

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Regular Meeting
June 28, 2023
Report 22-172

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

President Mowen called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. The meeting was held at the Performing Arts Center Foyer, 765 E North St, Owosso MI 48867.

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

Athletic Director Mr. Steve Irelan introduced student athlete Jamie Maier to the Board of Education to recognize her as an All-State Athlete. Mr. Irelan shared a letter from Coach JoEllen Smith in which she said the following: During her softball career at Owosso Public Schools Jamie Maier has earned All-Conference, All-District for the past three years. This year, Jamie earned regional as well as honorable mention all-state recognition for her work as a short-stop. Coach Smith continued that Jamie is a two-year captain and was voted two years in a row as the team's most valuable player. She is a season record player in hits and doubles, and holds career records in hits, runs, and triples. Jamie is also a three-year Metro-League scholar athlete. Mr. Irelan finished the letter by agreeing with the final sentiment – Jamie Maier has been an outstanding addition to the Owosso Public Schools and absolute joy to be around. Her bright personality, friendly demeanor, and dedication to her athletics has made her a team favorite among her peers, her coaches and teachers. Jamie took the microphone for a moment to express her gratitude to OPS for the support and opportunities she has had while an OPS student.

Coach Brock Holtsclaw introduced student athlete Claire Agnew to recognize her as an All-State Athlete. Coach Holtsclaw shared that Claire has incredible work-ethic and has driven herself to achieve everything she has accomplished over the last few years. Claire has dedicated countless hours to improving her form and athleticism. This season, Claire earned the following honors: Second Team All-Conference, Regional Champion, All-State, Coach's Award, Flint-Metro League Scholar Athlete Award, and Academic All-State. In three years of vaulting, Claire was able to break the school record, finish as a state-runner up her junior year, and this year she broke her own record of 11ft and added an additional foot, allowing her 3rd place in the state. Claire is also dedicated to her academics and graduated with a 4.0 GPA. Coach Holtsclaw finished his recognition of Claire by stating she is the most friendly, personable student he has had the pleasure of coaching. Claire thanked Coach Holtsclaw and the District for their support.

The Board of Education applauded Claire and Jamie for their hard work, thanked them for representing the district, and wished them well in the future endeavors.

Board Correspondence

Dr. Tuttle began her report by reading the following letter from student Wyatt Boggs and the OHS SkillsUSA Student Board: *The Owosso High School SkillsUSA chapter members, led by Mrs. Carrie Warning, would like to thank the school board for all you have done for the SkillsUSA chapter. Through your help, chapter members have been able to attend multiple SkillsUSA events this last school year, such as Fall Leadership Conference, Basecamp Leadership training, Regional Competition and Conference, and State Competition and Conference. SkillsUSA has changed us to become world class workers, leaders and communicators through education and our CTE programs that Owosso has to offer. With your help the chapter has grown significantly in membership and this growth has been such a positive impact on our chapter. As a chapter officer, as well as a state officer, being able to spread the awareness of SkillsUSA and help grow our organization throughout our much-loved Career and Technical Education classes. Again, thank you for all your support and funding.* The Board acknowledged that it is always endearing to hear gratitude from students, and thanked SkillsUSA Student Board for their letter.

Dr. Tuttle continued her report by sharing with the Board a flyer created by Communications Director Mrs. Jessica Thompson to advertise and inform on the election on August 8. The flyer was sent to 2,500 absentee voters. Dr. Tuttle explained the intent of the flyer is to succinctly answer questions the voters might have about the sinking fund. The flyer will be available on the website and the district will be sending out information through the local paper, additionally the district will send out information through the district's school messenger system. Dr. Tuttle reminded the Board that the district currently has 2 mills, and although the language on the ballot will read '3 new mills', it is in fact 1 new mill, for a total of 3 mills. Dr. Tuttle also reminded the Board the district currently has \$37 million dollar in needs so this election is very important. Dr. Tuttle encouraged the Board to keep the community informed and to encourage people to vote. Dr. Tuttle said the sinking fund projects currently happening in the district, primarily the gym renovations, are progressing on schedule. Before Dr. Tuttle moved on in her report, Vice-President Marlene Webster asked for clarification on the Board's role in voter engagement. Specifically, she asked if Board members can tell community members how to vote. Dr. Tuttle responded she would look into the question for the Board and provide specifics once she has an answer.

Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that New Teacher Orientation will be held on August 15 at Fortitude Farms and Events in Owosso. The Board is, as always, invited to the breakfast and to meet the new staff members. Dr. Tuttle shared that most positions have been filled, but the district is still looking for a Wood Working instructor. Dr. Tuttle also shared the Community Pep Rally is scheduled for August 22 at Wilman Field. The first day of school is August 24.

Dr. Tuttle finished her report by saying the summer programs are a big success: Books at Bryant and Literacy Pop-Up with DeVries Nature Center have had great attendance and support from the community. Pictures are available on the district's Facebook page and have been included in the local newspaper as well.

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 Easlick to approve the May 24, 2023 Board of Education 1st Regular Meeting Minutes, May 24, 2023 Board of Education 2nd Regular Meeting Minutes, May 24, 2023 Board of Education Closed Session Minutes, April 26, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes -Amended, Current Bills, and Financials as presented. Secretary Krauss conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Easlick, Krauss, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnický, Quick, Webster. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Quick, to authorize the Superintendent to renew the contracts with GST (Genesee Shiawassee Thumb) Michigan Works from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick, to adopt the resolutions that revise the appropriations for the General, School Service, Capital Projects and Building and Site Funds for the 2022-23 fiscal year. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick to adopt the resolutions to be presented for the 2023-24 fiscal year budget package for the General, School Service, Fiduciary and Sinking funds. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Easlick to authorize the borrowing of \$3,130,000 inclusive of \$2,200,000 of "set-aside" notes and \$930,000 in "no set-asides" for operating purposes to eliminate cash flow challenges that result from timing issues related to State Aid payments for the 2023-24 school year. This includes passage of the accompanying resolution provided by the attorneys allowing for borrowing through the Michigan Finance Authority or accepting a competitive bid from an authorized bank. Secretary Krauss conducted a roll-call vote. Ayes: Easlick, Henne, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnický, Quick, Webster. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Webster to approve the 2023-2024 student handbooks for Bentley Bright Beginnings, elementary, middle, and high schools. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Webster, to approve the July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, Tentative Agreement between the Owosso Education Association and the Owosso Board of Education. Secretary Krauss conducted a roll-call vote. Ayes: Easlick, Henne, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnický, Webster. Quick abstains due to conflict of interest. Motion carried.

- Moved by Webster, supported by Easlick to approve the July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, Tentative Agreement between Building and Central Office Administrators and the Owosso Board of Education. Secretary Krauss conducted a roll-call vote. Ayes: Easlick, Henne, Krauss, Ochodnicky, Webster. Mowen and Quick abstain due to conflict of interest. Motion carried.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick, approve salary adjustments for non-union personnel to reflect parity with other bargaining groups. Secretary Krauss conducted a roll-call vote. Ayes: Easlick, Henne, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnicky, Webster. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Ochodnicky, to approve the 2023-2024 Board of Education regular meeting and committee meeting dates. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Easlick, to approve the hiring of Gary miller, OHS Construction Trades Teacher at BA Step 5 (\$51,205) and Ernest Alvater, OHS Science Teacher, at BA Step 1 (\$43,332). Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Quick, to accept the amount of \$54,045.44 in settlement of the improperly credited personal property tax amounts, and to authorize Dr. Andrea Tuttle, the Superintendent of Schools of the District, or her designee, to execute the Release Agreement and make any other changes to the Release Agreement necessary to settle this matter, subject to review and approval by the District’s legal counsel. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board will be asked to adopt the membership resolution of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the year beginning August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024.
- The Board will be asked to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso High School students: Wyatt Boggs and Kloe Hayes, SkillsUSA MI supervised trip to Washington DC September 23-27, 2023.
- The Board will be asked to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso High School Agriscience students and teacher Beth Clark on a trip to Indianapolis, IN on October 31-November 4, 2023.
- The Board will be asked to approve the course listings presented for the Middle School, High School and Lincoln High School for the 2023-24 school year.
- The Board will be asked to renew the contract with Baker College for Adult Education services for the fiscal year 2023-24 and authorize the Superintendent to sign the contract on behalf of the District.
- The Board will be asked to approve the acquisition of the new Sports and Entertainment Marketing textbook, along with its corresponding electronic software, which includes online versions of the textbook and accompanying teaching presentations.

For Information

Dr. Tuttle announced the following personnel changes:

Accepted Positions

- John Hertzler has accepted the Grounds/Maintenance position.
- Brian Logghe has accepted the Skilled Trades position.

Resignations

- Kristin Klumpp, Paraprofessional at OMS has resigned effective 6/1/23
- Cassidy Shaydik, Paraprofessional at OMS has resigned effective 6/1/23
- Ariel Hiar, Sub Monitor at Emerson has resigned effective 5/26/23

Public Participation

No public participants addressed the Board.

Board Comments

Trustee Easlick congratulated both Jamie Maier and Claire Agnew on their success. He also thanked the district for providing engagement opportunities to students during the summer. He finished his comments by thanking CFO Omer for her knowledge and work on the budget.

Trustee Ochodnický thanked CFO Omer for her work on the budget, for her knowledge and her ability and willingness to answer all questions. Trustee Ochodnický admitted the information can be overwhelming and she struggles with the enormity of the district's needs, but feels encouraged the district is doing the right thing because of CFO Omer's guidance. She appreciates the effort on keeping the Board informed and thanked Dr. Tuttle and CFO Omer for their work.

Treasurer Quick congratulated Jamie Maier and Claire Agnew. She said that she appreciates the district's drive to keep a modern curriculum and is always excited to see the newly recommended text books. Treasurer Quick reiterated that Owosso Public Schools is truly the district of opportunities. She ended her comments by thanking CFO Omer for her budget presentation.

Trustee Henne congratulated Jamie Maier and Claire Agnew. He also welcomed new Operations Director Mike Hendrickson and applauded him for the work on the district – he said the facilities look wonderful. He ended his comments by saying touring the facilities and seeing all the needs that have to be met is daunting – but he believes the district is on the right track, and thanked CFO Omer for sharing her knowledge on the budget.

Secretary Krauss thanked CFO Omer for informing the Board on the budget and ensuring all questions asked are answered. Secretary Krauss shared that he went to the Tiger's baseball game with the Central fourth graders and his grandson. He said the kids had a wonderful time. He also attended the OHS production of Clue and was very impressed with the student performances.

Vice President Webster shared she has gone to the Books at Bryant a couple of times this summer and praised the district for hosting this event. She said it is an hour of incredibly engaging and educational opportunities for kids, and the community clearly enjoys it immensely.

President Mowen congratulated new hires Gary Miller and Charlie Altvater, and welcomed them to the district. He thanked CFO Omer for her presentation and work on the budget. He finished his comments by saying that the \$37million in needs for the District is a daunting number, but he feels the district is taking the right steps to address the issues. He thanked the audience for their attendance.

Upcoming Dates

- July 27, 2023: Regular Board of Education Meeting

Adjournment

Moved by Webster, supported by Ochodnicky, to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,


Ty Krauss, Secretary