

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
October 28, 2019
Report 19-133

President Jenc called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:30 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, Ochodnicki, Quick, Webster
Absent: All members were present

Pledge of Allegiance

President Tim Jenc explained that the meeting's agenda has been amended. He explained that the audit report will be presented immediately following the consent agenda.

Building Reports

As part of the Celebrate Kids! segment of the meeting, Superintendent Dr. Tuttle introduced Mr. Jerry Ciarlino and Mrs. Jessica Nieuwkoop, Performing Arts Directors; along with the Owosso High School cast of the Music Man who presented a few renditions from their upcoming play. Mrs. Nieuwkoop announced that tickets are now on sale for performances of the Music Man that will take place in the Owosso Middle School auditorium on November 15th and 16th at 7 pm and November 17th at 2 pm.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle praised the students for their talents, professionalism, costuming, and acting.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki remarked that several of the Music Man cast are also members of the Madrigals. She thanked the Madrigals for volunteering to sing the National Anthem at the 2019 Cantu 5K.

Trustee Olga Quick thanked Mr. Ciarlino, Mrs. Nieuwkoop and the parents that have volunteered their time and assistance with costuming for the Music Man.

Mr. John Klapko, Director of Operations and Food Service recognized retiree Fred Fernette for his 14 years of service as a custodian for the District.

Board of Education Student Representative Cayden Whiteherse reported that the Owosso High School Student Government has wrapped up their homecoming festivities.

Cayden Whiteherse informed the Board that the Student Government Executive Board traveled to the Flint Metro League's Student Council meeting. Every student council in the Flint Metro League was represented at the meeting. At the meeting, the students shared dance decorating ideas, discussed game assemblies, and ideas were shared about getting students more involved in meetings.

Cayden Whiteherse announced that the Model UN Club will travel to Central Michigan University for a conference the week of November 4, 2019. Student participants will be assigned to teams and presented with world problems that they must attempt to solve or come to a resolution.

Cayden Whiteherse reported that the canned food drive is in full swing. Students have been in discussions about fund raising events. The annual canned food drive is a great way for students to give back to the community. Owosso High School will participate in the ABC Channel 12 School Spirit Cup Challenge on Friday, November 22 starting at 6 am.

Cayden Whiteherse informed the Board that the Trojan Spectacular will take place that evening at 7 pm in the OHS gymnasium. The event will showcase student musicianship and marching skills.

In recognition of National Principals Month, Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle read an article titled “What Great Leadership and Music Have in Common” by Jim Crupi. A small token of appreciation was presented to Owosso Public Schools administrators Mr. Jeff Phillips, Owosso High School Principal; Mrs. Karen Van Epps, Owosso High School Assistant Principal; Dr. Dallas Lintner, Athletic Director; Mr. Rich Collins, Owosso Middle School Principal; Dr. Cathy Dwyer, Owosso Middle School Assistant Principal; Mr. Steve Irelan, Lincoln Alternative High School Principal; Ms. Jessi Anderson, Emerson Elementary Principal; Mrs. Bridgit Spielman, Central Elementary Principal; Mrs. Shelly Collison, Bryant Elementary Principal; Mr. John Klapko, Director of Operations and Food Service; Mrs. Jessica Thompson, Communications Director; Mr. Steve Brooks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Mrs. Julie Omer, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Randy Miller, Network Coordination; Mr. Joe Watson, Technology Coordinator; and Renee Secor-Jenks, Director of Transportation.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle announced that the Michigan Alternative Education Organization (MAEO) recently held their STARS Kick-Off. STARS stands for success, teamwork, achievement, recognition, and self-esteem. As part of the fall kick-off competition, Lincoln High School students had to create a video and were awarded third place. The students were congratulated on their achievement.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that the District is in the process of hiring a second Liaison Officer who will replace Officer Mike Wheeler. Officer David Fiebertz will start his position in the next two weeks. Mr. Fiebertz has 31 years of service with the Michigan State Police and most recently worked as a homicide investigator in Flint. Mr. Fiebertz is a retired police officer and has also worked airport security.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that the bond construction is currently moving smoothly. The Performing Arts Center (PAC) is getting larger every day and is expected to be enclosed in February 2020. The middle school gymnasium, which is located on the west side of the building will be enclosed by December. It is hoped that the entire bond project will be complete by December 2020.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained that the Today’s Trojan is published twice a year and will be mailed to households in Owosso and Henderson by November 15th. Mrs. Jessica Thompson, Community Education Director was praised for always doing a really nice job producing the publication.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that the District recently took possession of five new leased buses. Four buses that had their leases expire were returned. It is anticipated that two buses from the fleet that are over 20 years old will not pass inspection. Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that at some point the bus fleet will need to be reviewed with the potential of adding new buses.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle proudly announced that the Trojan Marching Band scored all 1’s at the District Marching Band Festival. She applauded the band director’s and band members for their continued hard work and making this happen year after year.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that the elementary schools have hosted fifth grade band concerts. The middle school and high school presented choir concerts that were outstanding. The high school will host the Trojan Spectacular following the Board meeting. Additionally, the high school freshman and sophomore bands will host a Hauntcert on October 30th.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that the high school held an Academic Awards Ceremony on October 2, 2019. There were 204 OHS students that earned a 3.5 or higher grade point average the previous school year that were honored.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that OPS had a great week in athletics. The varsity football team took home a win against Stockbridge. The team scored 61 points in the game, which is the most points scored in a game since 1951. The girls swim team beat Corunna by almost 100 points. The girls’ varsity volleyball team came in second place out of 12 teams in a recent tournament. The team was winless the previous year. In addition, Jordan Sowash and Mason Collard qualified for the state competition in cross country. Mason Collard was also named a Commended Student in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program after scoring or 1500 points on the SAT.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks reported that core teams from the middle school and high school recently participated in a data analysis of our student's PSAT and SAT scores from last spring. This data will be brought back to the buildings for review by staff during the November 14th professional development day. Teams will be looking at our strengths, challenges, and an item analysis of the assessments. Mr. Brooks noted that the District's PSAT scores were comparable to county and state scores.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks informed the Board that during the week of October 21st approximately 50 high school students attended the MI Quest Talent Pipeline. Student participants had an opportunity to speak with career professionals in the areas of health services, advanced manufacturing, and construction trades, which are all currently in high demand.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks stated that on November 12 and 13 there will be a VERLI (Virtual Reality CTE Learning) presentation. The District has partnered with the RESD to provide students with CTE experiences in welding. The administrative team, Lincoln High School students, and members of the Instructional Leadership Council will also have an opportunity to experience VERLI.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks proudly announced that OHS senior Jason Gage Dingman, an advanced accounting student competed against other area students for a part-time accounting position at Signature Ford in Owosso. Mr. Dingman won the competition and will work 20 hours a week during the school year and 40 hours a week when school is not in session. OHS teacher Mr. Mike Gregory was praised for doing a great job preparing students for employment.

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 meeting's audience.

For Action

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster to approve the September 23, 2019 regular meeting minutes, October 14, 2019 committee of the whole minutes, current bills, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnický to approve the audit report for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Keith Pfeifle, CPA of Maner Costerisan PC informed the Board that their report indicates an unmodified opinion of the financial statements. There were no internal control issues identified and no compliance issues were identified for the year ending June 30, 2019. Mr. Pfeifle remarked that the financial statements were properly presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The District's General Fund revenues and other financing sources exceeded expenditures and operating transfers out by \$874,348 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019; for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, expenditures exceeded revenues by \$390,294. The general fund total fund balance was \$4,395,704 for the year ending June 30, 2019 which is about 14% of expenditures. The 2018 Capital Projects Fund is primarily comprised of activities related to the collection and spending of the District's 2018 building and site bonds that was passed by voters in November 2017. The Capital Projects fund expenditures exceeded revenues and other financing sources by \$7,294,071 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019; for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$44,658,505. As of June 30, 2019, the 2018 capital projects fund had a fund balance of \$37,364,434. The sinking fund revenues and other financing sources exceeded expenditures by \$942,139 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019; for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$1,475,790. As of June 30, 2019, the sinking fund had a fund balance of \$5,469,604. Mr. Pfeifle thanked Superintendent Dr. Tuttle and Chief Financial Officer Julie Omer for their assistance and being prepared for the audit. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt Revised Bylaw 0100 – Definitions as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt Revised Bylaw 0167.2 – Closed Sessions as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt New Policy 1422.01 – Drug Free Workplace as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt Revised Policy 2210 – Curriculum Development as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt Revised Policy 2414 – Reproductive Health and Family Planning as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt Revised Policy 3120 – Employment of Professional Staff and Revised Policy 3120.04 – Employment of Substitutes as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt Revised Policy 5113.01 – Schools of Choice (Intra-District) and Revised Policy 5113.02 – School of Choice Options Provided by Federal Law as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt Revised Policy 5200 – Attendance as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt Revised Policy 6321 – New School Construction, Renovation as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt Revised Policy 6325 – Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt Revised Policy 6605 – Crowd Funding as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt Revised Policy 8400 – School Safety Information as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt New Policy 8402 – Emergency Operations Plan as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adopt Revised Policy 8500 – Food Services as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen to approve the out-of-state travel by Owosso High School students to attend and compete in the VE Southern Regional Trade Show in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on November 16-19, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen to approve the out-of-state travel by Owosso High School students to attend and compete in the VE Great Lakes Regional Trade Show in Chicago, Illinois on February 18-20, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnický to authorize the Superintendent to sign off on the revised easement to allow Consumers Energy to route a new overhead electrical service on the west side of the secondary campus. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board of Education will be asked to approve the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) by no later than January 1, 2020, for each school building in the District as required by the Michigan Department of Education and was signed into law during Lane Duck in December 2018. The plan describes the purpose, scope, situation, policies, and concept of operations for the response and recovery activities to an emergency crisis.
- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Owosso Public Schools maintenance department to dispose of one truck, one van, a mower, and three heating/cooling units that have been identified as not being needed any longer.
- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to sign the Memorial Healthcare Sponsorship agreement on behalf of the District in order to obtain resources to be allocated towards purchase of equipment for the Fitness Center at the Owosso Public Schools 6-12 campus.
- The Board of Education will be asked to approve the purchase of a truck with a towing package and snowplow from Signature Ford-Lincoln for an amount not to exceed \$36,743.00 plus license fees.

- The Board of Education will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to sign a contract with Royal-West Roofing & Sheet Metal, LLC out of Brighton, MI in an amount not to exceed \$670,000 (Alternate A2 and Alternate A1.a) and authorize the Superintendent to allocate \$100,500 (15%) additional funds for contingency for a total of \$770,500 to be taken out of sinking funds. The additional contingency amount would allow for any unforeseen conditions as the roofing work moves forward and allow the process to proceed without having to come back to the Board for additional approval and was not requested as part of the original bidding process. Any unused contingency would be reallocated back to the sinking fund.

For Information

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that Jackie Hatfield has accepted the 2.75-hour Monitor position at Emerson Elementary. Ben Cobb has accepted the Lead Grounds/Maintenance position. Gina Norman has accepted the Special Education Paraprofessional position at Emerson Elementary. Claudia Shrum has accepted the Bus Monitor position. Tammy Cohoon has accepted the day Custodian II position at Washington/Bentley. Krista Fedewa has accepted the 7-hour Food Service Worker position at Owosso High School. Lisa Czarnopys has accepted the 5-hour Food Service Worker position at Owosso High School. Heather Dorn has accepted the 1.75-hour Monitor position at Emerson Elementary School. Kerry Baker has accepted the 2.75-hour Food Service worker position at Bryant Elementary School. Mary Cranmer has accepted the 4.25-hour Food Service worker position at Owosso High School. Pauline Fernette, Monitor at Bryant Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation. Alyse Bleisner, Special Education Paraprofessional at Emerson Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation. Stephanie Garber, Payroll Specialist has resigned. William Lamrouex, Custodian II at Central Elementary has resigned.

Public Participation

There were no comments from the meeting's audience.

Board Member Comments/Updates

Trustee Ty Krauss thanked the District for permitting students to attend the MI Career Quest East that was put on by the GISD Michigan Works and is also where he works. He stated that approximately 3,000 students attended the event. This was the first year that they have put on the event that gave students a chance to see what job opportunities are available to them in skilled trades.

Trustee Sara Keyes applauded Chief Financial Officer Julie Omer for her work on the District's financial reports and assisting with the annual audits. She remarked that Owosso Public Schools is very fortunate to have Mrs. Omer as demonstrated by the consistently positive feedback from people that work with her.

Trustee Sara Keyes remarked that she has attended several student activities in the District with her children. She stated that one of her children was a student of the month and she is pleased with the way Emerson celebrates these students.

Vice President Rick Mowen referred to the comments made about the Trojan Marching Band consistently receiving straight 1's at Band Festival. He stated that this is a great honor; however, it places a lot of pressure on staff and the students to perform at this level. He applauded the talented band directors and students on their great performances.

Vice President Rick Mowen commented that several concerns were shared with the Board and administration when the District added theater to the curriculum. He stated that after watching the student performance of Music Man at the beginning of the meeting, he is very grateful that the District made this addition. He praised the students for their amazing talent.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki stated that she also attended Band Festival and it was a great event.

Secretary Shelly Ochodnicki reported that the local Homeless Shelter is now open and doing well. There are currently nine guests and three of them are children. She stated that it has been a great experience and the District has stepped up in many ways. She thanked Jessi Anderson, Emerson Principal for contributing to the meal train and sending pizzas recently. Bridgit Spielman, Central Principal; Megan

Friend, Central Teacher; and a Bryant Elementary teacher were also recognized for their assistance with the Harvest Festival.

Trustee Olga Quick also applauded Mrs. Julie Omer for her expertise with the audit. The administrative team was also thanked for all that they do.

Trustee Olga Quick stated that the Music Man performance was incredible. She remarked that there are several volunteers that have assisted with the performance and she thanked them as well.

Treasurer Marlene Webster referenced the Emergency Operations Plan, specifically the Community Profile on page 88 of the Board packet which states “The high school graduation rate is roughly 97%. The percentage of economically disadvantaged High School students is 57%.” Mrs. Webster commented that, in recognition of Administrator’s month, there is nothing more complimentary than this huge success for Owosso Public Schools.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

November 11: Board of Education Workshop, 5:30 pm

November 25: Regular Board Meeting, 5:30 pm

Important Upcoming Dates:

October 29: 5th Grade Concert @ Bryant, 7 pm

October 31: Half Day of School for All Students

November 5: Poetry Slam @ Guido’s, 6:30 pm

November 9: Band Boosters Craft Show @ OHS, 10 am – 4 pm

November 11: Veteran’s Day Celebrations: Central @ 9:15 am; Emerson @ 10 am; and Bryant @ 2 pm

November 14: Half Day for Students, Professional Development in Afternoon

November 15: OHS Musical Performance at OMS Auditorium, 7 pm

November 16: OHS Musical Performance at OMS Auditorium, 7 pm

November 17: OHS Musical Performance at OMS Auditorium, 2 pm

November 19: Winter Sports Parent Night at OHS, 7 pm

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicky to adjourn at 6:39 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary