

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
June 26, 2017
Report 16-176

Vice-President Mowen called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:08 pm. The meeting was held in the media center located at Owosso High School, 765 E. North Street, Owosso, Michigan.

Present: Keyes, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnicki, Paez, Webster

Absent: Jenc

Motions of the Board of Education that were unanimous did not include Jenc.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Tuttle reported there will be four representatives from the Facilities Community Exploration Committee that will be speaking to the Board explaining the research and process that has taken place over the last five months at monthly community meetings to bring a recommendation to the Board of Education. When researching options, the community group looked to the guiding principles that had been established by the Board of Education: Guiding Principles; be safe, healthy, positive learning environments that attract and retain student and families; be perceived as equal or better than neighboring district facilities; support course offerings that are critical to ‘unique 21st century learning opportunities’; support course offerings that develop practical career and life skills; support learning environments that foster collaboration and face to face interaction between students, educators, parents and community; be engaging and inspiring; be safe and secure; be energy and operationally efficient; embrace community and provide opportunities for use and partnerships; be technology rich; support fine arts, athletics and extracurricular activities.

The four speakers representing the Facilities Community Exploration Committee were Matt McKone, Lori Young-Rowlison, Voula Erfourth and Stephanie Scheid Griffin. Mrs. Erfourth reported the committee toured all of the facilities with the exception of Bentley, which gave them a good perspective of the condition of the facilities.

Mr. McKone reported the committee considered and explored several options taking into consideration the guiding principles, millage possibilities and the appeal to the community; “does this make sense”.

Mrs. Scheid Griffin reported the committee began with a clean slate and explored all of the options and did research. The options considered were: do nothing; rely solely on the sinking fund; build a new middle school; build a new high school; build a new high school and remodel the existing high school for 6th-9th facility; reopening an elementary school and additions to the elementary schools to get students out of portables and basement classrooms; Career/Tech Ed needs; HVAC improvements for air quality to support a year round calendar; performance venues; new transportation facility that is not flooded and all deferred maintenance on all buildings.

Mrs. Young-Rowlison reported committee members completed an online survey which asked what possible option they felt would be best to present to the voters that they felt the community would support. The options ranged from 3 mills to 7 mills. Through consensus, it was unanimous for a 4.75 mill bond, approximately \$44 million. This was based on needs not wants. Mrs. Scheid Griffin commented, the committee pared it down to the absolute necessity to make a safe learning environment for the students.

The group reported the number one consensus of the committee was to provide a safe learning environment for students, taking into consideration only the needs and not the wants. The options considered were: Build a new 10-12 high school and renovate current high school for 6-9th graders with an estimated cost of \$74 million; build a new Middle School with an estimated cost of \$45-\$48 million or build a new Middle

School addition to the current High School for a 6th-12th campus with an estimated cost of \$38-\$40 million. Other issues that were taken into consideration were air quality, deferred maintenance and to get students out of portables and basement classrooms into a safe learning environment.

Mr. McKone reported the Facilities Community Exploration Committee has a recommendation for the Board based upon the needs of the students to provide a safe learning environment. It is recommended to place on the ballot for a November election a proposal with a millage rate of up to 4.75 mills to accomplish the facility improvements of create a 6th-12th grade campus at the current high school location that is inclusive of separation between the Middle School and High School; includes improved Career and Technical Education space; includes a Middle School physical education (gym) space; eliminates deferred maintenance costs on sinking fund project list for high school and middle school; includes a multi-purpose performance education space seating 1,000+ in lieu of a full auditorium and renovation of all elementary schools to improve the learning environment.

It was reported that what the committee did agree on was that we love our kids, value our community, the students' safety and their education is number one. The consensus of the committee felt the recommendation met the needs of the students to provide a safe learning environment for all K-12 students.

Vice President Mowen stated, I believe I speak for the entire Board when I sincerely thank you for the time, effort and commitment you provided to this process. As a Board, we are committed to offering our students the best possible opportunities in facilities that match. We are keenly aware that our facilities need improvements and we appreciate your thorough exploration of all the possible options and for representing the communities voice. At this time, I would like to move that we add an agenda item, facilities discussion, to address this matter in the "For Action" section of the agenda and that this item be placed immediately following our first public participation. Moved by Mowen supported by Webster to add Facilities Discussion under For Action immediately after the first public participation. Motion carried unanimous.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported the success of the summer food program which is operating at 11 sites. In the first two weeks food service has provided 4200 meals and it is anticipated to provide over 22,000 this summer. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle expressed her thanks to the Food Service staff.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported there is summer camp for academics with approximately 80 students at all three elementary buildings. She also reported on the Books at Bryant program which is averaging 150 students from 0-12 years of age every week and had 192 participants on one week. This has been a great success and expressed her gratitude to Mr. Steve Brooks and Ms. Shelly Collison.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported on the combined camp this year of basketball and football. Students are fed breakfast, report for football then fed lunch and then report for basketball.

Dr. Selleck reported on the summer professional development opportunities for teachers. The high school writing committee is analyzing student SAT essays that were written. Career Technical Education instructors participated in drone training. There will IB training in Texas this summer for a group of staff. New teacher orientation will take place in August.

Public Participation

Vice-President Mowen 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.

For Action

The four representatives from the Facilities Community Exploration Committee were asked to engage in dialogue with the Board, specifically regarding facilities.

- Moved by Mowen supported by Webster that the Board authorize the Superintendent to pursue the options presented by the community and the next steps in preparing for a future bond election. Vice-President Mowen asked for a roll call vote. Ayes: Webster, Paez, Ochodnicki, Mowen, Keyes, Krauss. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster supported by Paez to approve the May 22, 2017 Student Hearing Closed Session Minutes, May 22, 2017 Special Board Meeting (RESA) Minutes, May 22, 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, current bills and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster supported by Ochodnicki to Resolve that the Board of Education authorize the borrowing of \$4,500,000 inclusive of \$3,000,000 of “set-aside” notes and \$1,500,000 in “no set-asides” for operating purposes to eliminate cash flow challenges that result from timing issues related to State Aid payments for the 2017-18 school year. Motion carried unanimously.
- Chief Financial Officer, Julie Omer stated this is a formal budget hearing to levy taxes. This year the Headlee amendment will not result in roll-back for this year and therefore the District may levy the full 18 operating mills on eligible property. The proposed property tax millage rates will be at a rate of 18.00 mills for operating purposes and the sinking fund millage will be set at 3.0, as passed by the voters in the November 2013 election vote and is unchanged.
- Moved by Webster supported by Paez that the Board of Education officially recognize that there has been a public budget hearing as part of this regularly scheduled Board meeting to meet the MDE requirement for such a hearing to take place. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Paez supported by Webster that the Board adopt the resolutions that revise the appropriations for the General, School Service and Building and Site Funds for the 2016-17 fiscal year as presented to the Board for adoption at this Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes supported by Webster that the Board adopt the resolutions presented for the 2017-18 fiscal year budget package for the General fund, School Service and Sinking Fund as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki supported by Webster to adopt all policy second readings as presented inclusive of revised Bylaw0168.1, revised Policy 2221, new Policy 2461, revised Policy 2623, revised policy 3120.04, revised Policies 3121 and 4121, replacement Policy 5111.01, new Policy 5111.03 and new Policy 8340, revised Policy 5517.01, revised Policies 5610, 5610.01, revised Policy 7540.02, revised policy 8330, 8400, 8500 and 8510. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki supported by Keyes that the Board of Education approve the hiring of certified staff members Grace Rozanski, Owosso Middle School English Teacher; Robert Mallory Owosso High School Part Time CTE Industrial Arts Teacher; Jamie Lumsden, Central Elementary 1st Grade Teacher; Jamie West, Emerson Elementary Kindergarten Teacher and Caroline Whitford, Bryant Elementary Kindergarten Teacher. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki supported by Paez to approve the 2017-2018 regular meeting dates and subcommittee meetings of the Owosso Board of Education on the dates presented beginning in July 2017 through June 2018. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki supported by Paez the Board of Education approve the July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018 Tentative Agreement between the Owosso Education Association and the Owosso Board of Education. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes supported by Krauss the Board of Education approve the July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018 Tentative Agreement between the Owosso Education Support Personnel Association and the Owosso Board of Education. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster supported by Keyes the Board of Education approve the July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018 Tentative Agreement between Building and Central Office Administrators and the Owosso Board of Education. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Webster supported by Paez the Board of Education approve salary adjustments for non-union personnel to reflect parity with other bargaining groups. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board of Education will be asked to renew the City of Owosso agreement that will enhance the public safety of the City of Owosso and the Owosso Public School District through the provisions of police officers to serve as School Resource (liaison) officers for the contract year of fiscal year 2017-18.
- The Board of Education will be asked to adopt the membership resolution of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the year beginning August 1, 2017 through July 31, 2018.
- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Transportation department to dispose of the following obsolete bus: 1996 65 passenger Blue Bird School bus, VIN #HVBBAAP5TH400639, 3800 TD 4600 International motor and chassis, current odometer read of 141,241 miles (not actual read since original odometer was replaced)
- The Board of Education will be asked to adopt a resolution allowing flexibility for students at Lincoln High School and Owosso High School to pursue teacher led on-line learning opportunities.
- The Board of Education will be asked to adopt the First Amendments to the 1) Restated Owosso Public Schools Flexible Spending Plan; and 2) Restated Health Care Flexible Spending Account Plan.

For Information

Superintendent Tuttle shared the most recent personnel update with the Board of Education. Jeff Meihls has accepted the Custodian II position at Owosso High School; Jimmy Valdez, Custodian II at Owosso High School has resigned and Brittney Filler, ECSE Teacher at Bentley Bright Beginning submitted her resignation effective at the conclusion of the 2016-2017 school year.

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board of Education of technical changes to Board Policies. Due to Administrative title changes and retirements, there are several technical changes that are required to be made to Board policies. The changes are as follows: In any policy that Cathy Dwyer is referenced as a contact for nondiscrimination issues, Mrs. Dwyer's title will change from "Dean of Students" to "Assistant Principal, OMS" and in any policy that Ed King, Assistant Principal is referenced as the Section 504 Coordinator, this will be changed to Bridgit Spielman, Principal, Central Elementary along with the associated address and phone number. Since these are technical changes, they do not require Board action, but have been included as an "For Information" item to assist in keeping the Board aware of such changes.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Board Reports

Mr. Ty Krauss commented on the billboards and signs, stating they are top notch and well done in promoting Owosso Public Schools.

Mrs. Sara Keyes expressed her excitement about the Facilities Exploration Community group and the passion that they brought. She asked to take a moment to give thoughts and prayers to student's family of a sophomore that passed away who had been battling a long time illness.

Mrs. Shelly Ochodnický expressed her gratitude for the OPS Food Service Summer Program for serving 22,000 meals to students who may not get meals otherwise.

Mr. Rick Mowen commented on the overwhelming success of the Bryant reading program.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

July 24: Regular Board Meeting 7:00 pm

Adjournment

Moved by Webster supported by Ochodnický to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Bev White.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnický, Secretary