

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
May 22, 2017
Report 16-141

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:07 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, Paez, Webster

Absent: Ochodnický

Motions of the Board of Education that were unanimous did not include Ochodnický

Pledge of Allegiance

President Jenc amended the meeting's agenda to add to Building Reports, Representative Ben Frederick to recognize Owosso High School Counselor Pam Kurtz.

Building Reports

As part of the Celebrate Kids! Segment of the meeting, the top 2017 graduates from Owosso High School and Lincoln Alternative High School were recognized for their achievements.

Owosso High School Principal Jeff Phillips stated that it is his pleasure to announce the highest honors graduates for the class of 2017 and also thanked their parents. The top graduates recognized were Dalton Brown, University of Michigan to study Physics and Nutrition; Gabe Gaskin, University of Michigan to study Civil Engineering; Madison Godley, Central Michigan University to study pre-medicine; Grace Gonyou, Michigan State University to study Packaging Engineering; Katelyn Jones, Michigan State University to study Business Administration; Usman Khan, University of Michigan to study Engineering; Sarah Landes, University of Michigan to study Biopsychology, Cognition & Neuroscience, Jay Michels, Michigan State University to study Kinesiology; Nathan Nicevski, Michigan State University to study Engineering; Taylor Porter, Michigan State University; Olivia Reale, Michigan State University to study Business; Heidi Slawson, Michigan State University to study Pre-Medicine; Emily Suggs, Northwood University to study Fashion Merchandising & Marketing and Joseph Vondrasek, Alma College to study Exercise Science. There were two OHS graduates who were unable to attend, Patrick Butcher, Michigan State University to study Journalism and Taylor Cook, University of Akron to study Family & Consumer Science Education.

Lincoln High School Principal Steve Irelan stated there are six top 2017 LHS graduates that were chosen based on their academics, behavior and leadership. Mr. Irelan commented, because of other obligations only one graduate was in attendance, Kyle Carpenter who will be attending Lansing Community College to study Criminal Justice. The top graduates unable to attend include Casey Gurden, Kole Sizemore, Sydney Lavery, Courtney Newman and Jamie Canfield.

Representative Frederick recognized Ms. Pam Kurtz on behalf of the State of Michigan for her outstanding contributions to the High School as a Counselor.

Curriculum Director, Dr. Selleck introduced the International Baccalaureate Coordinators, Mr. Lance Little, District IB Coordinator and Mrs. Sarah Collins, Owosso High School IB Coordinator to present the IB Personal Projects. She expressed her gratitude to Mr. Little and Mrs. Collins for their significant work in providing this great project.

Mr. Lance Little stated the personal project is a project designed for students to take an interest that they have to learn more about it and incorporate what they have learned in the classroom and take high order thinking skills and problem solving skills and put them together in some sort of culminating outcome. It

may be a fundraiser, original works of art, to build something and in each case students have taken something they are passionate about to learn more about it and connect it to what they learned in their coursework. Owosso High School tenth grade students Zack Matousek, Autumn Weir, Emily Rau, Tyler Zietz and Cole Vallie presented information to the Board on their personal projects.

On behalf of Bryant Elementary Principal Steve Brooks, Superintendent Tuttle recognized Gene Davis, Title I Teacher on his retirement. Mr. Davis has worked for Owosso Public Schools for 40 years.

On behalf of Emerson Elementary Principal Terry Sedlar, Superintendent Dr. Tuttle recognized Gloria McCurry, Paraprofessional for 11 years of service to the District.

Owosso Middle School Principal Rich Collins honored Ed King, Assistant Principal for 24 years of service to the District. Marcia Freeman, 6th Grade Teacher was also recognized for her 23 years of service to the District.

Transportation Supervisor Steve DeLong recognized Debbie Reid, Bus Driver for 21 years of service to the District.

Owosso High School Principal Jeff Phillips honored Lynda Cobb, Executive Secretary for 26 years of service to the District.

Food Service Supervisor Michele Prince recognized Joni Westbrook, Food Service Worker for 16 years of service to the District.

Superintendent Tuttle commented, there is over 150 years of service with the retirees that are leaving our District.

Board of Education Student Representative Andrew Pond announced the new EBoard members. Mr. Pond reported, the Eboard is currently working on a dress code issue that was reported by a student to Mrs. Burzmor. They are discussing a Homecoming theme, with the possibility of an 80's theme. June 20th will be a work day for the Eboard, with a luncheon, to provide an opportunity to work together on interclass games. July 12th will be an entire student council work day. Mr. Pond reported he would like to begin a program, which he is very passionate about, called 5M and You. This would involve the Student Council to send care packages to students living at the Safe House. Each year, 5 million are affected by domestic abuse. Mr. Pond reported they are promoting the "All In" theme as presented by speaker Mr. Gonzales.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Tuttle reported, the past few weeks have been very eventful. She reported at the high school attendance at the Cabaret and Art Walk were very well attended. The senior cook out took place today and the seniors walked the halls of the elementary school they attended.

Lincoln Alternative High School teacher Mrs. Michele Schmitz took her class to Mayo Stars Competition at Delta College and they took top awards. Superintendent Tuttle also reported the Lincoln student exhibits, "Thoughts Through Photo" at Foster's Coffee was awesome and Vice President Mowen was there.

Superintendent Tuttle thanked Girls on the Run coaches, Jessica Anderson, Terry Leduc, Erin Moreno, Melany Daley and Ashley Porter. Mrs. Verlinde's Kindergarten class at Emerson Elementary has made kindness rocks, with kind messages and will be putting them throughout the community.

Superintendent Tuttle reported Central Elementary Teacher, Mr. Raffaelli is continuing to keep salmon alive and had a live cam of 30 released into the Shiawassee River. There has been a wax museum at all of the elementary schools.

Superintendent Tuttle reported the fourth annual Bryant Scholarship Fund Golf outing was a success raising \$4,000.

Superintendent Tuttle expressed her gratitude to the Rotary who provided the “All In” speaker Mr. Gonzales, who spoke to students at the Middle School, Lincoln and the High School.

Superintendent Tuttle reported the Middle School will be taking 250 students with five or less absences or positive behavior to the Lugnuts game. She also commented the Spring Fling was outstanding and the staff did hair and makeup for the students and also donated dresses.

Superintendent Tuttle reported the next Facilities Exploration Community meeting will be June 12th from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the high school media center and hoping the committee will come to a consensus to bring a recommendation to the June 26th Board meeting.

Curriculum Director Dr. Kari Selleck reported the CTE Advisory Board meetings were held last Wednesday evening with dinner being served prior to the meeting. She reported it was highly successful. The Culinary Arts participated in a cook-off final challenge where they were given ingredients in a basket and they had to prepare food. The winners received a knife kit and other tools. Mr. John Lowman, from the Wrought Iron Grill invited the winners to meet with the Chef to prepare a menu that will be featured at the Wrought Iron Grill for a week.

Dr. Selleck reported the drone projects are about to get underway and staff members will be trained in using the drones. The Girls in Engineering will be learning to fly the drones at camp beginning June 19th. Dr. Selleck has applied for a grant to purchase another drone and she has just learned that the grant will be awarded in the amount of \$2,500 from the I-69 thumb region.

Dr. Selleck reported the Aeronautics and Aviation Program is expanding. There is a meeting planned for May 31st and an individual from Traverse City will be attending from the Tech Center that is affiliated with Northern Michigan College who is eager to start an Aviation program in this area. At this point we are looking to opening this up to our students and possibly to the county. Mr. Ron Jones, instructor of the girl’s and boy’s aviation club will be attending the meeting and looking at a large grant to start a hyper light all female squad team in Owosso. The hyper light built for that program would be a full size one.

On behalf of Steve Brooks and Shelly Collison, Dr. Selleck spoke on *The Books at Bryant* program. Every Thursday at Bryant Elementary children of the community from age 0-12 are invited to Bryant from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Volunteers participate with the children in an activity and the children receive a free book and ice cream cone. All participants have to do is sign in and by the end of the program they will have an interest in books and take home a free book for every night attended up to a maximum of 12 free books. Dr. Selleck expressed her gratitude to Ms. Collison and Mr. Brooks. Dr. Selleck also commented on a potential partnership with Baker College that is currently in collaborative discussion for additional literacy work to offer some summer training for potential 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.

Olga Quick, parent stated she is affiliated with the Band and Choir and reported they have not had a sufficient number of volunteers for events. She made a request for volunteers, asking individuals to step forward and lead by example urging individuals to volunteer.

For Action

- Moved by Mowen supported by Webster to approve the April 24, 2017 closed session minutes, April 24, 2017 regular Board meeting minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen supported by Keyes to accept the bid and authorize the Superintendent to enter into a sinking fund contract with L.A. Construction, Flushing, Michigan not to exceed \$317,460.00 including \$25,000 for contingency for the projects as presented. Vice-President Mowen conducted a roll call vote: Ayes: Webster, Paez, Mowen, Jenc, Keyes, Krauss. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes supported by Mowen to approve the 2017-2018 student handbooks for Bentley Bright Beginnings, elementary, middle and high schools as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen supported by Keyes to renew the contract with PCMI/Willsub for the contract for the fiscal year 2017-18 and authorize the Superintendent to sign the contract on behalf of the District. Motion carried unanimously
- Moved by Webster supported by Mowen to support the Friends of the Shiawassee River with their quest to establish a National Water Trail on the Shiawassee and to ensure access, and potentially, upgrade the launch site behind the Owosso Middle School. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Mowen supported by Keyes to adopt the Resolution to confirm the designation of Rick Mowen to be the designated representative of the Owosso Public Schools for the electoral body of the ISD biennial election to be held June 5, 2017 and Timothy Jenc as an alternative representative in the event Mr. Mowen is unable to attend. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen supported by Jenc to support the Shiawassee Regional Education School District 2017-18 budget as presented and to authorize the superintendent to forward the resolution to the SRESB board on or before June 1, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster supported by Mowen to accept all policy first readings as presented inclusive of revised Bylaw0168.1, revised Policy 2221, new Policy 2461, revised Policy 2623, revised policy 3120.04, revised Policies 3121 and 4121, replacement Policy 5111.01, new Policy 5111.03 and new Policy 8340, revised Policy 5517.01, revised Policies 5610, 5610.01, revised Policy 7540.02, revised policy 8330, 8400, 8500 and 8510. President Jenc stated all of the policies were presented and reviewed at the May Business Services Subcommittee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen supported by Webster to approve the hiring of certified staff: Jessica Henry, Owosso Middle School Special Education Teacher and Wallee Keating, Owosso High School Science Teacher as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the borrowing of an amount pending attorney approval and recommended 2017-18 budget adoption inclusive of “set-aside” notes and in “no set-asides” for operating purposes to eliminate cash flow challenges that result from timing issues related to State Aid payment for the 2016-17 school year. Note: The actual borrowing resolution(s) that is (are) necessary for the Board to pass will be provided on June 26th which will include the attorney approved amount. There will be two resolutions allowing for participation in the traditional School Bond Loan fund and one allowing for competitive rates to be obtained from other qualified financial institutions.
- The Board of Education will be asked to adopt the resolutions presented for the 2017-18 fiscal year budget package for the General fund, School Service and Sinking fund at the June 27, 2017 meeting.

For Information

Superintendent Tuttle shared the most recent personnel update with the Board of Education. Jimmy Valdez has accepted the Custodian II position at Owosso High School. Gloria McCurry, Paraprofessional at Emerson Elementary has submitted her letter of retirement effective at the conclusion of the 2016-2017 school year after 11 years of service with the District. Ms. McCurry was one of the retirees recognized at tonight’s meeting.

Public Participation

Josh Dewley, OEA President urged individuals to contact Representatives Frederick and Senator Rick Jones in regards to the proposed changes in retirement. Mr. Dewley reported the proposed changes move away from any kind of pension and that it will be costly to the state. He commented it does nothing to help with the teacher shortage facing districts and hurts public education.

Board Reports

President Jenc reported he golfed in the Bryant Scholarship fundraiser event, stating it was a great event and Mr. Brooks and his team do a great job.

Trustee Krauss reported he attended all three nights of the Cabaret and extended a great appreciation for Mrs. Nieuwkoop. The volunteers did an excellent job and it was an excellent production.

Trustee Keyes commented she is excited to see what the Facilities Exploration Community Committee bring to the June 26th Board meeting. She extended her appreciation to all of the staff that spend all day with the student, stating it takes a very special person.

Vice-President Mowen expressed his gratitude to the retirees, stating the number of years of service is a tremendous loss to the district. Mr. Mowen attended the legislative breakfast and appreciates Representative Frederick for his attendance. Mr. Mowen spoke of a Lincoln High School classroom assignment event that he attended where students used photographs to show a comparison of Health in Shiawassee County and the students perception. Mr. Mowen spoke highly of the quality photos presented by the students.

Treasurer Paez commended the staff at Emerson Elementary who continued to work during the Oliver Street project.

Trustee Webster commented she is looking forward to commencement week and celebrating students. On Friday morning, May 26th Lincoln is having a monthly breakfast inviting community members to come in to support networking to offer soft skills for job opportunities. The breakfast is open to the public and begins at 7:30 a.m.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

June 12: Business Services/Strategic Planning & Curriculum Subcommittees, 5:00 & 6:00 pm
(Cancelled)

June 26: Regular Board Meeting and Budget Hearing, 7:00 pm

Important Upcoming Dates:

May 23: Honors Convocation, OHS Auditorium at 7:00 pm

May 23: LHS Lansing Lugnut Trip

May 24: 5th grade Field Meet at OHS

May 24: 4th grade to Lansing Symphony Orchestra

May 25: High School Graduation, Willman Field at 7 pm

May 26: Half day for All Students

May 26: LHS Community Networking Breakfast 7:30 am

May 29: Memorial Day – No School

May 30: LHS Senior Dinner, 5:30 pm

May 31: LHS Graduation, OMS at 7 pm

June 1: Bentley Bright Beginnings Tuition End of Year Celebration– 11:00 am -1:00 pm

June 1: 4th grade Encampment Experience at McCurdy Park

June 2: Elementary Student of the Month celebrations, (8:00 am-Bryant; 8:15 am-Central; 9:15 am-Emerson)

- June 2: Bryant Walk-a-Thon
- June 2: Students in Curwood Parade, 7 pm
- June 5-6: 4th grade to Mackinac Island
- June 7: 5th grade Graduation Celebrations – (6:30 p.m. for Central, 7:00 p.m. for Bryant and Emerson)
- June 8: Kindergarten Celebration at each elementary – (9:00 am-Bryant; 9:30 am for Central and Emerson)
- June 8: Lincoln High School cookout – 10:30 a.m.
- June 8: Last Day for Students – half day

Closed Session

Superintendent Tuttle reported negotiations discussion was not necessary.

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen supported by Paez to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Bev White.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicki, Secretary