

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2018
Report 17-107

President Jenc called the Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 5:01 pm. The meeting was held at the Washington Campus, 645 Alger Street, Owosso, MI 48867.

Present: Tim Jenc, Rick Mowen, Cheryl Paez, Shelly Ochodnicki, Marlene Webster, Sara Keyes, Andrea Tuttle, Julie Omer, Steve Brooks, Clara Pitt
Absent: Ty Krauss

Pledge of Allegiance

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.

Business (Bond Financing Timeline)

Chief Financial Officer Julie Omer explained that a Draft Financing Timetable that was included with the Board's packet is well outlined. The District has considered a negotiated sale of the bonds in the upcoming sale of the bonds in May to be the best choice for handling the sale. The advantages of a negotiated sale outweigh the potential disadvantages. Due to the timing, the Board will be asked to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Delegating the Sale of the Bonds during the March 26, 2018 Board meeting. Mrs. Omer stated that the District is hoping for the lowest rate possible.

Bond Update

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board of the next three important dates that are related to the bond. The dates are as follows:

- OPS Bond-Elementary Steering Committee Meeting, March 13, 12-2 pm in Andrea's Office
- OPS Bond-MS/HS Steering Committee Meeting, March 22, 3-5 pm, OHS Media Center
- Board to adopt Bond Authorizing Resolution at March 26 Board Meeting

Superintendent Tuttle referenced her Friday Letter dated March 9, 2018. The Board of Education will be asked to approve a Resolution in support of the incorporation of Theatrical Arts into the high school curriculum during the March 26, 2018 Board meeting. Superintendent Tuttle stated that Mr. Brooks has worked with Mr. Phillips, Mr. Jeff Barter (English Department Chair at OHS), and other English teachers who all concur that the theatre curriculum is a great cross-walk with English standards and would be a welcomed asset. If we cross-walk theatre standards with ELA standards for English 10, every student could possibly have an opportunity to earn an English and a FA (Fine Arts) credit.

Sinking Fund Renewal Ballot Language

Superintendent Tuttle shared the proposed ballot language for the Sinking Fund Renewal that has been proposed at a special election to be held on August 7, 2018. She clarified that the renewal is for 2 mills, which is less than the currently approved 3 mills that will expire with the December 2018 tax collection.

Sinking Fund Planning Document

Superintendent Tuttle explained that after reviewing the Sinking Fund Planning document, the District has a grand total of \$47,875,050 that is needed for facility repairs and upgrades. The planning document is inclusive of needs for the current middle school and high school, which are currently not applicable with the passing of the bond. At this time, there are no Sinking Fund projects slated for the summer of 2018. The District will collect 1.5 million in December 2018, which is the last collection of the current Sinking Fund.

WODA

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that representatives from WODA have received documents related to the middle school and have expressed interest in the building. Questions have been raised regarding the cost of the building if it is sold to WODA.

Safety and Security

Superintendent Tuttle referenced a recent Argus Press article about Liaison Officers that was written by Tim Rath. She reminded the Board that Owosso Public Schools was the first school district in the county to contract police officers for our schools. The relationship with the Owosso Police Department and Liaison Officers has been very positive over the past five years.

Talks with Tuttle

Superintendent Tuttle reported that she held her first Talks with Tuttle on March 1st. A diverse group of Owosso High School students were randomly selected and met with her for breakfast and conversation. The students talked about relationships and openly shared their opinions about the District.

Superintendent Tuttle commented that she got a lot out of the discussions and totally enjoyed it. She plans to continue these conversations and will meet with students from all buildings on a regular basis.

March 14 Letter to Parents re: Organized Walkouts

Superintendent Tuttle shared a letter that was sent to all Owosso Public Schools families in regards to an organized walkout by students across the country. In addition to the walkouts, students have organized other events to protest gun violence in the wake of the February 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The walkout/protest has been discussed at length with students at the middle school, high school and Lincoln High School. Students will not be prohibited from walking out if they wish to. Staff members will be available to monitor students if they choose to participate in the walkout.

Professional Development Itinerary for March 14

Superintendent Tuttle shared the Professional Development Itinerary for March 14. This will be a half day of school for students and the PD will be held in the afternoon. Tom Mynsberge will present to staff on safety and security. Bridgit Spielman is compiling a list of questions from staff members that will be presented to Mr. Mynsberge prior to his presentation. Superintendent Tuttle's State of the District address will take place following Mr. Mynsberge's presentation. The Board was informed that they are welcome to attend the presentations.

County-Wide School Board Dinner Meeting

The Board was reminded that the School Board Dinner Meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 21 at D'Mar Banquet and Conference Center. Superintendent Tuttle stated that the program includes Emily Laidlaw, ESA Legislative Group who will provide a Legislative briefing. In addition to a special education Headlee Restoration presentation.

Student Discipline Hearing Structure

Superintendent Tuttle explained that a subcommittee of members Tim Jenc, Rick Mowen and Shelly Ochodnický recently represented the Board of Education in three separate discipline hearings. Each student was given 180 day suspensions from school for their actions. The Board was asked if they would

like to continue holding the hearings as a subcommittee or inclusive of all members. A discussion on the subject took place and the Board was in agreement that future discipline hearings of a serious nature will be conducted by the full Board. The discipline hearings will be scheduled prior to regular Board meetings or subcommittee meetings.

County-Wide 2018-2019 Proposed Draft Calendar

Superintendent Tuttle shared the proposed 2018-2019 county-wide calendar. The calendar included proposed dates for the first day of school, Christmas break, spring break, and the last day of school. Additional portions of the calendar will be finalized during negotiations with teachers. Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that a letter will be sent to OPS families informing them that some of the timeframes have changed, i.e. spring break.

OCR

Superintendent Tuttle shared an article about proposed changes to the Office of Civil Rights under the Trump administration. She informed the Board that OCR complaints have greatly increased over the past two years and require many hours of manpower to respond to the complaints.

Curriculum

Steve Brooks informed the Board that the District is moving forward to include forensic debate and theater into the high school English curriculum.

Steve Brooks reported that Superintendent Tuttle and himself recently participated in a Boardworks software presentation that would enhance the District's Science curriculum. Mr. Brooks explained that a lot of preparation goes into science experiments. The Boardworks software would allow kindergarten through advanced placement teachers to display experiments online. The software is fairly inexpensive and would be cheaper than buying materials needed for science experiments. The supplemental software would eliminate the barrier that teachers feel they have about science experiments. Mr. Brooks stated that an example of the software will be presented to the Instructional Leadership Council during a future meeting.

Steve Brooks announced that he recently met with Dave Owens, OHS Science Department Chairperson about creating a universal scientific method for kindergarten through 12th grade. This would include commonly used science vocabulary. They are also exploring the creation of science mentors and developing a partnership between all grade levels.

Steve Brooks provided the Board with some examples of science questions from the fifth grade and eighth grade M-STEP. The questions were shared with the Board to show the level of sophistication that is required for these assessments. The science M-STEP scores will be focused on for improvement. Mr. Brooks stated that after reviewing science scores for students in grades five, eight and 11, there are upward swings and the scores trend higher as students move up in their grade levels.

Technology

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that the District is getting closer to its goal of providing one to one technology for all students.

Dueling Pianos Fundraiser

Superintendent Tuttle reported that a Dueling Pianos fundraiser will be held on Saturday, April 14th beginning at 6 pm at D'Mar Banquet and Conference Center. Tickets are available for purchase.

Kindergarten Registration

Superintendent Tuttle announced that the District currently has over 200 students enrolled in kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year. Her goal is to have 250 students enrolled. Steve Brooks and Angela Graham have met to review a master list of students that should be enrolled and are cross-referencing the list with students that have registered.

Personnel Update

Superintendent Tuttle shared a personnel update with the Board.

Board Subcommittee Meeting's Structure

The Board discussed the format of future subcommittee meetings and if they wanted to continue holding them as a committee of the whole. It was noted that the February and March subcommittee meetings included the entire Board. The Board agreed that at this time, they would like to continue holding the meetings as a committee of the whole.

Vacation Schedules

Superintendent Tuttle provided the Board with upcoming vacation dates for Steve Brooks and herself.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary