

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
March 11, 2019
Report 18-143

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, Ochodnicky, Quick, Webster

Absent: All members were present

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

As part of the Celebrate Kids! segment of the meeting, Superintendent Tuttle introduced Central Elementary School Principal Mrs. Bridgit Spielman. Mrs. Spielman reported that third grade teacher Mrs. Megan Friend and her students were in attendance to share information about their Oliver Woods buddies. Oliver Woods staff members Brandy Quarderer and Cathy Scripter were introduced by Mrs. Spielman. The Oliver Woods Buddies program has been in existence for the past four years. Mrs. Friend takes her entire class to the Oliver Woods Retirement Center on a weekly basis. The residents and students primarily read to each other, play games, and celebrate holidays. Over the past two years the residents periodically visit the students in the school's media center. Mrs. Friend introduced the Oliver Woods buddies to the Board which included retired OPS administrator Mr. Tom Henne; Mrs. Birdie Wright, former third grade teacher at Bentley Elementary School; Pat Ash, retired business teacher from Corunna High School; and Pat Brettrager. Central third grade students Summer Walker, Taylor Friend, Adi Doyle, Leighton Sobak, Abby Crandell, Gunnar Garrison, and Keagan Spielman shared comments about their buddies and the positive interactions they have experienced. The Oliver Woods buddies also commented on how much they appreciate and value the relationships they have formed with the students.

Vice President Rick Mowen thanked the students for sharing their time and getting to know the residents of Oliver Woods.

Bridgit Spielman acknowledged the District's Transportation Department for transporting the students to Oliver Woods on a weekly basis. She also thanked the administration for supporting the program.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle commented that there is so much that students can learn beyond the classroom. She stated that students benefit from getting out of their classrooms and learning from the residents that have so much wisdom and knowledge. The Oliver Woods residents were thanked for giving up their time to allow the students to visit with them and for providing them with the wonderful experience.

Board of Education Student Representative Carson Bornefeld commented that because of his involvement in sports, it has been a while since he has been able to report at a meeting. He expressed his gratitude towards Cayden Whiteherse for filling in for him during his absences. Carson also thanked the staff and students of OPS for their generous Christmas gifts.

Carson Bornefeld informed the Board that the Owosso High School Winter Formal was canceled due to poor ticket sales that were a result of the numerous snow days. He reported that the high school's spring sports season has begun. Carson announced that Prom tickets are now available to be purchased from senior class officers. This year's Prom will be held on April 26th at the Golden Glow Ballroom in Saginaw. The Trojan Marching Band will depart for Disney World on Thursday, March 14th.

Carson Bornefeld explained that the departing seniors would like to leave their mark at the high school by customizing a brick in the building. He stated that administration has given student council their approval for this project.

President Tim Jenc thanked Carson for his report. He also congratulated Carson for being voted as the Flint area boys basketball Player of the Week.

Owosso High School Principal Jeff Phillips announced that Carson Bornefeld was selected to participate in a free-throw contest at the Breslin Center based on his outstanding free-throw percentage for the season.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reminded the Board that the meeting was originally scheduled to be a Committee of the Whole meeting. She explained that a lot has been going on in the District. Since the last Board meeting, the District has had three audits. She applauded Curriculum Director Steve Brooks, Title I team members, and administrators for doing a phenomenal job with the audits.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that preschool and kindergarten registration has concluded. Administrators Amanda Rowell, Jessi Anderson, Bridgit Spielman, and Shelly Collison were recognized for their efforts to showcase and promote the District during the registration. The kindergarten team and administrators were also thanked for their work on the successful preschool and kindergarten registrations.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that two large video productions that showcase all of the opportunities available to students in the District were recently produced. One of the videos was displayed during the February 25th Board meeting.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle applauded the custodial staff for continually making the buildings and facilities look clean and pristine, especially during the recent parent/teacher conferences and when the District is being showcased for new families.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that the annual Shiawassee Home and Garden Business Expo was held at Owosso High School during the past weekend. She acknowledged Director of Operations John Klapko and Community Education Director Jessica Thompson for undertaking the event and doing an outstanding job.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle recognized the administrative team and members of the Instructional Leadership Council for leading a phenomenal professional development day on March 6th. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle's annual State of the District address was also shared with staff during the professional development.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle thanked everyone who participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the secondary campus. An update on the bond was shared with the community prior to the ceremony.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that the District is undergoing an IB Reauthorization. She thanked Vice President Rick Mowen and Treasurer Marlene Webster for joining the reauthorization team at lunch earlier that day and expressing the Board's support of IB.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that all the District's choral programs received perfect 1 scores at festival. This included three middle school choirs and five from the high school. Additionally, the bands received perfect 1 scores at the Perry Band Festival.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that the elementary bond projects are currently all on schedule at the present time. She explained that fencing is being installed at the high school in preparation for the secondary campus construction. Parking in the freshmen lot will not be permitted during the construction as this is will be used for bus pickups. She stated that Principal Jeff Phillips and she plan to monitor the parking and traffic congestion throughout the construction phase. She stated that Liaison Officer Mike Wheeler and the City of Owosso have been very helpful in monitoring the traffic and keeping students safe. The District is currently working on technology RFP's for the bond and this is a huge undertaking for all involved.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that a letter was sent to Owosso Public Schools families regarding the snow day closures. She stated that a total of nine missed school days have been forgiven. As of February 13, Owosso Public Schools has six days beyond the maximum possible forgiven days of nine. There is current pending legislation asking to forgive the two State of Emergency days. Currently, the last day of school is June 10th.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that Chief Financial Officer Julie Omer and she will be working on an RFP for the sale of the current middle school facility. All interested parties will be asked to provide a business plan and their intent for usage of the building. It is hoped that the building will ultimately be used to benefit the community.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reminded the Board that their meeting dates have been changed to allow for the process of bond bids, Board approvals, and transparency for the community. Some months will include more than one Board meeting.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that the County-wide School Board Dinner Meeting will take place on March 13th at D'Mar Banquet Center. She stated that several informative topics will be discussed during the meeting.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that Title (Federal) and At-risk onsite reviews were just completed during the previous week. The District's processes and procedures for budgets, interventions, core-curriculum, and personnel were the main focus of the reviews. A letter summarizing the audit was provided to the District after the onsite reviews. A written report will be submitted at a later date. The initial letter that was provided after the review thanked the District for their hospitality. The onsite review auditors were particularly impressed with the classrooms that they visited and appreciated their time with administrators, teachers, liaison officers, counselors, social workers, and para-professionals. The auditors stated in their letter that they have a much better understanding of the philosophy of the District and how it serves the young people and families, as well as the philosophy represented in using the state and Federal funding streams. The team was especially struck by how focused the staff and students were and how quiet the schools' hallways were, both during class time and passing times. The effort it takes to maintain a positive climate and culture of the schools visited was definitely noted. The initial findings of the audit stated that it is very unusual to have a program of "no changes required" with the Federal funds. It is also very unusual to have only two changes required with Section 31a (At-risk funds). The recommended changes dealt with how the District reports math and reading scores for third and eighth grade. In addition to chronic absenteeism. Mr. Brooks noted that they have also changed the formula for how they rate chronic absenteeism three times over the past three years. All documentation for written processes and procedures that were provided to the onsite review team was very thorough and well executed. The knowledge of all participants, including parents was very high and the conversations were very lively and thoughtful. The letter encouraged Owosso Public Schools to participate, present and showcase the District's procedures and processes at the next School Improvement Conference in 2020. The letter also noted that the vision and philosophies of the District have maintained a steady course and it was refreshing to witness.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle praised Steve Brooks on the exceptional review and the many hours, weeks, and days he spent preparing and showcasing for the audits.

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.

Mr. Tom Manke congratulated the three Central Elementary students that were just selected as Curwood princesses.

On behalf of the Shiawassee Conservation Association, Mr. Tom Manke reported that the organization made donations that amounted to \$23,500 last year. The association offers archery, wildlife conservation, and hunter safety seminars for youth and adults. Mr. Manke stated that the association is interested in starting a high school trap league and he is looking for information on starting a trap league shooting club. Mr. Manke remarked that trap leagues are becoming very popular with students and the Conservation Association has wanted to start a trap league for many years.

For Action

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to approve the February 25, 2019 regular meeting minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported Mowen to authorize the Transportation Department to dispose of a bus that did not pass inspection. The bus has exceeded its useful life and can no longer satisfactorily be repaired to meet the needs of the District. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Mowen to authorize the Superintendent to sign a contract with Concrete Placement, LLC to commence the bid category of concrete at the secondary campus and authorize the Superintendent to approve any contingencies of 5% and general condition work up to 2% of the overall contract work not to exceed \$1,465,128. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle noted that of the total, \$190,000 of this base contract is expected to be funded by the donation from the Cook Family Foundation. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to approve the “Work Directive Change” to the original contract with Spicer Group approved at the November 26, 2018 Board meeting for the sinking fund administration services. The proposed Work Directive Change has been included in the Board package for consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Krauss, supported by Keyes to adopt Revised Policy 5460-Graduation Requirements as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Keyes to approve the hiring of certified staff member Deborah Faulkner as an Owosso High School Special Education Teacher. Nays: Trustee Quick. Motion carried.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen to authorize Bentley Bright Beginnings to dispose of a Children’s Castle Climber that has been identified as not being needed any longer and taking up needed space in the gymnasium. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board of Education will be asked 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.
- The Board of Education will be asked to approve the course listings presented for the Middle School, High School, and Lincoln High School for the 2018-2019 school year.

For Information

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that Luqas Warden has accepted the Custodian II position at Owosso High School. Susan Mitchell has accepted the Food Service Distribution Coordinator position. Michelle Bingham has accepted the 3-hour Food Service position at Owosso Middle School. Terry Carsten, OHS Custodian II has resigned. Nichole Carsten, Central Custodian II has resigned. Branden Carsten, OHS Custodian II has resigned. LaShawn Ayers-Hanes, Special Education Teacher at Owosso High School has submitted her letter of resignation effective at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 school year after six years of service with the District. Lesa McKeon, Kindergarten Teacher at Bryant Elementary has submitted her letter of retirement effective at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 school year after 33 years of service with the District. James Fournier, Special Education Teacher at Central Elementary has submitted his letter of retirement effective at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 school year after 23 years of service with the District. Susan Jones, Second Grade Teacher at Emerson Elementary has submitted her letter of retirement effective at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 school year after 29 years of service with the District. Scott McCuaig, Fifth Grade Teacher at Emerson Elementary has submitted his letter of

retirement effective at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 school year after 25 years of service with the District.

Public Participation

There were no comments from the public.

Board Member Comments/Updates

President Tim Jenc commented that there has been a lot of social media comments recently regarding student drop-offs and pick-ups at Central Elementary School. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle was asked to provide the Board with an overview of the situation.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that when she was the Principal of Central Elementary School she had the same issues that the building is currently experiencing with parents dropping off and picking up their children. She stated that Central Elementary, as well as all of the District's buildings are land locked and were originally built as neighborhood schools during a time when children walked to school. Liaison Officer Mike Ash has consistently tried to control the traffic conditions at Central. The parent that has posted complaints on social media has spoken with Mrs. Spielman and Mr. Steve Brook on previous occasions. Recommendations for the pickup and drop off of her children were shared with her. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that the District realizes that parking is an issue at all of its elementary building and is open to suggestions that can improve the conditions.

Central Elementary Principal Bridgit Spielman commented that when she took over as the building principal, meetings were held with parents to discuss the parking conditions. The meetings provided parents with an opportunity to share their concerns and offer suggestions. Chief of Police Kevin Lenkart and Liaison Officer Mike Ash were also in attendance at these meetings. The meetings resulted in a no parking zone on the west side of Ada Street between the hours of 3-4 pm. In addition, Chief Lenkart recently advised that new signage will be placed on Oliver Street. Handicap parking spaces are also being monitored.

President Tim Jenc announced that he has tickets available for the CTE pontoon raffle. Tickets are \$50 each for the \$38,000 pontoon boat that was donated to the District. All proceeds from the ticket sales with go to the CTE program.

Trustee Ty Krauss wished Carson Bornefeld good luck in the free throw contest. He thanked Steve Brooks and staff for their efforts with the recent audits. The OPS band and choir programs were congratulated by Mr. Krauss for their perfect one scores at Festival. He stated that his daughter was a member of choir for six years and the program never received all ones during her tenure in spite of trying.

Trustee Sara Keyes stated that appreciates Mrs. Spielman for taking all of the phone calls about the parking situation at Central. She remarked that the administrative team spends a great deal of time trying to come up with solutions to problems and complaints but still manages to do a great job educating the students of OPS. Mrs. Keyes also stated that she has enjoyed seeing all of the positive comments and photos on social media about kindergarten registration.

Vice President Rick Mowen congratulated Carson Bornefeld on his incredible free throw feat. He wished Carson good luck at the free throw contest that will be held at the Breslin Center. Mr. Mowen also stated that he and Treasurer Marlene Webster were pleased to represent the Board at the IB reauthorization and show their support of the program on behalf of the entire Board of Education. He thanked all staff members that were involved in the reauthorization and the amount of time they spent away from their classrooms.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle expressed her appreciation for Mr. Lance Little, Mr. Rich Collins, Mr. Jeff Phillips, and Mrs. Sarah Collins for being instrumental in the IB reauthorization which is key to the District.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicky stated that during this time of social media negativity, she sincerely appreciates all of the positive and great posts that she has seen about the District's programs, students, and buildings.

Trustee Olga Quick also thanked staff for their efforts with the most recent audits. She stated that it is a great compliment to the District to be invited to present on our procedures and policies at a conference. Mrs. Quick remarked that she chaperoned at choir festival and was so amazed with our students and their expertise at site readings. The administrative team was also applauded for giving up their personal time to support the students at Festival. Mrs. Quick expressed her appreciation for Officer Mike Ash along with the numerous staff members that go above and beyond to create resources for students that need extra support. She remarked that she feels extremely blessed to be a part of the District.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle commented that during the recent audits the District was commended for its Liaison Officers and their active involvement with students.

Treasurer Marlene Webster stated that as a proud mother of an Owosso Public Schools graduate, she sincerely appreciates the staff and administrators of the District. She announced that her daughter, Abigail Webster was accepted into Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. She remarked that her grandfather was the son of an immigrant and he always dreamed that there would one day be a doctor in the family and her daughter will be the first. Mrs. Webster stated that 6000 students applied to be admitted into the program and 500 were called for an interview, but only 300 students are selected. She commented that MSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine is a very stringent program and she is proud to say that her daughter was educated by Owosso Public Schools.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

April 1: Regular Board Meeting, 5:30 pm (new additional date)

April 8: Regular Board Meeting, 5:30 pm (previously scheduled as Committee of the Whole meeting)

Important Upcoming Dates:

March 11-13: IB Reauthorization Visit

March 11: LHS, 3rd Trimester Begins

March 13: County School Board Dinner Meeting @ D'Mar, 6 pm

March 13: Central 5th Grade Wax Museum

March 14-20: OHS Band Florida Trip

March 15: Bryan Daddy-Daughter Dance, 7 pm

March 19: OHS Spring Sport Parents Night, 6 pm

March 19: Class of 2023 Shiawassee Scholars Induction at D'Mar, 7 pm

March 22: Half Day of School for all Students & Teacher Work Day

March 25-29: Spring Break

April 1: School Resumes

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicky to adjourn at 6:37 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary