

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Regular Meeting
October 25, 2023
Report 23-62

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

Vice President Webster 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

Vice President Webster informed the audience that ‘Celebrate Kids – Owosso High School’ will be moved to a future agenda.

Student Representative Kate Lee informed the Board that the Trojan Marching Band received a fantastic score of all 1s at the annual Band Festival on October 9. They will also be performing their TMB Spectacular show at 7:00pm this evening. The Owosso Equestrian Team received third place in Division B at the Michigan Interscholastic Horsemanship Association Championship on October 15. The OHS Powderpuff football game took place on October 23, OHS concert band gave a great performance at their ‘Hauncert’ on October 19, and Quizbowl officially started this month with a competition against Grand Blanc. Ms. Lee said marking period one has just ended and she is looking forward to a busy month in November.

Board Correspondence

Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that October is principal recognition month. Dr. Tuttle thanked her principals for their dedication to the schools and gifted them a gift certificate to the school spirit store, a ‘Get Out of a Board Meeting Free Pass’, and a messenger bag to carry their radios. Dr. Tuttle shared with the Board that the administrative team has been learning more about artificial intelligence so she asked an AI program to write a poem to recognize principals and their daily challenges. The program wrote the following:

“In the world of education, there's a curious scene, Where principals reign, and it's quite the routine. They juggle their duties with grace and finesse, But sometimes, it seems like a the wild, wild west.

First thing in the morning, the bells start to chime, And principals rush to beat the school's daily prime. They're masters of chaos, with

*nerves made of steel, With schedules so tight, it's
a surreal ordeal.*

*They welcome the students with a smile on their
face, Hoping this day won't turn into a wild race.
"Is Billy in detention? Did Sarah forget
lunch? And where's the janitor to clean up
that hunch?"*

*In meetings all day, they must often contend,
With parents and teachers, who never seem to
end. "Mr. Principal, my son's grades are too low!
And my daughter's art project was eaten by a crow!"*

*Then there's the budget, a real Rubik's Cube,
Where numbers and funds often make them feel
rube. "Cut expenses here, find money over there,
Make sure we have pencils, and maybe a spare."*

*They deal with the drama, the preteen romance,
Broken hearts, secret notes, and the occasional
dance. "Principal, we need a chaperone for the
prom!"*

And off they go, in a sequined pink gown."

The lunchroom's a circus, it's quite a delight,

*Where mashed potatoes become an impromptu fight.
"Principal, there's a food fight, and it's quite the show!
Mashed potatoes on the ceiling, and spaghetti on the
go!"*

*At day's end, they breathe a well-deserved sigh,
As the chaos subsides and the day says goodbye.
But just as they think they can finally relax,
There's a call from the district about standardized tests.*

*So here's to the principals, the unsung heroes of school,
Who keep things together, despite all the fool.
With humor and grace, they navigate each
twist, In this crazy world of education, they
persist!*

*In the realm of school principals, responsibilities
amass, But they tackle it all with a smile and a
laugh.*

*They're the true champions of the academic
scene, In the hilarious world where education
convenes!"*

Dr. Tuttle reminded the Board the sinking fund election will take place on November 7. She ended her report by saying the Trojan Marching Band Spectacular is taking place tonight at 7:00pm in the Performing Arts Center, and hopes that everyone will head over there after the meeting to support the band members.

Curriculum Director Mr. Stephen Brooks reminded the Board that November 7 is a district-wide professional development day. Although there are a couple required trainings, the schedule is packed with informative sessions staff members can pick and choose from. Mr. Brooks informed the Board that he met with the English and Special Education departments at the middle school today to discuss reading interventions for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, including assessments and other resources to provide support for struggling students. Mr. Brooks finished his report by giving an update on the district's virtual students. There are seventy students enrolled in the virtual program and approximately 90% of those students are doing well online. The 10% of online students that are not doing as well are being monitored by administration and the district will continue to communicate with those families.

Public Participation

Vice President Webster 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.

For Action

- Moved by Ochodnický, supported by Quick, to approve the audit report for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Motion carried unanimously. The Board heard a presentation from Sherrie Blankenship, CPA with Maner Costerian, regarding the audit for the year ended June 30, 2023. Ms. Blankenship informed the Board that the financial statements received an unmodified, or 'clean', opinion, which is the highest-level opinion you can receive. The district's internal controls had no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Compliance for Major Programs, or the single audit, also received unmodified opinions. They looked at ESSER funds, Child Nutrition Cluster, and Title I Part A. Ms. Blankenship reviewed the balance sheet of governmental funds, and reviewed the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance of government funds. Ms. Blankenship said the fund balance ended the year at 17.8% of expenditures, and told the Board that Michigan School Business Officials, MSBO, recommends a fund balance between 15%-20%. The district is well within what MSBO considers a healthy fund balance. Ms. Blankenship reviewed the budget comparison of the general fund, and reported that the final budget was projected to have an increase of \$237,657 and had an actual increase of \$1,501,197. Ms. Blankenship reported that 75%

of the district's general fund revenues come from state sources, 13% from federal sources, 10% from local sources, and 2% from incoming transfers and 'other'. The general fund expenditures include 72% for instruction, 26% supporting services, 1% community services, 1% 'other'. Ms. Blankenship ended her report by informing the Board that future considerations will include Governmental Accounting Standards Board, GASB, No. 100, Accounting Changes and Error Corrections – an amendment of GASB No. 62 effective for fiscal year 2024, and GASB No. 101, Compensated Absences, effective fiscal year 2025. Ms. Blankenship thanked CFO Omer and the business team at OPS for their thorough preparation for the audit.

- Moved by Easlick, supported by Ochodnický, to approve the September 27, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes, September 27, 2023 Closed Session Minutes, October 11, 2023 Committee of the Whole minutes, the current bills and financials as presented. Vice President Webster conducted a roll call vote; Easlick, Webster, Quick, Ochodnický voted aye, Krauss, Mowen, Henne are absent. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Quick, to adopt Revised Policy 2623-Student Assessment, Revised Policies 3215- Use of Tobacco by Professional Staff, 4215-Use of Tobacco by Support Staff, 5512-Use of Tobacco by Students, 7434- Use of Tobacco on School Premises, 9160-Public Attendance at School Events, New Policy 5330.03 Opioid Antagonists, Revised Policy 6325- Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds, Revised Policies 7540.02-Web Accessibility, Content, Apps and Services, 7540.03- Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, 8315-Information Management, Revised Policy 8390- Animals on District Property, and Revised Policy 8400-School safety information as the 2nd and final readings. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick, to accept the settlement of ongoing vaping litigation and authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Altria Group Inc. (Case No. 3:19-md-2913-WHO in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California) on behalf of the Board of Education of Owosso Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnický, to authorize the Owosso Public School's Athletic department to dispose of free weights identified as being duplicates or not suited for the needs for physical education classes or athletics at the secondary campus. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnický, to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso Middle School students and staff on a Washington D.C. trip, to the Capital of the United States on April 24-26 in the year 2024. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick, approve out-of-state travel for Owosso Middle School educators, Lance Little and Sarah Jurhs, to attend the International Baccalaureate Conference from November 5-9, 2023, for "Role of Coordinator" training. Notably, this specific training isn't available online or at a nearer venue. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

No 'For Future Action' items were heard.

For Information

Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that the control system for the Washington Campus boiler failed last week. The control systems are approximately 22 years old and the parts to fix them are no longer available. Thus, Washington Campus does not have heat. Due to the urgency of the situation, Dr. Tuttle worked with Mr. Nate Zube from Technical Building Automation, to have the parts replaced. Because this is an emergency, the district does not have to go through the bid process, and Dr. Tuttle cited Board policy 6320, 'Purchasing', to demonstrate the appropriate procedure has been followed. "The Superintendent is authorized to make emergency purchases, without prior approval, of those goods and/or services need to keep the schools in operation. Such purchases shall be brought to the Board's attention at the next regular meeting."

Dr. Tuttle announced the following personnel changes:

Accepted Positions

- Ashley Smith has accepted the Paraprofessional position at Lincoln.
- Tessa Bowen has accepted the Sub Bus Driver position.
- Danielle Combs has accepted the Sub Custodian position.
- Anne Rodriguez has accepted the Sub Paraprofessional position.

Resignations

- Kristen Prchlik-Schott, Paraprofessional position at Bryant has resigned effective 9/29/23.

Public Participation

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No public participants addressed the Board.

Board Comments

Trustee Ochodnický congratulated the Owosso Equestrian Team on their success at the recent regional and state competitions. She thanked the principals for their hard work and dedication to the district. She is looking forward to more great news as the year continues. She ended her comments by thanking CFO Omer for her work on the budget.

Trustee Easlick thanked CFO Omer and the business team for their work on the budget, and congratulated the district on the clean audit. He congratulated the Trojan Marching Band for

their fantastic performance at festival. He ended his comments by thanking administration for all the work they do in the district.

Treasurer Quick thanked CFO Omer for another great audit. She thanked the Owosso Public Schools administrative team for their continued dedication to the students and the Owosso community.

Vice President Webster reminded the audience and her fellow Board members that the sinking fund election is coming up on November 7. She said the students and employees of Owosso Public Schools deserve safe and secure facilities, and asked every one to get out and vote. She ended her comments by thanking the administrative team for their hard work.

Upcoming Dates

- October 31: Half day for all students
- November 4: OHS Booster Bash, 7:00pm, Knights of Columbus
- November 8: OHS Kickball, 7:00pm, OHS Gym
- November 11: Band Booster Craft Show, 11:00am-4:00pm, Owosso High School
- November 13: OHS Volleybrawl, 7:00pm, OHS Gym
- November 17,18: OHS Musical, 7:00pm, PAC
- November 19: OHS Musical Matinee Show, 2:00pm, PAC
- November 21: OHS Mr. Wonderful, 7:00pm, PAC
- November 22-24: Thanksgiving Recess

Adjournment

Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick, to adjourn at 6:04pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,


Ty Krauss, Secretary