

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Committee of the Whole Meeting and Board Workshop
February 8, 2023
Report 22-93

Present: Adam Easlick, Nick Henne, Ty Krauss, Rick Mowen, Shelly Ochodnicki, Marlene Webster

Absent: Olga Quick

Mr. 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

Team Building

The Board participated in a team building activity titled “True Colors Personality Test”. The true colors test is designed to develop understanding about personal behaviors, thoughts, feelings and to develop a greater understanding of the behavior of others. The idea is that with an increased understanding of ourselves and our team members, conflicts will decrease. Each member of the Board had an opportunity to discuss what color they think they are and what color they think the other members are.

Goal Setting Activity

Dr. Tuttle asked each Board member to write four top-priority goals for the District. Goals that were discussed included safety and security, human resources retainment, student attendance, athletics, increased graduation rates, improved mental health resources, maintain a healthy budget, etc. This activity led into the Strategic Planning portion of the meeting.

Strategic Planning

The Board reviewed general information regarding facilities planning. Currently, the district has five properties that need attention: Water Street facility, the Cedar Street maintenance facility, the Cass Street bus storage, the Jerome Street bus garage, and Green Meadows. The Board discussed potential ideas for these facilities such as building bays at the SRES, a pole barn for building and grounds and additional parking lots. The Board also discussed sinking fund renovations for the coming years. Ideas for 2023 include tennis courts, gym improvements, drainage improvements, interior door replacements, softball/baseball/track improvements, and fencing. Possible ideas for 2024, 2025, and 2026 improvements include fencing, additional parking lots, exterior doors and building controls. The Board will have to decide which projects need priority attention over the coming years. Dr. Tuttle presented a draft Strategic Plan created by the administration team. The Strategic Plan is divided into four goals: Financial and Infrastructure Management, Safety and Security, Overall Student Success, and Talent

Management and Support. Each goal includes objectives and measures of success. The objectives for Financial and Infrastructure Management are: Ensure safe, secure and upgraded facilities, support sustained technology investments and state of the art technology, maintain a clean and pristine learning environment, and maintain healthy savings and investments with diverse funding sources. Some measures of success of these objectives include clean financial audits, healthy fund balance, grant resources, equipment replacement schedules and 3-5-year technology plan. The four objectives for Safety and Security are: Critical Incident Management, Secure inside facilities, and Secure outdoor and large gathering spaces. Measures of success for these objectives include a critical incident plan, meeting dates of trainings, communication logs, and mentor programs. The four objectives for Overall Student Success are: Increase high school graduation rates, increase levels of proficiency in core subject areas, and continued diversification of educational opportunities, and Improve the social-emotional wellbeing of all students. The measures of success for Overall Student Success include: Meet student growth expectations on Student Learning Objectives, close gap between Owosso Public Schools and State Averages, Review of Perception data annually. The objectives for Talent Management and Support include: Develop and retain Owosso team members and Provide necessary staff support. Measures of success include: Staff retention data, staff survey results, evaluation data and health and wellness opportunities. The Board discussed each of the four goals and potential areas for improvement. Overall, the draft strategic plan included many of the goals that the Board had mentioned in the goal setting activity.

Take a Seat Campaign

The Board discussed the ‘Take a Seat’ campaign proposed by the District. The plan is to offer seat plaques in the Performing Arts Center for \$250.00. Those who purchase a seat will receive an engraved brass nameplate, prominently affixed to the chair arm on any available seat. Donations can be made in the name of the purchaser, in honor of someone else, or in memory of a loved one. The campaign is still in the development stages.

Kindergarten Registration

Dr. Tuttle shared with the Board that Kindergarten Registration will take place March 6-10. Communications Director Jess Thompson worked diligently to create and distribute a beautiful informational packet regarding the registration process. The packets will be mailed out to preschools and community centers in Owosso.

Board Comments

President Mowen thanked Dr. Tuttle, CFO Omer, and Curriculum Director Brooks for all the planning that went into the evening activities. He thanked the culinary department for the delicious meal. He ended his comments by saying it is clear there is a mix of personalities on the Board and everyone has different ideas, but they are all capable of working together.

Secretary Krauss thanked the culinary department for the delicious food and said he had a great time during the activities.

Trustee Ochodnicky said it's great to be back to some normalcy and she is looking forward to the rest of the year. She thanked the culinary department for the amazing meal.

Trustee Henne said that it is clear each member of the Board has their own ideas but that it is important to stick together and respect each other. He appreciated the nice meal and good discussion.

Trustee Easlick thanked everyone for their kind words during the personality test. He thanked the culinary department for the meal.

Vice President Webster said she is looking forward to the new year and is expecting the Board to do great work. She thanked Dr. Tuttle for all her work in putting this evening's workshop together.

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.

Upcoming Dates

- **February 22:** Board of Education, Regular Meeting, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Gymnasium
- **March 8:** Board of Education, Committee of the Whole, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Gymnasium
- **March 22:** Board of Education, Regular Meeting, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Gymnasium

Adjournment

Moved by Webster, supported by Ochodnicky to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,


Ty Krauss, Secretary