

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2018
Report 18-20

President Jenc called the Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 5:01 pm. The meeting was held at the Washington Campus, 645 Alger Street, Owosso, MI 48867.

Present: Tim Jenc, Sara Keyes, Rick Mowen, Cheryl Paez, Shelly Ochodnicky, Marlene Webster, Andrea Tuttle, Julie Omer, Steve Brooks, Clara Pitt
Absent: Ty Krauss

Pledge of Allegiance

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.

School Safety

City of Owosso Director of Public Safety Kevin Lenkart provided the Board with an update on school safety and threats. He advised that all school threats will be dealt with immediately and Superintendent Tuttle will be notified of any threats regardless of the time.

Mr. Lenkart and Superintendent Tuttle both praised the District's Liaison Officers Mr. Mike Ash and Mr. Mike Wheeler on the phenomenal job they have been doing. Superintendent Tuttle remarked that she has an excellent relationship with Owosso's Public Safety Department and the Liaison Officers.

Mr. Lenkart informed the Board that the drug problem in the community is quite prevalent, but not any different than any other community in the United States.

Mr. Lenkart reported that in an attempt to assist people struggling with addiction and reduce drug demand in Shiawassee County, the Michigan State Police (MSP) has now partnered with the Owosso Police Department in the nation-wide Angel Program, a pre-arrest diversion program. The Angel Program allows someone with a drug addiction to walk into a state police post or the Owosso Police Department and seek help for their addiction, without fear of arrest or investigation. Volunteers in Shiawassee County have recently been trained by MSP personnel in the Angel Program. The Angel volunteers are trained to provide support and transportation for the participants and assist in finding the appropriate treatment, and then transport the participant to the treatment.

Safety Grant

Superintendent Tuttle announced that CFO Omer, Mrs. Clara Pitt, Mr. John Klapko and she have spent hours writing a safety and security grant. After contacting individuals in the know about what will most likely be granted, the district wrote the grant (which is up to \$25K/building) for card readers. The grant was initially wrote to include 3M cameras; however, these were removed from the grant after she spoke with Mr. Tom Mynsberge of Critical Incident Management who advised that the cameras would not be approved.

Preliminary Audit Results/Budget

Superintendent Tuttle explained that the 2018-19 budget is looking better than what was forecasted last spring. She stated that the fund balance is close to 9% and the goal is 8%. Student count currently looks good and it is hoped that it will be better than anticipated.

CFO Julie Omer reported that all adjustments have been made to the budget. The 2018-19 general fund summary and unofficial 2017-18 audited fund balance show an increase in the total ending fund balance of \$640,710. Mrs. Omer also shared a copy of the state of revenues and expenses budget comparison with the Board that gave them a better understanding of District expenses.

Student Discipline

Superintendent Tuttle provided the Board with details on recent student discipline issues that the administration has been dealing with.

Transportation Center

Superintendent Tuttle reported that the District has been exploring options for a new Transportation Center with a hoist and the possibility of using sinking funds dollars for the purchase. She stated that if a new facility is found and feasible to purchase, the District could potentially sell properties on Cedar Street, Cass Street, and Jerome Street.

WODA

Superintendent Tuttle stated that WODA has been working on possible grants for the purchase of the middle school property.

Bond Update

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that Clark Construction has extended the timeline for the elementary bids. It is hoped that Kingscott and Clark Construction will be available for an update at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Student Growth

Superintendent Tuttle remarked that school districts are responsible for determining the student growth portion of teacher evaluations. She commented that research has shown that teacher evaluations have no effect on student growth. Curriculum Director Steve Brooks was praised by Superintendent Tuttle for the phenomenal job he has done with the evaluation tool. As a result, Owosso Public Schools is further ahead than other districts in the county.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks informed the Board that he has had numerous discussions with teachers about evaluations and student growth. He stated that he is working diligently with teachers to make this work. Beginning in 2018-2019, the law requires that 40 percent of half of teacher and administrator evaluations be based on "student growth and assessment data", with 20% of the growth component of evaluations comprised of M-STEP data for tested grades and subjects. A Student Learning Objectives (SLO) was shared which outlined student growth for all employees.

Welding

Steve Brooks reported that 14 high school students are enrolled in a welding course. Textbooks for the course have been purchased.

Benchmark Assessments K-8 (Northwest Education Assessments –NWEA)

Steve Brooks announced that this is the first year that the District will administer the NWEA benchmark assessment. Testing will begin the week of September 24.

Sinking Fund

Superintendent Tuttle shared a copy of projects that have been identified for the sinking fund. She commented that the document was completed prior to the bond being passed which will eliminate some middle school and high school projects. The costs of all the projects still exceed the amount of money that is taken in for the sinking fund.

Safe Schools

Superintendent Tuttle reported that every school year each employee of the District is required to complete approximately six hours of Safe Schools courses. The courses include sexual misconduct, discrimination, bullying, blood borne pathogens, etc.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

September 24: Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 pm

October 8: Committee of the Whole, 5 pm

Adjournment

Moved by Paez, supported by Ochodnicki to adjourn at 7:09 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicki, Secretary