscott, SET SEG Foundation Executive Director and Ali McLeary, along with Matt Showalter of the Michigan Association of School Boards were in attendance to announce that the Owosso Cares Food Backpack Program was awarded an Education Excellence Award. Jessica Thompson, Lori Young-Rowlison, and Amanda Berndt accepted the award on behalf of the program. Lisa Truscott explained that the Education Excellence Awards are celebrating their 25th anniversary and partnering with the Michigan Association of School Boards. In celebration of their 25th anniversary, the SET SEG Foundation awarded \$2,500 grants to 25 extraordinary Michigan public school programs. In addition to the \$2,500 check, an "Education Excellence Winner" road sign and trophy was received. The Owosso Cares Food Backpack Program began in 2011 after a local non-profit discontinued their food backpack program supporting Owosso Public Schools elementary students. The need for students has steadily increased with 400 backpacks currently dispensed each month. A tribute signed by local legislators, Michigan's Lieutenant Governor, and Governor Rick Snyder recognizing the Owosso Cares Backpack Program was read by Ali McLeary.

Superintendent Tuttle applauded Jessica Thompson for writing the SET SEG Foundation grant. The Board was reminded that all of the money collected for the Owosso Cares Backpack Program goes directly to students for the purchase of food. The Young Chevrolet Cadillac Dealership of Owosso was also acknowledged for their continued support and assistance with the program.

Board of Education Student Representative Morgan Hebekeuser shared details on the "What's Your 17" event that was held at Owosso High School on March 14th. The students chose this activity in recognition of 17 Florida high school students that were killed in a school shooting. Morgan explained that at 10 am students were given 17 minutes to talk about how they could make their school safer, if they felt safe, and if there was someone in their school that they can confide in. The students posted their thoughts and feelings on poster paper that were hung in the high school hallways later that day. Students were also allowed the opportunity to go outdoors and protest gun violence during the National School Walkout. Morgan commented that the entire day was very special and the school environment felt similar to a family. Everyone seemed to be more connected after sharing their feelings. She reported that State Representative Ben Frederick met with members of the high school E-Board and discussed the thoughts and feelings that were shared during "What's Your 17". She commented that it was very meaningful to have him listen to them, especially the students that do not always have a voice. Representative Frederick informed the students that he planned to share their thoughts and comments with his constituents and provide them with their feedback. Morgan stated that the high school plans to organize future events that will allow students an opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns with others.

Morgan Hebekeuser announced that the Miss Magnificent Pageant will be held on March 27th. Seven high school girls are competing for the title.

Morgan Hebekeuser stated that after spring break a new Student Council E-Board will be elected for the 2018-2019 school year.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle applauded Morgan Hebekeuser on her eloquent description of the "What's Your 17" event that was held at the high school. She commented that there were several activities that took place across the District on March 14th to protest gun violence in the wake of the February 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The goal was to inspire meaningful change within our schools. She also praised the students that chose to participate in the National School Walkout for displaying respect. Superintendent Tuttle reported that the theme of her State of the District address this year was "Leaving a Legacy of Relationships" with a focus on kids

becoming friends. She stated that it is hoped that future activities will take place to perpetuate the importance of relationships.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that she recently initiated monthly “Talks with Tuttle” where she goes into buildings and has an open conversation with seven to 10 randomly selected students. She commented that during one of her conversations a high school student stated that it’s great that we do team building activities at the beginning of the school year; however, they are not consistently carried on throughout the year.

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that the bond is consuming a lot of her time, but extraordinary progress is being made. She recognized Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki for her attendance at the majority of the Bond Steering Committee meetings and Treasurer Cheryl Paez for attending the most recent meeting. Superintendent Tuttle stated that a four-hour meeting was held earlier that day. Members of the Bond Steering Committee have begun to place classrooms in the design concept and it is hoped that a final concept will be presented to the construction manager by the end of the school year. The architects and Bond Steering Committee is working very hard to stay within the confines of the bond budget.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that Owosso High School’s Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Chapter recently competed at the state competition and did an outstanding job. The team of Lucy Popovitch, Emily Rau, and Morgan Louch earned a gold medal and a chance to compete at the national level in June. Maegan Jodway and Kayla Manley also earned a gold medal and qualified for nationals. The team of Addison Kregger and Makenna Van Belkum won second place in their competition and qualified for the national competition as well. Superintendent Tuttle congratulated the FCCLA Chapter on their great representation of Owosso Public Schools.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that the District’s kindergarten registration numbers are at the highest point they have ever been for this time of year. Currently there are 225 kindergarten students registered for the 2018-19 school year. Bentley Bright Beginning’s preschool numbers have increased as well.

Superintendent Tuttle was elated to announce that the Emerson Elementary baseball field will be rejuvenated. She expressed her gratitude to Owosso Hit & Pitch for investing in the field and giving it new life.

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that District staff recently participated in a safety and security presentation by Mr. Tom Mynsberge. Shiawassee County Sheriff Brian BeGole, Chief of Public Safety Police and Fire Kevin Lenkart, and several local police officers were also in attendance. Mr. Mynsberge reiterated the importance of safety protocols and also answered questions from staff.

Superintendent Tuttle congratulated Dr. Dallas Lintner for assuming the role as President of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. This is the professional organization for athletic directors in the state.

Mr. Steve Brooks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction reported that March is Reading Month is coming to an end. He praised the elementary buildings for doing a fantastic job decorating their hallways, doors, and classrooms. Several community members volunteered as guest readers in various classrooms throughout the entire month. There were after school activities for students, contests and tee-shirt giveaways. The Kiwanis Club and Masons formed a partnership and gave away 14 bicycles to students that met their established reading goals. The Parent/Teacher organization was also involved in the reading celebrations. Mr. Brooks commented that reading has been a major focus in all buildings across the District throughout the month of March.

Mr. Brooks reported that students will begin taking the annual M-STEP state assessment on April 16th. Owosso High School and Lincoln High School students will take the SAT on April 10-12. Mr. Brooks praised the building principals and staff members for their team efforts as they prepare for the assessments.

Mr. Brooks informed the Board that a M-STEP science test is still considered a pilot test by the Michigan Department of Education. He commented that it can be frustrating when the state keeps changing the tests from year to year. However, teachers are focusing on standards and teaching real-life skills. Mr. Brooks explained that a K-12 science representative will be in the district on April 26th to talk about creating science mentors, scientific methods, and additional strategies to move science forward district-wide.

Mr. Brooks stated that on March 28th all buildings will receive their perception survey data results. The surveys will include data from parents, staff and students. Teams will review and disseminate the data prior to releasing it. School improvement plans for the 2018-19 school year will be written based on the survey results.

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 thanked the District and all of the educators that were involved in the proactive March 14th National School Walkout Day. He stated that he felt it was very well done. Mr. Manke remarked that he refused to use the word "walkout" and wrote an article on his Facebook page titled "A walk to the flagpole to pay respect to those who have died".

Mr. Manke expressed his concerns about a recent gun threat that occurred at Corunna Public Schools. He stated that Corunna did not have any phone or internet service during the incident and administrative staff was not aware that they were in a lock-down or that police departments and canine dogs were in their buildings. He stressed the importance of administrators being aware of what is going on in their schools, especially when the media contacts them for information.

Mr. Manke reported that during the week of April 1st his Facebook page titled Friends, Community Newsgroup will be moving to one online page and 90% of his post will be on YouTube.

For Action

- Moved by Webster, supported by Mowen to approve the February 26, 2018 regular meeting minutes, March 12, 2018 committee of the whole meeting minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to authorize the Superintendent to sign the agreement with J.P. Morgan Securities for Underwriting services for the upcoming bond issue. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to adopt the resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of the bonds and other matters relating thereto. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to adopt the resolution as presented in support of integration of the theatrical arts into the high school curriculum. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Mowen to adopt as their first reading: Revised Policy 5772 – School-sponsored Publications and Productions. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Keyes, supported by Mowen to authorize the Superintendent to move forward with the necessary legal steps to promote the safety for all students. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the renewal agreement for the continued use of 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.
- The Board of Education will be asked to adopt the Resolution Calling for a Special School Election to be held on August 7, 2018 to renew two (2) mills which is less than the currently approved three (3) mills for the sinking fund for a term of five (5) years. This special election will be held solely for the renewal of the Sinking Fund approved the last time by voters in November of 2013.

For Information

Superintendent Tuttle reported that Anne Crowe has accepted the Paraprofessional position at Bryant Elementary. Cindy Livingston has accepted the 1.75-hour Food Service Worker position at Central Elementary. Kim Fauth Newberry has accepted the Paraprofessional position at Bryant Elementary. MacKenzie Lab, Paraprofessional at Bryant Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation effective March 16, 2018. Jacklyn Bukovick, teacher at Bryant Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation effective March 16, 2018. Carole Bleau, Special Education Teacher at Owosso High School has submitted her letter of intent to retire at the conclusion of the school year after 12 years of service with the District. Nola Bruder, Elementary Music Teacher has submitted her letter of intent to retire at the conclusion of the school year after 31 years of service with the District. Linda Burns, First Grade Teacher at Emerson Elementary has submitted her letter of intent to retire at the conclusion of the school year after 21 years of service with the District. Julie Howard, Elementary Music Teacher has submitted her letter of intent to retire at the conclusion of the school year after 29 years of service with the District. Jeff Sawyer, Physical Education Teacher at Owosso Middle School has submitted his letter of intent to retire at the conclusion of the school year after 23 years of service with the District. John Somers, Science Teacher at Owosso Middle School has submitted his letter of intent to retire at the conclusion of the school year after 24 years of service with the District. Samantha Stechschulte, Media Specialist has submitted her letter of intent to retire at the conclusion of the of the school year after 19 years of service with the District. Jane Back, Owosso High School Paraprofessional submitted her letter of resignation effective at the conclusion of the 2017-2018 school year after 15 years of service with the District.

Public Participation

Mr. Tom Manke referenced Superintendent Tuttle's personnel update and the staff members that have submitted their intent to retire. He stated that he remembers the 1970's when Owosso Public Schools still had teachers that were in their 70's. He commented that he thinks that it is great that to have young teachers, but feels that a mix of older and younger teachers is important.

Board Member Comments/Updates

Trustee Ty Krauss reported that earlier that month he attended the Governor's Education and Talent Summit. He found the summit to be very interesting and a lot of the information that was shared is a confirmation of what he deals with every day in regards to a huge talent gap. Many of the seminars he attended dealt with CTE programs and how they tie in with Michigan's 'Marshall Plan for Talent'.

Trustee Krauss congratulated the Owosso Public Schools band program on their very high scores at the Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association (MSBOA) Band Festival. He stated that he has always been a big supporter and is very proud of our band programs.

Trustee Krauss thanked President Tim Jenc for collaborating with Crest Marine and working with them to donate a 2018 pontoon boat that will be raffled off. All proceeds from the raffle will go to the Owosso Public Schools Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

Trustee Krauss expressed his appreciation of Owosso High School Principal Jeff Phillips. He stated that his daughter, Madison is studying biology at Central Michigan University and wants to be a teacher. Mr. Phillips assisted Madison with a job shadowing opportunity with Mr. Mike Gregory and she now wants to teach at Owosso High School.

Trustee Sara Keyes commented that she and her children are looking forward to spring break. She also applauded the OPS band on their awesome scores at Band Festival.

Trustee Marlene Webster praised Owosso High School Assistant Principal Karen Van Epps, the athletic department and food service for their work and contributions to the Pleasant Valley Sports Fundraiser Dinner. The event was held to help underprivileged children play spring sports. Mrs. Webster commented that there was an amazing turn-out and it was great to have the high school baseball players attend the dinner in their uniforms. Mrs. Van Epps organized the event as part of her role as a member of the Shiawassee HOPE organization. Mrs. Webster expressed gratitude to coaches and the amazing OPS team that is always willing to give.

Treasurer Cheryl Paez commented that she was home that day and able to watch Emerson student's as they exited the building at the end of the school day. She stated that their excitement always makes her happy.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki stated that she has two daughters that attend Owosso High School and they had some dialogue with her about the "What's Your 17" event. She commented that it was a very productive and meaningful day and she is very proud of students and staff for trying to establish positive changes.

Secretary Ochodnicki remarked that she is very grateful that she has time to be part of the Bond Steering Committee. She stated that it is very exciting to be involved in the time consuming process.

Vice President Rick Mowen congratulated the Lincoln High School students that are pursuing their future. He stated that this is a difficult course for any student, but especially LHS students because of the obstacles they face. Mr. Mowen also applauded the fine staff of Lincoln High School for helping the students attain their goals.

Vice President Mowen commented that he was very proud of the District and students after learning about the activities that were planned on the March 14th National School Walkout Day. Mr. Mowen also referenced the student marchers that called out Washington's inaction on gun violence. He stated that there are some great leaders coming from this generation and it gives him hope for his grandchildren. Mr. Mowen also apologized for the complacency of his generation's leadership.

Vice President Mowen congratulated Jessica Thompson for receiving the Education Excellence Award for the Owosso Cares Backpack Program. He stated that he is very proud of the community for stepping up and helping students with their basic needs.

President Tim Jenc announced that Crest Marine of Owosso has graciously donated a 2018, 23-foot pontoon boat that retails for approximately \$35,000. Mr. Jenc stated that he started working on this about two years ago. Tickets for the boat are \$50 each and all proceeds will go towards the Owosso High School CTE programs. The winning ticket will be drawn during the May 14 Board of Education meeting. Mr. Jenc commented that Crest Marine has a difficult time finding employees and they have also agreed to help two or three high school students become certified in welding and offer them employment after graduation.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

April 16: Committee of the Whole, Washington Campus. 5-7 pm

April 23: Regular Board Meeting, 7 pm

Important Upcoming Dates:

March 27: Miss Magnificent Pageant at OHS, 7 pm

March 29: Half Day of School for All Students

March 30: No School – Good Friday

April 2-6: No School – Spring Break

April 14: Dueling Pianos Fundraiser at D’Mar Banquet Center, 6 pm

April 16: Bryant Band & Recorder Concert, 7 pm

April 17: Emerson Band & Recorder Concert, 7 pm

April 18: Blue & Gold Banquet at D’Mar Banquet Center, 6 pm

April 18: Central Band & Recorder Concert, 7 pm

April 19: LHS Community Breakfast, 7:45 am

April 20: OEA Retirement Dinner at Comstock Inn, Social Hour 6 pm, Dinner 7 pm

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicky to adjourn at 7:57 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary