

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Regular Meeting
April 26, 2023
Report 22-150

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

President Mowen called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Washington Campus Gymnasium, 645 Alger Street, Owosso MI 48867.

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

Lincoln Alternative High School Principal Mrs. Carrie Rugenstein introduced Lincoln's top graduates; Ash Bennet, Cassidy Morence, Phoenix Burch, Danielle Hall, and Christian Gage will all be graduating at the top of their class. Mrs. Rugenstein informed the Board that at LAHS, top graduates are recognized not only for showing academic growth, but also personal growth, and these five students have shown great determination and perseverance to be where they are today. Owosso High School Assistant Principal Mrs. Karen Van Epps introduced the OHS Top Graduates; Claire Agnew, Alexander Binger, Paige Box, Amanda Brainerd, Tanner Cummings, Kenzee DeFrenn, Abigail Dryer, Zachary Evon, Tyler Hufnagel, Kendall Ihm, Emma Johnson, Simranjit Kaur, Julianna Loomis, Jamie Maier, Adam Marcotte, Liam McGraw, Mallory Mosher, Emily Pumford, Tony Reyes III, Marisa Rose, Olivia Savage, Alayna Scriptor, Sydney Somers, Natalie Thayer, John Tuttle, Lily Usher, Hope Vetter, Sophie Voss, Elijah Whiteside, and Hannah Wisenbaugh will all graduate with a 4.0 grade average or higher. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle and the Board applauded all the top graduates for their dedication to their studies and extracurriculars, and wished them well in their future plans. The graduates were given small gifts from Administration on their way out.

Athletic Director Steve Irelan congratulated the top seniors and then invited bowling Coach Penny Stillwagon and student bowlers Zoie Brandt and Lily Kelley up to the microphone to share their accomplishments. Coach Penny informed the Board she has known Zoie and Lily since they were toddlers, and she is incredibly proud of how well they have grown up and the dedication they have shown to their sport and their teams. Zoie and Lilley both qualified for states at their recent Michigan Highschool Athletic Association bowling competition, an incredible accomplishment. Coach Stillwagon said she expects even greater success for the two girls as they continue their bowling career.

Student Representative Alayna Scriptor reported that OHS recently held the Blue and Gold Banquet where students with a 3.5 GPA or higher are recognized and awarded a personalized plaque for the accomplishments. Ms. Scriptor shared that she gave her Starfish award to Mrs. Carrie Rugenstein, her tennis coach. She reported that prom night was beautiful and it was a fun

way to end the year. This Saturday the OHS jazz band accepted an invitation to play at Comerica Park. Ms. Scripser ended her report by saying that it is a very busy time of year but her classmates are all very excited for graduation and their next steps.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that The Argus Press recently announced their annual 'Best of the Best' awards, and Owosso Public Schools received four awards. Dr. Tuttle explained that the community nominates their choices and then the public votes on each nomination. OPS received 'Best of the Best' Middle School, High School, Coach (Marcy Binger, varsity swimming), and Bus Driver (Pam Will). Dr. Tuttle moved on to thank President Mowen, Trustee Henne, and Treasurer Quick for attending the Blue and Gold Banquet on Wednesday May 19. Dr. Tuttle explained this is one of her favorite events each year not only because the students are recognized for their academic accomplishments, but the students also have the opportunity to honor their favorite teachers with a 'Starfish Award' and everyone gets to hear the impact these wonderful teachers have had on each student. Dr. Tuttle shared that prom took place on April 22 at Edgewood Gardens. She gave special kudos to OHS Counselor Derek Woltjer, for ensuring the ticket-selling process went smoothly and that every student who wanted a ticket received a ticket. Teachers nominate students for Prom court and then students vote on the nominations, and this year the Prom King was Isaac Williams and Prom Queen was Jenaya Hill. There was also a student band that played between DJ sets and the kids had a wonderful time. Dr. Tuttle also noted that Derek Woltjer was chosen by the student body to speak at the OHS Commencement ceremony on May 18. Dr. Tuttle continued with the OHS Jazz Band accepted an invitation to perform at Comerica Park for the Tigers vs Baltimore Orioles game on Saturday, April 29. The performance will take place inside the stadium concourse. The students are very excited to showcase their skills and represent the Owosso Trojan community. In other musical news, OHS graduate Chuck Robertson is working hard to facilitate a performance by the United States Marine Corp. Band at the Performing Arts Center. This would be an outstanding event for OPS to host and would take place in October. The Board will hear updates about this later in the year. Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that we are in the middle of concert season and we have already had several wonderful performances from our concert bands and choirs. Dr. Tuttle gave special recognition to student athletes Claire Agnew and Peyton Spicer. Claire broke her own record for pole-vaulting by jumping 11ft, 6in, and Peyton set a new record for the high-jump at 5ft, 4in. Lincoln Alternative High School has been nominated for several awards by the Michigan Alternative Education Organization, including best alternative education program, best administrator (Mrs. Carrie Rugenstein), best teacher (Mr. Thoms Ogle) and best support staff member (Mrs. Gizelle Ross). Principal Carrie Rugenstein will be attending the conference to represent LAHS and accept any awards. Dr. Tuttle gave kudos to four students for receiving and participating in the Sunoco Protective Solutions internship Ian Read, David Long, Jack Sheldon, and Gannon Gregory. Dr. Tuttle shared that the Owosso Police Department recently requested congressional funding for a new Public Safety Building. OPS wrote a letter in support of this effort and Dr. Tuttle shared Chief Kevin Lenkart's subsequent thank you: "I just want to say thank you to Owosso Schools for their unwavering support for our request for congressional funding for our new Public Safety Building. OPS letter of support played a critical role in

securing the \$14.5 million in combined funding the City of Owosso has been granted. Your support has made significant impact on our Public Safety Department, and we are incredibly grateful for your generosity and commitment to our community. Once again, please accept my heartfelt thanks for your invaluable contribution.” Dr. Tuttle again expressed her support for the police department and said she is thrilled they received the much-needed funding. Dr. Tuttle moved on to inform the Board that OHS recently held the CTE Banquet in which teachers select a student that best represents their trade; Dr. Tuttle congratulated students Billy Davis (construction-trade), Zachary Evon (woodworking), Persephone Chapko (culinary), Joseph Kaye (engineering) and Sam Nethaway (Agri-Science) for their hard work. Dr. Tuttle moved on to say that each year the Flint Metro League presents two students from each school with the Academic All-League Award. The award criteria is based on a formula that calculates student GPA coupled with their SAT score. This year, Amanda Brainerd and John Tuttle received the All-League Award, Dr. Tuttle congratulated both students. Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that Michigan State Police Trooper Amy Belanger is currently giving a presentation to 5th grade parents to discuss cyberbullying and internet safety. The topics include inappropriate social media use, harmful effects of social media on students, and consequences of sharing inappropriate messages. The students will also have an opportunity to hear this presentation in May. April is distracted driving month, and Dr. Tuttle shared with the Board that on April 13, approximately 200 students assembled in the OHS gym for a one-hour presentation from Johnathon Hall entitled ‘Tom’s Story’. In 2016, Johnathon’s father was killed by a distracted driver and since then, Johnathon has been telling his dad’s story. The presentation had a clear and immediate impact on OPS students, and it is an important lesson for the kids to hear as they begin driving more frequently. Dr. Tuttle moved on to say that she, Board President Rick Mowen, and Human Resources Director Carrie Yoho, attended the Michigan School Business Official’s ‘Out-Going President’s Conference’ in Grand Rapids. CFO Julie Omer is the MSBO out-going president this year and chose to give awards to Dr. Tuttle, Mr. Mowen, and Mrs. Yoho to recognize their dedication to the school. Dr. Tuttle said she is very grateful to have CFO Omer as part of the team. Dr. Tuttle then recognized students Wyatt Boggs, Chloe Davis, and Ashton White for their roles as State Officers at the recent SkillsUSA conference, and applauded them for their leadership. Dr. Tuttle ended her report by informing the Board that the end of the school year is fast approaching and there is much to get ready for. Students and staff are preparing for OHS graduation, LAHS graduation, Honors Convocation, Senior Athletic Awards, and more. This year, each senior will receive a personalized yard sign, their names will be displayed on the electronic sign in front of the PAC, and this year’s edition of Today’s Trojans will include all senior pictures.

Curriculum Director Mr. Stephen Brooks reported that assessment season is wrapping up and students have finished the last round of make-up testing. Mr. Brooks expects a robust summer school program, and he expects that there will be an equivalent number of students participating as last year, if not more. Staff is also looking at enrichment activities and learning opportunities outside of credit recovery for secondary students. Professional Development workshops are being planned for next year; the Instructional Leadership Council has been surveyed to find out particular needs and the professional development schedule will be based on meeting those needs. Currently, we have four student teachers placed with OPS which is a significant increase

compared to previous years. The district has two job fairs coming up, one on May 11 in partnership with Michigan Works and one on June 6. The district has seen great turn out at these fairs and is expecting another great year. Mr. Brooks ended his report by reading a letter written by CTE student Joseph Kaye: "I would like to inform you that with the help of a recent job fair I was able to secure an internship with the City of Owosso this summer. I'll be working at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, as a general maintenance/grounds-keeping/janitorial employee. Among these basic duties the plant manager offered to have me work with an engineer because I have future aspirations to work as a mechanical engineer. The internship has me working on sight with engineers, mechanics, assisting with repairs, and attending construction meetings. I will also learn to conduct chemical tests and work with lab technicians. I was also told that I was selected for this internship because of the resume that I have with the engineering department and my science classes at OHS. I would like to express my gratitude to OPS for the opportunities I have been given and the CTE courses that have been provided to me."

Public Participation

President Mowen 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 Webster, supported by Krauss, to approve the March 22, 2023 regular meeting minutes, the March 22, 2023 closed session minutes, the current bills and financials as presented. Secretary Krauss conducted a roll-call vote, ayes: Easlick, Henne, Krauss, Mowen, Quick, Webster. Nays: none, Absent: Ochodnicki. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick to authorize the Superintendent to sign the proposed contract with ESS Midwest (formerly PCMI/Willsub) for the contract for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Webster, to approve the out-of-state travel for the Owosso High School teachers Josh Dewley and Michele Schmitz to the International Baccalaureate Conference from May 6-May 11, 2023 (Design Training), Jessica Draper (Performing Arts) and Dallas Lintner (Head of School) will be traveling to Keystone, Colorado June 25-June 29, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick to adopt the Resolution Calling for a special election to be held on August 8, 2023 (August primary election date in Michigan) and authorize the Secretary to sign the related resolution on behalf of the board. This election will be held solely for voters to consider the approval of 3.00 mills for a sinking fund. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Webster, supported by Krauss, to adopt the resolution and authorize the Board Secretary to sign the Attorney-Client Fee Contract on behalf of the school designating the Superintendent as the representative for the district to take other necessary action to obtain monetary damages incurred by Owosso Public Schools related to the social media epidemic created by the defendants. Secretary Krauss conducted a roll-call vote, ayes: Easlick, Henne, Krauss, Mowen, Quick, Webster. Nays: none, Absent: Ochodnicki. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Krauss, supported by Henne to approve the hiring of the following professional staff: Laurie Winke, Director of Early Childhood – Bentley Bright Beginnings and Mike Hendrickson, Director of Operations. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Henne, supported by Webster to move the ‘Awarding of Sinking Fund Contracts’ from ‘For Future Action’ to ‘For Action’, with an amendment to replace the bleachers at Washington Campus Gymnasium for the approximate cost of \$35,000. Motion carried unanimously. Moved by Easlick, supported by Webster, to authorize the Superintendent to contract with: 1) Perrin Construction in an amount(s) not to exceed \$1,307,702 inclusive of \$200,000 of a general allowance for specific gymnasium renovation work at Bryant, Central, Emerson, Washington/Lincoln and the High school as well as door work and minor window work throughout the district; and 2) Perrin Construction in the amount not to exceed \$379,388 inclusive of \$15,000 in discretionary allowance for Site work at the secondary campus for improvement of drainage and for fence installation and renovation at Willman and Jerome Street to enhance security. Both contracts will be funded through sinking funds. Secretary Krauss conducted a roll-call vote, ayes: Easlick, Henne, Krauss, Mowen, Quick, Webster. Nays: none, Absent: Ochodnicki Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Memorial Healthcare to extend the current school nurse contract through June 30, 2024.
- The Board will be asked to approve the purchase of new AP World History textbooks and electronic software including online versions of the textbook and teaching presentations.

For Information

Dr. Tuttle announced the following personnel changes:

Accepted Positions

- Mike Hendrickson has accepted the Director of Operations position.
- Laurie Winke has accepted the Director of Early Childhood position.
- Sean Dewley has accepted the Sub Custodian position.

- Rachel Walker has accepted the One-on-One Special Education Paraprofessional position at Central Elementary.

Resignations

- Charles Albring has resigned the Sub Custodian position.
- John Klapko, Director of Operations will retire effective June 30, 2023.
- Gabrielle Smith has resigned the Food Service worker position effective April 6, 2023.
- Luke Mallery has resigned the Custodian position effective April 21, 2023.

Public Participation

No public participants addressed the Board.

Board Comments

Trustee Easlick congratulated all the graduates, he said it is a great thing to see so many of our kids doing well in our schools. He attended the recent OMS band concert and said the kids are all very talented. Trustee Easlick also attended the culinary competition this afternoon and applauded the culinary students on their skills.

Treasurer Quick applauded all students on their graduation. She said the kids who do not have a 3.5 gpa or 4.0 gpa make just as much of a difference in their school community and she is proud of every single student. She loves hearing the Star Fish awards and she has heard personal stories about the impact those awards have on teachers. She ended her comments saying she is so proud of each and every one of the kids and is looking forward to commencement.

Trustee Henne said he really enjoyed the Blue and Gold Banquet, and said he was impressed with the public speaking skills of each of the students. He said it is exciting to see so many kids choose a trade-skill, and that will only enrich our community further.

Secretary Krauss congratulated both Lincoln and OHS students on their graduation. He said the Best of the Best awards from the Argus are such a fantastic show of support for our schools. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting tonight.

Vice President Webster said she is looking forward to the end of the year events, and she congratulated all graduating seniors on their accomplishments.

President Mowen thanked Mr. John Klapko for his ten years of service and wished him luck in retirement. He welcomed Mr. Hendrickson into his new position. He thanked CFO Omer for the honor of being recognized at the MSBO conference this afternoon and said the district is fortunate to have CFO Omer as part of the team. President Mowen ended his comments by applauding all the seniors and wished them luck at commencement and beyond.

Upcoming Dates

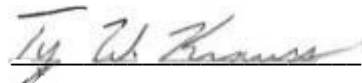
- May 1,2: Emerson 5th Grade Hartley Trip
- May 5,6,7: OHS Cabaret, 7:00PM, Performing Arts Center (2:00pm on May 7)
- May 7: OHS Art Show, 11:00am, Performing Arts Center
- May 9: Bryant Recorder Concert, 4:00pm, Performing Arts Center
- May 10: Emerson Record Concert, 7:00pm, Performing Arts Center
- May 12: 5th Grade Field Day, 9:00am, OHS Athletic Fields
- May 14: OHS Athletic Awards, 6:00PM, Performing Arts Center
- May 16: OHS Honors Convocation, 7:00pm, Performing Arts Center
- May 18: OHS Graduation, 7:00pm, Willman Field
- May 20: 8th Grade Awards, 6:00pm, Performing Arts Center
- May 20: OMS Spring Fling, 7:00pm, OHS Gym
- May 23: OMS Choir Concert, 7:00pm, Performing Arts Center
- May 25: Lincoln High School Graduation, 6:00pm, Performing Arts Center
- May 29: No School, Memorial Day
- June 1: Half day for all students, Last day of school

Adjournment

Moved by Webster, supported by Henne, to adjourn at 7:06 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,


Ty Krauss, Secretary