

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
July 23, 2018-
Report 18-12

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, Webster

Absent: Paez (Motions of the Board of Education that were unanimous did not include Paez)

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reported that over the summer months the administrative team has primarily been working on the bond and the process is going well. She commented that construction costs continue to rise and they are cognizant of the price increases. Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that plans for the three elementary school additions are being solidified. The goal is to break ground for the additions in November 2018. It is anticipated that the request for bids for the elementary projects will be posted in August. Planning meetings with the architectural and construction management firms and their respective experts are occurring on or ahead of schedule. The District still expects to break ground in early summer of 2019 at the current high school to begin the transformation to a secondary campus. Superintendent Tuttle stated that she anticipates to occupy the secondary campus with 6-12 grade students for the 2020-2021 school year. She remarked that it is exciting to look at all of the possibilities that will be available to our students with the bond proposal.

Superintendent Tuttle reminded the Board that voters will be asked to approve a Sinking Fund Millage renewal proposal on August 7, 2018. She stated that a Sinking Fund question and answer document was mailed to all voters within the District. Voters are being asked to consider a five-year renewal of the November 2013 vote with a decrease in the amount of mills assessed from 3.0 to 2.0.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that the District continues to hire great new staff members to replace those that have moved from the area or resigned. The Board of Education will have an opportunity to meet the new hires during a new teacher meet and greet just prior to the August 27th Board Meeting. Board members were invited to attend New Teacher Orientation on August 9th beginning at 8 am.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that opening day for the 2018-2019 school year will take place on August 20th beginning at 8 am with activities for all staff members. Staff members will participate in team building exercises in the high school cafeteria on August 21 beginning at 8 am. Both days will include professional development activities. The Board was invited to attend both events. Superintendent Tuttle displayed an example of the letter that was sent to District staff inviting them to the 2018-19 opening days.

Superintendent Tuttle stated that the Owosso Public Schools Foundation has reorganized and will sponsor a fun event for District staff during the August 20th professional development. The Foundation will also share information about opportunities that are available through their organization such as mini-grants and the establishment of a teacher of the year and team member of the year awards.

Superintendent Tuttle expressed gratitude towards John Klapko, Director of Operations and his staff for their hard work and all they have done over the summer to make the District's facilities and grounds look great.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks informed the Board that professional development activities for staff have continued to take place over the summer. He stated that some middle school teachers are currently participating in a very intense Project Lead the Way (PLTW) training at Eastern Michigan University. Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that a lot of planning has went into meaningful professional development activities. The Instructional Leadership Council and administrative team will meet prior to opening days to finalize professional development events.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks explained that he has spent a great deal of time on a teacher evaluation rubric that corresponds with changes that have been made by the state. He commented that he met with the RESD in regards to teacher evaluations and was reassured that Owosso Public Schools is more advanced than neighboring school districts in the new procedures.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks announced that the District's new teacher mentor coordinator position has been awarded to Karen Michalec. Mrs. Michalec replaces Mrs. Shelly Collison. Mr. Brooks stated that some outstanding candidates from within the District applied for the position.

President Tim Jenc mentioned that in attendance at the meeting was Argus Press Reporter Steve Marowski. He asked all members of the Board of Education and OPS staff sitting at the table to introduce themselves to Mr. Marowski. The introductions included Curriculum Director Steve Brooks, Board Trustee Marlene Webster, Board Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki, Board Vice-President Rick Mowen, Board President Tim Jenc, Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle, Board Trustee Sara Keyes, Board Trustee Ty Krauss, Administrative Assistant Clara Pitt, and Chief Financial Officer Julie Omer.

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 meeting's audience.

For Action

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicki to approve the June 25, 2018 regular meeting minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to renew the City of Owosso agreement for the provision of Police Officers to serve as school resource (Liaison) officers for Owosso Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes, supported by Krauss to adopt the membership resolution of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the year beginning August 1, 2018 through July 31, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to adopt the contingent resolution calling for a special election to renew two mills which is less than the currently approved three mills for the sinking for a term of five (5) years to be held on November 6, 2018. This special election will only be held if the sinking fund millage renewal does not pass at the election to be held on August 7, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes, supported by Ochodnicki to support the adoption of second year Agricultural Science and Sign Language as presented into the high school curriculum. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Jenc, supported by Mowen to approve the hiring of Jessica Anderson, an Owosso High School graduate as the Emerson Elementary Principal. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Webster, supported by Mowen to approve the hiring of the following certified staff; Tricia Kushen, Owosso Middle School Vocal Music/Theater/Performance Teacher; Crystal Huber, Bentley Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Special Education Teacher; Casandra Gretzler, Emerson Elementary Kindergarten Teacher; and Madalena Huyck, Bryant Elementary Kindergarten Teacher. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to approve the July 23, 2018 through June 30, 2019 Tentative Agreement between the Owosso Education Support Personnel Association and the Owosso Board of Education. Secretary Ochodnicky conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Webster, Ochodnicky, Mowen, Jenc, Keyes, and Krauss. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a three-year fair market value lease agreement for one propane 77 passenger bus. In response to a question from President Jenc regarding the number of miles that are put on the leased busses annually and if there is ever an overage of miles, Transportation Director Steve DeLong stated that the mileage is closely monitored to ensure that this does not occur on the leased busses. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board of Education will be asked to approve the tax levy (L-4029) for 2018 as presented. Consistent with the taxation rate for 2018, the operating millage rate, through the renewal of the operating millage in February 2013 will be at the maximum allowable by the State for the December of 2018 levy. The sinking fund levy is based on the full 3 mills voted on in during November, 2013 election and has not been subject to a Headlee rollback at this time. In addition, this is the first year for the debt levy assessment which has also been included on the L-4029 at a millage rate consistent with the first year levy as proposed in the ballot language. This millage rate will change over time in order to assure that the amount levied equates to the debt that must be paid off.
- The Board of Education will be asked 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, 2019.

For Information

Superintendent Tuttle reported that Hillary Skym, Kindergarten Teacher at Bryant Elementary has resigned effective June 12, 2018. Wallee Keating, Science /Engineering Teacher at Owosso High School has resigned effective June 12, 2018.

Public Participation

There were no comments from the meeting's audience.

Board Member Comments/Updates

Trustee Sara Keyes commented that her children have been attending the *Books for Bryant* summer event and they have really enjoyed this. She stated that she is also looking forward to the new school year.

President Tim Jenc remarked that the Sinking Fund informational flyer is great and contains some key facts.

President Tim Jenc stated that on August 4th Superintendent Dr. Tuttle and he will be providing a tour of Owosso High School to the graduating class of 1973.

Vice President Rick Mowen extended his best wishes and congratulations to Jessica Anderson on her new position as the Emerson Elementary Principal. Mr. Mowen also commended Transportation Director Steve DeLong for everything he does. He stated that the Board appreciates Mr. DeLong's loyalty and trust his good judgement on the District's bus fleet.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicky reminded every to get their friends and family out to vote on August 7th. She stated that the Sinking Fund is very important to the District.

Trustee Marlene Webster applauded the Food Service Department on an amazing job with the “Meet Up Eat Up” summer food program that is a huge benefit to families.

Trustee Webster remarked that she is very excited about this time of year and looks forward to the Community Pep Rally on August 17th.

Trustee Webster announced that Shiawassee Hope will host a back to school party at Pleasant Valley trailer park on August 18th. She stated that several local agencies plan to attend the party and provide resources to the residents. Additionally, every child that resides in the trailer park will receive a \$20 gift card from Payless for the purchase of new shoes. Mrs. Webster stated that donations for the gift cards are welcomed.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

August 13: Board of Education Committee of the Whole, 5 pm

August 27: Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 pm

Important Upcoming Dates:

August 2: Elementary and LHS Principals Return

August 6: First Day of Football Practice

August 8: First Day of Fall Sports Practice

August 8 & 9: LHS Student Registration, 10 am-2 pm

August 9: 10 Month Secretaries Return to Work

August 9: New Teacher Orientation @ Fortitude, 8 am – 3 pm

August 15: OHS Trojan Days, 8 -11 am, 12-3 pm, 4-6 pm

August 15: OHS Fall Sports Parent Meeting in Auditorium, 6 pm

August 17: Community Pep Rally @ Willman Field, 6 pm (Gates open at 5 pm)

August 20 & 21: Professional Development

August 20: OHS Open House & Trojan Days Make-up, 4-6 pm

August 21: OMS Open House, 4-7 pm

August 21: Elementary Open Houses, 5-7 pm

August 22: Teacher Workday

August 22: Bentley Bright Beginnings Open House, 5-7 pm

August 23: First Day of School

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicky to adjourn at 5:59 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary