

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**July 26, 2023**  
**Report 23-15**

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

President Mowen called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Performing Arts Center Foyer, 765 E North St, Owosso MI 48867.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Building Reports**

No building reports were given.

**Board Correspondence**

Dr. Tuttle began her report by informing the Board that the District will host opening days on August 21, 22, and 23. The theme this year is Trojan Trivia; on August 22 staff will be divided into teams and will work together to answer trivia questions related to the history of Owosso Public Schools. Treats will be provided from several local business including Cakey Cakes, Murtles, Owosso Cookie Company, Copper Top Country Store and more. Dr. Tuttle gave an update on the Summer Food Service Program; 3,260 breakfasts and 4,857 lunches have been served so far, and OPS food service has been supplying the YMCA with their meals. Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that on August 8, district administrators will hold their retreat at Fortitude Farms. This meeting allows administrators to come together before school starts and set expectations for the year. New Teacher Orientation will also be held at Fortitude Farms on August 15. The Board is invited to eat breakfast with the new staff members. Dr. Tuttle shared that the district hired two new nurses, for a total of three nurses in the district. The nurses will provide health services to all the buildings and have been received very well by students and families. Owosso High School welcomed their therapy dog, Danny, to the building. Danny has been described as calm, loving, and a great fit for the High School atmosphere. Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that Critical Incident Management Director Thomas Mynsberge conducted a security assessment of each building, a service paid for by a safety and security grant. Mr. Mynsberge will then review each assessment and provide his recommendations for improvement. Dr. Tuttle continued to say this years' kindergarten registration numbers are looking great and continue to rise. Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that the transportation department is looking for two drivers. This is a difficult position to fill due to the training requirements but the district is working diligently on recruitment. Dr. Tuttle continued with an update on technology. The district has purchased interactive flat panels for all the elementary classrooms; these panels will match the ones that were purchased for the north campus building and will be installed in the fall. Students will be receiving their individual Chromebooks on

Trojan days; the district works hard to keep all devices up-to-date for students. Dr. Tuttle continued with an update on sinking fund projects. She informed the Board that the fencing projects at Wilman Field and the bus garage have been completed; she thanked Operations Director Mr. Mike Hendrickson for his work in overseeing these projects. She also thanked Mr. Tom Gross for his work on sanding Wilman Field. The AC installation at Emerson started last year and will be completed the first week of August. The gym renovations at the elementary buildings and Washington Campus have been going smoothly, the bleachers are scheduled to arrive in October. Dr. Tuttle finished her report by saying the students return to school August 24 and everyone is looking forward to a great year.

Curriculum Director Mr. Steve Brooks shared the summer school program is servicing approximately 300 students Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and will continue to do so until the end of the program on August 3. The program is not only important for credit recovery, but also allows students to keep busy and provides for social interaction over the summer months. Books at Bryant continues to be a huge hit. On average, about 150 students and families come to the event each week. The community has showed great support for this event and Mr. Brooks thanked Culvers for their participation. Mr. Brooks informed the Board that New Teacher Orientation will take place at Fortitude Farms on August 15. This orientation is a great way to introduce teachers to the district and to the Owosso community. Mr. Brooks invited the Board to have breakfast with the new teachers at 8:00am. Mr. Brooks continued to inform the Board that on August 23, the district is providing professional development opportunities for staff. A variety of professional development topics were chosen by the OPS Instructional Leadership Council last spring, and staff members will be able to choose which topics they would like to receive training in. Mr. Brooks reminded the Board that the 10th annual Bryant Golf Outing will take place on August 20 at the Twin Brooks Golf Club. This fundraising event is a great success and has raised over \$57,000 in student scholarships.

### **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 Quick, supported by Easlick, to approve the June 28, 2023 Board of Education Budget Hearing Minutes, the June 28, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes, the current bills, and financials as presented. President Mowen conducted a roll-call vote, Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnický and Quick voted aye. Krauss and Webster are absent. Motion carried.

- Moved by Quick, supported by Henne to adopt the membership resolution of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the year beginning August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Ochodnicki, 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. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick, 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. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Henne to approve the course listings presented for the Middle School, High School, and Lincoln High School for the 2023-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick, 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. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Ochodnicki, 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. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Henne, supported by Easlick, to approve the hiring of Mark Willoughby, OHS Woodworking at BA Step 10 (\$63, 659) and of Samantha Nichols, Emerson Elementary Teacher, at BA Step 1 (\$43,332). Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick to move the 'For Information' item of the YMCA Memorandum of Understanding to 'For Action'. Motion carried unanimously. Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick to approve the continuation of the partnership between Owosso Public Schools and the YMCA for before and after school care for the 23-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

### **For Future Action**

- The Board will be asked to approve the tax levy (L-4029) for 2023 as presented and as discussed during the Budget hearing at the regularly scheduled board meeting on June 28th.
- The Board will be asked to authorize the Owosso Public School's Operations department to dispose of a 1025 John Deere tractor and related attachments.

### **For Information**

Dr. Tuttle announced the following personnel changes:

### **Accepted Positions**

- Steve Delong has accepted the Assistant Transportation/Operations Supervisor position.

- Tracy Williams has accepted the Monitor position at Emerson Elementary.
- Janna Guysky has accepted the Food Service Worker position at Bryant Elementary.
- Brionna Sarnik has accepted the Paraprofessional position at OMS.
- Jillian Boots has accepted the Paraprofessional position at OMS.
- Kristy Morton has accepted the Office Secretary position at OHS.
- Lisa Ondrus has accepted the Food Service Worker position at Emerson Elementary.
- Brittany Drake has accepted the GSRP Teacher position at Bentley Bright Beginnings.
- Maddie Pratt has accepted the GSRP Associate Teacher position at Bentley Bright Beginnings.
- EL Kinnard-Steffen has accepted the GSRP Associate Teacher position at Bentley Bright Beginnings.

### **Resignations**

- Brittany Murphy, GSRP Associate Teacher has resigned effective 6/2/23.
- Simon Godley, Bus Driver has resigned effective 6/20/2023.
- Amy Rutchick, Food Service Worker has resigned effective 6/20/2023.
- Dawn Horak, OHS Office Secretary has resigned effective 6/21/2023.
- Connor Sergent, Assistant Transportation Supervisor has resigned effective 6/23/23.
- Richard Hird, Grounds/Maintenance has resigned effective 6/30/2023.
- Tara Gall, Lead Custodian has resigned effective 6/30/2023.
- Karen Robinson, Food Service Worker has resigned effective 7/1/23.
- Helen Habermehl, OMS Paraprofessional has resigned effective 7/11/2023.
- Travis Devoe, Bus Driver has resigned effective 7/13/2023.

- Stephanie O'Neil, OMS Paraprofessional has resigned effective 7/18/2023.
- Sarah Devota, 2nd grade Teacher at Emerson Elementary has resigned effective 7/18/23.

### **YMCA Memorandum of Understanding**

The Board was informed that the Shiawassee Family YMCA and Owosso Public Schools renewed their partnership for after-school and before-school childcare for the 23-24 school year. \*The Board voted unanimously to move this item to 'For Action' for a vote, recorded above.

### **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.

### **Board Comments**

Trustee Ochodnický voiced her support for the summer school program. She appreciates the educational opportunities summer school provides for students and also the engagement opportunities for those students looking to keep busy while school is out. Trustee Ochodnický is looking forward to the beginning of school and seeing the kids back in the classrooms.

Trustee Henne remarked that this summer has gone by fast. He appreciates the updates on the ongoing construction of the gyms and is looking forward to seeing the finished products.

Treasurer Quick thanked the district for the summer school program and the opportunities provided to kids and families to stay engaged while school is out. She stressed the importance of these opportunities for kids to learn and socialize while having fun and has seen the positive impact these events have had on the community. She thanked all those involved in organizing the events.

Trustee Easlick thanked the food service workers for their hard work this summer, he is impressed by the number of meals served thus far. He also shared how thankful he is we have great bus drivers on the OPS team; he heard from several community members that a bus driver recently stopped traffic to make sure a student had a safe way to cross the road. Trustee Easlick thanked OPS staff for their dedication to the safety and security of the students.

President Mowen remarked it is wonderful to see kids keeping busy with all the engagement opportunities offered over the summer months. He thanked everyone for their attendance to the meeting tonight.

**Upcoming Dates**

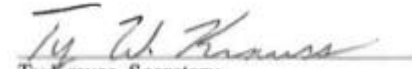
- August 9, 2023: Committee of the Whole
- August 23, 2023: Regular Board of Education Meeting

**Adjournment**

Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnicky, to adjourn at 6:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Ty Krauss, Secretary