

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
August 24, 2020
Report 20-22

Present: Keyes, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnicky, Quick, Webster, Paez (members were present via Zoom video conferencing)

Absent: None

As the host of the District's virtual school Board Meeting, Superintendent Dr. Tuttle provided the participants with a few guidelines and procedures.

President Mowen called the Special meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:32 p.m. Due to Governor Whitmer's current Executive Order 2020-75, the meeting was held virtually using Zoom video conferencing from the Washington Campus, 645 Alger Street, Owosso, MI 48867.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle shared an array of gratitude for the following: All of the parents that submitted the survey and questionnaire, the Admin team and supervisors, the Phase 3 & 4 planning teams, the SRESA team, the many teachers preparing for technology training, Dr. Lintner and the athletic staff; the Technology team, the Transportation Supervisor, the City of Owosso, the OEA Leadership team, teams that have interviewed possible new hires, the OESPA leadership team, and the entire OPS team! CFO Omer and Mr. John Klapko were also thanked for their hard work as they continue working on the bond project. Special thanks to all the team members that have picked up extra duties during this time. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle also expressed thanks to the Board of Education. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle shared how all teams are preparing for the start of school and taking measures to ensure staff and student safety.

Curriculum Director Mr. Brooks shared that new teacher orientation is taking place this week along with training for staff that are in new roles. The ILC and Department heads are working on the opening of school. September 1st and 2nd will be district wide Professional Development(PD). Teachers will be given time to prepare their Google classroom, ensure they have the necessary technology, and engage in Safe Schools training. Title I teachers are working on assessments. Yearly planning is occurring to prepare for future PD. Additional resources for secondary math teachers have been provided along with new OHS online science text books. The District is offering 79 sessions of Tech training for staff. OMS English teachers are working on curriculum updates/changes. The Bryant golf outing was this last weekend and \$6,400 was raised for scholarships for Bryant students. Curriculum Director Mr. Brooks also thanked all of the golf sponsors.

Public Participation

President Mowen 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.

Public comment was heard from the following individuals:

Kristen Bratschi, teacher
Jackie Burzmor, teacher
Tom Manke, community member
Eric Locker, former student
Evan Ritter, former student

For Action

- Moved by Secretary Webster, supported by Trustee Krauss to approve the July 27, 2020 regular board meeting minutes, August 10, 2020 special board meeting minutes, current bills and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Trustee Paez, support by Vice President Ochodnicky to adopt as a second and final reading, Policy 2266 and deletion of Policy 5517.02. President Mowen requested Secretary Webster to take a roll call vote:
Trustee Krauss: Aye
Treasurer Keyes: Aye
Secretary Webster: Aye
Trustee Quick: Aye
Vice President Ochodnicky: Aye
Trustee Paez: Aye
President Mowen: Aye
Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Trustee Quick, supported by Trustee Krauss to declare the furniture at the high school presented in the Board report as obsolete. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Secretary Webster, supported by Vice President Ochodnicky to approve the 2020 tax levy as presented. President Mowen requested Secretary Webster to take a roll call vote:
Trustee Quick: Aye
Vice President Ochodnicky: Aye
Trustee Paez: Aye
President Mowen: Aye
Trustee Krauss: Aye
Treasurer Keyes: Aye
Secretary Webster: Aye
Motion carried unanimously.
- Trustee Quick moved to accept Superintendent Tuttle's recommendation for hiring the following certified staff: Makala Brown, OHS English teacher; Kellie VanderMolen, Emerson Kindergarten teacher; Scott Buddy, OMS Science teacher; and Jerrica VanderKarr, OHS Special Education. Motion supported by Trustee Krauss. President Mowen requested Secretary Webster to take a roll call vote:
Vice President Ochodnicky: Aye
Trustee Quick: Aye
Trustee Krauss: Aye
Treasurer Keyes: Aye
Secretary Webster: Aye
Trustee Paez: Aye
Vice President Mowen: Aye
Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- Dr. Tuttle indicated that the 2020-21 Head Start contract contained in the Board packet would be presented for approval at the next regular Board meeting. The contract is a continuation of the contract from previous years with very few changes.

For Information

- Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported the following personnel changes:
 - Accepted Positions
 - April Schwab has accepted the Student Facilitator position at Central Elementary.
 - James Mullens has accepted the Paraprofessional position at Owosso Middle School.
 - Resignations
 - Lana Orrison, Paraprofessional at Emerson Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation.
 - Kim Fauth, Paraprofessional at Bryant Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation.
 - Caitlin Stansell-Greig, Owosso High School Teacher has submitted her letter of resignation.
 - Retirements
 - Jeff Rowland, Bryant Elementary Teacher has submitted his letter of retirement effective immediately after 24 years of service with the District.
 - Sue Harkema, Title I Teacher at Bryant Elementary has submitted her letter of retirement effective in September after 31 years of service with the District.
 - Jane Sawyer, Kindergarten Teacher at Emerson Elementary has submitted her letter of retirement effective immediately after 34 years of service with the District.
- Superintendent Dr. Tuttle made comments regarding the Return to Learn Plan highlighting some items from the plan that have been discussed since the last Board meeting on August 10th giving the example of the formulation of the cleaning checklists. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle also noted that the as a result of new requirements, The Return to Learn Plan will be reviewed on a monthly basis by the Board. This will occur again at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on September 28th since the Board just formally adopted the Plan at the last meeting on August 10th.

Public Participation

Public comment was heard from the following individuals:

Tom Manke, community member

Board Member Comments/Updates

Treasure Keyes:

- She has been listening to teacher and parents that have shared concerns and positive comments with her. She understands both views. She has thought about the families and their children. Parents are concerned with their children's mental state as well. It's hard for both sides and she understands. These things keep her up at night when she has to vote for other people's families. She commented that she understands where they are coming from. Everyone has a different state of mind right now. Parents have shared concerns that they see teachers doing one thing on social media but then sharing concerns

about returning in person. There are a lot of different opinions right now and it seems to be 50/50 on what people want. Everyone's feelings are justifiable. She commented that the Board does have the staffs back. The Board will watch the other districts, learn from them and move forward. She finished by thanking the administrative team and staff.

Trustee Krauss:

- Expressed gratitude to those that spoke during the public participation and for sharing their thoughts and concerns. Stressed it is very important to hear from them. Thanked the retirees for their service and expressed well wishes. Thanked Mr. Brooks and all that have helped with the Bryant golf outing. Finished by thanking everyone who has helped prepare for the return to school.

Trustee Paez:

- She commented that she, like everyone else, is very concerned about the return of in-person learning. Believes we do have an excellent plan in place and we will try the best that we can in these days of uncertainty. Explained she works in large physical therapy office and they have been following procedures and guidelines and so far there haven't been any cases. She is hopeful that the guidelines set in place will work. The Plan will be reviewed in another month and it will be adjusted as needed. She is looking forward to a great start to the school year.

Trustee Quick:

- Expressed congratulations and thanks to retirees and let them know they will be missed. Encouraged and welcomed public/community members to continue to participate in upcoming board meetings when we return to face-face. She is troubled that meetings are not yet face-face but we expect our teachers to be face-face very soon. Expressed concerns for staff and students. She stated that two of the three districts that returned to school last week have COVID 19 cases. She believes the administration team at those districts developed the best plan they could but her concern is despite the best plan, we may not be able to keep our staff and students safe. The Board will meet in a month but within that time hopes there is open and ongoing dialogue. She feels that the Board owes it to everyone to keep them safe.

Secretary Webster:

- She wanted to echo what everyone has said. She commented "We are in a very tough time and certainly we are thinking about our educators and it is difficult to know how to open school and take all the factors into consideration and no matter what you do it's going to look like you have ignored someone's consideration. A month is a long time to wait to review, we won't wait a month to review as it will be monitored on a daily basis. We will do a formal check-in in a month and I have confidence in our administrators that they will do the right thing. We will make swift decisions if necessary." She feels our community in good shape right now and feels like the community has done well. She observed that at some point the District has to go back at some point of risk and asked the question: "How long do we wait before it's safe?" She feels we are there now, hope she's not wrong but could be. Hears the teachers and wishes she could guarantee their safety. Online is an option but doesn't necessarily think it guarantees their safety. She feels that the District has put the best resources forth and together, the District will get through it. Thanked teachers for willingness to return in spite of their fears. Understands teachers not wanting to return. Stated "Please know we are monitoring carefully to keep you as safe as possible".

Vice President Ochodnicky:

- Stated that the retirees will definitely be missed; sad her granddaughter won't have Mrs. Sawyer this year. Sent best wishes to all in their retirement. She has two grandchildren in district this year and has been going through the process with them. Feels that there are a lot of challenge and worries about the up and downs right now. She feels that the District has taken a lot of great measures to do the best with what it has been given. Appreciates everyone and thanked staff and administrators who have worked hard over the summer preparing for the school year. She extended her best wishes for September 8th and hopes things go as planned.

President Mowen:

- Extended a warm welcome to new hires indicating that he is proud to have them as part of the OPS team. Looking forward to meeting the new hires in person in the future. He thanked and expressed gratitude to retirees for their service and dedication over the years and best wishes as they move forward. He discussed how when people go around town every business/store/restaurant states masks are required, but not everyone buys into it. Same goes for the school. "We have a plan and everyone has to buy into if we want it to work".

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates.

Correction: OHS Trojan days will not be held on August 26th. Materials were mailed to students.
September 8, 2020- First day of school
September 14, 2020- Board of Education Committee of the Whole, 5:30 pm
September 28, 2020: Regular Board Meeting, 5:30 pm held via Zoom per EO unless that changes.

Adjournment

Moved by Secretary Webster, supported by Vice President Ochodnicky to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Carrie Yoho

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Webster
Marlene Webster, Secretary