

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
August 14, 2017
Report 17-22

Vice President Rick Mowen called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:58 pm. The meeting was held in the media center located at Owosso High School, 765 E. North Street, Owosso, Michigan.

Present: Keyes, Krauss, Mowen, Ochodnicky, Webster
Absent: Jenc, Paez

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

Vice President Mowen thanked the audience for attending the meeting. He welcomed the entire Owosso Public Schools staff to a new school year and gave a special welcome to new staff members.

Superintendent Tuttle commented that the meeting offers an opportunity to formally meet the District's newest group of great educators. The Board of Education was informed that new teacher orientation will take place on August 15th beginning at 8 am at the Fortitude Outdoor Fitness center. Board members were invited to attend the orientation and participate in team building activities with the group.

Bryant Elementary Principal Steve Brooks introduced Carly Whitford, who will be teaching kindergarten in his building. Ms. Whitford is a graduate of Central Michigan University.

Emerson Elementary Principal Terry Sedlar introduced Jamie West, who will teach kindergarten at Emerson. Ms. West is a Ferris State University graduate.

Central Elementary Principal Bridgit Spielman introduced Grand Valley State University graduate Jamie Lumsden, who will teach first grade at Central.

Amanda Rowell, Director of Bentley Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center introduced Patty LaVigne. Ms. LaVigne is an Oakland University graduate and will teach the Great Start Readiness Program at Bentley Bright Beginnings. Mrs. Rowell also introduced Siena Heights University graduate Brooke Emerson, who will teach early childhood special education.

Owosso Middle School Principal Rich Collins reported that he has hired two new teachers, but they were unable to attend the meeting. The teachers are Michigan State University graduate Jessica Henry, who will teach special education. In addition, Grace Rozanski will teach sixth grade English and is also a graduate of Michigan State University.

Owosso High School Principal Jeff Phillips announced that he has three new teachers. Baker College graduate Robert Mallory was introduced. Mr. Mallory will teach home improvement and construction trade classes. Mr. Phillips stated that Wallee Keating was not able to attend the meeting. She will teach engineering and physics. Ms. Keating has an engineering degree from Kettering University and a Master's Degree in education from the University of Michigan Flint. Coach Devin Pringle was unable to attend the meeting; however, he was introduced to the Board during a prior meeting. Coach Pringle will teach physical education, strength and conditioning and coach the high school football squad.

Superintendent Tuttle stated that she looks forward to seeing the new teachers, administrators, and Board members at new teacher orientation.

Vice President Mowen stated that on behalf of the Board of Education, he extended his greatest accolades to the new staff members.

Athletic Director Dallas Lintner reported that the District is fortunate and blessed to have two juniors that were all-state athletes last spring. He stated that he anticipates that Jordan Klapko and Meagan Jodway will also be outstanding senior athletes during the upcoming school year.

Jordan Klapko was recognized by Mr. Lintner for his athletic achievements in baseball and being named first team all-state by the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association.

Mr. Lintner acknowledged Meagan Jodway for being named honorable mention and all-state by the Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Tuttle stated that she hopes to see everyone at the annual Community Pep Rally on Friday, August 18 at Willman Field. She commended Athletic Director Dallas Lintner for organizing the great event. Free hot dogs and beverages will be served to the public from 5-6 pm. The program will begin at 6 pm with an introduction of all the fall high school sports teams, athletes, and their coaches.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that under the direction of Principal Steve Brooks and Michele Collison, Bryant Elementary hosted “Books at Bryant” over the summer months. She remarked that it has been a great success and student participation levels exceeded all expectations. Every week each student received a free new book and were involved in fun activities. The group will meet one final time on August 14.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that Trojan Days are scheduled to be held at Owosso High School on August 16. Lincoln High School hosted their annual student registration days on August 8 and 9.

Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that all sinking fund projects that were scheduled for the summer months should be completed before the start of the new school year. She encouraged everyone to check out the new high school track, improvements that have been made to the road that leads out to the ball fields, and new lighting and floors in the high school. John Klapko, Director of Operations and his team were thanked by Superintendent Tuttle for their hard work throughout the summer.

Superintendent Tuttle reported that she will meet with new teachers on the morning of August 15. New teachers are also scheduled to meet with their building principals and Shelly Collison for their mentor assignments on this same day.

Superintendent Tuttle stated that all District grade level and department chairpersons will meet with her in the afternoon on August 15. The Board was welcomed to attend the August 15 meetings.

Superintendent Tuttle explained that administrators and teacher leaders have participated in extensive “Thoughtful Classroom” evaluation training, which is the tool used to evaluate teachers. New teachers will also attend the training on August 23. Superintendent Tuttle informed the Board that staff has participated in some great professional development opportunities over the summer. These included drone training and Project Lead the Way.

Superintendent Tuttle cordially invited the Board of Education to join her and the entire OPS staff at the 2017-2018 Welcome Back celebration on August 21 from 1-3 pm in the high school auditorium. The celebration will include a short break so staff members can view the solar eclipse and recognize the importance of current events in the classroom. In addition, a welcome back breakfast will be held on August 22 from 8-8:45 am at the high school. Staff members will have an opportunity to experience the new coffee bar that will be offered to students during the school year.

Superintendent Tuttle expressed her excitement for the new school year. She stated that many exciting and important events will occur throughout the year including a bond millage vote in November.

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.

There were no comments from the public.

For Action

- Moved by Webster, supported by Krauss to approve the July 12, 2017 regular meeting minutes and current bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes, supported by Krauss to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a three-year fair market value lease agreement for two propane 77 passenger buses. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Ochodnicky to approve the tax levy (L-4029) for 2017 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Ochodnicky to adopt the Resolution Calling for a Bond Election to be held on November 7, 2017 for the public to consider a bond millage proposal. Superintendent Tuttle read into the record the following actual bond language:

Shall Owosso Public Schools, Shiawassee county, Michigan borrow the sum of not to exceed Forty-Five Million Five Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$45,550,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor for the purpose of:

Erecting, furnishing, and equipping additions to the existing high school, including classrooms, a media room, a multi-purpose performance education space, and a gymnasium, in order to convert it to a secondary building to include both a middle school and a high school; erecting, furnishing, and equipping a multi-purpose cafeteria/educational room addition to each of the existing elementary schools; remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, and equipping and re-equipping school buildings; acquiring and installing instructional technology in school buildings; and preparing, developing, and improving sites?

Vice President Mowen stressed that the Board of Education took action as a result of the community group asking at the June 26, 2017 Board meeting, for the Board to consider calling for a bond election. The diverse community group met in 2017 over a period of four months. During which time they toured and assessed district facilities and identified needs. Vice President Mowen asked Secretary Ochodnicky to conduct a roll call vote. Ayes: Webster, Ochodnicky, Mowen, Keyes, and Krauss. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously. It was noted that Jenc and Paez were absent.

Superintendent Tuttle commended the Board of Education for supporting the proposal as presented by the community group without any variations.

- Moved by Webster, supported by Ochodnicki to adopt Replacement Policy 5630.01-Student Seclusion and Restraint, as its second reading. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board of Education will be asked to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso Middle School students and teacher Samantha Lieberman on a Washington D.C. trip, to the Capital of the United States on April 25-27 in the year 2018.

Personnel Update:

Superintendent Tuttle reported that Mike Hendrickson has accepted the OHS Maintenance position at Owosso High School.

Public Participation

Tom Manke referenced the millage proposal and asked if the District will put out bids for contractors if the vote passes. He commented that the public expects that the project will be bid out.

Superintendent Tuttle replied to Mr. Manke and stated that the District follows all project bid laws.

Board Member Comments/Updates

Ty Krauss commented that the work that is being done to help promote Owosso Public Schools has been positive and he is very pleased with this.

Sara Keyes reported that she spent the past weekend on Mackinac Island taking MASB Certified Board Member Award (CBA) courses. Many of her classes focused on student achievement and technology. Mrs. Keyes stated that she would like to see the Board work together on a goal to become certified in its entirety. She commented that CBA classes have helped her become a better Board member and given her a new perspective on helping students. She stated that she understands that everyone is extremely busy, but believes that the Board of Education should lead by example and be #allin4owosso.

Marlene Webster remarked that she plans on taking additional MASB CBA classes this year and always attends when opportunities are available. She stated that she thinks that Mrs. Keyes goal is worthy, but cannot guarantee that she will be a certified Board member within the next year. Mrs. Webster commented that she is unable to attend the Welcome Back celebration on August 21 because this is her daughter's move in day for college. She stated that she loves to participate in opening days and is grateful for everyone that has worked so hard over the summer.

Shelly Ochodnicki announced that she also attended MASB CBA courses over the weekend. She learned a lot of new things and found the legislative process and school law very intriguing. She shared information on Board of Education Governance Standards, which contained ideas that the Board can work on as a whole. Mrs. Ochodnicki stated that she has been a member of the Board for seven years and has not completed her certification. She remarked that every time she attends CBA courses she is reassured that Owosso Public Schools is in a great position and she realizes how much she appreciates the District.

Rick Mowen commented that the MASB CBA courses are very interesting. However, he believes that the real key to the courses are working and talking with Board members from around the state and listening to their perspectives on similar education issues. Mr. Mowen shared an article from the Argus Press dated August 11 that highlighted the high school football program under the leadership of Coach Devin Pringle.

Mr. Mowen commended Coach Pringle for the renewed enthusiasm he brings to the program. Mr. Mowen remarked that he anticipates that in the near future, Owosso will have some fabulous football players as demonstrated by their hard work and enthusiastic performances during practice sessions.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

August 28 – Board Subcommittee Meetings, 5 and 6 pm
September 11 – Board Subcommittee Meetings, 5 and 6 pm
September 25 – Regular Board Meeting at 7 pm

Important Upcoming Dates:

August 15 – New Teacher Orientation, 8 am
August 16 – OHS Trojan Day, 8-11 am, 12-3 pm, and 4-6
August 16 – OHS Fall Sports Parent Night, 6 pm
August 18 – Community Pep Rally at Willman Field. Gates open at 5 pm. Program begins at 6 pm.
August 21-22 – Professional Development, 8 am – 4 pm
August 21 – OHS Open House & Trojan Day Make-up, 4-6 pm
August 22 – OMS Open House, 4-6 pm
August 22 – Bryant, Central and Emerson Open House, 5-7 pm
August 23 – Teacher Work Day
August 23 – Bentley Bright Beginnings Open House, 5-7 pm
August 24 – First Day of School (full day)
August 25 – Boys Varsity Football Game vs. Corunna HS at Willman Field, 7 pm
August 28-29 – Bentley Bright Beginnings Tuition Preschool Programs Begin
August 30 – LHS Open House, 5-7 pm
September 1-4 – No School: Labor Day Recess
September 5 – School Resumes

Adjournment

Moved by Ochodnický supported by Krauss to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnický, Secretary