

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
April 24, 2017
Report 16-111

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:01 pm. The meeting was held in the media center located at Owosso High School, 765 E. North Street, Owosso, Michigan.

Present: Jenc, Keyes, Krauss, Ochodnicky, Webster
Absent: Mowen, Paez

Motions of the Board of Education that were unanimous did not include Mowen and Paez.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Jenc amended the meeting's agenda to move the Sinking Fund Contract Award from For Action to a For Future Action item. Additionally, there were changes to the important upcoming dates listed on the agenda that will be shared during the meeting.

Building Reports

As part of the Celebrate Kids! Segment of the meeting, Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle introduced Amanda Rowell, Director of Bentley Bright Beginnings to the Board of Education. Mrs. Rowell stated that 4-Wings Teachers Melissa Gier Helvie and Cassie Humphreys were also in attendance with her to share information about a lesson that was introduced to students in their classrooms. The 4-Wings teachers reported that this year they started an IB Unit on emotions. The students made a decision to share what they were learning with their parents so they created a video to the song *When You're Happy and You Know It*. The video of the children depicting a variety of emotions was shared with the Board of Education. The teachers explained that the children in the video chose their emotions and actions. The lesson not only focused on emotions, but also on vocabulary, literacy, culture, and diversity. Technology was also introduced to the children through the use of software in the creation of the video.

Lucy Popovitch reported that Student Council E-Board candidates will be interviewed on April 27th at the high school. Applicants were required to submit an attendance agreement, an essay explaining why they wanted to be on the E-Board, and a letter of recommendation from a teacher or staff member. The new 2017-2018 Student Council E-Board will be announced in the near future.

Lucy Popovitch informed the Board that the annual OHS *Beyond the Books* and *Academic Awards* pep assembly will be held on May 12th. The winners of the awards will be announced during the pep assembly. Lucy explained that Student Council felt it was important to involve both students and staff in the awards ceremony. Students and staff members will be allowed to vote on the various award categories that will be presented at the pep assembly.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Tuttle reported that from a District perspective, the past few weeks have been very eventful. She announced that on April 21st, Lincoln Alternative High School hosted its first Community Networking Breakfast in an attempt to connect students with outside resources. The outstanding event included a delicious breakfast from the OPS Food Service Department. Community representatives that attended the event included Sheriff Brian Begole, Liz Fischer of Michigan Works, Cindy Garber from Bennington Township, Journalist Tom Manke, Justin Horvath of the Shiawassee Economic Development Corporation, Diane King of the Friends of the Shiawassee River, Jeremy Rugenstein of Indian Trails, and Marlene Webster representing Shiawassee HOPE. Each representative shared information about their organization with the students, along with details about job opportunities and volunteer options for local profit and non-profit agencies. LHS Principal Steve Irelan and Social Worker Deb Baughman organized the event and hope to continue it on a monthly basis.

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that Lincoln Alternative High School students recently participated in a presentation on Human Trafficking. The presentation was similar to one that was shared with Owosso High School students.

Superintendent Tuttle thanked Vice President Rick Mowen, Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki, Trustee Sara Keyes, and Trustee Ty Krauss for attending the annual Blue and Gold Banquet. This year 17 Owosso High School seniors were honored for earning a 4.0 or higher grade point average. This was a wonderful event that was very well attended. The Blue & Gold Banquet theme of honoring a person that has made a significant difference in a student's life through a Starfish Award will also be conducted as a District event.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that Bryant Elementary School hosted its first annual Career Fair earlier that day. Approximately 18 different careers were represented at the event that included an electrical engineer, scientist, Chief of Police, and the owners of Birch and Elm. Students were given the opportunity to choose which careers they wanted to listen to. Principal Steve Brooks, Michele Collison, and Michele Bruckman were applauded for organizing the wonderful event.

Superintendent Tuttle acknowledged the elementary PTO organizations for organizing and hosting the Dueling Pianos on April 21 with the intent to honor the numerous elementary volunteers who assist throughout the District. Approximately 250 people attended the event representing the high school, middle school, volunteers, local businesses, and community members. The event raised \$2,345 in silent auction items, \$740 from piano tips, and \$4,800 from leveled sponsorships. There were 40-50 volunteers recognized, including PTO Board members who each received complimentary tickets to attend the event. Each elementary school will receive approximately \$1,400 from funds raised at the event.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that Emerson Elementary recently hosted what was hoped to be the second to the last in a series of Community Meetings. She explained that 40 people attended the meeting that typically includes approximately 60 participants. During the meeting, the architects provided monetary values to the concepts that the community members had previously decided upon. Superintendent Tuttle stated that they were hoping that there would be more of a consensus among the participants; however, it is very likely that an additional meeting will be scheduled. She explained that the group of community members most likely will not be bringing their recommendation to the May Board meeting, but hopefully to the June meeting.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that the annual Owosso Middle School Washington, D.C. field trip is coming up. The students and their chaperones will leave OMS at 2 am on Wednesday, April 26.

Superintendent Tuttle stated that they are closely watching the House, Senate, and Governor Snyder's proposed budgets in anticipation that there will be a budget by June.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that the Transportation Department was recently audited. On April 12th Transportation Director Steve DeLong submitted the required transportation information to the Michigan Department of Education Auditor. Superintendent Tuttle proudly announced that the District has received communication that the audit was completed with no findings. She applauded Mr. DeLong and his team on a great job.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that the Mid-Michigan Legislative Breakfast took place on Friday, April 21st. She was unable to attend because the time conflicted with the Lincoln Community Networking Breakfast; however, Vice President Rick Mowen was able to participate.

Curriculum Director Dr. Kari Selleck reported that all buildings have been immersed in the annual state assessments. The SAT test took place two weeks ago, which was a very busy day at OHS and included the senior class field trips to engage them in visiting local businesses and industries. Dr. Selleck complimented the Owosso High School staff for proctoring the SAT tests flawlessly. In addition, M-STEP testing is ongoing in grades 3-9.

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 Ochodnicky, supported by Keyes to approve the March 27, 2017 student hearing minutes, March 27, 2017 regular Board meeting minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Jenc, supported by Webster to designate Vice President Rick Mowen as a representative at the SRES budget review that will be presented in Conference Room A of the Shiawassee RESD, 114 W. North Street, Owosso, Michigan on Monday, May 1, 2017 at 7:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a sinking fund contract with L.A. Construction, Flushing, Michigan in an amount not to exceed \$317,460 including \$25,000 for contingency for the renovation of the OHS track due to normal wear and tear that occurs with use over an extended period of time. In addition, OHS band practice field lighting, OMS gym resurfacing, and the Washington Campus sewer renovation were identified and included in the bid request.

The Board of Education will be asked to approve the 2017-2018 student handbooks for Bentley Bright Beginnings, elementary, middle and high schools as presented.

The Board of Education will be asked 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. The agreement is 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 support the Friends of the Shiawassee River with their quest to establish a National Water Trail on the Shiawassee River and to ensure access, and potentially, upgrade the launch site behind the Owosso Middle School. The Board will be asked to approve a transfer of control with necessary upgrades of the existing Owosso Middle School access point that is located on the James Miner River Walkway in downtown Owosso. As has been customary for the past 45 years, Owosso Public Schools intends to keep the access public for the Trail's 10-year commitment requirement or until the City of Owosso assumes liability and control of the James Miner trail/river access.

For Information

Superintendent Tuttle shared the most recent personnel update with the Board of Education. Austin Wells, Custodian at Owosso High School has submitted his letter of resignation effective April 7th. Sari Colbry, Paraprofessional at Bryant Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation effective April 28th. Deborah Reid, Bus Driver has submitted her letter of retirement effective at the conclusion of the school

year after 21 years of service with the District. Lynda Cobb, Owosso High School Executive Secretary has submitted her letter of retirement effective at the conclusion of the school year after 26 years of service with the District.

Public Participation

There were no comments from the public.

Board Reports

Trustee Ty Krauss remarked that he attended the Blue and Gold Banquet to celebrate the 2017 highest honors graduates. He applauded Principal Jeff Philips for facilitating a fantastic event.

Superintendent Tuttle mentioned that Mr. Krauss not only attended the Blue & Gold Banquet as a Board Member, but as a proud parent also.

Trustee Sara Keyes stated that she also attended the Blue & Gold Banquet and it was very interesting to listen to where the students are heading off to after graduation. She was also amazed to hear about the teachers that she had as a student and how they are still making a positive influence in the lives of so many kids.

Trustee Marlene Webster stated that due to other obligations, she was sad to miss the Blue & Gold Banquet and the March Board meeting. She acknowledged the OHS softball and baseball teams for doing an amazing job putting on a dinner to support sport activities at the Pleasant Valley Trailer Park. The event was coordinated by Karen Van Epps and Food Service provided the meal. Mrs. Webster remarked that she was very pleased with all the equipment that was donated to the residents. The event made her think about three years ago when a young boy stated that he wanted to play baseball, but probably would never get to. She stated that it was really great to witness the caring and support for the residents of Pleasant Valley. Mrs. Webster commented that she participated in the LHS Community Networking Breakfast and hopes that more people choose to be a part of this event. Mrs. Webster thanked Sara Keyes and recommended that people follow her girls on their Facebook page titled the *Diaries of the Kindness Sisters*. The girls have been doing many acts of kindness within the community. They also took it upon themselves to purchase a tent and supplies for a community member that did not have a place to stay over Easter weekend.

Sara Keyes referenced Mrs. Webster's comments about her daughters and stated that they began their random acts of kindness initiative after being exposed to the Owosso Gotcha program at school.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki personally thanked Superintendent Dr. Tuttle for always being in the buildings and classrooms to connect with kids. She stated that she really appreciates her active involvement in the District and attending as many school functions as she can. Mrs. Ochodnicki stated that she thoroughly enjoyed the high school band concert and sadly this was the last concert she will attend as a parent. She stated that the District offers many class opportunities and her daughter will need to forego band her senior year to take Teaching Tolerance in its place, which will further her career aspirations in education. Mrs. Ochodnicki reported that the District has reinvigorated the OPS Foundation and asked for new and innovative ways to reach out and help kids

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

May 8: Business Services/Strategic Planning & Curriculum Subcommittees, 5:00 & 6:00 pm

May 22: Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 pm

Important Upcoming Dates:

April 25: High School Honor's Luncheon at CCRESA, 11:30 am

April 25: OMS Band Concert, 7:30 pm

April 26-28: OMS Washington, D.C. Trip

April 27-28: State Choir Festival at Holt HS

April 28: Senior Citizen Prom 4-7
May 2: CTE Student Achievement Ceremony at D'Mar Banquet & Conference Center, 11:30 am
May 3 & 4: OHS Dance Concert, 7:30 pm
May 5: Bryant Family Fun Night, 5:30-7:30 pm
May 11: Community Feedback Meeting at Central Elementary, 4:30 pm
May 12: OEA Retirement Banquet at Comstock Inn, 6 pm
May 13: Holland Tulip Festival
May 19 & 20: Cabaret at OHS, 7 pm
May 21: OHS Art Walk, 1-3 pm
May 21: Cabaret at OHS, 4 pm
May 22: Athletic Awards at OHS Auditorium, 7 pm

Adjournment

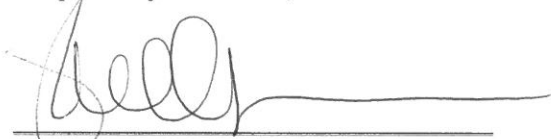
Moved by Ochodnicky, supported by Krauss to move into closed session at 7:40 pm for the purpose of discussing contracts for the district's employee work groups. Secretary Ochodnicky conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Jenc, Keyes, Krauss, Ochodnicky, Webster. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Ochodnicky, supported by Keyes to return to open session at 8:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Ochodnicky supported by Keyes to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shelly', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary