

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**September 27, 2023**  
**Report 23-43**

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

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**

Owosso Middle School Assistant Vice Principal Dr. Cathy Dwyer gave a presentation to the Board on Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) Rewards. Dr. Dwyer explained to the Board that the Middle School has several support systems in place for students such as the OMS therapy dog Maverick, a school nurse, an Owosso Liaison Officer, the Check-In/Check-Out program, the peer-to-peer program and a student success coach. The PBIS Rewards program is now another support system for students and was purchased through a grant written by Chief Financial Officer Julie Omer and Curriculum Director Steve Brooks. Dr. Dwyer explained to the Board the program works by rewarding students with ‘Trojan Tokens’ when they meet behavioral expectations. For example, students can earn two tokens every hour for being on time to class and for being prepared. The students can then trade the tokens in for rewards like being first in line at lunch, preferred seating in the cafeteria, a positive shout-out on Facebook, and teachers can also decide rewards that are specific to their classroom. Dr. Dwyer displayed the PBIS dashboard to demonstrate what students and staff see when they log-in. The Board thanked Dr. Dwyer for her presentation and thanked OMS staff for their continued creativity in ways to support students.

Student Representative Kate Lee informed the Board that homecoming was a busy week. Students brought out their best outfits for spirit week and dressed in Blue and Gold on Friday to support their classmates on the field. Ms. Lee ended her report by congratulating Quinn Skarich and Ryan Dahl for winning Homecoming Queen and King.

**Board Correspondence**

Dr. Tuttle thanked Dr. Dwyer for her presentation on PBIS Rewards. She said these programs are what sets Owosso apart from other districts, and demonstrates the commitment from OPS staff to build positive, proactive relationships with students. Dr. Tuttle passed out the latest sinking fund flyer to the Board members. Dr. Tuttle explained the flyer will be mailed out to all absentee voters in Owosso. The flyer serves to educate the community on the importance and purpose of a sinking fund, and includes a QR code that will play a short introductory video recorded by Dr.

Tuttle. The flyer includes a short 'Questions and Answers' section that provides explanations for common questions asked by voters. Dr. Tuttle also informed the Board that a document titled 'Sinking Fund Projects Through the Years' will be available to voters to show repairs and construction that the sinking fund has paid for from 1999 to 2023. As election day approaches, the district will be sending out reminders via school messenger and Facebook to Owosso families. Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that the 2023 sinking fund projects are almost completed; the gym renovations at the Elementary buildings and Washington campus are looking spectacular and the bleachers are scheduled to arrive in October. Dr. Tuttle shared with the Board there are two Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) classrooms at Bentley Bright Beginnings and the district recently received \$50,000 from the state to fund those classrooms. Dr. Tuttle reported that the Career and Technical Education Job Fair took place on September 7 in the Performing Arts Center foyer. CTE Coordinator Carrie Warning organized the event and a variety of local businesses participated. This is a great event that allows for our students to see potential career paths and hear local success stories. Dr. Tuttle ended her report by relaying that since the Board passed the Letter of Agreement for bus drivers in August, the district has hired three new bus drivers. This is great news for the transportation department and great news for the community who rely on our busses to get their kids to school.

Curriculum Director Mr. Brooks informed the Board that the district is gearing up for fall benchmark assessments. The Northwest Education Association (NWEA) assessment covers reading and math K-8 and the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) K-5, are being completed and the data will be used to assess student growth from spring to fall. The data helps the district implement support interventions for students and staff. Once testing is complete the results will be shared with the Board. Mr. Brooks also shared that students in grades 3-12 were given 'school culture surveys', in an attempt to gather information about how students are feeling socially and emotionally at school. The culture survey includes questions like 'Do you feel accepted at school?', 'Do you feel safe at school?', 'Do you have a trusted adult you feel comfortable talking to?'. Although the results of this survey came back extremely positive, District administrators will take the data from this survey to make improvements where possible. Mr. Brooks shared with the Board that CTE Coordinator Mrs. Carrie Warning and students Wyatt Boggs, Ashton White, and Kloe Hayes are currently attending the SkillsUSA Leadership Institute in Washington D.C., a trip the Board approved back in July. While there, the students will have opportunities to advocate for the skilled trades and will receive advanced leadership training. Mr. Brooks ended his report by informing the Board that the district's next professional development day is scheduled for November 7.

### **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 Webster, supported by Henne, to approve the August 23, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes, August 23, 2023 Closed Session Minutes, the current bills and financials as presented. President Mowen conducted a roll call vote; Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Webster, Quick, Ochodnicki voted aye, Krauss is absent. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Quick, to authorize the Superintendent to contract with Michigan Glass Coatings in an amount(s) not to exceed \$43,610 for the purchase and installation of security film on identified windows (inclusive of identified windows in specific doors) at Bentley, Bryant, Central, Emerson, OMS/OHS and Lincoln/Washington campus. The alternate option from Michigan Glass Coatings, 3M Ultra, is more durable and an overall better product than the minimum requirement, 8mm film. This bid is not only responsible, but still the lowest compared to all other contractors who submitted bids. Therefore, this is the recommended bid. President Mowen conducted a roll call vote; Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Webster, Quick, Ochodnicki voted aye, Krauss is absent. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Easlick, to move Revised Policy 2623-Student Assessment, Revised Policies 3215- Use of Tobacco by Professional Staff, 4215-Use of Tobacco by Support Staff, 5512-Use of Tobacco by Students, 7434- Use of Tobacco on School Premises, 9160-Public Attendance at School Events, New Policy 5330.03 Opioid Antagonists, Revised Policy 6325- Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds, Revised Policies 7540.02-Web Accessibility, Content, Apps and Services, 7540.03- Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, 8315-Information Management, Revised Policy 8390- Animals on District Property, and Revised Policy 8400-School safety information, to ‘For Action, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading’ at the October 25, 2023 Regular Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

### **For Future Action**

- The Board will be asked to authorize and direct the Superintendent or designee to sign the Lawsuit settlement documents pertaining to Altria Defendants on behalf of the District and to take such action regarding the settlement as necessary, subject to review and approval by the District’s legal counsel. This will allow the District to complete its part in the litigation against vape manufacturer Altria, Inc.
- The Board will be asked to approve the audit report for the 2022-23 fiscal year.
- The Board will be asked to authorize the Owosso Public School’s Athletic department to dispose of free weights identified as being duplicates or not suited for the needs for physical education classes or athletics at the secondary campus.

- The Board will be asked to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso Middle School students and staff on a Washington D.C. trip, to the Capital of the United States on April 24-26 in the year 2024.

### **For Information**

Dr. Tuttle announced the following personnel changes:

### **Accepted Positions**

- Caleb Harris has accepted the Monitor position at Bryant.
- Kristen Prchlik-Schott has accepted the Paraprofessional position at Bryant.
- Carrie Brown has accepted the Paraprofessional position at Central.
- Juanita Burke has accepted the Monitor position at Bryant.
- EmmaLee Livingston has accepted the Paraprofessional position at Bryant.
- Payton Tyrrell has accepted the Paraprofessional position at OMS.
- Amanda Howard has accepted the Monitor position at Bryant.
- Karen Sawicki has accepted the Bus Driver/Fueler position.

### **Resignations**

- John Hertzler, Grounds/Maintenance has resigned effective 8/23/23.
- Angela Graham, Elementary Reading Specialist-Early Literacy Coach has resigned effective 9/28/23.
- Jerry Benjamin, Plumber has resigned effective 9/25/23.
- Juanita Burke, Monitor has resigned effective 9/20/23.

### **Continuity of Learning Plan**

Dr. Tuttle reviewed the OPS Continuity of Learning Plan with the Board. On August 20, 2020 Governor Whitmer signed House Bill 5913 into law as Public Act 149 with revisions on September 30, 2020 based on Senate Bill 927. Section 98a states that to receive state aid for 2023-2024, districts must provide for instruction under an extended COVID-19 Learning Plan (“Plan”) that has been approved by an intermediate district or authorizing body. The ISD or

Authorizing Body approved the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan no later than October 9, 2020 and transmitted the approved plan to the state superintendent of public instruction and the state treasurer. The approved plan was made accessible through the transparency reporting link located on the district's website by October 12, 2020.

The Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan addresses specific assurances, such as posting the Plan on the Owosso Public Schools website, creating a report including professional development for teachers and training provided to parents/guardians on the use of virtual content, administering benchmark assessments, setting specific learning goals, providing access to technology, cooperating with the health department, prioritizing K-5 learners, guaranteeing students with disabilities have equitable access to learning materials, ensuring 2-way communication occurs for attendance purposes, and outlining grading procedures.

### **Public Participation**

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No public participants addressed the Board.

### **Board Comments**

Trustee Easlick thanked Dr. Dwyer for her PBIS rewards presentation, he said it is great to hear about the support systems in place for students in the district. He also congratulated the homecoming court and said the parade was a great time.

Treasurer Quick thanked Dr. Dwyer for her presentation, and thanked all OPS staff for their dedication to supporting students. She congratulated the homecoming court, and said the homecoming week activities looked like a lot of fun.

Vice President Webster thanked Dr. Dwyer for her presentation. She said it is fantastic news that the district has been able to hire more bus drivers.

Trustee Henne shared the homecoming week festivities looked like a lot of fun for the kids. He thanked Operations Director Mr. Mike Hendrickson and his team for their work around the district. He said the gyms are looking great.

President Mowen agreed the sinking fund renovations look great, he is looking forward to seeing the finished projects. He said the homecoming parade was a great time and congratulated the homecoming court. President Mowen ended his comments by thanking those in the audience for attending the meeting.

### **Upcoming Dates**

- October 9: Marching Band Festival, 3:30pm, Willman Field
- October 11: OHS Choir Concert, 7:00pm, PAC
- October 19: OHS Haunted, 7:00PM, PAC
- October 23: OHS Powderpuff game, 7:00pm, Willman Field
- October 25: OHS Trojan Spectacular, 7:00pm, PAC
- October 31: Half day for all students

Moved by Easlick, supported by Henne, to move into closed session at 6:33pm for the purpose of conducting a student hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick to move back into open session at 7:27 pm for the purpose of adjournment. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Ochodnicky, supported by Henne, to adjourn at 7:29pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Ty Krauss, Secretary