

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
November 27, 2017
Report 17-56

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held in the media center located at Owosso High School, 765 E. North Street, Owosso, Michigan.

Present: Jenc, Keyes, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnick, Paez, Webster
Absent: No one

Pledge of Allegiance

President Jenc informed the Board of Education that the meeting's agenda had been amended to include the addition of a report for Bond Work – Topographical Survey Services.

- Moved by Ochodnick, supported by Mowen to accept the amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Building Reports

As part of the Celebrate Kids! segment of the meeting, Superintendent Tuttle welcomed Emerson Elementary Principal Terry Sedlar and his guests. Mr. Sedlar stated that in the spirit of Thanksgiving, Mary Hankins, Instructional Technology Teacher and some of her students were in attendance to showcase what they are learning in technology to prepare themselves for high school. Mr. Sedlar explained that in the State of Michigan, technology standards are given to all schools, but no manuals or textbooks are provided. It is the technology teacher that brings the curriculum to life and creates the lessons. Mr. Sedlar proudly informed the Board that Mary Hankins is a Level 2 Google Educator which greatly benefits her students.

Mary Hankins expressed her appreciation to the Board of Education for allowing her students to demonstrate what they are learning in her classroom. She also thanked Mr. Sedlar for providing her with opportunities to attend and present at several technology conferences over the past year.

Mary Hankins reported that her fourth grade students worked on a project that was created by two renowned Google innovators. She explained that her students began this lesson with a google slide and were instructed to tell a story about a jack-o-lantern. Mrs. Hankins took the lesson further by including the Stop Motion Animation process, which offered her students an introduction to computer coding. Student presenters Lexi Smith, Brendon Rowell, Xavier Konsdorf, and Claire Jones shared their versions of the jack-o-lantern project using their Chromebooks. A video recording of the lesson was also shared with the Board.

Board of Education Student Representative Dustin Taphouse reported that Student Council has been very busy. The Owosso High School organization raised over \$200 from a bake sale. All proceeds from the bake sale will be donated to the OHS Clothes Closet and to students in need of winter coats.

ABC 12 will film live from OHS on Friday, December 15 from 5 – 7 am. Dustin Taphouse incorrectly informed the Board that the early morning pep assembly would take place on December 1. During the December 15 pep assembly, students will be educated on the purpose of the annual food drive and where the donations go after they are collected. Information about poverty and homelessness within Owosso and the county will also be shared to raise awareness with the students of OPS. The first 50 students in the door at the 5 am pep assembly will be able to watch a movie on the last of school prior to Christmas break. Dustin announced that the can drive will kick-off on December 1 and will conclude on December 15.

Dustin Taphouse reported that student council members will attend the Flint Metro League Leadership Meeting on December 15. Participants of the meeting will be presented with new and innovative leadership ideas.

Dustin Taphouse stated that Student Council has once again started recognizing a member of the month. The member is chosen based on their efforts and time spent on student council. OHS senior Danielle Temple was the most recently recognized member of the month.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Tuttle reported that the Board of Education has not met since the bond proposal was successfully passed by voters at the November 7, 2017 election. She reiterated that this was truly a community bond proposal that was recommended to Board of Education by members of the Facilities Community Exploration Committee during the June 26, 2017 Board Meeting. Superintendent Tuttle expressed sincere gratitude to members of the Board of Education, Facilities Community Exploration Committee members, administrators, teachers, students, and parents for their hard work and team effort to get the bond proposal passed. Topographical survey work is the first phase of planning for the bond construction project and the Board will be asked to approve the proposal during the meeting. Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that bonds will be sold in the spring of 2018 and the first tax collection will occur in December 2018. Construction of the project will begin in the summer of 2019. Several planning meetings will occur with various groups of staff members, administrators, and parents to discuss needs throughout the process.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that the District was once again awarded the Rural Education Grant in the amount of \$53,000. The grant funds will be used to purchase Chromebooks for all elementary teachers. The Chromebooks will replace the teacher's iPads that they have been using for the past five years. Additional Chromebooks will also be purchased to replace those that have been damaged or have manufacturing issues. Superintendent Tuttle proudly stated that students have taken very good care of their Chromebooks. Six Chromebook carts will also be purchased for elementary buildings, which will bring the District closer to its goal of all students in third grade and above having one to one technology.

Superintendent Tuttle recognized Aaron Maike of the Baker College Muskegon campus for their recent donation of slightly used personal computers and furniture that was not wanted by schools in that area. The generosity of Baker College has allowed the District to use its own resources to support one to one technology. It is expected that this partnership will continue under the leadership of Denise Bannan who is the new President of the Baker College Owosso Campus.

Superintendent Tuttle commented that Veterans Day is one of her favorite days and she is very pleased to witness the celebrations expand over the past few years. Approximately 300 veterans were recognized at each building during this year's celebrations.

Superintendent Tuttle applauded Owosso Middle School Teacher Mr. Chris Bird for being named the local VFW Teacher of the Year. She commented that this award was well deserved by Mr. Bird. He will now move on to the national competition.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that the OHS National Honor Society recently expressed their appreciation of the District's Transportation Department by hosting a breakfast for the bus drivers.

Superintendent Tuttle recognized OHS senior Kaitlyn Owens for making her third consecutive appearance as an individual at the State competition in cross country. This was the first time OHS senior Andrew Dallas and sophomore Jordan Sowash qualified as individuals for the State competition in cross country.

Superintendent Tuttle proudly announced that the Girls' Varsity Swim Team had a record setting season. The team broke eight school records, boasted nine wins and one loss in their conference, and many of the

swimmers qualified for multiple events at the State Meet. In addition, sophomore diver Katie Clevenger was outstanding during her first season on the team. Coach Andy Murray was also recognized for leading the winning team.

On November 13th the District celebrated World Kindness Day. Students from all buildings shared kindness messages on the east wall of Gilbert's True Value Hardware store and also took kindness pledges. Superintendent Tuttle remarked that she is very proud of our students and the City of Owosso for participating in this event.

Superintendent Tuttle praised OHS Construction Trades Teacher Rob Mallory on his efficiency and talents. She encouraged the Board to view the new baseball dugouts and press boxes that are being constructed by Mr. Mallory and his students for the high school ball fields. The projects are introducing the construction trades students to electrical processes, plumbing, building, and cement work.

Superintendent Tuttle expressed sincere gratitude to the community and students for their generosity over Thanksgiving. Students from buildings in the District worked together to ensure that the needy were provided with Thanksgiving dinners. Employees of Woodard donated 18 turkeys to families at Bryant and pies from local 4-H groups were also donated.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that three families in the District recently had house fires. She praised the school community for coming together and donating clothing, money, gas cards, etc. to support these families during their time of need.

Superintendent Tuttle remarked that she is always impressed with Lincoln High School for regularly hosting a community breakfast that provides the students with an opportunity to network with local business leaders. The staff of LHS also host a delicious Thanksgiving dinner for its students every year prior to Thanksgiving break.

Superintendent Tuttle applauded the OHS drama department on their outstanding performance of Beauty and the Beast. She remarked that this was one the best attended performances to date. Prior to the performance, a princess ball was held for the younger audience.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that the District is searching for an on-site location to raise chickens for the new OHS AgriScience class. An additional sequence to the class will be added to the curriculum in 2018-2019.

Superintendent Tuttle noted that the Board of Education will be approving the course listings for the middle school, high school, and Lincoln High School. She remarked that she is amazed by the number of offerings that the District provides to its students.

Superintendent Tuttle referenced the new CTE video that is now available on the District's webpage and highlights Career and Technical Education courses at Owosso High School. She thanked OHS Principal Jeff Phillips, his team, and Mr. Nick Krueger for doing an excellent job with the video. A CTE website is currently being created to correspond with the video.

Superintendent Tuttle explained that in addition to her current job responsibilities, she has taken on the duties of Curriculum Director until a replacement is hired. Comprehensive interviews are scheduled over the next month with the hopes of having a new Curriculum Director hired by the end of December.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that Dr. Michal Taylor has been working with kindergarten through fifth grade teachers and middle school English teachers on literacy instruction.

Superintendent Tuttle stated that grade level and department chairs have been asked to read the article “What’s Worth Learning in School?” The article was shared by the instructional leaders during a meeting with their colleagues and further discussion took place.

Superintendent Tuttle praised the District’s administrators for leading a worthwhile and productive professional development on November 21. The elementary PD included a variety of offerings that were led by staff members. A few of the options included writing workshops, google classroom, and guided reading. Secondary teachers participated in a PD that focused on common grading, testing procedures, team teaching, and finalized course descriptions as required for the IB reauthorization. Lincoln High School staff members worked on their Reach Higher grant implementation.

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.

Owosso High School seniors Kayla Manley and Meagan Jodway informed the Board of Education that they are conducting a Big Box Out project as representatives of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America on December 2 beginning at 8 am until 8 am on December 3. The students plan to spend 24 hours outside in a box at the Main Street Plaza on the corner of Washington and Main Streets to raise money and awareness about homelessness in the area. All donations will go to the Shiawassee Hope organization. The students stated that they have raised about \$300 in t-shirt sales and \$400 from local business sponsorships. Chaperones are needed for the event. People may also send clothing, food, and monetary donations to the students at Owosso High School.

Trustee Marlene Webster reported that last year Shiawassee Hope helped 49 individuals with families move from homelessness or near eviction to housing. The money that Kayla Manley and Meagan Jodway is raising will help the organization get people off the street as fast as they can. The funds will go towards the Shiawassee Hope Housing First initiative, which helps people find a place to live and ultimately makes it easier for the recipients to find a job.

Tom Manke commented that some OHS students participated in an event similar to the Big Box Out a few years ago. At that time, Mr. Manke brought a local homeless person to meet the students and the chaperones were astounded. Mr. Manke stated that he plans to bring a homeless person to the Box Out so the students have a better understanding of how tough it is to be homeless.

For Action

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to approve the October 23, 2017 regular meeting minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to authorize the Operations Department to dispose of a 1995 Chevrolet ¾ ton pickup truck as an obsolete vehicle. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to adopt as their first readings: New Policy 1421, Revised Policies 3121, 4121, 8142 – Criminal History Record Check: Administration, Professional, support Staff and Part time/Contractual arrangements. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to adopt as their first readings: New Policy 1439, Revised Policies 3139 and 4139 – Discipline: Administration, Professional, and Support Staff. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to adopt as their first readings: New Policy 2410 – Prohibition of Referral or Assistance and Revised Policy 2414 – Reproductive Health and Family Planning. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to adopt as their first reading: New Policy 2418 – Sex Education. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to adopt as their first readings: Revised Policies 7540-.03 and 7540.04 – Acceptable Use and Safety: Students and Staff, Revised Policy 7540.05 and New Policy 7540.06 – District Issued Email Accounts: Staff and Students. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to adopt as their first reading: Revised Policy 8321 – Criminal Justice Information Security (Non-Criminal Justice Agency) as its first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Keyes to authorize the Superintendent to sign the proposal with Spicer Engineering for the topographical (land) surveys in an amount not to exceed \$27,500 for the surveying of Bryant, Central, Emerson, and the High School limited to the areas reflected in the request for proposal. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

The Board of Education will be asked to approve the course listings presented for the Middle School, High School, and Lincoln High School for the 2017-18 school year. The list includes all courses offered by the district for credit or grade promotion, and is used when determining which courses may be included in membership for state aid purposes, as well as for auditing purposes when examining the membership counted for state school aid on the count days. The list of approved courses must include traditional offerings and courses offered through other means, such as experiential or online learning opportunities.

For Information

Superintendent Tuttle provided the Board with a personnel update. She reported that Lauri Dahl, Student Facilitator at Bryant Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation effective November 2, 2017.

Public Participation

City of Owosso Mayor Chris Eveleth congratulated the Board of Education and District on the successful passage of the bond. He remarked that this is a much needed forward momentum on top of everything else that is going on in the community.

Mayor Chris Eveleth reported that the city is making many investments in its infrastructure. The remainder of Oliver Street, east of Oak Street to Gould Street will be completed next year. Mr. Eveleth stated that he would be happy to coordinate with the District on the timing of the project.

Mr. Eveleth informed the Board that the city had a great Ice Queen campaign. He congratulated Marlene Webster who ran on behalf of Shiawassee Hope and raised over \$12,000 for the charity. Mr. Eveleth praised the other two candidates who collectively raised \$45,000 for local charities, with only twenty-eight cents determining the first and second place winners.

Mr. Eveleth announced that the City of Owosso is in the process of hiring a City Manager. He explained that like the Superintendent of Schools, the City Manager oversees all departments within the city. On December 5 from 5:30 until 7:30 pm at the Steam Railroading Institute, community members will have an opportunity to meet and greet the four finalists that have been selected out of 24 applicants for the City Manager position. The Board of Education and Superintendent Tuttle were invited to the meet and greet and provide City Council with their feedback on the finalists. Mr. Eveleth remarked that the city wants input on this important decision. He stated that the city and Owosso Public Schools have so many shared interests and wants to make sure that they are #allin4owosso.

Mr. Josh Dewley, Lincoln High School teacher informed the Board that LHS will host a blood drive on December 15. He explained that they have openings on that day from 10:30 am until 2:30 pm. He reminded the Board that every time a person gives blood up to three lives are saved.

Board Member Comments/Updates

Trustee Marlene Webster expressed her pleasure with the passing of the bond. She remarked that a lot of people in attendance at the meeting put a lot of effort and time into the bond proposal and it's great that the District can now move forward.

Marlene Webster reported that on November 4 a community action planning day for the Alliance for a Drug Free Shiawassee took place. The meeting was part of the process that is required when applying for a Drug Free Communities Grant that is targeted toward youth substance use prevention. A number of people from OPS participated in the meeting. Mrs. Webster stated that a survey of the ideas that were collected during the November 4 meeting is on the Alliance for a Drug Free Shiawassee's Facebook page and will also be available on the Shiawassee Hope's Facebook page. People are being asked to take the survey and rank the items by importance and feasibility. The results of the survey will be reviewed at a meeting on December 9 from 9 am until 12 pm at Memorial Healthcare's auditorium. Mrs. Webster welcomed anyone to attend and give their input on the drug issues that are only going to get worse before they get better.

Treasurer Cheryl Paez commented that it is a very exciting time for OPS and she is thrilled that the bond passed.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicky remarked that her sixteen-year-old daughter was in a car seat when she attended her first meeting about a possible bond proposal for the District. She stated that she thoroughly enjoyed working at the polls on November 7 and especially the celebration that evening.

Mrs. Ochodnicky stated that in addition to the District celebrations, the local American Legion hosted their very first Veteran's Day program this year. The State of Michigan Commander and his wife who is deaf were guests of honor at the event. Mrs. Ochodnicky explained that she was very proud to have Central Elementary teachers Mrs. Megan Friend, Mrs. Maggie Gobel, their students, and Principal Bridgit Spielman sing a song for the veterans using sign language.

Vice President Rick Mowen stated that years ago the Woodard Furniture Company was looking to expand their business and their Board of Directors were contemplating staying in the area. Even though the company had been in Owosso for centuries they were not certain they could entice executives of high caliber to live in the area because of the condition of Owosso Public Schools. As a result, many of these executives have chosen to live elsewhere and commute to Owosso. Mr. Mowen explained that the passing of the bond is very important to the City of Owosso, not only to attract new businesses, but to retain existing ones also. Mr. Mowen commented that OPS already knows that we have a great curriculum and staff, but when people drive by our buildings they only see the exterior. The true winners of the bond passing will be the Owosso community, which will see growth in all aspects. He thanked everyone that was involved in the bond proposal.

Trustee Sara Keyes remarked that rather than reiterating what everyone has already stated "Go Owosso!"

Trustee Ty Krauss echoed Rick Mowen's remarks. He commented that he meets with local employers who are often deciding whether they should stay in the area, invest in, or bring new businesses to the area and one thing that they consistently look at is the school district and what it has to offer. Mr. Krauss remarked that the bond proposal goes a long way to support local businesses. He stated that he is very happy that he can now say that OPS passed a bond and we are investing in our school system. Mr. Krauss also thanked everyone for their support and efforts with the bond proposal.

Mr. Krauss reported that he had an opportunity to represent the District as an alternate delegate at the Michigan Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly. He stated that he attended the assembly with Rick Mowen and is very appreciative to have had the experience and witness the process.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

December 11: Regular Board Meeting at 7 pm (Note: meeting to be held on 2nd Monday of the month due to holidays)

Important Upcoming Dates:

November 28: Exchange Student Luncheon, OHS Room 306 at 11 am

December 5: OHS Blood Drive

December 5: OMS Holiday Band Concert at 7 pm

December 6: OHS Band Concert at 7 pm

December 7: 2nd Grade Holiday Program, Emerson Gym at 7 pm

December 8: Senior Citizen Breakfast, OHS Cafeteria at 8 am

December 8: OHS Glow Dance, 9 pm

December 9: Bryant Elementary Craft Show

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicki to move into closed at 8:08 pm for the purpose of the Superintendent's evaluation. Secretary Ochodnicki conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Webster, Paez, Ochodnicki, Mowen, Jenc, Keyes, Krauss. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicki to return to open session at 9:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicki to adjourn at 9:01 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicki, Secretary