

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2024
Report 23-169

Present: Easlick, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnický, Quick, Webster, Henne, Easlick
Absent:

President Rick Mowen called the board of Education Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Washington Campus Administration Building, 645 Alger St, Owosso MI 48867.

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

Superintendent Brooks introduced Owosso High School Principal, Dr. Dallas Lintner to recognize the highest honors graduating students. Owosso High School recognizes students with a 4.0 GPA or above. This year we invite 14 top honor graduates to be recognized. Brooke Hickson will be attending Baker College to study Accounting, Birdie Tkaczyk will be attending Lansing Community College to study Dental Hygiene, Peyton Dwyer will be attending Michigan State University to study Finance, Wyatt Shetter will be attending the University of Michigan to study Aerospace Engineering, Madelyn Miller will be attending Michigan State University to study Nursing, Allyson LaMay will be attending Ferris State University to study digital media or legal studies, Skotti Ball-Duley will be attending Indiana Tech to study Pharmacy, Zoie Brandt will be attending Rochester University to study Business Management, Hayleigh Fejedelem will be attending Lansing Community College to study Speech Pathology, Rajvinder Kaur will be attending the University of Michigan to study Economics or Pre-Law, Elijah Morgan will be attending the University of Michigan to study Physics, Madison Salander will be attending Grand Valley Sate University to study Computer Science, Quinn Skarich will be attending the University of Michigan to study Biology and Camden Yerrick will be attending Michigan State University to study Chemical Engineering.

Lincoln Alternative High School Principal, Mrs. Carrie Rugenstein recognized the top five (5) graduates of Lincoln. Blaze Smith is currently working at Sonoco, Ella Hanson is currently looking for employment, Phoenix Nees is working at Barrister Brewing Company and is undecided on college, Rodney Rowell is studying Welding through Baker College and Khloe Dumond will be attending LCC to study Business.

Mr. Brooks asked the parents, grandparents and those here to support the top graduates to stand so they too may be recognized.

Dr. Dallas Lintner shared with the Board that the Career and Technical education program has exploded with enrollment and participation producing highly skilled young people to enter the work force in skilled trades. We are honored to offer these opportunities to the students. Dr.

Lintner introduced Mrs. Carrie Warning, CTE Advisor, Engineer Teacher and Testing Coordinator to recognize SkillsUSA students earning State and National Officer appointments. Mrs. Warning shared SkillsUSA is comprised of engineering, woods, culinary arts, construction trades and this group has gone above and beyond pushing themselves far beyond. Kloe Hayes, explained SkillsUSA is a student organization that prepares and teaches students how to work and function in the work place. Miss Hayes ran for a second term and was elected State President. Ashton White competed in the manufacturing contest and ran for a second term for state officer and was elected Treasurer. Paige Davis ran for her first term and was elected Secretary, Wyatt Boggs has earned a third term as a Regional Representative and will be campaigning for a National Officer position. Nicholas McCurdy competed in the job skill demonstration (electrical/adruino skill demo) earning first place as State Champion and is moving on to nationals. Mrs. Warning shared we are one of the first chapters to have multiple state officers and we have four this year and three are on the board.

Parents of the SkillsUSA were asked to stand to be recognized.

Student Representative Kate Lee reported this is her last board meeting and Paige Davis has been selected for next year's student representative. The Blue and Gold Banquet was April 17th honoring top graduates and the Starfish Awards was on the same day. Honors Convocation is May 14th and graduation, May 16th. Prom will be May 11th at the Stonehouse Farm.

Venture Inc. Presentation

Superintendent Brooks reported the district entered into agreement with Venture, Inc. in 2022 and we were recently notified the grant was accepted and asked Mr. Brad Michaud from Venture, Inc. to provide a presentation on next steps. Brad and Mickie welcome.

Mr. Michaud expressed his gratitude to the Board for their support. Tax credits were awarded from MSHDA for redevelopment of the old Owosso Middle School into 53 one-bedroom apartments and 23,000 square feet of commercial use of the building. The next step is to meet with our general contractor and architect to ensure the historic nature of the building is maintained. It is anticipated it will be 2025 before work will begin. We have been working with Owosso Public Schools, the City of Owosso and other organizations.

No questions.

Superintendent Brooks introduced Mr. Lance Little to Mr. Michaud as a contact to provide historical aspects of the old Owosso Middle School.

Superintendent Brooks asked on the timeline for Venture to take over the property. Mr. Michaud responded it is yet to be determined.

Vision to keep historic aspects of building.

There is a time capsule that was buried when it was built and has never been retrieved. The premier architect in the US in the 1920s.

Timeline venture taking over property? Brad - It is yet to be determined We are still working a month and half out. We have heard from them and in a position to apply for that. We are going to be working as quickly as we can.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Brooks reported on happenings in the district. At Owosso High School, Greg Klapko took about 50 students to a Detroit Tigers baseball game this week. As part of the real-world experience for his Sports Entertainment and Management, he arranged a panel discussion before the game with several members of the Tigers' management team to learn more about the management of a professional sports team. There was a front page article in the Argus on this experience. Wednesday of this week, 46 students that will be graduating with High Honors and 14 students with Highest Honors were recognized at the 24th Annual Blue and Gold Celebration. The 14 students with a 4.0+ GPA presented the most influential person in their lives with the prestigious Starfish Award. Another fantastic evening celebrating the best of the best. The senior class met with OHS administration on Monday of this week to officially kick off commencement season with the release of details for the final six weeks of their tenure at OHS.

Owosso Middle School very excited about 60 students attending D.C. this week. They have arrived safely and are having a great time. Four OMS students are laying a Wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Mr. Tolrud announced his retirement and performed his final concert last night to a packed house at the PAC. The OMS 5th grade parent meeting will be on April 30th in the PAC starting at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Collins visits all the students in their classroom to ease the transition anxiety

The Lincoln KORT leadership group raised \$1,100 for Alice's Playground with our April Showers for Alice. Six Lincoln students competed at the Michigan College and Career Competition at Delta College receiving the following awards; 1st place finished in 3-D Art, Photography, Genius Kit (Sculpture), Life Smarts, and Community Service.

Central School held its 5th grade exhibition last Thursday night. They featured work on Skin Cancer Awareness, Homeless Animal Support, and caring for the Shiawassee River. We were so proud of their work in our community. We are so grateful for the field trips! We have 4th graders getting ready to go to Detroit, 3rd graders going to Mackinac, and lots of other local excursions. The eclipse was a big deal! I was so appreciative of our entire staff for embracing the learning opportunity. April is Autism Awareness Month! Buildings create awareness district wide. Sarah Bahm, Stacey Willyerd, and Olivia Satkowiak do an incredible job managing this. We are in the thick of the testing season. Our 3rd-5th graders are working through the MSTEP and we will be starting the NWEA soon.

All 4th-5th graders visited the PAC to enjoy a concert with our symphony band. Band Director, Mrs. Jillian Kowalczyk highlighted all the instruments as she encouraged 4th graders to think about what they would like to play in 5th grade and got the 5th graders to think about playing together at our "All City Band Concert" in May. The symphony band was amazing all the time, and then took the time to mingle with the students and answer their questions.

Emerson has been celebrating Autism Acceptance month and focusing on creating an inclusive environment where EVERYONE feels like they belong. Our staff participated in professional development at our school improvement meeting, our 5th grade peer to peer students led a spirit week, and students have been listening to read aloud and discussing how our differences make us who we are.

The Bryant Family Fun Night is scheduled for Friday, April 26th. There is a 2nd/5th grade bowling night PE unit on May 7th. The 5th grad is attending Hartley this week. All 5th grade students had the opportunity to attend this excellent trip.

Several Bentley Bright Beginnings staff members attended an the MiAEYC Early Childhood Conference in Grand Rapids. The Bentley Cheer Parent Show Case was tonight. It is the second after school program at Bentley and parents are already asking if we are going to do it again next year. There are a lot of caterpillars at Bentley Bright Beginnings, all eight Preschool classrooms received caterpillars this week and the classes are discussing the butterfly life cycle and getting hands-on experience with the caterpillars.

Operations is doing a great job with our team as our grounds have never looked better. We receive a lot of compliments of those attending various spring sports on how the grounds are maintained.

Our Food Service is averaging 1300 breakfasts every day and 2000 lunches and 1500 snacks daily. This provides our students with much needed nourishment. Planning is underway for the summer Meet Up/Eat Up program.

There are a lot of spring sports underway. The Senior Athletic Awards is on May 13th at 7:00 pm in the PAC.

A new bus was delivered last week. Cameras were installed and it is ready and out on the road. Thank you to all our bus drivers for all the extra work with spring sports and field trips.

Books at Bryant, which occur each Wednesday from 6-7pm will begin June 12. There has been an average of 150 students attending. This is open to children, ages birth to 8th grade to receive a book and a free Culvers ice cream.

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.

The following participants addressed the board:

Tom Manke

For Action

- Moved by Webster, supported by Easlick to approve March 20, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes, April 1, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes, April 10, 2024 Committee Meeting Minutes, Current Bills and Financials as presented. Secretary Krauss conducted a roll call vote; Easlick, Quick, Krauss, Henne, Ochodnick, Webster and Mowen voted aye, no nay votes. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Ochodnick to adopt the Budget Revision #1 resolutions for the 2023-24 appropriations for the General and School Service as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Cathy Dwyer presented to the Board the Budget Amendment Revision #1. Dr. Dwyer commented this is the same presentation as presented to the Board at the Committee of the Whole on April 10th and she reviewed some of the high points of the presentation. Superintendent Brooks and President Mowen expressed their gratitude to Dr. Dwyer for all of her hard work and stepping up to monitor things during the absence of a CFO.
- Moved by Ochodnick, supported by Henne to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso High BPA students, teacher and parent chaperones on a trip to Chicago, May 10-14, 2024. Motion carried unanimously. Superintendent Brooks informed the board the trip is funded with CTE added cost and fundraising expressing a special thanks to Mrs. Warning, CTE Advisor.
- Moved by Ochodnick, supported by Quick to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso High School Skills USA students, teacher and parent chaperones on a trip to Atlanta, GA, June 23-29, 2024. Motion passed unanimously. Superintendent Brooks informed the board this trip is also funded with CTE added cost and fundraising.
- Moved by Henne, supported by Ochodnick to approve the purchase of Career Connections Project Book 2 and 60 Math for the Trades workbooks. ISBN: 978-1-63776-704 and accompanying workbook and Instructor online curriculum suite offered by the Carpenters International Training Fund. Motion passed unanimously. Trustee Henne commented the numbers are off a little bit in the board report, but still recommending approval. Superintendent Brooks stated a clerical error as the columns are off in the table and he will provide the correct information to the Board with the columns aligned with the total purchase price of \$1,838.20. The corrected board report is included with the minutes.
- Moved by Henne, supported by Easlick to approve the purchase of 30 Exploring Woodworking textbooks by Zimmerman, McWard, and Blazek ISBN: 978-1-63776-704 and accompanying workbook and online curriculum access from G-W Publishers. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Webster to approve the hiring of Administrator, Mr. Timothy Dame, Chief Financial Officer. Motion carried unanimously. Treasurer Quick commented she was part of the interview team and was very impressed with Mr. Dame.

For Action – Policies – 1st Reading

- New Policy 1540 – Administrative Staff Reductions/Recalls: This policy has been added to address administrative reductions/recalls.

- Revised Policy 1240 – Evaluation of Superintendent: There are minor changes to this policy, as the Michigan Department of Education has changed the evaluation criteria for all staff, including the Superintendent., with changes in student percentages and student growth. There is also a mid-year progress report that is required for the Superintendent. Training for the Board of Education on the evaluation tool is also required. Senate Bill 395 and 396 were recently signed into law by Governor Whitmer. These bills change the evaluation system effective July 1, 2024. The revised policy incorporates those changes as they apply to evaluating the superintendent.
- Revised Policy 2370.01 – On-line/Blended Learning Program: This policy has been revised to reflect current online and blended learning rules and requirements which allows a district an opportunity to apply and obtain not more than fifteen (15) days to switch to online learning in certain circumstances. This must be applied for at the beginning of the school year. The district does not anticipate doing this.
- Revised Policy 2414 – Reproductive Health and Family Planning: This policy has been updated to replace former language with what is currently in the law. Provisions have been modified to track more closely with the parental notice language that is still in effect in M.C.L. 380.1507. This give parents an opportunity to review the materials in the instruction in advance and of the parents’ right to have their child excused from the instruction. Trustee Ochodnický requested a copy of the curriculum for this class, Reproductive Health and Family Planning. Superintendent Brooks will provide the requested information. Treasurer Quick explained Mr. Wright of NEOLA this was more of matching the language of the law, not changing the policy. Vice-President Webster commented this policy is not about the content of the curriculum but the notification to parents. The board is not voting on new curriculum. Superintendent Brooks commented the curriculum has not changed in many years.
- Revised Policy 2418 – Sex Education: This policy was updated to add language for what is written in the law, MCL 380.1507b to ensure all curriculum requirements are noted. Trustee Ochodnický requested a copy of this curriculum. Superintendent Brooks will provide the requested information.
- Revised Policy 6320 – Purchasing: This policy addressed contracting and purchasing giving the Board the option of a preference of Michigan -based business as the primary contractor which use one or more Michigan-based business as subcontractors. This option is recommended. An option for purchases, anything in excess of the dollar amount permitted by State statute, currently at \$26,046, must come before the board for approval. This option is recommended. There is a technical correction being made to include a cross reference to Policy 6350 – Prevailing Wage.
- Revised Policy 6321 – New School Construction, Renovation: A couple of recommended options to use Michigan based companies and also a technical correction to include a cross reference to Policy 6350 Prevailing Wage.
- Revised Policy 6325 – Procurement Federal Grants/Funds: There are some technical corrections (page 84) as to frequency, allowing vendors to apply for consideration to be placed on the list continuously. There was some language that NEOLA recommended not to use due to complexity. This language has been crossed off.

- New Policy 6350 – Prevailing Wage: This is a new policy to restore Michigan’s Prevailing Wage Act that took effect in March 2024. The option of Prevailing Wage Coordinator or Superintendent, the recommended option is Superintendent to oversee the District’s obligations.
- Revised Policy 7217 – Weapons: This policy has been revised to include references to two court cases that were conflicting. There was also a definition update.
- Revised Policy 7540.03 – Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety: This policy has been revised to include optional language addressing artificial intelligence. This option is recommended. A cross reference to Policy 5500-Student Conduct has been added.
- Revised Policy 8321 – Criminal Justice Information Security (Non-Criminal Justice Agency): The Michigan State Police conducted an audit of criminal history record information (CHRI) and recommended the district update the Criminal Justice Information Security policy to reflect current state and federal regulations. This policy has the guidelines for all CHRI that is completed and collected to ensure it is kept secure. The policy also requires training for anyone that has access to these documents.
- Revised Policy 8390 – Animals on District Property: Technical correction to correct grammatical errors were made to the policy. This policy has a recommended option for Therapy Dogs which specifies the requirements for allowing certified Therapy Dogs on district property. The optional language for emotional support animals for students is not recommended, as they could be anything and there are not specific requirements. There is an option for service animals for students and the board does not assume any liability.
- Revised Policy 8531 – Free and Reduced-Price Meals: This policy has been revised to address the free meal money allocation statutory police that states the district must, to be eligible for the funding, take all efforts to maximize and implement policies that require parents or guardians to fill out relevant family information. This option has been selected requiring parents and guardians to fill out relevant information. This is something the district currently does. All of our students are free and reduced.
- Revised Policy 8800 – This policy is revised to reflect the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling. It includes an option; the District may offer students and staff a Moment of Silence to commemorate a significant event. A moment of silence does not have anything to do with religious activity.
- Revised Policy 1100.01 Organizational Chart: This policy has been updated to reflect current staffing. The eliminated positions are maintained in the chart as a point of historical reference.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Webster to adopt all of the above policies; new policy 1540, revised policy 1240, revised policy 2370.01, revised policy 2414, revised policy 2418, revised policy 6320, revised policy 6321, revised policy 6325 new policy 6350, revised policy 7217, revised policy 7540.03, revised policy 8321, revised policy 8390, revised policy 8531, revised policy 8800 and revised policy 1100.10 as first reading and move to action, second reading at the May 22nd Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board will be asked to renew the Midwest 2024-2025 Contract. This is an annual update for the continued use of ESS Midwest formerly PCMI/Willsub) to provide contract services for the Athletic department for non-employee coaches, Bentley Bright Beginnings non-certified/non-Administrative staff and for special circumstances in which specialized non-union staff are needed. There is no fee structure change. Superintendent Brooks recommend to move to action. Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick to move to action. Motion carried unanimously.

For Information

Superintendent Brooks read the following personnel update:

Accepted Positions

Rodica Ivancu has accepted the Bus Driver position.

Tara Morin has accepted the Aide position at Owosso Middle School

Stephanie Goetzinger has accepted the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent position.

Resignations

Madison Eldridge, Food Service Worker resigned effective April 1, 2024.

Hannah Kinnard-Steffen, GSRP Associate Teacher resigned effective March 21, 2024.

John Bradford, Custodian resigned effective April 12, 2024.

Danielle Combs, Custodian resigned effective April 26, 2024.

Public Participation

Tom Manke

Board Comments

Trustee Henne congratulated all of the highest honors and top graduates on their accomplishments, and to the SkillsUSA officers in the CTE program. He is always interested in seeing what new things are being offered. We are always looking for skilled trades, citing a shortage of 600,000 skilled trades workers. Congratulations to the Administrative team and Mr. Hendrickson and the facility groups. Trustee finished his comments in welcoming Mr. Time Dame, Chief Financial Officer.

Trustee Ochodnicky shared with the Board that on Friday a parent had sent her a link on President Biden changing Title IX Rules, commenting she does not support this and has a lot of concerns. Trustee Ochodnicky expressed her gratitude to Mr. Perrin, as he has been assisting at the Middle School while Dr. Dwyer is at Central Office. She had the opportunity to speak with a student is in the welding program at Baker. Trustee Ochodnicky finished her comments in welcoming Chief Financial Officer Mr. Timothy Dame and is excited to have him join the team.

Vice-President Webster applauded the Administrators and the work done to prepare students for college, skilled trades and the workforce. It was great to hear from the students and all of their accomplishments. Owosso has always had a commitment to a very large CTE program. Thank you to all who have prepared our students. I appreciate that we do the first reading of our policies. The Board reviewed all of the policies at the Committee of the Whole meeting with Mr. Wayne Wright from NEOLA and then first reading today and again at the next board meeting for a second reading. Vice-President Webster is looking forward to commencement season.

Trustee Easlick expressed his gratitude to Board of Education Student Representative Kate Lee. Congratulations to all the students at Owosso High School, Lincoln Alternative High School and the SkillsUSA, very impressive. Trustee Easlick attended the band concert and they did an amazing job, congratulations to Mr. Tolrud

Treasurer Quick commented, this is the best time of the year to celebrate the top honor graduates at Owosso High School, Lincoln Alternative High School and the SkillsUSA team representing our district. She applauded Agri Science teacher, Beth Clark as she had 43 students competing, she is doing incredible things. Kuddos to the group and everyone coming together. They have persevered and we have collectively come together as a group. Welcome aboard Mr. Dame. Grateful for

Secretary Krauss agreed with everything said. This is his favorite time of year and graduation is right around the corner. What a great night to celebrates the accomplishments of students.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

May 8: Board of Education Committee of the Whole, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Gymnasium

May 22: Board of Education Regular Meeting 5:30 PM, Washington Campus Gymnasium

Important Upcoming Dates

May 3 & 4: Cabaret, 7:00PM, PAC

May 5: OHS Art Show, 11:00-1:00, PAC

May 5: Cabaret, 2:00PM PAC

May 6: Bryant 4th Grade Concert, 7:00PM, PAC

May 7: Emerson 4th grade Recorder/Art Show, 7:00PM, PAC

May 8: Central 4th Grade Art Show/Recorder Concert, 7:00 PM, PAC

May 9: Bryant and Central 5th Grade Band Concert, 7:00 PM, PAC

May 11: OHS Prom, 7:00 PM, Bancroft

May 13: OHS Athletic Awards, 7:30 PM, PAC

May 14: OHS Honors Convocation, 7:00PM, PAC

May 16: OHS Graduation, 7:00PM Willman Field, May 17th rain date

May 21: OMS Choir Concert, 7:00PM, PAC

Moved by Quick, supported by Webster to move into closed session at 7:06 pm. for contract negotiations, Secretary Krauss conducted a roll call vote; Henne, Easlick, Ochodnicky, Quick, Krauss, Webster and Mowen voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.


Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnicky to move back into open session at 7:40 pm. for the purpose to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnicky to adjourn at 7:41 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Bev White

Respectfully submitted,


Ty Krauss, Secretary