

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Regular Meeting
January 25, 2023
Report 22-90

Present: Adam Easlick, Nick Henne, Ty Krauss, Rick Mowen, Shelly Ochodnick, Marlene Webster, Olga Quick

Absent:

President Rick Mowen called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Washington Campus Gymnasium, 645 Alger Street, Owosso MI 48867.

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

Due to the cancellation of school due to weather, no building reports were given.

Board Correspondence

Dr. Tuttle began her report by stating January is School Board Member Recognition month. “Thank you to the seven men and women who were chosen by our community to serve our roughly 3000 students, 400 staff members and their families and the greater Owosso community on the Owosso School Board of Education. You voluntarily tackle the enormous job of governing our school while preserving the core of our democratic values. You continually work to ensure the education of the whole child which has always been important but now more than ever. You assume your roles with a humble heart, not asking for recognition or praise, but gaining all the rewards you need when you see a child smile, a student laugh or a person succeed under your leadership. This School Board team is made up of individuals with a variety of individual passions including but not limited to a passion for the fine arts, athletics, finances, basic needs, special education, programs for students who excel, safety and security, customer service, diversity and inclusion, mental health issues, academic success, facilities management, and the list goes on, but in the end, you come together for one common goal to provide opportunities for success for all students attending Owosso Public School. You are a great team—understanding that you are stronger collectively than you are individually. This community is fortunate to have a great team working for the children of Owosso and I know you probably do not hear it often enough, I simply say thank you. You have a small token of appreciation from local business and items that proudly display you are a proud member of the School Board of Education.” Dr. Tuttle also commended the transportation department, and gave special recognition to driver Mr. Travis Devoe, for their commitment to keeping to kids safe and secure while on the busses. Dr. Tuttle also thanked the Owosso Police Department and Owosso Schools Liaison Officers for their partnership with the district and their part in keeping Owosso’s kids safe. Dr. Tuttle said both bus drivers and liaison officers will participate in training for

emergency situations on the busses in the coming weeks. Dr. Tuttle gave a brief report on events in the district. The 9th grade orientation took place in the Performing Arts Center, and there were both a great turn out of students and parents. It was a great showcase of opportunities in Owosso and the exciting classes kids have to look forward to. January 16 was a district wide professional development day. Staff also participated in a group project where they wrote post cards to other staff and students to show appreciation. Dr. Tuttle gave her state of the district address at event and announced the Teacher (Mrs. DeDe Raffaelli) and Support Staff Member (Mrs. Jane Haddix) of the Year. Dr. Tuttle expressed thanks to both Mrs. Raffaelli and Mrs. Haddix for the positive impact they have had on students and their coworkers, she said they both have touched so many lives and they are both a joy to work with. The Business Professionals of America had a competition on January 6, several Owosso students participated: Emma Johnson, Elijah Whiteside, Alex Binger, Owen Feldspauch, Jack Stewart, and Jordan Newman. BPA provides students opportunities to network and build real life skills. Dr. Tuttle said Kindergarten Registration will take place March 6-10. Communications Director Mrs. Jessica Thompson worked diligently to create a beautiful and informational Kindergarten Registration packet that will be mailed to preschools and community centers in Owosso. Dr. Tuttle congratulated the boys' basketball team for their recent well-played game, and although it was a loss for Owosso it was an exciting game and everyone displayed great sportsmanship. Dr. Tuttle shared that recent Food Network Competitor and Finalist Jill Davis came to the Performing Arts Center and gave a presentation to Owosso culinary students. The students had a blast and participated in a baking competition for some small prizes. Dr. Tuttle finished her report by sharing her gratitude for the administrative team, the teachers, and all district staff for their continued work to keep kids happy, healthy, and safe.

Curriculum Director Mr. Steve Brooks said that preparation has begun for summer school. This includes meetings with teachers and input from students regarding classes that will be offered. Summer school not only offers credit recovery, but the district is looking into offering SAT preparation and math fluency for the high school students. The district wants to provide opportunities for students to enhance their skills, even if they are not credit deficient. Discussion about curriculum guides for 2023-24 school year has also begun, new classes are being explored for the high school students. Staff also participated Perception Data Review day. Surveys are offered to students, parents and staff and then are reviewed by the district to identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. Mr. Brooks shared that the AP World History and AP Biology textbooks will be updated next year, the potential new textbooks will be presented to the Board for approval. Mr. Brooks also shared that incoming eighth graders will be required to take a Personal Finance class; the class will review credit scores, interest rates, loans, budgeting, etc. Mr. Brooks finished his report by stating there is a lot of preparation going on for the coming year and he is looking forward to the updates.

Public Participation

President Mowen stated that the Board of Education is a public body and recognizes the value of public comment on education issues. Time has been included in the meeting's agenda for public participation. Members of the audience were reminded 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.

No public participants addressed the board.

For Action

- Moved by Webster, supported by Easlick, to approve the December 14, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, December 14, 2022 Closed Session Minutes, the January 11, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes, and the current bills and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Webster, to adopt the bylaws for Owosso Public Schools as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick, to authorize the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee to conduct and manage any school elections for the calendar year 2023. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick, to retain Thrun Law Firm, P.C. as the District's attorneys. Secretary Krauss conducted a roll-call vote. Trustee Henne, Trustee Easlick, Secretary Krauss, Treasurer Quick, Vice President Webster, President Mowen voted aye. Trustee Ochodnicky voted nay.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnicky, to authorize the superintendent or a Board designee to accept professional staff resignations on behalf of the Board. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Webster, to resolve that the depository and withdrawal authorized signers for the Owosso Public Schools' financial and banking transactions for the 2023 calendar year be approved as presented including authorization for necessary ACH transactions and/or bank transfers. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Webster, to resolve that the Board of Education appoint President Rick Mowen of their board as a representative of the Shiawassee County School Board Executive Board and at the SRESB Budget Review and Election, with Secretary Krauss as alternate. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Krauss, supported by Quick to resolve that the Board of Education approve the contract with Spicer Group, as presented, for retention of their services for the Sinking Fund Project Administration for 2023 sinking fund projects. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Webster to resolve that the Board of Education adopt as their 1st reading: Revised Policy 6110 – Grant Funds, Revised Policy 6114 – Cost Principles – Spending Federal Funds, Revised Policy 6325 – Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds, New Policy 6108 – Authorization to Use Electronic Fund Transfers and Automated Clearing House Arrangements. Revised Policy 6460 – Vendor Relations. Revised Policy 5160 – Emergency Removal, Suspension, and Expulsion of Students. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board will be asked to approve the out-of-state travel for the Owosso High School Engineering Students to the SkillsUSA National Skills and Leadership Conference in Atlanta, GA from June 18, 2023 through June 24, 2023.
- The Board will be asked to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso High School Choir students and teacher Jessica Draper on a trip to New York City, NY March 22-25, 2023
- The Board will be asked to adopt the Budget Revision #1 resolutions for the 2022-23 appropriations for the General, School Service and Sinking funds as presented.

For Information

Dr. Tuttle announced the following personnel changes:

Resignations

- Madalyn Patrix, Food Service worker has resigned effective January 5, 2023
- Mary Spencer, Food Service worker has resigned effective November 7, 2022

Public Participation

No public participants addressed the Board.

Board Comments

Trustee Ochodnicky thanked the school for the recent donation to the shelter, every penny is appreciated. She also shared the shelter had a great success recently with a small family and she is very proud of the work put in by everyone involved.

Trustee Henne thanked CFO Omer for her presentation on the budget. He also thanked Dr. Tuttle for keeping safety and security of the students as the number one priority for the district. He also thanked the district for the Board recognition gifts.

Secretary Krauss thanked the district for the Board recognition gifts. He thanked administrative assistant Ms. Brooke Barber for her preparation for Board meetings.

Trustee Easlick thanked CFO Omer for her budget presentation. He congratulated both Mrs. Raffaelli and Ms. Jane Haddix for their awards. In recognition of upcoming Black History Month, he also shared a quote from Maya Angelou “It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength.”

Treasurer Quick thanked the district for the Board gifts. She also shared she believes the post cards are a wonderful idea that have made such a positive impact. She congratulated Mrs. Raffaelli and Mrs. Haddix on their awards.

Vice President Webster echoed Trustee Ochodnický's comments on the food drive, every little bit helps. She also expressed her gratitude for the three nurses in the district, she said it is rare for schools to have one and Owosso is blessed to have three. She has heard nothing but wonderful comments about each nurse and she is grateful for their presence in the district.

President Mowen commended both Vice President Webster and Trustee Ochodnický for their work in the community and thanked the district for facilitating a food drive, especially in difficult times every donation counts. He thanked CFO Omer for her budget presentation and said it is exciting to hear about the preparation for the upcoming school year.

Upcoming Dates

- **February 8:** Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Gymnasium
- **February 22:** Board of Education Regular meeting, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Gymnasium
- **January 26:** Central Student of the Month Breakfast, 8:15am, Central Gym
- **January 27:** OHS Student of the Month Breakfast, 8:00am, Coliseum
- **January 27:** OHS Varsity Cheer Conference Meet, 6:00pm, Corunna High School
- **January 28:** Boys Varsity Wrestling John Harris Tournament, 9:00am, Shepherd High School
- **January 28:** MIFA Districts, All Day Event, Performing Arts Center
- **January 30:** OHS Oscars, 7:00pm, Performing Arts Center
- **February 2:** Future Farmers of America District Leadership Contests, 4:00pm, Corunna High School
- **February 8:** MIFA Play Home Performance, 2:30PM, Performing Arts Center
- **February 9:** Half day for elementary students only, parent teacher conference in the afternoon

Moved by Quick, supported by Krauss, to move into closed session at 6:56pm for the purpose of conducting a student hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Quick, supported by Krauss, to move into open session at 8:05pm for the purpose of adjournment.

Moved by Quick, supported by Webster, to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,


Ty Krauss, Secretary