

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**September 28, 2022**  
**Report 22-38**

Present: Adam Easlick, Sarah Keyes, Ty Krauss, Rick Mowen, Shelly Ochodnicky, Olga Quick,  
Marlene Webster

Absent:

President Rick 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**

Owosso Middle School Principal Rich Collins and teacher Mrs. Michele Schmitz explained to the Board one of the initiatives being taken to help build relationships among students is the newly introduced “Empowerment Class”. Mrs. Schmitz said the class focuses on making friendships and collaboration between students, to teach kids to rely on and respect one another. The class gives the students an opportunity to tell their stories and be heard. Mrs. Schmitz has already seen improvements in the attitudes of the kids and is looking forward to seeing their friendships grow. Mr. Collins also reported that the school’s therapy dog, Maverick, and has been a big hit amongst students and staff.

Mr. Collins then recognized retiree Charlene Thornton for her 25 years of service to the district. He said Charlene is kind, hardworking and simply one of those people at that can do any job. Charlene will be spending time with her grandchildren and hopes to travel during her retirement.

Operations Director Mr. John Klapko recognized retiree Sherry Minarik for her 18 years of service to the district. He wished her well in her retirement and thanked her for her hard work and dedication to the district.

Abigail Dryer, senior from Owosso High School, gave the student representative report in Alayna Scripter’s absence. Abigail reported that Homecoming is Friday October 7. That will include the homecoming parade downtown and the football game against Clio; the homecoming king and queen will be announced during half time. Homecoming dance will be on October 8, the theme is fairytale. The OHS Powderpuff game will be October 27 at 7:00pm. This week, the student government accepted a \$1,000.00 donation from TeamOne Credit Union for the backpack program. On October 4, the 2023 graduating class will have a fundraiser at Culvers from 5:00pm-8:00pm, a portion of the proceeds will go towards prom at the end of the year. Preparation and practices have started the production of Wizard of Oz, that will debut in November. The Board thanked Abigail for her report.

## **Board Correspondence**

Dr. Tuttle thanked the Argus Press for their articles on several OPS staff, including Chef Hannah Poyner and Coach Curran Jacobs. She continued with some good news in the district. Kindergartners at Central Elementary began their buddy system with the third graders, giving them a friend and a mentor to look up to. Bryant Elementary welcomed first responders last week, including EMTs, firemen, policemen and the students learned about who the helpers in their community are. Emerson Elementary started their annual fundraiser, they are hosting a fun-run/walk. They also celebrated Constitution Day; each teacher celebrated differently but all students learned about the Constitution. Bentley Bright Beginnings began an initiative where students that are kind to other students receive golden tickets, and the tickets can be exchanged for a small prize. This has been a hit among the young children. The older students at the elementary schools and the secondary campus are being encouraged to write kind notes to each other and are provided OPS postcards. In academics, the eighth graders are taking the Shiawassee Scholars SAT, the top fifty scorers in the state will receive scholarships from the Cook Family Foundation. The business enterprises class has gotten off to a great start and has been inviting community business leaders to share their stories with students. In athletics, the OHS Equestrian team took home a district Championship; they scored an incredible 810 points, and they are moving on to Regional action. The riders consist of freshman Tayloe Spielman, freshman Evelyn Harrand, sophomore Hannah Hart, freshman Gracie Meyer, and freshman Barrett Yoho. The team is coached by Sydney Cairns, Sami Jo Sovis, and Karley VanWormer. The OHS volleyball team is first in the conference, Dr. Tuttle commended Coach Fitzpatrick for his dedication to the team. The Trojan Marching Band visited our elementary schools and played for the students. The Owosso Foundation Board took doughnuts to all the buildings last Friday to show appreciation to all OPS staff. Lastly, the district is working on hiring a second nurse to work at the elementary school. Nurse O'Neill has been a tremendous asset to the district and a second nurse will be a help to her and our students.

Curriculum Director Mr. Steve Brooks reported that fall assessments are being finished up, including the NWEA. The teachers will use these scores for benchmarks. Summer school was very successful, particularly in elementary students and their reading skills. Shiawassee Scholars will be hosted on December 3 as well as the SAT for high school students. Grants are being secured for 2023. Academic Achievement night was last week, and students with a 3.5 GPA or higher were recognized for their hard work. Lastly, Mr. Brooks reported the district has 44 students attending the Learning Zone which is a partnership with the YMCA. The program has been very successful so far.

## **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.

Public participants who addressed the board:

- Tom Manke

### **For Action**

- Moved by Keyes, Supported by Krauss, to approve the August 24 Regular Meeting Minutes, the September 14 Committee Meeting Minutes, the September 14 Closed Session Meeting Minutes, and the current bills and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Keyes, to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso Middle School 8th grade students and staff on a Washington D.C. trip, to the Capital of the United States on April 26-28 in the year 2023. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Keyes, to approve Navigate 360 to provide lessons and resources for mental health needs within the district. Secretary Webster Conducted a roll-call vote. Easlick, Keyes, Krauss, Quick, Webster, Mowen voted aye. Vice President Ochodnicki voted nay. Motion carried in 6-1 roll call vote.

### **For Future Action**

- The Board will be asked to approve the audit report for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

### **For Information**

Dr. Tuttle announced the following personnel changes:

### **Accepted Positions**

- Fred Van New Kirk has accepted a Custodian II position.
- Barbara Dion has accepted a Custodian II position.
- Christina Davis has accepted a Custodian II position.
- Luke Mallery has accepted a Custodian II position.
- Michael McClung has accepted the Performing Arts Center Coordinator position.
- Tyler Porter has accepted the Behavior Interventionist Specialist position at Owosso High School.

### **Resignations**

- Kathy Wheeler, Custodian at Owosso High School has resigned.

- Justin Bailey, Custodian at Owosso High has resigned.
- Maria Luisa Petroff, GSRP Associate Teacher has resigned.
- Amy Jo Brown, Performing Arts Center Coordinator submitted her letter of resignation.
- Drew Williams, Custodian at Owosso High School has resigned.

### **Retirements**

- Sherry Minarik, Custodian II at Emerson Elementary has submitted her notice of retirement after 18 years of service.
- Charlene Thornton, Paraprofessional at Owosso Middle School has submitted her letter of retirement effective September 30, 2022, after 26 years of service.
- Bev White, Human Resources Director has submitted her letter of retirement effective December 30, 2022, after 19 years of service.
- Beth Austin, Media Center Paraprofessional at Owosso Middle School has submitted her letter of retirement effective October 31, 2022, after 21 years of service.

### **Public Participation**

- Tom Manke
- Megan Locker

### **Board Comments**

Vice President Ochodnicky congratulated the OPS retirees and wished them well in their future endeavors. She also said the golden ticket initiative at Bentley Bright Beginnings has been popular among her grandchildren.

Treasurer Keyes said she is very excited about the Trojan Empowerment class; she thinks kids will flourish in that program. She is confident Navigate 360 will be a great resource for the students as well. She explained she would have appreciated resources such as these when she was a child, and she concluded her thoughts by saying we don't know all that our students are experiencing or going through outside the classroom.

Secretary Webster said she was invited by one of her parishioners to Doughnuts with Grownups at Central Elementary. She said it was an amazing event and she loved seeing all the kids having fun. She thanked OPS staff for making those joyful events happen. She concluded that this is the first year in her tenure on the Board of Education that the district has gained 62 students from the previous year, and that is a positive fact to be celebrated. She gave kudos to OPS staff for all the great things happening in the District.

Trustee Krauss thanked Mr. Brooks for bringing Navigate 360 to the district and looks forward to seeing the students flourish. He congratulated all district staff for the successful events.

### **Upcoming Dates**

- October 7: Homecoming Parade, 5:30PM, Downtown Owosso
- October 7: Homecoming Varsity Football, 7:00PM, Willman Field
- October 8: Homecoming Dance, 7:30PM-10:00PM, OHS Gym
- October 12: Board of Education Retreat, 5:30pm, Washington Campus Gymnasium
- October 12: OHS Choir Concert, 7:00PM, Performing Arts Center
- October 19: OHS Hauntcert, 7:00PM, Performing Arts Center
- October 25: OHS Powderpuff Game, 7:00PM, Willman Field
- October 26: Board of Education Regular Meeting: 5:30 pm, Washington Campus Gymnasium

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Quick, supported by Keyes to adjourn at 6:49 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marlene Webster", is written over a horizontal line.

Marlene Webster, Secretary