

# **OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **Board of Education Minutes**

### **Committee of the Whole**

**January 10, 2022**

**Report 21-78**

Present: Ty Krauss, Sarah Keyes, Rick Mowen, Shelly Ochodnicky, Olga Quick  
Absent: Adam Easlick, Marlene Webster

President Rick Mowen called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. The meeting was held at the Washington Campus Gymnasium, 645 Alger Street, Owosso MI 48867.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Public Participation**

President Mowen 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.

### **The following public participants addressed the Board**

- Vanessa Senk
- Mark Senk
- Doug Haskins
- Eric Locker

### **ESSER FUNDS**

Dr. Tuttle began by saying that the ESSER Funds survey had a great response from the community, the two areas that received the most responses were HVAC and building improvements, and the second was safety and security. Dr. Tuttle stated that bids were put out for the HVAC and the goal is to have the bids by January 21<sup>st</sup> for the January 24<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Dr. Tuttle stated that safety and security is of utmost importance and she and several members of administration met recently to brainstorm a list of safety and security improvements that can be made in the district. The list includes four additional liaison officers, 350 new doors and cores, more monitors, classroom window coverings, cameras for elementary and preschool buildings, therapy dogs, lockdown buttons, Securely application, Employee Assistance Program, and vaping detectors. Dr. Tuttle stated that she believes the Board would not have to alter the District's policy on animals allowed on District property, as therapy dogs could be justified under the definition of allowed animals. Vice President Ochodnicky inquired as to the financial sustainability of these items such as the liaison officers and Dr. Tuttle stated that more research into the costs would have to be done. Trustee Krauss asked how the district would designate officers to each building, Dr. Tuttle responded that likely the most senior officer would be assigned to the secondary campus, but that ultimately it depends on what candidates apply.

### **Bond Update**

Dr. Tuttle presented the resolution that authorizes the superintendent to proceed with litigation with Kingscott. Dr. Tuttle stated that no action would be taken this evening, but this is an item that that will be presented as 'For Future Action' on the January 24 agenda.

### **Lincoln Transition**

Dr. Tuttle stated the district would like to start the discussion of moving the Lincoln Alternative Program to the High School. She said that the Lincoln program used to have 125 students and was a financially self-sufficient program. The program is now done to forty students, the reduction being due in part to additional support at the high school in the form of a credit recovery system. Additionally, the Lincoln students have limited support in the current format. The secondary campus provides more opportunities for these students. Dr. Tuttle stated the secondary campus has a room available that the district would like to try to move the Lincoln program to. This would help students who are only slightly credit deficient be able to transition from Lincoln back to the high school program. She stated administration is working on a comprehensive plan that she will be able to present to the Board at a later date. She concluded that with any big change there will be some resistance but that ultimately this is a win for all the students.

Vice President Ochodnicky stated that the Lincoln program is very dear to her heart and that while she is torn on this decision, she understand the district must do what is best for the students and she is looking forward to more information on the transition.

Trustee Krauss said it is extremely important for all the students to have the same opportunities. He inquired if the district thought the program would ever get back to 125 students. Dr. Tuttle said the district does not predict that the program will ever get back to that many students.

Treasurer Keyes stated her concern is accommodating a greater number of students in the space, if the program is appealing to more students. Dr. Tuttle stated there is room for some growth, from about 40 to 80 students, but at this time it is most fiscally responsible to move the program.

### **Kindergarten Registration**

Dr. Tuttle stated the Kindergarten Registration mailer is one of the most important things done by the District, as it showcases all the opportunities Owosso has to offer. In the past, the Kindergarten packet has only been mailed out in Owosso however this year the packet will be sent to Chesaning and Corunna as well. Dr. Tuttle said the idea for the format of the registration was inspired by a recent candidate's resume and will be displayed in the form of an audio record. The presented registration is not finished but will be going out shortly. Dr. Tuttle concluded by saying it is important to get the word out about all the opportunities Owosso Public Schools offers.

### **Radios**

Dr. Tuttle stated that the district is looking at another 12-16 weeks before the new radios will be in. At this time, radios are being rented until the purchased ones arrive.

### **Disney Trip**

Dr. Tuttle stated that it has been her goal this year to prevent canceling events as much as possible and the Disney Trip is no exception. As of now, the Disney Trip will continue as planned and has been a phenomenal trip OPS students have enjoyed year after year.

President Mowen shared that he believes the Disney Trip is an excellent opportunity for the students and the Performing Arts program.

### **Organizational Meeting**

Dr. Tuttle said the Organizational Meeting is always planned for the second meeting in January. Dr. Tuttle said she did confirm with our MASB legal representative that if a Board member is

not present for the meeting, they can accept a nomination beforehand but cannot nominate another member.

### **Committee of the Whole**

Dr. Tuttle opened for discussion if the Board would like to continue with Committee of the Whole Meetings, as the District is only required by law to have one meeting a month. Vice President Ochodnicky and Trustee Krauss both commented they believe the discussion is important and would like to continue with two meetings a month. The Board agreed to continue the Committee of the Whole Meetings.

### **County School Board Positions**

Dr. Tuttle shared that the Shiawassee County School Board Representative and Shiawassee RESD Budget Review and Election Representative positions will be voted on at the January 24<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

### **Board Comments**

Treasurer Keyes stated she feels that it is important to remain open-minded and respectful of differing viewpoints. While she recognizes it is important to hear the opinions of the public she does not appreciate when perspectives are bullied or ridiculed. She encouraged everyone stay open-minded and she appreciates hearing all points of view.

Trustee Krauss commented that he appreciates all the public participants that spoke this evening and thanked them for their courage and insight.

Vice President Ochodnicky asked why the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting was not scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup>, as the 28<sup>th</sup> is the fourth week of the month. The Board agreed to move the Board meeting to the 28<sup>th</sup> to follow the normal schedule.

### **Closed Session**

Moved by Quick, supported by Keyes to move into closed session at 6:25pm for the purpose of discussing Student Discipline and Negotiations.

### **Upcoming Board Meeting Dates**

**January 24: Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 pm**

**February 14: Committee of the Whole, 5:30 pm**

**February 21: Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 p.m.**

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Quick, supported by Krauss to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marlene Webster*

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Marlene Webster, Secretary