

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Minutes**  
**March 27, 2017**  
**Report 16-99**

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:15 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  
Absent: Webster

Motions of the Board of Education that were unanimous did not include Webster.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Building Reports**

Athletic Director Dallas Lintner proudly announced that this was the first year in school history that the 2017 OHS Competitive Cheerleading Team qualified for the MHSAA regional competition. The team successfully broke all school records during the season. The team also earned Academic All State by the Michigan Coaches Association and had the highest grade point average in Division 2. In addition, Coach Trudy Schneider was chosen by her counterparts and named the MHSAA Division 2 Coach of the Year.

Coach Trudy Schneider expressed her gratitude for the recognition. The Competitive Cheerleading Team members include Erin Rau, Emily Rau, Mylissa MacKenzie, Sarah Landes, Ashtyn Guru, Faith Snyder, Mailey Cornell, Sydney Nichols, Ashley Brown, Sharna Butcher, Alexis Martenis, Luisa Espinoza, and Malyrie Montroy. Two condensed routines were performed by the team that demonstrated their award winning tone, pace, stunting, skill, and overall athleticism.

Owosso High Principal Jeff Phillips stated that it is his pleasure to introduce Mrs. Melanie Lounds, a member of the Language and Literature Department at OHS. Mrs. Lounds commented that the Argus Press recently published an article that featured OHS senior MaryKate Wright as the 2017 Michigan Poetry Out Loud Competition winner. Mrs. Lounds stated that it is her hope that Owosso Public Schools has instilled in MaryKate a love of learning, seeking, analyzing, and questioning why our world is the way it is. As the winner of the Michigan Poetry Out Loud Competition, MaryKate Wright qualified to participate in the 2017 Poetry Out Loud National Competition in Washington, D.C. on March 24-27, 2017.

As part of the Celebrate Kids! Segment of the meeting, Superintendent Tuttle introduced Central Elementary School Principal Bridgit Spielman to the Board of Education. Mrs. Spielman commented that she has some very excited students with her along with Kindergarten Teacher Mrs. Maggie Gobel and Third Grade Teacher Mrs. Megan Friend. Mrs. Friend reported that a few years ago she approached Mrs. Gobel and asked if she would be interested in forming a partnership with her third grade students. The goal was to allow her students to become role models for the kindergarteners and provide an opportunity for them to develop leadership skills. Mrs. Gobel commented that she and Mrs. Friend wanted the kindergarten students to have an older student that they could build relationships with and have a friend outside of their classroom. The students meet on a weekly basis and the teachers plan a lesson that focuses on the Character Counts traits or the International Baccalaureate learner profile. The students learn through interactive team building activities, hands-on science experiments, reading together, communicating with each other, and sharing. Mrs. Friend's third grade students Danica Dwyer, Carter Miculka, Cassidy Jones, Tayloe Spielman, Eden Ackley and kindergarten students Leo Erfourth and William Gobel shared what they have in common and the many things that they like about their friends with the Board of Education.

Mrs. Spielman remarked that kindergarten and third grade buddies is an old notion that has been utilized in schools for several years; however, her teachers have taken this concept to a whole new level through the introduction of the PYP propensities of open-mindedness and communicators.

Board of Education Student Representative Lucy Popovitch reported that Owosso High School recently held the first Ms. Magnificent Pageant, which is similar to the annual NHS sponsored Mr. Wonderful contest. For budgetary reasons, Student Council decided to replace the Owosso Idol contest with the Miss Magnificent Pageant for this school year. Lucy commented that the pageant went very smoothly and was a lot of fun. The winner of the pageant was OHS senior Haley Rothe and Paige Thornton was the runner-up. Natalie Taylor and MaryKate Wright were acknowledged for assisting with sound and lights at the event.

Lucy Popovitch informed the Board that elections for a new OHS Student Council E-Board are on-going. Applicants were required to submit an attendance agreement, an essay explaining why they want to be on the E-Board, and a letter of recommendation from a teacher or staff member. Candidates will be interviewed by the current E-Board President and their Staff Adviser in the near future.

Lucy Popovitch announced that the OHS Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter recently attended the State Leadership Conference. Chapter President Taylor Cook was awarded a gold medal at the conference and advanced to the National Competition. Team members Morgan Louch, Emily Rau, and Lucy Popovitch were also awarded a gold medal. Elizabeth Seely received a silver medal at the conference. Lucy commented that Owosso Public Schools is one of the smaller chapters and only six girls attended the competition; however, during the closing ceremony the Owosso Chapter of FCCLA received the “Youth at its Best” award that is given out annually to one chapter that demonstrates overall good character and school spirit. In addition, Emily Rau ran for a State Officer position and was elected. This is the first time anyone from OPS has been seated on the State Executive Board. Emily Rau will serve as an officer for the 2017-2018 school year.

### **Board Correspondence**

Superintendent Tuttle reported that Bryant Elementary will host a Career Day on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Invited guests have been asked to showcase their profession with the students at the event. A variety of careers will be highlighted and students will have an opportunity to attend presentations they have the most interest in.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that District personnel is organizing an athletics’ field trip for elementary students on June 2. Students will be bussed to the high school and be introduced to a variety of sport activities. This will also offer younger students some exposure to the athletic opportunities that they are available to them in high school. The students will eat lunch at the high school and be mentored by OHS athletes with the hopes of instilling a desire to one day become a member of the OHS athletic teams.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that the District recently held its first Youth Football Camp under the direction of Coach Devin Pringle’s leadership. Approximately 125 students attended the event.

Superintendent Tuttle stated that Lincoln High School hosted a blood drive on March 24<sup>th</sup>. She commented that it is always great to have the students run this event that is organized by Mr. Josh Dewley.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that Lincoln High School students have been invited to participate in a project titled, “The Health of Shiawassee County: My Thoughts through Photos.” The students will be involved in conversations about community health and take photographs in the community using their smartphones. The purpose of the project is to learn how various community members feel about the health of Shiawassee County.

Superintendent Tuttle reminded the Board about the PTO sponsored Dueling Piano event that will be held on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. The District's volunteers will be recognized at the event and all community members are welcome to attend. People are asked to contact Mrs. Miculka at Central Elementary if they have questions.

Superintendent Tuttle applauded the Owosso Middle School seventh and eighth grade bands for receiving all ones at Band Festival. Additionally, under the direction of Mr. Jordan Sterk, the concert band received all ones for the first time in school history. She remarked that this is a compliment to all OPS band students, our band directors, and our parents for their commitment to the band program.

Superintendent Tuttle commended the District's elementary principals on an outstanding job during kindergarten registration. She praised the principals for their customer service and introducing the new families to their staff. Currently there are 214 kindergarten students registered for the 2017-2018 school year, which includes school of choice students from all over the county. Superintendent Tuttle remarked that school of choice students are a nice compliment to the superior programs that are offered at Owosso Public Schools.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that Emerson Elementary recently held open swimming at Owosso High School. Approximately 30 families enjoyed the outing. Superintendent Tuttle commented that it is her goal to have District facilities used as frequently as possible and she was very pleased to hear about this great opportunity for the families of Emerson School.

Superintendent Tuttle explained that Bentley Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center hosted a Parent/Child Literacy Day where teachers modeled activities that parents can do at home with their children and to help prepare them for school.

Superintendent Tuttle thanked the Board for attending the Shiawassee County School Board Dinner Meeting and listening to the latest legislative updates.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that Central Elementary hosted an Artfully You painting event for the families at Central. She commented that she is very pleased with the many opportunities that are hosted for OPS family throughout the District outside of the normal school day.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that Bryant Elementary held a Daddy Daughter Dance that was very well attended. The event also included a dance off between the dads and daughters.

Curriculum Director Dr. Kari Selleck announced that Owosso High School will host the Second Annual IB Personal Project Exhibition. The event will begin at 5:30 pm in the auditorium with opening remarks and an acknowledgement of the District's IB Coordinators. She encouraged Board members to attend this remarkable exhibition.

Dr. Selleck reported that the SRES D provided an opportunity for school districts within the county to submit grant applications related to Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. She explained that she wrote a grant for the purchase of five Phantom Pro 4 drones. Dr. Selleck happily announced that the grant was awarded and the drones are being ordered. Teachers using the drones will receive training on the use of this new equipment. The grant was written for engineering programs but will also be utilized for the new Agriculture Science program beginning next fall. Dr. Selleck commented that the potential use of the drones in all CTE classes is amazing.

Dr. Selleck announced that the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Business Site Visits will occur on April 11<sup>th</sup>. The seniors will visit local businesses while the junior class is taking state assessments.

Dr. Selleck thanked Board President Tim Jenc for his leadership and spending a day with a videographer on the many facets of Crest Marine. A video is being created that will feature the various CTE programs offered by OPS.

Dr. Selleck reported that on March 28<sup>th</sup> she will be returning to the House of Representatives Committee on work force development to provide testimony. State Representative Ben Frederick is chairing this committee and is hoping to call a vote on the bill that will allow students to substitute statistics as an option other than Algebra II. It is hoped that they can demonstrate that statistics aligns with every career choice for citizens where Algebra II does not align with all career fields.

### **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 Ochodnicky to approve the February 27, 2017 regular Board meeting minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicky, supported by Mowen to authorize the Superintendent to sign contracts and/or enter into purchase agreements for the components of the technology infrastructure bid to move forward in order to support the one-to-one technology initiative and ultimately the E-911 requirements. Superintendent Tuttle explained the rationale for choosing the recommended bidder. Secretary Ochodnicky conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Paez, Ochodnicky, Mowen, Jenc, Keyes, Krauss. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes, supported by Mowen to authorize the disposal or sale of books identified throughout the district as no longer being relevant to the curriculum being taught. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicky to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso High School student MaryKate Wright and teacher Melanie Lounds for the 2017 Poetry Out Loud National Competition in Washington, D.C. on March 24-27, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Tuttle commented that during her report she failed to mention the community meeting that was held during the previous week at Owosso High School. She thanked Principal Jeff Phillips and Assistant Principal Karen Van Epps for hosting the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup> at Emerson Elementary beginning at 4:30 pm

### **For Information**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle shared the most recent personnel update with the Board of Education. Bryan Carpenter, Owosso High School Teacher has submitted his letter of resignation effective at the conclusion of the 2016-2017 school year. Edward King, Owosso Middle School Assistant Principal has submitted his letter of retirement effective at the conclusion of the 2016-2017 school year after 24 years of service in the District. Marcia Freeman, Owosso Middle School Teacher has submitted her letter of retirement effective at the conclusion of the 2016-2017 school year after 23 years of service in the District. Eugene Davis, Bryant Elementary Teacher has submitted his letter of retirement effective at the conclusion of the 2016-2017 school year after 40 years of service in the District. Joni Westbrook, Food Service Worker at Emerson Elementary has submitted her letter of retirement effective at the conclusion of the school year after 16 years of service in the District.

Superintendent Tuttle provided the Board with an update on the District's recommendation to not move forward with the Owosso High School hallway renovation project. She explained that the sinking fund project was put out to bid in anticipation that the project would be accomplished this summer. However, several factors were carefully considered after the bids were received on whether to proceed with the project. The projected cost of the project was \$850,000 during the planning phases to evaluate the summer projects for the sinking fund. The lowest valid bid that was received was for \$1,362,300, a difference of over \$500,000. After reviewing the bids, it was determined that one of the largest contributing factors in the disparity between the estimate and the actual bid amounts was in the painting requirements. This particular element is a requirement and could not be reduced to come even close to the original estimate. Currently, there is no anticipation of replacing this summer project with another given the time constraints of selecting and bidding out any project of significance. The unused funds will roll over and be available for future sinking fund projects. Vice President Rick Mowen commented that the project was discussed during a subcommittee meeting and the fact that the bids came in much higher than expected. He stated that there are other projects in the District that are more important than aesthetics and there are no safety concerns with the high school hallways.

### **Public Participation**

There were no comments from the public.

### **Board Reports**

Trustee Ty Krauss commented that he recently had an opportunity to bring lunch money to his daughter that attends the high school. During his visit he ran into Food Service Director Mr. John Klapko who invited him to take a tour of the cafeteria. Mr. Krauss stated that he has not been in the OHS cafeteria for many years and he was very impressed with the many lunch selections that are offered to students. He remarked that the tour was well worth the time spent.

Trustee Sara Keyes remarked that she really misses the stir fry line at the high school. She stated that she has received some great feedback in regards to the community meetings. The participants have expressed shock with the condition of the buildings. She stated that she has also heard some great comments and appreciation for the knowledge that Superintendent Tuttle has about the District. Mrs. Keyes added that if the community could witness all of the great things that occur in the District such as the presentations by the Competitive Cheerleading Squad and Central Elementary Schools kindergarten buddies program, they would not question their support for OPS. She commented that everyone needs to keep spreading information about the many great things that are offered in the District.

Vice President Rick Mowen echoed Mrs. Keyes comments stating that he has also heard positive feedback from those that have attended the community meetings. He stated that the students that were showcased during the meeting demonstrated what a joy it is to be a part of the District. He also expressed how impressed he was with the Central School student presentation and the Cheerleader's performance.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnický reported that she has had an opportunity to follow OHS sophomore Megan Vondrasek's wrestling achievements. She remarked that Megan is a very nice young lady that has provided a lot of inspiration for her daughter. Megan recently qualified in the "War of Roses" Michigan girl's state finals to wrestle on the Michigan Women's National Team at the USAW Girls Folkstyle National Championship Tournament in Oklahoma City. Megan wrestled over the past weekend and her team placed third for the National title.

Treasurer Cheryl Paez commented on the great start to the meeting with the student presentations. She stated that she was very surprised with how loud the cheerleaders were and how great their performance was.

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

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

April 17: Business Services/Strategic Planning & Curriculum Subcommittees, 5:00 & 6:00 pm

April 24: Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 pm

#### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

March 31: Half Day for All Students-Teacher Work Day

April 3-7: No School-Spring Recess

April 10: School Resumes

April 11: OMS Choir Concert, 7:30 pm

April 14: No School-Good Friday

April 18: Poetry Slam at Guido's, 6 pm

April 19: Blue & Gold Banquet at D'Mar Banquet & Conference Center, 6 pm

April 20: Bryant Elementary School Movie Night, 4-6 pm

April 20: OHS Band Concert, 7:30 pm

April 22: OHS Prom at D'Mar Banquet & Conference Center, 8 pm

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicky to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

---

Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary