

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
September 25, 2017
Report 17-33

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, Keyes, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnicki, Paez, Webster
Absent: No one

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

Owosso High School Principal Jeff Phillips introduced the 2017-2018 foreign exchange students to the Board of Education. The student introductions included Silvia Sesztakova from Slovakia and her host parents Tom and Sara Edwards. Marlene Buchner from Germany, who is residing with host family Tom and Sara Edwards. Anna Scarzella from Italy and her host parents Ayaz and Laura Jafri. Carmen Lopez-Dominguez from Spain and her host parents Anita and Dennis Moliterno. Martina Biasini who is also from Italy and is residing with host parents Anita and Dennis Moliterno.

Mr. Phillips thanked the host families for welcoming the foreign exchange students into their homes each year. He explained that he really enjoys having the students in his building and believes that Owosso High School students also benefit from the experience. This year the exchange students will participate in the Homecoming parade and display flags representing their home country. In addition, the high school will continue to host monthly luncheons that will feature dishes from each student's country. Because there are fewer exchange students this year, the monthly luncheons will be expanded to include the friends and host families of each exchange student. The first luncheon will be held on September 26th and will feature Marlene Buchner's favorite German dishes.

Mr. Phillips asked the foreign exchange students to reflect on their journey to Owosso and share something that they did not anticipate prior to their arrival. The student's commented on how friendly and welcoming everyone was. They stated that their teachers are very kind and helpful at explaining things to them. They also remarked that they were surprised to see students their own age drive vehicles. The students were all in agreement that even though things are quite different here than what they are accustomed to, they like attending Owosso High School very well.

Mr. Jeff Phillips explained that Student Council is the heartbeat of the high school. He informed the Board that Student Council Co-Advisors are Jackie Burzmor and Kristen Bratschi. Student Council Co-President Dustin Taphouse was introduced by Mr. Phillips. Dustin reported that he shares the office of President with Andrew Pond. The other officers are Morgan Hebekeuser, Vice President; Lucy Popovitch, Public Relations; Tabitha Elliott, Social Director; and Olivia Bernard, Secretary.

Board of Education Co-Student Representative Dustin Taphouse reported that Student Council members have been working on organizing this year's Homecoming festivities, pep assemblies, and spirit days. The students also hosted a car wash over the summer to raise money for the organization

Mr. Phillips reported that prior to the first home football game, Student Council cooked for staff members that were tailgating at Willman Field. On behalf of the OHS staff, he thanked the students for their involvement in the fun event.

Board of Education Student Representative Dustin Taphouse reported that Owosso High School will celebrate homecoming spirit week beginning on October 2nd with Meme Day Monday, former student Logan Turner will be honored with Turner Tuesday, students can dress as their favorite character on Wednesday, Thursday is Squad Day, and Friday will be Blue and Gold Day.

President Tim Jenc welcomed Dustin Taphouse to the meeting and asked Board of Education members to introduce themselves to him. Dustin will share responsibilities as Board of Education Student Representative with Andrew Pond and provide Owosso High School updates during meetings throughout the school year.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Tuttle thanked the foreign exchange student host families for attending the meeting and welcomed the students to Owosso Public Schools.

Superintendent Tuttle reiterated that Owosso Public Schools is very fortunate to be able to provide students in grades 6-12 with one to one technology and Chromebooks. The elementary buildings also utilize one to one technology. Huge advances in technology have occurred within the District over the past few years, which has all come to fruition through grants and initiatives that OPS personnel has taken advantage of. Superintendent Tuttle stated that she wants the community to know that most recently the District completed technology infrastructure upgrades that were funded through Sinking Fund dollars. CFO Julie Omer, along with Randy Miller, Joe Watson, and Jeremy Wheeler of the Technology Department worked together on the E-Rate grant that would reimburse up to 90% of the technology upgrade cost. Approximately \$425,000 of Sinking Fund dollars were used for the technology upgrade project. Superintendent Tuttle proudly announced that the District was awarded \$337,000 through the E-Rate grant. The grant money will go back into the Sinking Fund and be used for additional projects.

Superintendent Tuttle recognized Baker College of Owosso for their extraordinary generosity. Baker College continues to donate their slightly used desk top computers at no cost to the District. As a result, the District has not had to purchase new desktop computers and is able to funnel dollars to other areas of technology such as Apple TV's and projectors.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that the District's next goal is to replace its antiquated telephone system for the safety and security of students and staff. She thanked everyone for their assistance in finding alternative funding sources that support the great initiatives that are happening in Owosso Public Schools.

Superintendent Tuttle recognized Food Service Director John Klapko and his staff, Chef Hannah Poyner and the OHS Culinary Arts Department, Jeff Phillips, Karen Van Epps, and the 250 participants of the 2nd Annual Harvest Festival Dinner at the Shiawassee Arts Council. The five-course meal was voluntarily prepared by the OPS Food Service and Culinary Arts Departments as a fundraising event for the Arts Council. The District was able to make a profit of approximately \$1,500 from the event which will be used to support the Bryant Elementary fresh fruit and vegetable program.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that the back gates of Willman Field have been opened up this year for tailgating prior to home football games. The gates open at 5 pm and participants pay five dollars to park near the field. The parking proceeds are split between the Band Boosters and Sports Booster's organizations. Superintendent Tuttle remarked that both of these groups are always looking for ways to generate revenue for the purchase of uniforms, instruments, and equipment. She stated that the tail gating participation has increased as the word gets out. She applauded the great community involvement at this event.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that a group of community members have been hosting meetings to educate people about the upcoming bond. The Board was reminded that they are welcome to attend these meetings as well. Superintendent Tuttle explained that there are so many needs in the District and the bond will cover a portion of them. She praised the community for coming together and hosting the informational meetings.

Superintendent Tuttle excitedly announced that the District will hold its first Athletic Hall of Fame at the Homecoming game. Inductees to be honored include the undefeated Owosso High School football team of 1965, Pauline “Denny” Hill, John Miller, Brad Van Pelt, and Teresa Vondrasek Graham. The Hall of Fame alumni will participate in the Homecoming parade and be named at various times throughout the game. Athletic Director Dallas Lintner was recognized by Superintendent Tuttle for organizing the event and bringing pride back to the community.

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that the Career and Technology Education (CTE) programs at Owosso High School are going very well. The goal is to add two new courses each year. AgriScience and Zoology were added this year and it is hoped that Botany will be added beginning with the 2018-19 school year.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that the District is in the process of completing the Facility Appraisal document. The document was last updated about five years ago and is used to prioritize sinking fund needs. Several tasks on the current document have been completed and new projects have since been identified.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that the District is scheduled for an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program reevaluation during the spring of 2018. IB leaders are currently preparing for the next evaluation.

Superintendent Tuttle stated that Lincoln High School held its first community networking breakfast of the year on September 22. The next breakfast is scheduled to held on October 31st at 7:30 am. Members of the Board are welcome to attend these events.

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that the next community bond meeting will be held on October 3rd at Baker College Welcome Center. There will be two opportunities for community members to attend the informational meetings, from 5 – 6 pm and 6:30 – 7:30 pm.

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.

Karen Michalec addressed the Board as a “Vote Yes” community member with a connection to the bond proposal. She informed the Board that through the Yes Committee’s presentations and attendance at school events, they have registered approximately 40 new voters. As of October 5th the committee will have set up at 37 separate events in the community and schools. The group had an awesome bond kick-off on September 23rd at Jumbo’s. The event raised about \$1,000 that will be used by the committee for advertising and getting bond information out to voters. Mrs. Michalec thanked Mr. Todd Sydow, Proprietor of Jumbo’s, for graciously hosting the event at his establishment. She explained that committee members are working on compiling their lists of “My 10 Yes Voters,” with a goal of attaining 3,500 yes votes. County Clerk, Caroline Wilson will be coming to OHS and LHS to register students that

are 18 years old and have not registered to vote. Mrs. Michalec reported that two separate student groups have formed in support of the bond. Stephanie Scheid-Griffin and Lori Young-Rowlison were praised by Mrs. Michalec for their extensive time and efforts at getting information about the bond out to the community. She reminded the Board to continue to provide their group with the names of yes voters.

Tom Manke of the Friends and Community News Group reported that on September 6th he ran a story on Facebook about the “Vote Yes” committee that met at Baker College. The story received 21,521 reads, 385 comments, and 227 emoji’s. He explained that better than 85% of the 385 comments were in support of the bond. The emoji’s were also supportive of the bond with the exception of seven that were against it. Mr. Manke commended the “Vote Yes” committee members for doing a great job.

Tom Manke commented that during the week of September 18th a national expert was in the community to speak about Narcan, a prescription drug that is used to treat narcotic drug overdose. Along with a large medical backing, the expert recommended that every home and school should have Narcan. Additionally, children should be trained on how to administer the drug to save lives. Mr. Manke stated that it is his hope that educators are also trained to administer the drug. He commented that the community is not facing a drug epidemic but a pandemic.

For Action

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicki to approve the August 14, 2017 regular meeting minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicki to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso Middle School students and teacher Samantha Lieberman on a Washington D.C. trip to the Capital of the United States on April 25-27, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Mowen to authorize the adoption of AgriScience: Fundamental and Applications, 6th edition, copyright 2015 by L. DeVere Burton, as the primary textbook for the Owosso High School’s AgriScience instruction. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes, supported by Krauss to authorize the Superintendent to sign the proposed Head Start Purchase of Service Agreement between Capital Area Community Services (C.A.C.S.) and Owosso Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicki to approve the hiring of certified staff member Matthew Klump as a Special Education Teacher at Owosso High School. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to authorize the Superintendent to sign Change Order #2 to add to the current contract with L.A. Construction of Flushing, Michigan in an amount not to exceed \$17,225.36 resulting in an adjusted amount of \$334,685.36. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to authorize the Superintendent to sign off on a 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 to the Kincaid Henry Building Group, Inc. and Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce inclusive of excavating 840 feet of the Owosso Middle School property, leveling it with sand and finishing with crushed limestone. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

The Board of Education will be asked to approve the out-of-state travel by Owosso High School students to attend an Art Tour of New York City on March 14-17, 2018.

For Information

Superintendent Tuttle provided the Board with a personnel update. She announced that Sipriano Villarreal has accepted the 3.25-hour Food Service Worker position at Owosso Middle School. Samantha Salyer has accepted the Kindergarten Paraprofessional position at Bryant Elementary. Sarah Konsdorf has accepted the ECSE Paraprofessional position at Bentley Bright Beginnings. Patty LaVigne has accepted the part-time 4 Wings Lead Preschool position at Bentley Bright Beginnings. Jacob Nelson has

accepted the Custodian II position at Owosso High School. Annette Richmond has accepted the 7-hour monitor position at Owosso High School. Sharry Little has accepted the Monitor position at Emerson Elementary. Mary Beth Ardelean has accepted the Food Service Distribution Coordinator position at Owosso High School. Pam Will has accepted the Bus Driver position. In addition, Kari Selleck, Curriculum Director submitted her letter of resignation effective August 7, 2017. Jessica Cords, ECSE Paraprofessional at Bentley Bright Beginnings has submitted her letter of resignation. Reinie Morgan, 4 Wings Lead Preschool teacher has submitted her letter of resignation. Michele Ainslie, Special Education Teacher at Owosso High School has submitted her letter of resignation.

Public Participation

Olga Quick informed the Board that on October 9th the District will host the MSBOA Band Festival at Willman Field. The Trojan Marching Band will perform between 9:00 and 10 pm. The freshman band will not perform at festival this year.

Board Member Comments/Updates

Tim Jenc commented that he is amazed about how often he sees ads for school bus drivers needed.

Tim Jenc sincerely thanked everyone that has been working so hard on the bond proposal. He stated that he has received several questions and emails in regards to the bond. Superintendent Tuttle and CFO Julie Omer were thanked by Mr. Jenc for providing him with several documents that he has shared with the nay sayers. Mr. Jenc also remarked that the bond tax calculator that is on the District's website is very helpful.

Marlene Webster stated that she appreciated the reminder that she received earlier in the day from Superintendent Tuttle and Lori Young-Rowlison requesting her to provide them with the names of additional yes voters. As a result, she was able to come up with about 50 new names.

Marlene Webster addressed Tom Manke's comments. She stated that the drug epidemic is not directly a school related issue, but a community issue that does ultimately affect students. She reported that Superintendent Tuttle, along with several other key community members are involved with the Alliance for Drug Free Shiawassee. The Shiawassee Hope organization, that Mrs. Webster leads, did a call to action on substance abuse about one year ago and with the assistance of a Cook Family Foundation grant, Memorial Healthcare, and Community Mental Health they were able to hire a professional organization that will help them complete the steps required to prepare for the Drug Free Communities grant. She explained that one of the required steps is an event that is coming up on Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 9 AM until 12 PM at the Free Methodist Church located on North Chipman Street in Owosso. Doors will open at 8:30 AM and breakfast will be provided. The event will include 150-200 people, but specifically at least 20 local youths. The participants will hold round table discussions about problems in the community, barriers, and potential solutions with the goal of developing a strategic plan. Mrs. Webster remarked that every voice needs to be heard at the meeting and welcomed anyone that is interested in attending. She explained that substance abuse is a much bigger problem in the area than what most people realize and is not even at its peak yet.

Shelly Ochodnický commented that she has two students that attend Owosso High School and her 11th grader has been torn about what courses to take. She stated that there are not enough hours in a school day for students to take all of the classes that they would like, because there are so many choices for them to choose from. In addition, her daughter's educational experience at the local hospital will help her decide if she wants to go into the medical field after high school graduation. Mrs. Ochodnický thanked the OPS administration for providing students with several choices and not cutting any programs.

Shelly Ochodnický invited everyone to the annual powder puff football game on October 2, 2017 at Willman Field.

Shelly Ochodnický stated that she along with Superintendent Tuttle also attended the drug prevention meeting. She remarked that she was astonished by Judge Matthew Stewart's opening statement at the meeting about there being more opiate prescriptions written than the number of people who reside in Shiawassee County.

Rick Mowen commended the staff members that have done the bond presentations. He stated that he has heard comments from community members about how impressed they are with the information that is being shared and believes that they are making a difference.

Rick Mowen addressed the unusual warm temperatures and thanked Superintendent Tuttle for closing school early that day. He stated that he has a granddaughter that attends Swartz Creek schools and it was 102 degrees in her single-level classroom that day.

Superintendent Tuttle referenced Mr. Mowen's comments about the excessive heat. She stated that the District has several multi-level buildings and the upper floors get extremely warm, which is not conducive to learning. Several news stations have contacted the District about closing early. In addition, TV Channels 5 and 12 were in the District to report on school closing because of the heat.

Sara Keyes reported that her stepson has become frustrated with the inaccuracies his fellow high school students have been saying about the bond proposal. Even though he is not old enough to vote he created a Facebook page that contains information to educate students about the bond.

Sara Keyes provided an update on her daughters that are seven and nine years old and otherwise known as "The Kindness Sisters." The sisters continue to try and change the world through random acts of kindness. The sisters have donated money that they have raised to the humane society and walls of warmth. Most recently a local homeless veteran got his first apartment and the sisters helped him out by purchasing toiletries and food. The sisters are currently collecting pop bottles to generate additional revenue for their budget. Mrs. Keyes asked people to contact her if they know any students that need assistance.

Ty Krauss expressed his gratitude to the community group for their hard work and efforts to get information out about the bond proposal. He also thanked Tom Manke for the statistics that he shared about his Facebook article on the bond.

Ty Krauss commented that he arrived early for the meeting and decided to walk the halls of the high school. He stated that he really enjoyed looking at the student's blue and gold silhouette paintings that are hung in the wings. He remarked that the high school has never looked better.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

October 9: Board of Education Workshop, 5:00 & 8:00 pm

October 23: Regular Board Meeting, 7 pm

Important Upcoming Dates:

October 2: Snake Dance, 6 pm

October 2: Powder Puff Football Game @ Willman Field, 7 pm

October 4: Fall Pupil Count Day

October 6: Homecoming Parade & Tailgate, 6 pm

October 6: Homecoming Football Game vs. Clio High School at Willman Field, 7 pm

October 7: Homecoming Dance at OHS, 7-10 pm

October 10: Last Day to Register to Vote in the November 7th Election

October 11: Half Day for All Students: Professional Development in PM

October 11: Academic Achievement Awards Ceremony at OHS, 7 pm

October 12: LHS Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5:30-7 pm
October 17: 5th Grade Music Program at Emerson Elementary, 7 pm
October 18: OHS Choir Concert, 7 pm
October 19: Bryant & Central 5th Grade Music Program at Central, 7pm

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicky to adjourn at 8:01 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary