

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
January 22, 2018
Report 17-90

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, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnick, Paez, Webster
Absent: Keyes (Motions of the Board of Education that were unanimous did not include Keyes)

Pledge of Allegiance

President Jenc informed the Board of Education that the meeting's agenda has been amended to change the OHS 2018 Choral Experience in Chicago, IL from a *for future action* item to *for action* because of the timing of the trip.

President Jenc announced that Superintendent Dr. Tuttle is home recovering from knee surgery. He welcomed CFO Julie Omer who will preside over the meeting in place of Dr. Tuttle.

CFO Julie Omer welcomed Mr. Steve Brooks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction to the meeting.

Election of Officers

CFO Julie Omer shared the process that is required to be used by the Board of Education for the annual election of officers. She explained that she will open up the nominations for Board President by taking the first nominations. The same process will be used by the newly elected President for the offices of Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. When the elections are completed, the meeting will continue with the new officers in place.

CFO Omer opened the nominations for the office of Board President. Rick Mowen nominated Tim Jenc for the office of Board President. Mr. Jenc accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to close the nominations for the office of Board President. Mr. Jenc was unanimously elected as Board President.

President Jenc opened the nominations for the office of Vice President. Motion by Cheryl Paez to nominate Rick Mowen. Mr. Mowen accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Moved by Ochodnick, supported by Webster to close the nominations for the office of Vice President. Rick Mowen was unanimously elected to the office of Vice President.

President Jenc opened the nominations for the office of Secretary. Motion by Marlene Webster to nominate Shelly Ochodnick. Shelly Ochodnick accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Moved by Webster, supported by Krauss to close the nominations for the office of Secretary. Shelly Ochodnick was unanimously elected to the office of Secretary.

President Jenc opened the nominations for the office of Treasurer. Motion by Mowen to nominate Cheryl Paez. Mrs. Paez accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to close the nominations for the office of Treasurer. Cheryl Paez was unanimously elected to the office of Treasurer.

Building Reports

As part of the Celebrate Kids! segment of the meeting, CFO Omer welcomed Ms. Shelly Collison, Interim Principal of Bryant Elementary School. Ms. Collison thanked the Board of Education for inviting the Bryant Elementary School second and third graders to meeting so they could share information about the writing process they completed for the Bryant Author's Celebration. Family and friends of the

students were invited to participate in the celebration. Over 155 guests attended the event and provided the students with feedback on their writing samples.

Mrs. Kristina Crandell, Bryant Elementary Third Grade Teacher explained that during the first two and one-half months of school, students worked on creating true stories and personnel narratives that they were willing to share with others. The writing process began with the students writing a rough draft of their story. Their stories were then edited and revised before the final copy was turned into a book. The students also worked on creating a cover for their book that would draw the reader's attention. Bryant students Kloie Rusk, Jaxon Fedewa, Sloan Hotchkiss, Audri Hrncharik, Braylon Hrncharik, and MacKenna Hall shared information about their stories and what they liked the most about the writing process.

Athletic Director Dallas Lintner recognized Owosso High School sophomore Jordan Sowash for being named Academic All-State in Cross Country by the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association. Mr. Linter commented that Jordan has a 4.0 GPA and is currently doing very well on the Boys' Swim team. He added that Owosso High School is very fortunate to have Jordan as a three sport athlete.

Emerson Elementary Principal Terry Sedlar announced that Linda Cauthen, Paraprofessional at Emerson retired on January 5, 2018 after 17 years of service with the District. Mrs. Cauthen was unable to attend the meeting.

President Tim Jenc commented that even though January is School Board Recognition Month, he along with the entire Board of Education do not feel that they need to be formally recognized.

CFO Julie Omer announced that in observance of School Board Recognition Month, it is hoped that everyone takes the opportunity to thank the Owosso Public Schools Board members for their service. The acronym DEDICATED LEADERSHIP, which is based on the qualities and objectives of the Board was shared by Mrs. Omer. **D**ifficult decisions to create long term stability. **E**xtracurricular activities support and expansion. **D**evelopment of staff through high quality professional learning. **I**nternational Baccalaureate support and expansion. **C**areer and Technical Education expansion. **A**cademic All State Champions – OHS and overall encouragement. **T**echnology infrastructure upgrade including one to one devices. **E**arly College programs. **D**riven to improve the District's transportation fleet. **L**incoln Alternative High School – program creation and support. **E**ntrepreneurship opportunities – K-12. **A**dvanced Placement – most in county. **D**ifference makers – willing to focus on the whole child. **E**xpansion of community outreach – Snow Globe, senior citizens, etc. **R**eal world advocacy through communication with legislators. **S**afety and Security measures – cameras, locks, policies. **H**ope for students through nutrition programs. **I**ntervention measures to address all student's needs. **P**assage of sinking fund millages and bond millage (passionate). On behalf of the District, Mrs. Omer presented the Board members with a small token of appreciation for all that they do for Owosso Public Schools.

Board of Education Student Representative Andrew Pond reported that the ABC Channel 12 Early Morning Spirit Cup Assembly has been rescheduled for February 2nd at 5 am in the Owosso High School gymnasium. Marc Jacobson of ABC 12 will be broadcasting live at the event. The first 50 students to arrive at the assembly will receive a ticket to attend the movie "Hidden Figures" in the auditorium. The total amount raised District-wide for the canned food drive was approximately \$3,200. Andrew applauded Dr. Ayaz Jafri for initiating a Go Fund Me after being approached by OHS Advisor and Teacher Mrs. Kristen Bratschi and himself. In total, Mr. Jafri was able to raise almost \$4,000 for the canned food drive. A total of \$7,000 was raised that will go towards the OPS Backpack Program and all canned goods will be donated to local food banks. Andrew remarked that a lot of effort went into the canned food drive this year and he is very happy with the results. He also thanked the community and students of OPS for their support of the event.

Andrew Pond announced that Student Council sponsored a Chili Cook Off during the previous week. About 10 staff members made chili and proceeds all went to the OPS Backpack Program.

Andrew Pond reported that a masquerade themed winter formal will take place on February 3rd from 7-10 pm at D'Mar Banquet and Conference Center. Tickets costs \$15 per person and will go on sale the week of January 22nd.

Andrew Pond informed the Board that members of the OHS Student Government are working on kindness projects that all members will plan during every meeting. Their intent is to give back to students and OPS staff members. The students are planning to put together gift baskets for Crossing Guards and create signs for the OHS basketball teams.

Board Correspondence

Steve Brooks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction reported that over the past two weeks he has completed walk-throughs in all of the District's school buildings. During the walk-throughs he has met with administrators and staff, which has gone very well.

Mr. Brooks announced that the MI School Data Parent Dash Board for school transparency was recently released to the public. After analyzing the scores for Owosso Public Schools, the District is showing faster growth when compared to schools with the same demographics and is above state averages.

Mr. Brooks informed the Board that Dr. Michal Taylor is scheduled to be in the District January 30-31. She will be working with all K-5 teachers and the middle school's English teachers. Dr. Taylor will continue her work with teachers in May 2018.

Mr. Brooks reported that the March 14th Professional Development schedule has been finalized. The Professional Development will be held in the afternoon and additional information about the day is forthcoming.

Mr. Brooks stated that Kindergarten Registration is now in full swing. A theme for this year's registration has been determined and information is being assembled for parent packets.

Mr. Brooks announced that in early February Mr. Jeff Phillips and a group of teachers will travel to Savannah, Georgia for an IB workshop in preparation for the reauthorization visit that will occur next year. Title II funds will cover the cost of the trip. Middle school staff members attended IB trainings last summer. The trainings are essential for the streamlining of IB content in grades 6-12. In addition, trainings will occur in the summer of 2018 for new teachers.

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 public.

For Action

- Moved by Ochodnický, supported by Webster to approve the December 11, 2017 regular meeting minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to resolve that the Board of Education adopt the Bylaws for Owosso Public Schools as presented in the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to resolve that the Owosso Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee to conduct and manage any school elections for the calendar year 2018. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to resolve that the Owosso Board of Education retain Thrun Law Firm, P.C. as the District's attorneys. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent or a Board designee to accept professional staff resignations on behalf of the Board. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster that the depository and withdrawal authorized signers for the Owosso Public Schools' financial and banking transactions for the 2018 calendar year be approved as presented including authorization for necessary ACH transactions and/or bank transfers. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Webster to appoint Vice President Rick Mowen as a representative of the Shiawassee County School Board Executive Board and at the SRESB Budget Review and Election. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Paez, supported by Mowen to approve the out-of-state travel by Owosso High School students to attend and compete in the VE Great Lakes Regional Conference and Exhibition to be held in Rosemont, IL on January 31-February 2, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to authorize the Superintendent to sign the agreement with Kingscott & Associates for Architectural and Engineering Services for the bond passed in November of 2017. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to authorize the Superintendent to sign the agreement with Clark Construction for construction management services for the bond passed in November of 2017. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to authorize the Superintendent to sign off on the amended temporary easement to the property located by and inclusive of the south driveway alongside of the Owosso Middle School located at 219 N. Water Street next to the Kincaid Henry Building Group, Inc. and Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso High School Choir students and teacher Jessica Nieuwkoop on a trip to Chicago, IL on February 15-16, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board of Education will be asked to adopt the revised resolution to the appropriations for the General Fund 2017-18 fiscal year. CFO Julie Omer reported that the revised budget reflects an increase of \$501,000 in revenue from the original budget that was adopted June 23, 2017. The increase is predominantly related to grants, changes in the Foundation Allowance (increase of \$20/FTE), and a slightly better than expected FTE count. The total change in expenses from the 2017-18 original budget revision equates to \$213,000. The projected deficit spending for the 2017-18 proposed budget revision #1 is \$1,361,000. The projected fund balance at June 30, 2018 is \$2,551,000.
- The Board of Education will be asked to adopt the revised resolution to the appropriations for the School Service Fund for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The majority of the changes in revenue is associated with a change in the revenue from the 2017 Summer Food program which is a decrease of \$25,000. The overall expenditures are expected to decrease a net of \$32,000. A significant decrease was realized from lowering the expectation of funds to be invested in capital outlay. This was offset by increases in other areas. The projected remaining fund balance as of the end of June 30, 2018 is \$110,000. President Jenc commended CFO Julie Omer for continually doing a great job with the budgets. Trustee Webster remarked that Mrs. Omer always makes the budget easy to understand for everyone.
- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the purchase of high school marching band uniforms, high school concert band uniforms, and high school majorette uniforms with a general fund cost not to exceed an amount yet to be determined. OHS Band Directors Jillian Kowalczyk and

Jordan Sterk presented a sample uniform that honors the tradition of the Owosso High School band program and has more of a modern design. Vice President Mowen commented that the current uniforms will be passed down to the Freshman band when the new uniforms arrive. Mr. Mowen asked if the Band Boosters were willing to consider a sponsorship with an inscription in the new uniforms to help cover the cost. Olga Quick responded to Mr. Mowen's question and stated that it has been her personal experience that students are not always comfortable going out and soliciting in the community. However, she will present this to the Band Boosters during the next meeting for their consideration. Mrs. Kowalczyk stated that the goal is to have the new uniforms in the District by the Fall of 2018.

For Information

CFO Omer reported that Austin Klapko has accepted the Student Facilitator position at Bryant Elementary. Heather Smith, Food Service Worker at Central Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation effective, January 12, 2018, but will continue to work for the district as a sub food service worker. Linda Cauthen, Paraprofessional at Emerson Elementary has retired effective January 5, 2018 after 17 years of service with the District.

Public Participation

Olga Quick announced that the Band Boosters will host the annual Jazz Band Dinner Dance Fundraiser on February 24th at D'Mar Banquet & Conference Center beginning at 6:30 pm. The organization is also collecting donations for the silent auction.

Board Member Comments/Updates

President Tim Jenc stated that the 9th annual Snow Globe Classic was held on January 20th at Owosso High School. He thanked Jeff Phillips and Dallas Lintner for their work on the event and continued support over the years. Mr. Jenc also recognized the Food Service Department and National Honor Society students for their involvement.

President Jenc announced that there will be a pontoon boat raffle for the OHS Career and Technical Education programs. Crest Marine of Owosso has donated a boat valued at \$40,000 for CTE. Mr. Jenc encouraged everyone to buy tickets and stated that more information is forthcoming.

Trustee Ty Krauss thanked the District for the Board Recognition Month gift. He commented that he truly enjoys serving on the Board of Education and plans to endorse his \$100 stipend back to the District.

Vice President Rick Mowen remarked that he hopes Superintendent Tuttle is faring well during her recovery.

Vice President Mowen also thanked everyone for acknowledging School Board Recognition Month. He remarked that he truly enjoys giving back to the District and is very proud of the students of OPS.

Vice President Mowen welcomed Steve Brooks to his new position as Director of Curriculum and Instruction. He stated that he has already heard great things about Mr. Brooks in his new role and was a great principal as well. Mr. Mowen also recognized the administrative team for doing a great job during Superintendent Tuttle's absence.

President Jenc reminded everyone that Steve Brooks still plans to organize the annual Bill Aue Golf Outing.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnický thanked everyone for the Board recognition gift.

Secretary Ochodnický remarked that this was the first Board Meeting that Superintendent Tuttle has ever missed during her tenure as Superintendent.

Secretary Ochodnicki thanked everyone for their efforts with Kindergarten Registration. A special thanks was given to Jessica Thompson, Community Education Director and Bridgit Spielman, Central Elementary Principal for the time they put into Kindergarten Registration. Mrs. Ochodnicki commented that the Trojan tradition will continue in her family during the 2018-19 school year. Her baby will be graduating from Owosso High School and her grandchild will hopefully begin the Young 5's program.

Secretary Ochodnicki commented that she is very excited about the purchase of new band uniforms. She also thanked Band Directors Jillian Kowalczyk and Jordan Sterk for attending the meeting even though school wasn't in session.

Treasurer Cheryl Paez thanked the District for the nice Board recognition gift. She also wished everyone a happy new year.

Trustee Marlene Webster remarked that she appreciates how humble the entire Board is being with their remarks. She added that she has been a member of the OPS Board of Education for seven years and in spite of people questioning why she would want to be on the Board when she ran for the office, her experience has been very good. During her tenure the Board has had to make some very difficult decisions, experienced some tough times, attempted to pass a bond, closed schools, and was facing a huge deficit seven years ago. Throughout all of this, the Board has never had a split vote, but there have been occasions when one or two people voted against a proposal as a matter of conviction. Mrs. Webster applauded the Board for their unity and commented that she loves serving with the entire OPS Board of Education. She added that the Board members serve the District because they love Owosso Public Schools, the entire staff, and students.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

February 12: Committee of the Whole, Washington Campus: 5- 7 pm

February 26: Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 pm

Important Upcoming Dates:

January 23: Second Semester Begins

January 23: Exchange Student Luncheon (Italy), OHS Room 307, 11 am

January 25: LHS Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5:30 – 7 pm

January 26-27: Snowfest, Frankenmuth

February 2: ABC 12 Early Morning Pep Assembly at OHS, 5 am (rescheduled from December 15)

February 2 & 3: OHS Drama Performance, 7 pm

February 3: OHS Winter Formal, 7 pm

February 16-19: No School: Winter Recess

February 20: Exchange Student Luncheon, OHS Room 307, 11 am

February 20: OMS Choir Concert, 7 pm

February 21: OHS Band Concert, 7 pm

February 22: 8th Grade Parent Night, OHS 6 pm

February 23: LHS Community Breakfast, 7:45 am

Adjournment

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

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicki, Secretary