

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Minutes**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting**  
**May 24, 2023**  
**Report 22-148**

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

President Mowen called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. The meeting was held at the Washington Campus Gymnasium, 645 Alger Street, Owosso MI 48867.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Building Reports**

Central Principal Bridgit Spielman introduced 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Mrs. Carrie Miculka and some of her fourth-grade students to present to the Board. In February, the Shiawassee Council of Aging approached Mrs. Spielman about an opportunity for the students to make Valentine's Day artwork and learn about community engagement. The council was so impressed with the Valentine's day art they asked if the students would like to make gifts for Mother's Day as well. Three fourth grade classes were able to participate in the projects and each Board member received their own painted flower pot from the students. The fourth-grade students shared that they most enjoyed bonding with their classmates, learning about their community, and making fun art.

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle introduced Operations Director Mr. John Klapko to recognize and congratulate him on his retirement. Dr. Tuttle said Mr. Klapko has served the district for 10 years, not only as head of custodial and maintenance but also as head of food service. Dr. Tuttle praised Mr. Klapko for being reliable, highly intellectual, a problem solver, and a great friend. Dr. Tuttle continued that Mr. Klapko was instrumental to the bond proposal and she does not doubt that his unconditional love of the district and the community helped pass the bond. She thanked Mr. Klapko for his sense of humor, and stressed that he would be dearly missed. Mr. Klapko thanked Dr. Tuttle for her kind words, and although he will miss everyone he is also looking forward to his retirement. Mr. Klapko's father also attended the meeting and impressed on everyone how proud he is of his son.

Owosso High School Principal Dr. Dallas Lintner introduced high school woodshop teacher Mr. Jason Krantz to recognize his retirement. Dr. Lintner said Mr. Krantz has been with the high school since 2011 and he taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for the district since 1995. Not only does Mr. Krantz teach an amazing woodworking class, but he has also been the assistant boy's golf coach for 19 seasons, and the Varsity girl's golf coach for five seasons. Dr. Lintner shared that Mr. Krantz is sought after by other districts for his demeanor, his sense of humor, and his solid relationships with his peers and students. He has been the recipient of the Starfish Award from top graduates several times, and just recently this year was awarded the 'James Bond Award' by his coworkers

for his charming personality. Dr. Lintner shared that what is truly endearing to him about Mr. Krantz is the bond he creates with students, including Dr. Lintner's own son, Jack. Dr. Lintner finished by thanking Mr. Krantz for his dedication to the district, and wished him a happy retirement.

Emerson Elementary Principal Mrs. Jessi Aue shared that Mrs. Barb Carsten did not attend the meeting, as in her own words, she would like to 'quietly' slip into retirement. However, Mrs. Aue did share with the Board that Mrs. Carsten has been with the district for 28 years. She was a substitute teacher for 17 years and spent the last 11 years working as a paraprofessional with some of Emerson's most at-risk students. Mrs. Carsten is known for being consistent and helping students grow as readers. She is also the resident decorator for kindergarten registration and Bingo for Books coordinator. Mrs. Aue shared that in her retirement, Mrs. Carsten is looking forward to traveling with her husband and spending more time with her family and friends. She has also already committed to continuing her volunteer work at Emerson. Mrs. Aue congratulated Mrs. Carsten and wished her a restful retirement.

Owosso Middle School Principal Mr. Rich Collins introduced middle school teacher Mrs. Karen Michalec to recognize her retirement. Mr. Collins said Mrs. Michalec has been with the district for over 30 years, and 15 of those years have been spent at the middle school. Mr. Collins shared that Mrs. Michalec is the student mentor coordinator, a volleyball coach, a department chair, a social studies teacher, the resident popcorn popper, the 'I Can Make that Work' Teacher, and has always been known to take advantage of opportunities to engage with students and help them learn. Mr. Collins finished by saying Mrs. Michalec is kind, hard-working, beloved by students and staff, and will be sorely missed. He wished Mrs. Michalec a peaceful retirement. Mrs. Michalec approached the stage and became slightly teary-eyed as she thanked Mr. Collins for his kind words. She impressed upon the Board her gratitude to the district, the administration, her coworkers, and her love for all her students. Although she is looking forward to spending time with her family, she will miss everyone in the district dearly.

The Board of Education thanked all the retirees for coming to the meeting, for their service to district, and thanked administrators for celebrating their staff.

The Board of Education welcomed their newest Student Representative, Kaidyn 'Kate' Lee. Ms. Lee reported that the year is winding down but students are still busy. She said the senior graduation ceremony took place on a beautiful evening and it was an emotional but fun event. She said those who graduated will be missed by their younger peers. Ms. Lee also informed the Board the Drama Club will be putting on a performance of 'Clue' in mid-June. Ms. Lee said she is excited to be the 2023-2024 student representative and is looking forward to working with the Board.

### **Board Correspondence**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported to the Board that the senior graduates had an outstanding graduation ceremony, the beautiful weather and excited students made for a great night. She thanked all those who attended and supported the kids as they take the next step in their lives. Dr. Tuttle also gave special thanks to Owosso High School executive secretary Mrs. Amy Parsons

for her instrumental work in organizing the event. Dr. Tuttle shared that the week of May 8 through May 12 was staff appreciation week. Communications Director Mrs. Jessica Thompson organized several treats for staff including a yogurt parfait bar in every building, every staff member received a gift-certificate for the school spirit store, and Trojan shaped chocolate treats were also handed out. Families and businesses in the community also celebrated teachers, and buildings received gifts and treats from The Owosso Foundation, the Hemenway family, Subway, The Slingerland Auto Group and family, Jersey Mike's, MEEMIC insurance, and the Wright family, among many others. Dr. Tuttle continued that the annual Cook Family Foundation Scholarship Award night took place on May 8. The students received over 1 million dollars in scholarships; it was an incredible evening and whatever next step the students take they will be supported by their community. On Sunday, May 14, the district hosted the annual Athletic Awards ceremony, and Tyler Hufnagel and Claire Agnew took home the Male and Female Student Athlete of the Year awards. Dr. Tuttle shared that last night the Owosso Middle School Choir performed their 'Spring Celebration' concert, the choir sounded beautiful and many were in attendance. Yesterday was also the annual CTE Alumni and Friends Barbecue where the winner of the Crest Pontoon Raffle was announced. OHS secretary Dawn Horak took home the pontoon and Dr. Tuttle acknowledged it is always nice to see an OPS staff member get the big prize. She thanked Mrs. Carrie Warning and all the CTE staff members for their hard work on the event. Saturday, May 20 was the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Award Ceremony and Spring Fling. Dr. Tuttle thanked Principal Collins and Assistant Principal Dr. Dwyer for organizing the event and ensuring the students had a safe, but fun time. Dr. Tuttle also shared that Owosso Middle School students helped place flags on veteran's graves this week in honor of Memorial Day. She thanked the students for representing their community well. The Owosso Education Association Banquet took place on Friday May 12. The OEA recognized Mrs. Karen Michalec and celebrated her retirement. Dr. Tuttle said the event was a lovely way to say goodbye to a beloved teacher and everyone had a great time. Dr. Tuttle finished her report by saying the end of the year is approaching fast and there are still many events on the calendar – preschool and kindergarten celebration, 5<sup>th</sup> grade transition to middle school meetings, performances from our Fine Arts students, and the Lincoln Alternative High School Graduation tomorrow.

Curriculum Director Mr. Stephen Brooks began his report with an update on the summer school program. Staff has been busy preparing instruction and the registration list has grown quickly. The program will not only offer credit recovery but staff are also working on engagement and enrichment opportunities for students looking to stay busy in the summer as well. Mr. Brooks also shared with the Board that Mrs. Kristen Bratschi will be offering a 'Mindfulness Through the Arts' class for students to learn new skills in journaling, meditation, art projects, and mind-body movement. Mr. Brooks said this will be the sixth year for Books at Bryant. This community event is always a big hit, and Culver's in Owosso has been gracious enough to donate custard for the kids. June 5, 6, and 7, Mrs. Mary Hankins will be teaching a Google Certification class to approximately thirty staff members. The training will last four hours each day and by the end each participant will be a certified Google instructor. On August 10, the district will be hosting a Technology Conference at the Performing Arts Center. Administrators, support staff, teachers, and education professionals from across the county will attend to present and learn about various technological aspects that can be utilized in education. Mr. Brooks

finished his report by sharing that professional development opportunities are being organized for the new school year.

### **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.

No public participants addressed the Board.

### **Closed Session**

- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick to move into closed session at 6:15pm for the purpose of negotiations. President Mowen conducted a roll-call vote. Ayes: Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnicky, Quick, Webster. Krauss is absent. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Webster, to move back into open session at 6:38pm, for the purpose of conducting routine business. President Mowen conducted a roll-call vote. Ayes: Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnicky, Quick, Webster. Krauss is absent. Motion carried unanimously.

### **For Action**

- Moved by Webster, supported by Easlick to approve the April 26, 2022 Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes, the current bills and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously. President Mowen conducted a roll-call vote. Ayes: Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnicky, Quick, Webster. Krauss is absent. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Henne Authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Memorial Healthcare to extend the current school nurse contract through June 30, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick, to Resolve that the Board of Education approve the purchase of new AP World History textbooks and electronic software including online versions of the textbook and teaching presentations. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Ochodnicky, to resolve that the Board of Education support/disapprove the Shiawassee Regional Education School District 2023-24 budget as presented, and authorize the superintendent to forward the resolution to the SRESB board on or before June 1, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Easlick, to resolve that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution to confirm their designation of Rick Mowen to be their designated representative of the Owosso Public Schools for the electoral body of the ISD biennial election to be held June 5, 2023 as acted upon at the regular Owosso Public Schools

Board meeting on May 24, 2023 and Ty Krauss as an alternate representative in the event Rick Mowen is unable to attend. In addition, resolve that the Board direct Rick Mowen or their alternate to cast a vote on behalf of the Owosso Public Schools Board of Education at the election to be held on June 5, 2023 for two six-year term candidates of the two candidates listed as follows: Tate Forbush and Mike Rexin. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Henne, to resolve that the Board of Education approve the July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, Tentative Agreement between the Owosso Education Support Personnel Association and the Owosso Board of Education. President Mowen conducted a roll-call vote. Ayes: Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnicki, Quick, Webster. Krauss is absent. Motion carried unanimously.

### **For Future Action**

- The Board will be asked to resolve that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to renew the contracts with GST (Genesee Shiawassee Thumb) Michigan Works from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.
- The Board will be asked to adopt the resolutions that revise the appropriations for the General, School Service, Capital Projects and Building and Site Funds for the 2022-23 fiscal year to be presented to the Board for adoption at the June 28, 2023, regularly scheduled Board meeting. It should be noted that by allowing for the formal budget to be presented on June 28th it will provide for the most current information to be incorporated into the proposed Revision.
- The Board will be asked to adopt the resolutions to be presented for the 2023-24 fiscal year budget package for the General, School Service, Fiduciary and Sinking funds at the June 28th board meeting
- The Board will be asked to Resolve that the Board of Education authorize the borrowing of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ inclusive of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ of "set-aside" notes and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in "no set-asides" for operating purposes to eliminate cash flow challenges that result from timing issues related to State Aid payments for the 2023-24 school year.  
NOTE: The actual borrowing resolution(s) that is (are) necessary for the Board to pass will be provided on June 28th which will include the attorney approved amount. There will be two resolutions allowing for participation in the traditional School Bond Loan fund and one allowing for competitive rates to be obtained from other qualified financial institutions.
- The Board will be asked to approve the 2023-2024 student handbooks for Bentley Bright Beginnings, elementary, middle, and high schools to be presented at the June 28, 2023 Board meeting.

### **For Information**

Dr. Tuttle announced the following personnel changes:

### **Accepted Positions**

- Chelsea Chase has accepted the Custodian position

### **Resignations**

- Albert Palmateer, Grounds/Maintenance has resigned effective May 5, 2023.
- Janice Coppersmith, Transportation Assistant/Fueler has resigned effective at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year.
- Macy Kurth, Teacher at Owosso High School has submitted his letter of resignation effective at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year.
- Robert Mallory, Teacher at Owosso High School has submitted his letter of resignation effective at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year.

### **Retirements**

- Barbara Carsten, Paraprofessional at Emerson Elementary has submitted her letter of intent to retire at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year after 11 years of service.
- Karen Michalec, Teacher at Owosso Middle School has submitted her letter of intent to retire at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year after 29 years of service.
- Jason Krantz, Teacher at Owosso High School has submitted his letter of intent to retire at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year after 28 years of service.
- John Klapko, Director of Operations has submitted his letter of intent to retire effective June 30, 2023 after 10 years of service.

### **Public Participation**

No public participants addressed the Board.

### **Board Comments**

Trustee Easlick shared that he attended the Owosso Middle School Concert last night and the performance was outstanding. He was very impressed by all the talent on stage.

Trustee Henne shared he enjoyed the graduation ceremony immensely, and it brought back a lot of memories for him. He congratulated the seniors on their accomplishments and wished all the retirees well in their future endeavors. He especially thanked Mr. Klapko for his dedication to the district.

Treasurer Quick complimented Elijah Whiteside on his public speaking skills – she was incredibly impressed with his tone, his demeanor, and the gratitude he showed to his teachers,

the Board, and the district. She also congratulated the retirees and thanked them for their incredible work in the district. Treasurer Quick praised the staff at Lincoln High School. She knows a Lincoln student that will be crossing the stage tomorrow for their diploma and she is so proud of not only the student, but the dedication and commitment every Lincoln staff member has to all their students. She said the support these students receive from staff is instrumental to their success. Treasurer Quick ended her comments by thanking Mr. Brooks and OPS staff for their preparation for summer school.

Trustee Ochodnicky began her comments by welcoming Dr. Tuttle to the 'Empty-Nesters' club, and congratulated all seniors on their graduation. Trustee Ochodnicky said she has had a child in the OPS district every year for the last 25 years and it is always bittersweet to see your child grow up and begin their new lives. She advised all the parents to enjoy every minute of it. Trustee Ochodnicky continued her comments by thanking Mr. Collins for letting apartments to some of her in-need members, she said she doesn't know how she would have succeeded in finding housing without Mr. Collins generosity. She said one case in particular, a veteran went from a hospital stay almost immediately to a new home after a long, tumultuous journey and she is so grateful for Mr. Collin's help in that endeavor, and she shared a similar a situation was resolved today as well thanks to Mr. Collins' kindness.

Vice-President Webster congratulated both seniors and retirees. She commented she was very impressed with all the guest-speakers at the commencement ceremony. She is grateful for the community summer programs like Books at Bryant and is looking forward to the new year.

President Mowen also congratulated the seniors and said he enjoyed the ceremony immensely. He thanked the retirees for their work and wished them a restful retirement. He thanked everyone for attending the Board meeting tonight.

### **Upcoming Dates**


- **May 25:** Lincoln High School Graduation, 6:00PM, PAC
- **May 29:** No School, Memorial Day
- **May 30:** Central, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation, 6:00PM, PAC
- **June 1:** Bryant Kindergarten Graduation, 9:00AM, Bryant Gym
- **June 1:** Central Kindergarten Celebration, 10:00AM, Central Gym
- **June 1:** Half-day for all students, last day of school

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Webster, supported by Ochodnicky, to adjourn at 7:19 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Ty Krauss, Secretary