

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
April 22, 2019
Report 18-171

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by students representing the Bentley Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center's four-year old preschool program.

Building Reports

As part of the Celebrate Kids! segment of the meeting, Superintendent Tuttle introduced Mrs. Amanda Rowell, Director of Bentley Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center to the Board of Education. Bentley Bright Beginnings Preschool Teacher Mrs. Heidi Lorigan and her students Arlo Calhoun, Trey Morgan, Alexis Genovese, Elizabeth Floria, Ellie Rowell, Decal Hughes, Ethan Bandkau, and Lia Mlynek performed a song about what they do on a daily basis in their four-year old preschool class.

Dr. Dallas Lintner, Athletic Director recognized Owosso High School junior Colton Blaha for being named an All-State Wrestler by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. Colton Blaha won District and Regional titles as an individual wrestler. He also placed third in the State Finals as an individual wrestler.

Owosso High School senior Thomas Trecha was recognized by Dr. Dallas Lintner for being named an All-State Bowler by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. Thomas was an All-State individual bowler and also led the Owosso High School Boys' Varsity Bowling team to a state final four finish.

Dr. Dallas Lintner recognized Owosso High School senior Megan Vondrasek for earning the title of State Champion in Girl's Wrestling by the Michigan Wrestling Association. This was the first year that the Michigan Wrestling State Coaches Association held a State Finals Tournament for girls. Out of 379 female competitors from Michigan, Megan Vondrasek was the first female State Champion in the 130-pound division. Megan also holds a 3.9 grade point average. She plans to wrestle at Adrian College and will sign her letter of intent on April 29th.

Board of Education Student Representative Carson Bornefeld reported that Owosso High School hosted tours of the building earlier that day for eighth grade students.

Carson Bornefeld shared pictures of the chalkboard project that was introduced at the high school by Cayden Whiteherse. Carson stated that the project was a great success. The goal of the project is to turn negativity towards students into a positive. If students are told something negative about themselves, they post it on a chalkboard. Fellow classmates had an opportunity to counter the negative comments with positive remarks.

Carson Bornefeld shared a few of the high school's upcoming events that included Prom on April 26th and the annual Beyond the Books academic pep assembly will occur on May 3rd. Additionally, members of the senior class can leave a personal mark by painting their own brick. Carson stated that students have been informed that the bricks must be appropriate and a template will need to be approved before the painting takes place. The goal is to brighten up the OHS hallways, show the school's culture, show off talented artists, and to allow students to leave their mark after they graduate.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle reported that students displayed their International Baccalaureate personal projects that day. She praised the students on their ingenuity and creativity. Examples of the projects included dog obedience, how to make baklava, creating a computer, and playing the violin. Lance Little and Sarah Collins were recognized for organizing the presentations.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that bond construction work is in full force at the secondary campus. The elementary bond projects are on schedule with a targeted completion date of August 2019. Representatives from Clark Construction and Kingscott are working with the District to get the secondary campus budget back on track. She stated that the architects expanded the secondary campus budget beyond what was requested by the District and they are working together to get the project on budget. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that everything that was previously promised to the voters will happen. She stated that it will be an amazing facility when it is completed.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that the eighth graders will be traveling to Washington, D.C. for their annual trip. The students will depart on April 24th and return on April 26th.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle announced that Michael Tolrud was recently honored as the VFW Teacher of the Year. She remarked that this is another example of the great staff at Owosso Public Schools.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that the annual Blue and Gold Banquet that honors the highest honors graduates was held on April 17th. She remarked that this is one of her favorite events and she enjoys listening to the student tributes to someone that has made a positive impact on their lives.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that the Shiawassee Community Foundation Scholarship event took place on April 18th. Owosso High School seniors were the recipients of several scholarships that were awarded during the event.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle announced that 13 Owosso High School seniors with a 4.0 or higher grade point average will be recognized at the Top 10 RESD/CCRESA luncheon on April 23rd.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that Chef Hannah Poyner organized a student culinary arts competition that was held earlier that day.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that Central Elementary Teacher Megan Friend was recently certified as a National Geographic Educator.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained that the annual Bryant Elementary Career Day was a great success. Individuals with a variety of occupations were invited to share information about their professions with students during the event.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that the elementary buildings hosted their 4th and 5th grade recorder concerts the previous week.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle and the Board of Education applauded Liaison Officer Mike Ash for being selected as the 2019 Curwood Festival's Grand Marshal. Officer Ash was announced as this year's Grand Marshal during a student assembly at Bryant Elementary on April 12th.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that on Valentine's Day, Emerson Elementary hosted a stuffed animal fundraising event for the Department of Health and Human Services.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle announced that Owosso Middle School students recently participated in a College Career and Exploration Day and toured the Career Center at Baker College. The event provided students with an exposure to a variety of careers.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that eighth grade students were given a guided tour of the high school by members of the senior class earlier that day.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that the SAT was given to students during the previous week. Makeup tests will be completed by April 25th. He stated that conducting the annual assessments requires a huge undertaking by several staff members.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks informed the Board that 275 students are enrolled in session four of the Blue and Gold Afterschool Program. The programs include a variety of programs such as physical fitness at Fortitude and baton classes.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks explained that the District is in the midst of planning academic enrichment, i.e. summer school, for students to participate in over the summer months.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks stated that teachers will also continue to further their education over the summer. Two Owosso High School teachers are enrolled in Project Lead the Way classes that will involve Human Body Systems and Bio-medical training. Teachers will also have the opportunity to participate in additional professional development to further their education over the summer months.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks informed the Board that the District recently received a report from the IB reauthorization visit. The report had minimal findings but indicated that over the next five years, the District needs to address professional development and vocabulary. Mr. Brooks stated that the report is available for review by the Board.

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 public.

For Action

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick to approve the April 8, 2019 regular meeting minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnick, supported by Krauss to approve the student handbook revisions for Bentley Bright Beginnings, elementary, middle and high schools as presented. It was noted that the Bentley Bright Beginnings and elementary handbooks still need to change all DHS references to DHHS. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick to authorize the Superintendent to sign contracts associated with the masonry and structural steel for the renovation of the secondary campus to be funded out of bond and sinking fund proceeds with Schiffer Mason Contractors out of Holt, Michigan for the masonry (bid package 04A) in an amount not to exceed \$5,503,300 and Delta Steel, Inc. out of Saginaw, Michigan for structural steel in an amount not to exceed \$2,558,700. It should be noted that all bidding categories that were put out to bid and received on February 15th and March 20, 2019 were over budget due to: 1) significantly higher inflation than could be expected 21 months ago when the budget was developed by the architects and submitted to the State for approval; and 2) inclusion by the architects of higher end finishes and scope changes in the bid packages. Due to the fact that the facility will need to serve our community and children for decades to come, the administration feels that it is necessary to recommend using sinking fund dollars in the amount not to exceed \$2.5 million to ensure that square footage cuts are not made to the building with all residual funds for these two contracts and future contracts to come from the bond proceeds. The District will carefully work through the value engineering with the guidance of the construction manager and architects to provide

a quality end product in order to bring the contracts back in line with the budget. This will ensure that the community and students are not short changed by a facility that does not meet their needs as was done in the past. This recommendation is not brought lightly for consideration but is considered to provide the best service to the community for moving forward with the project without sacrificing needed educational space in the new facility and still allows enough sinking fund dollars available to take care of the facilities. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Quick, supported by Keyes to authorize the Superintendent to sign contracts with Sonitrol for the Door Access Control System in an amount not to exceed \$102,512.11 and with Rivers Security Specialists, Inc. for the security glass in an amount not to exceed \$62,270.00 for a total award of \$164,782.11 fully utilizing the security grant of \$164,794.00. All installation and disbursement of funds will take place by September 2019 in accordance with the grant parameters. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Quick to approve the Shiawassee County School District and Shiawassee SRESM Mutual Aid Agreement. It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education authorize David Schulte, SRESM Superintendent, to sign the Shiawassee County School Districts and SRESM Mutual Aid Agreement which is part of our countywide continuity of operations plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick to approve the hiring of certified staff member Carrie Miculka as a K-5 elementary teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to sign the proposed contract for the fiscal year of 2019-20 with ESS Midwest (formerly PCMI/Willsub) to provide contracted services for the Athletic Department, for non-employee coaches, Bentley Bright Beginnings non-certified/non-Administrative staff and for special circumstances in which specialized non-union staff are needed.
- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to sign a contract with Vector Tech Group from Holland, Michigan for technology infrastructure for the elementary additions included in the bond work in an amount not to exceed \$22,656.00.
- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize awarding of the contract for the copiers to be placed throughout the District for the next five years.
- The Board of Education will be asked to approve the resolution authorizing the District to pursue submitting a letter of interest to remove the property located at Bentley from the Michigan Land Bank.
- The Board of Education will be asked to support/disapprove the Shiawassee Regional Education School District 2019-20 budget as presented and authorize the Superintendent to forward the resolution to the SRESM Board on or before June 1, 2019.
- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Owosso High School to dispose of two concert band timpani drums (kettle drums).
- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize District personnel to proceed with furniture purchases for the elementary additions from bond proceeds in an amount not to exceed \$94,050.00 including \$8,550.00 in contingency.

For Information

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported Danielle Adamski has accepted the 1.75-hour Monitor position at Emerson Elementary. Ryley Turk has accepted the 7-hour Special Education Para-professional position at Owosso Middle School. Penny Wheeler-McNinch has accepted the 3-hour Food Service Worker position at Owosso Middle School. Guadalupe Bryant, Owosso Middle School English teacher has submitted her letter of resignation effective at the conclusion of the school year.

Public Participation

There were no comments from the public.

Board Member Comments/Updates

Trustee Ty Krauss congratulated Liaison Officer Mike Ash for being selected as the 2019 Curwood Grand Marshal. Mr. Krauss also thanked everyone that is involved in the on-going bond project. He stated that a lot of effort and time is being contributed to the project through value engineering by Board members and administrators.

Trustee Sara Keyes thanked Liaison Office Mike Ash for bringing so much positivity to the District and teaching students that they can trust police officers. She stated that it is her belief that he truly deserves the honor of being this year's Curwood Grand Marshal. Mrs. Keyes commented that she recently attended a fifth grade recorder concert and is amazed at the student musicians improvements by middle school, which is a huge compliment to the Districts' band instructors.

Vice President Rick Mowen remarked that in today's society, public safety personnel and police officers do not get the recognition that they deserve. He stated that Officer Ash has made a big impact in the District and community and is getting the recognition that he deserves. Mr. Mowen congratulated the students and young athletes that are working so hard. Mr. Mowen remarked that he attended the fifth grade recorder concert at Central Elementary and it was amazing to witness the young musicians and future Trojan Marching Band's talent.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki commented that her granddaughter is in the young-fives program and knew very early on into the school year who Officer Ash was. Mrs. Ochodnicki stated that she attended the Blue and Gold Banquet as a parent. She praised Mrs. Linda Dignan for an amazing job organizing the event. Mrs. Ochodnicki remarked that she is looking forward to honors convocation and graduation as her fifth child will be a part of the celebrations. She also has a four-year old granddaughter that will be attending Bentley Bright Beginnings next year.

Trustee Olga Quick congratulated Officer Mike Ash. She remarked that she has known him for years. Mrs. Quick stated that she works with high risk youths and sincerely expressed her appreciation to the staff of OPS for making a difference in the lives of so many children.

Treasurer Marlene Webster commented that she thinks Officer Mike Ash is awesome and we all appreciate him. Mrs. Webster stated that Owosso Public Schools continues to support the people that Shiawassee Hope serves and many of these people are OPS students. She thanked District personnel who contributed to a recent Casual for a Cause that benefited Shiawassee Hope by raising \$353. She remarked that the money will be used to help families that may be on the verge of being evicted from their homes. Mrs. Webster reported that a spring workday is scheduled for April 27th at the Pleasant Valley trailer park. She thanked the Kindness Sisters KhiaLa Keyes and Madilyn Hagan for their efforts to raise approximately \$1,300 that will be used for playground equipment at Pleasant Valley. Community groups have also been asked to help build 6-8 picnic tables for the trailer park that will provide a great gathering space. Mrs. Webster stated the District hosted the annual Pleasant Valley fundraiser on April 15th in the OHS cafeteria and raised about \$600 that will be used to help purchase sports equipment for any type of activity that the children of Pleasant Valley have an interest in. Mrs. Webster thanked the staff of OPS for their continued support and assistance for those in need.

Student Representative Carson Bornefeld remarked that he has never met Liaison Officer Mike Ash but he has seen him at football games and school sponsored events. He stated that he thinks it's wonderful that OPS students are growing up and not fearing police officers. Through the Liaison Officers, the students of OPS have developed a trust in police officers and perceive them as a friend and role model. Carson stated that he is enrolled in the Theory Thought of Knowledge class at OHS which allows students to share their thoughts on modern day issues. Recently, an entire class period was spent discussing police officers and that they should be more involved in their communities.

President Tim Jenc remarked that he has had several discussions with people from within and out of the community who are talking about the infrastructure improvements that are underway in the District. He stated that people are noticing the progress that is being made at Owosso Public Schools. Mr. Jenc's also congratulated Liaison Officer Mike Ash.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates.

May 13: Board Meeting, 5:30 pm (meeting held on second Monday of the month due to Memorial Day)

Important Upcoming Dates:

April 23: Foreign Exchange Student Luncheon, OHS Room 212 at 11 am

April 23: OMS Band Concert, 7 pm

April 24-26: OMS Washington DC Trip

April 26: Prom at Golden Glow Ballroom/St. Charles, 8 pm

April 30: CTE Student Achievement Ceremony, D'Mar Banquet Center, 11:30 am

April 30: 5th Grade Parent Meeting at OMS, 6 pm

May 2-4: OHS Dinner Theater, 6 pm

May 2: OMS Seussical the Musical, 7 pm

May 3: OEA Retirement Banquet, Wrought Iron Grill, 6 pm

May 7: OHS Band Concert, 7 pm

May 10: 5th Grade Fun Night at OMS, 4-5:30 pm

May 11: 8th Grade Award Ceremony at OMS, 6-7 pm

May 11: OMS Spring Fling at OHS, 7-9 pm

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicky to move into closed session at 6:25 pm for the purpose of a negotiations discussion and a personnel matter. Secretary Ochodnicky conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Webster, Quick, Ochodnicky, Mowen, Jenc, Keyes, and Krauss. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Ochodnicky, supported by Keyes to return to open session at 7:12 pm.

Moved by Webster, supported by Mowen to waive Board Policy 4121.01 and permit the determination for assignment of the said named person based on a recommendation from Coach Devin Pringle. The Superintendent and Board took into consideration the nature of the offense that did not relate or is related to 1) children, sex, drugs, or violence, etc. 2) how long ago the incident occurred. 3) there were no repeated incidents. 4) the nature of the assignment in the District. 5) whether any treatment or other rehabilitation has occurred and 6) the nature of the employee's work record since offense (likelihood of repeated behavior). Nays: Krauss. Motion carried.

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicky to adjourn at 7:21 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary