

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2020
Report 20-34

President Rick Mowen called the Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 5:37pm. The meeting was held at the Owosso High School, 765 E. North Street, Owosso, MI 48867.

Present: Keys, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnicky, Paez, Quick, Webster

Absent: No members were absent.

Tour of Owosso High School

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle gave the Board of Education a tour of the high school and the new construction that has been completed to date. After completing the tour, the Board reconvened in the Career Center.

Technology

Technology Coordinator Joe Watson gave a presentation to the Board on the newly installed interactive flat panels at the high school.

Public Participation

President Rick Mowen 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.

Reaffirmation of the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan that the Board passed is no longer being updated. The plan was a result of an executive order that is no longer in effect per the Michigan Supreme Court's ruling on October 2, 2020. The Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, however, is a legislative plan that is being updated and followed. The plan must be reaffirmed each month by the Board. Dr. Tuttle shared that, at this time, there is some dispute regarding if "reaffirmation" requires approval. Until the dispute is resolved, Dr. Tuttle will move "Reaffirmation of the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan" from "For Information" to "For Action" on future regular meeting agendas. Dr. Tuttle stated that the Board will be informed whenever there is a change to the plan.

Dr. Tuttle shared the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Reconfirmation Meeting document with the Board. The document showed a weekly review for each OPS building in regard to the

percentage of OPS students completing remote learning versus the percentage of OPS students completing in-person learning. During the week of October 5 – 9, 2020, 33% of OPS students were remote and 67% were in person. The document also showed weekly 2-way interaction rates for online learners and in-person learners, measuring attendance. Additionally, the document had a section dedicated to notating any modifications to the original Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, as well any public comments on the plan.

Dr. Tuttle stated that data on COVID-19 cases in the community must be given regularly to the Board. Curriculum Director Steve Brooks shared the Reporting Timeline and Information for Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Implementation with the Board. He highlighted a link in the timeline to the Brown School of Public Health's Pandemics Explained web page. The web page shows data on COVID-19 cases for each county in the country. Dr. Tuttle shared a COVID-19 data report from the Shiawassee County Health Department and explained that while the county is doing relatively well in regard to the number of COVID-19 cases, cases are trending upward.

Mr. Brooks also directed the Board's attention to the Owosso Public Schools Progress Report, linked in the reporting timeline. He stated that the progress report will be shared with the Board and posted on the district website by February 1, 2021, after benchmark assessments have taken place.

Vice President Shelly Ochodnicky asked if the district has been able to track the 24 students who previously were not in attendance for either online or in-person instruction. Dr. Tuttle explained that some students have left the District and moved to online schools, but students have been tracked. Mr. Brooks explained that some online schools have taken multiple weeks to process records releases. Dr. Tuttle stated that students who have moved to online schools have been difficult to track, and OPS cannot release a student's cumulative record folder unless another school requests the record release. The process in tracking some students has been delayed because online schools have taken weeks to request the record releases from OPS.

Teacher/Staff Member of the Year Recognition

The Teacher/Staff Member of the Year Recognition has been rescheduled to December 14, 2020 in the Owosso Middle School Auditorium. A reception will occur from 4:00 – 5:15 pm, and the Board of Education meeting will follow.

Board Meeting Location

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle shared that regular Board of Education meetings, until further notice, will be held in the Owosso Middle School Auditorium to allow for social distancing. There is a new sound system that will be ready for the October 19, 2020 meeting.

Budget – Audit

Chief Financial Officer, Julie Omer, reminded the Board that Maner Costerisan, P.C. will be at the October 19, 2020 Board of Education meeting to present the audit of the District's financial statements. Mrs. Omer reviewed the final budget to actual for 2019-2020 with the Board. She explained that the District was over the budgeted revenue by 4%. Mrs. Omer shared that the largest fluctuation in revenue resulted from a predicted cut of \$600/pupil from the State ending up at only at \$175. There were also fluctuations in the expenditure, most of which were related

to the COVID-19 shut-down, resulting in the expenses coming in 4% less than budgeted. As of June 30, 2020 the actual fund balance was \$4,655,108. This leaves a 14.88% fund balance, based on 2019-20 expenditures, as of June 30, 2020. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reminded the Board that the District is still anticipating to be down 100 students for the 2020-2021 school year, and though the budget is looking positive right now, the District needs to ensure the budget remains on track for next year (2021-2022) when the one-time COVID-19 revenues no longer apply.

Board Retreat

Dr. Tuttle shared Debbie Stair is available on November 9, 2020 to lead a retreat for the Board. The Board happily agreed to a two-hour retreat on November 9, 2020 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Topics of the training will include establishing Board Norms, as well as discussing Board member roles and responsibilities.

MASB Annual Leadership Conference

Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that the Michigan Association of School Board's Annual Leadership Conference is occurring November 5-7, 2020. The conference is free and virtual. Board members should notify Administrative Assistant Alexa Stechschulte if they would like to attend.

Title IX

The new Title IX regulations require specific training for the district's Title IX coordinators, investigators, decision officers, and appeals officer. Dr. Tuttle will be assigning the new positions to district administrators who will attend a Title IX training led by Thrun Law Firm.

Board Questions

Secretary Webster remarked that she is eager to hear what negotiations are presented in closed session and hopes some relief can be provided to teachers.

Trustee Krauss thanked Dr. Tuttle for the tour of the secondary campus, admiring the results of the Bond Project.

Vice President Ochodnicky noted her gratitude for being able to return to in-person meetings.

Trustee Quick echoed Mrs. Ochodnicky's remarks, stating that it was wonderful to see everyone in person.

President Mowen stated that he is happy to be face-to-face again and believes it will help the Board work cohesively. He expressed hopes that the Board will be able to continue meeting in person.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that Mike Fillinger is leaving Clark Construction. She stated that Mr. Fillinger has given his heart to the OPS Bond Project from the very beginning and has been a stable force throughout it. Dr. Tuttle admired Mr. Fillinger's wealth of knowledge and customer service. Though she is devastated to see him go, she wishes him and his family the best in this next chapter.

Dr. Tuttle also discussed the list of errors and omissions in relation to the litigation with Kingscott, the architecture and planning firm for the OPS Bond Project.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates.

October 19: Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 pm (note date change)

November 9: Committee of the Whole, Board Retreat, 5:30 pm

November 23: Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 pm

Adjournment

Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnický to move into closed session 6:27 pm for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations. Secretary Marlene Webster conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Keyes, Mowen, Quick, Ochodnický, Paez, Kraus, Webster. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Mowen, supported by Paez to return to open session at 7:09 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Ochodnický, supported by Keyes to adjourn at 7:10 pm. Motion carried unanimously

Minutes recorded by Alexa Stechschulte

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Webster
Marlene Webster, Secretary