

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Minutes**  
**April 08, 2019**  
**Report 18-155**

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:30 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, Quick, Webster  
Absent: Ochodnicki

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle commented that it was nice to hear the student's that were in the audience recite the Pledge of Allegiance with such conviction.

**Building Reports**

As part of the Celebrate Kids! segment of the meeting, Superintendent Tuttle introduced Bryant Elementary School Principal Mrs. Michelle Collison. Mrs. Collison announced that Bryant teachers Mrs. Karla Tuma, Mrs. Rebekah Gute, Mrs. Marsha Ladd, and their students were in attendance to report on technology that they use in the classrooms. Mrs. Tuma stated that her students use technology every day. It is an awesome opportunity for students to be able to use the Chromebooks. The Chromebooks also help students become familiar with online testing as they prepare for the NWEA and M-STEP assessments and practice their writing responses.

Bryant fifth grade students Brenna Gute, Aubrey Reeves, and fourth grade student Marqwone Hilliard expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to use the Chromebook carts on a regular basis. The students use Google Classroom and a variety teacher approved applications for writing feedback, research, virtual fieldtrips, and book reviews. The apps allow teachers to share announcements, assignments, tasks, and surveys. Students can turn in homework using the apps and receive feedback prior to their assignments being graded. Google Classroom provides students with trusted sources that assist them with their research when completing projects. The Chromebook apps also provide students with feedback from their teachers on subject areas that they need to improve on.

Bryant Elementary teacher Mrs. Rebekah Gute informed the Board that the elementary technology classrooms were awarded a Minecraft Education Edition grant. Minecraft is a game that allows players to build with a variety of different blocks in a 3D procedurally generated world, requiring creativity from players. Mrs. Gute stated that her students are learning about Michigan history and the state of Michigan. Through the use of Minecraft, her students were challenged to find a Michigan landmark and build it using Minecraft. Marqwone Hilliard stated that he enjoys using Minecraft and used the app to build a lighthouse.

The Board of Education, Superintendent Dr. Tuttle, Curriculum Director Steve Brooks, and Principal Michelle Collison were thanked by Brenna Gute and Aubrey Reeves for providing Bryant Elementary students with the use of technology and being allowed the opportunity to present at the meeting.

Lincoln Alternative High School Principal Mr. Steve Irelan introduced Mrs. Michele Schmitz, teacher at LHS to the Board. Mr. Irelan commented that he is very proud of Mrs. Schmitz for taking on several leadership roles and trying to get LHS students connected to leadership activities and risk taking through MAEO.

Mrs. Michele Schmitz informed the Board of Education that MAEO stands for the Michigan Alternative Education Organization and STARS stands for success, teamwork, achievement, recognition, and self-esteem. LHS students Ian Shire, Hannah Bernath, McKayla Stamper, Cole Comstock, and Alex Beal were introduced to share their experiences with MAEO. Mrs. Schmitz explained that any alternative education school in Michigan is allowed to join MAEO and currently there are about eight schools that

participate. The students explained that MAEO makes them feel like they are part of something and accepted for who they are. During the fall kickoff, students participated in games and social activities. The students stated that through the activities they were able to learn a lot about themselves and felt very comfortable interacting with the other students.

Mrs. Schmitz reported that MAEO hosts three main events for students each school year that include the Fall Kick-off, Legislative Day, and College and Career Competition.

Ian Shire shared his perspective about being a student at Lincoln High School. He expressed his gratitude for having LHS as an option for Owosso Public Schools students. Ian stated that he previously attended Owosso High School and was enrolled in an online school but was unsuccessful. When he initially enrolled in Lincoln he had already formed some negative opinions about the school; however, he soon realized that his views were wrong and he is proud to be a part of the LHS student body. Ian also commented on how he enjoyed participating in the MAEO Legislative Days and sharing his thoughts about alternative education with Representative Ben Frederick.

Mrs. Schmitz reported that LHS students will attend the MAEO College and Career Competition in May at Delta College. Students will have an opportunity to participate in public speaking, a variety of activities, and competitions between other students. The event will conclude with an awards ceremony and dinner.

Mrs. Schmitz expressed her sincere gratitude to the Board of Education for their continued support of the students and staff of Lincoln High School.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle praised the student presenters from Bryant Elementary and Lincoln High School on their poise, presentation, and articulation. She commended the Lincoln High School students for expressing themselves in a very concise and articulate manner. The students were also commended on their public speaking.

Vice President Rick Mowen applauded the LHS and Bryant student presenters on the enthusiasm they displayed during their presentations. He also commented that the Lincoln students have proved that LHS is a valuable program.

Board of Education Student Representative Cayden Whiteherse reported that spring time is in the air, graduation time is upon us, and spring sports have begun. He stated that the most exciting time of all is that it is testing season. On April 9 high school juniors will take the SAT test.

Cayden Whiteherse announced that the Madrigal's are working on their State Festival pieces and preparing for Cabaret. Owosso High School students Ava Fett and Autumn Weir are preparing for All State Honor's Choir.

Cayden Whiteherse informed the Board that the OHS E-Board plans to hold a meeting to review the Chalkboard project prior to presenting it to the student body.

Cayden Whiteherse reported that this is the last week students can purchase tickets for Prom. Prom will be held on Friday, April 26 at the Gold Glow Ballroom in St. Charles.

Cayden Whiteherse announced that the Owosso High School Academic and Beyond the Books Assembly will take place on May 3. Top seniors and students that contribute to the community and their school will be recognized during the assembly.

Cayden Whiteherse commented that a lot of great things are happening with students and the District. Owosso Public Schools is the land of opportunity. Cayden remarked that his brother attends Lincoln High School. He has done very well at the school and is excited to go to school and learn now. Cayden thanked the Board for providing students with opportunities like Lincoln High School.

Superintendent Tuttle acknowledged the accomplishments of Board Trustee Ty Krauss for achieving the Michigan Association of School Boards Level One Certification and the Award of Merit. Trustee Krauss used his valuable time to improve his leadership effectiveness by completing Board development courses.

### **Board Correspondence**

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle praised Cayden Whiteherse on his report and recognition of Lincoln High School. She remarked that Cayden is a great representative of the student body at Owosso High School.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle commented that the meeting was not a regularly scheduled Board meeting. The meeting was added specifically for the bond. She stated that the elementary buildings are looking great. Contractors are currently installing bricks, insulation, polished concrete, electrical wiring, duct work, and roof installations. Bryant Elementary and Central Elementary Schools are on schedule. Emerson Elementary is off schedule due to the initial delays of Consumers Energy. It is hoped that construction will be completed at all three buildings by mid to late July 2019.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle thanked the community for their patience and understanding with the current conditions at the high school. She remarked that traffic flows at the high school are being monitored by the administration and she has not received a single complaint from students or parents. A sanitary storm and water tie-ins are in progress at the front of the building. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that loads of dirt are being moved to create a berm at the back of the building. She commented that trucks are using the access road that go to the ball fields and are making the road nearly impassable. As a result, the road will be closed to traffic for the remainder of the baseball and softball season. Handicap parking will be available.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that the Office of Auditor General is conducting a performance audit on the Office of Educator Excellence in the state and are requesting information from the District. The auditors will be in the District starting on April 9. Human Resource Coordinator Bev White, Chief Financial Officer Julie Omer, and Curriculum Director Steve Brooks were applauded for their efforts with the audit.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle commented that the Trojan Marching Bands trip to Walt Disney World was absolutely flawless. She stated that she is very proud of Band Director Jordan Sterk for managing the trip during Jillian Kowalczyk maternity leave. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle remarked that she was able to watch the band perform in a parade at Disney World and heard several praises from onlookers.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that on April 9 Owosso Middle School students will visit Baker College for a career exploration day. Students will have an opportunity to explore the career opportunities available to them at Baker College. Principal Rich Collins and Assistant Principal Dr. Cathy Dwyer were thanked for working with Baker College on the event.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks informed the Board of Education that state assessments will begin across the District on April 9. The M-STEP will be administered to students in grades 5, 8, and 11 along with the PSAT and SAT at the high school. Mr. Brooks remarked that the assessments require a team effort that involves administrators, teachers, and the technology department.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that earlier that day, Mrs. Karen Van Epps, Mrs. Bridgit Spielman, Dr. Cathy Dwyer and he attended a job fair at Michigan State University. The purpose of the visit was to search for teacher candidates to fill current vacancies in the District. Mr. Brooks stated that 176 school districts from across the country and 200 teacher applicants were in attendance at the job fair. He reported that they did receive some good prospects for potential interviews. It was discouraging to witness some school districts outside of Michigan offer starting bonuses to the prospective teachers. On a positive note, Principal Spielman and Dr. Dwyer got their picture taken with MSU Basketball player Cassius Winston.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks announced that the District is gearing up for summer curriculum projects that will include curriculum updates at all levels. An update will be shared with the Board at a later date.

### **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 Mowen, supported by Krauss to approve the March 11, 2019 regular meeting minutes, April 1, 2019 committee of the whole minutes, and current bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick to authorize the Superintendent to sign a contract with A4 Access of Rochester Hills to commence with the purchase and installation of a Wheelchair Lift at the secondary campus and approve any contingencies of 5% and general condition work up to 2% of the overall contract work not to exceed \$37,997. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen to approve the course listings as presented for the Middle School, High School, and Lincoln High School for the 2018-2019 school year. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Krauss, supported by Mowen to adopt Revised Policy 5460-Graduation Requirements as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to authorize the Superintendent to sign a contract with LA Construction not to exceed \$1,117,216.12 to build an access road from the Middleton property to the secondary campus, tennis court playing and Bentley playground fencing renovation and include all four alternates (East and West Drive paving around baseball/softball/track to connect with access drive, back parking lot expansion by pool/football/cross country practice area, and add curb and gutter to access drive). Vice President Mowen commented that the final paving of the access road will not be completed until the secondary construction project is finished. Trustee Olga Quick stated that Superintendent Dr. Tuttle has indicated in the past that it has been recommended that the campus have a secondary access point. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that Homeland Security has suggested in the past that the campus have multiple access points in the event of an emergency. Motion carried unanimously.

### **For Future Action**

- The Board of Education will be asked to approve the 2019-2020 student handbooks for Bentley Bright Beginnings, elementary, middle and high schools as presented. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle remarked that Trustee Olga Quick noticed that all references to DHS in the handbooks should be changed to DHHS. The changes will be made as suggested.
- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to sign contracts associated with the masonry and structural steel for the renovation of the secondary campus to be funded out of bond and sinking fund proceeds. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle pointed out language in the Board Report that stated the following:

All bidding categories that were put out to bid and received on March 20, 2019 were over budget due: 1) significantly higher inflation than could be expected 21 months ago when the budget was developed by the architects and submitted to the State for approval; and 2) inclusion by the architects of higher end finishes and scope changes in the bid packages. Due to the fact that the facility will need to serve our community and children for decades to come, the administration feels that it necessary to recommend using sinking fund dollars in the amount not to exceed \$2.5 million to ensure

that square footage cuts are not made to the building with all residual funds for these two contracts and future contracts to come from the bond proceeds. The District will carefully work through the value engineering with the guidance of the construction manager and architects to provide a quality end product in order to bring the contracts back in line with the budget. This will ensure that the community and students are not short changed by a facility that does not meet their needs as was done in the past. This recommendation is not brought lightly for consideration but is considered to provide the best service to the community for moving forward with the project without sacrificing needed educational space in the new facility and still allows enough sinking fund dollars available to take care of the facilities.

Brendon Pollard, President and Director of Educational Planning at Kingscott Architects stated that he has taken over for Lee Andrea on the bond project. He remarked that he understands that this is a difficult time for the District and it is never easy to be over budget, particularly to the extent that the project is. However, Kingscott is working diligently and will continue to work with the District to get the bond project back within a reasonable budget. The changes that are being made are things that the public will not see or need to know about. If there are funds available at the end of the project, items can be added. Additionally, the leadership team at Kingscott is working to see what they can do to help the issue as well.

Gary Stellar, Project Director at Clark Construction Company explained that the items that they are looking at to get the project back on budget will not affect the functionality of the facility at all. He assured the Board that the facility will be very nice in the end. He stated that a large team of people are going through the process of looking at options to reduce costs.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that for the record, she sees this as two separate issues, which are issues with value engineering and square footage. She explained that in theory, the value engineering does not hinder the functionality of the building. She stated that for example, the District has asked for polished concrete in areas that may now have tile instead. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle commented that the problem she has is that these things should have been cut prior to the bid process.

Trustee Olga Quick referred to Brendon Pollard's comment that the changes being made to the secondary campus are things that the public would not know or need to know. She stated that the Board of Education is very open and transparent. She clarified that what she thinks he meant to say was that the changes would not be noticed by the community.

Mr. Pollard agreed with Trustee Quick's clarification. He stated the changes deal with the detailing. They will not affect the functionality or programming of the facility.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained that everything the District said would be included within the bond language for the facility is still on track to be provided.

- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to sign contracts with Sonitrol for the Door Access Control System in an amount not to exceed \$102,512.11 and with Rivers Security Specialists, Inc. for the security glass in an amount not to exceed \$62,270.00 for a total award of \$164,782.11 fully utilizing the security grant of \$164,794.00.
- The Board of Education will be asked to approve the Shiawassee County School District and Shiawassee SRESM Mutual Aid Agreement. It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education authorize David Schulte, SRESM Superintendent, to sign the Shiawassee County School Districts and SRESM Mutual Aid Agreement which is part of our countywide continuity of operations plan as presented.

### **For Information**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that Cory Lepley, has accepted the Custodian II position at Owosso High School. Jeanette Manning has accepted the Food Service Distribution Coordinator position. Christine Hart has accepted the 7-hour Food Service position at Owosso Middle School. Jeanne Peterson has accepted the 5-hour Food Service position at Owosso Middle School. Susan Mitchell, Food Service

and Mail Courier has submitted her letter of resignation effective March 15, 2019. Julie Crackel has resigned her Monitor position at Emerson Elementary effective March 19, 2019.

### **Public Participation**

There were no comments from the public.

### **Board Member Comments/Updates**

President Tim Jenc informed the Board that Secretary Shelly Ochodnický's mother passed away earlier that day. He asked everyone to keep Shelly and her family in their thoughts and prayers.

Trustee Marlene Webster stated that on Friday, April 12 at 7 am is the annual Legislative Breakfast in addition to a Value Engineering and Page Turning Construction meeting at 9 am. She asked if the Board still planned to attend both meetings. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that the Board is welcome to attend both meetings; however, they may be a little late for the 9 am bond meeting.

Trustee Olga Quick commended Superintendent Dr. Tuttle for all of her efforts and the energy she has put into the bond issues. She stated that she appreciates Dr. Tuttle taking charge and handling some difficult situations.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle thanked the Board for taking time off from their jobs to attend the bond meetings. She stated that the Board's presence at these meetings and having Kingscott and Clark listen to their blunt and honest comments is very important. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that having the Board members attend these meetings is very important to her and she appreciates their involvement on behalf of the community.

Trustee Olga Quick stated that she attended the Dueling Pianos fundraising event and Principal Bridgit Spielman is quite the piano player.

Vice President Rick Mowen praised the staff of Owosso Public Schools that have been involved in the bond design process and all of their input. He stated that the current overages to the bond budget is not a result of the Owosso team. Throughout the process, the Owosso Public Schools team have been very cognizant of the needs over wants.

Vice President Rick Mowen commended the student presenters. He stated that their enthusiasm reciting the Pledge of Allegiance was awesome to hear.

Vice President Rick Mowen stated that the Central PTO Dueling Pianos fundraiser was held over the past weekend. The annual event has grown in attendance each year. He remarked that the pianist, comradery, and silent auctions were great. He applauded Principal Bridgit Spielman on her piano debut. Mr. Mowen also thanked Mrs. Carrie Miculka for her efforts with the event. Participants of the Dueling Pianos were thanked for stepping up and assisting with funding for the Central students annual Mackinac Island Field trip as well.

Trustee Ty Krauss remarked that it was great listening to the student presentations during the meeting and reminds him why he ran for the Board of Education. He stated that it is great to have a staff that cares so much which is evident in the manner that students speak during their presentations.

Trustee Ty Krauss stated that he drives through the school District at least four times each week and it is great watching the construction progress. He stated that everything looks great.

### **Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:**

April 22: Board Meeting, 5:30 pm

May 13: Board Meeting, 5:30 pm

### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

April 9: Bryant 1st/2nd Grade Mardi Gras Math, 3:40 pm

April 10: Emerson's 1st Grade Math Night, 4:30 pm  
April 11: Bryant's Got Talent, 4:30 pm  
April 12: Legislative Breakfast at Hawk Hollow, 7 am  
April 15: Bryant Elementary Career Day, 2 pm  
April 15: Pleasant Valley Fundraiser, OHS Cafeteria, 5-6:30 pm  
April 16: Central Band/Recorder Concert, 7 pm  
April 17: Blue & Gold Banquet at D'Mar Banquet Center, 6 pm  
April 17: Bryant Band/Recorder Concert, 7 pm  
April 18: Bryant Movie Night, 4 pm  
April 18: Emerson Band/Recorder Concert, 7 pm  
April 18: Shiawassee Community Foundation Scholarship Night at D'Mar Banquet Center, 7 pm  
April 19: Half Day for all Students  
April 22: 8th Grade OHS Tours, 1 pm  
April 22: Student Culinary Competition at OHS, 3:15 pm

**Adjournment**

Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick to adjourn at 6:43 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

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Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary