

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
November 08, 2021
Report 21-40

Present: Sara Keyes, Ty Krauss, Rick Mowen, Olga Quick, Marlene Webster, Shelly Ochodnicky, Adam Easlick

Absent:

President Rick Mowen called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Washington Campus Gymnasium, 645 Alger Street, Owosso MI 48867.

Pledge of Allegiance

NEOLA Board Policy Review with Wayne Wright

NEOLA Representative Mr. Wayne Wright provided members of the Board with explanations of the following proposed policies: Revised Bylaw 0100, Revised Bylaw 0167.3, Revised Policy 3120, Replaced Policy 5722, Revised Policy 6114, Revised Policy 6152, Revised Policy 7450, Revised Policy 8310, Revised Policy 8320, Revised Policy 8330.

Public Participation

President Rick Mowen announced the Board of Education is a public body and recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues. Time was included in the meeting's agenda for public participation. Members of the audience should announce their name and group affiliation when applicable and 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.

The following individuals addressed the Board:

- Tom Manke
- Anonymous
- Lisa Biskupski-Pangborn
- Karma Chandler
- Amber Cole-Miller

Summer 2022 Sinking Fund Work

Dr. Tuttle passed around an extensive spreadsheet for the Board to demonstrate the sinking fund numbers and needs of the district. "The purpose of this is for information, we won't be making any decisions tonight. Mr. Huff from the Spicer Group, our engineering group, will be here in January to provide input as well. You've seen this document before it is simply updated. Priorities will be highlighted in blue, yellow, and green and the pinkish-tan below. You can see the individual needs of each school have been categorized. If you see can see a grand total of

twenty-three million dollars in needs. That is continuous needs over time; parking lots, windows and so forth, just like your home. Things need to be repaired. Just a couple things I would like to look at in particular; if you look at the Emerson windows, Emerson received some new windows in years past, but not at all. You can see the two-hundred and fifty thousand dollars for potential new windows at Emerson. You may recall we tried to do that this year but we couldn't get the windows in-time, so we pushed that back to next year. Emerson did receive a little TLC this year with new bathrooms and stair wells, so our recommendation is to focus on Bryant for the upcoming summer. You'll see the two-hundred and fifty thousand dollars for classroom renovations. There are still several Bryant classrooms that have carpet in them, restrooms that need renovations and so forth. It would be a nice overhaul to get those freshened up. The roof at Bryant is also in desperate need of attention, you can see that at four-hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars. That roof has not been done for quite some time and we have some leaks. There are some extensive renovations that need to happen. Those are our recommendations, but you are more than welcome to take a look at the paperwork here and see what needs to be done. We will take some time to digest all this and then revisit in January with Darrick Huff.

COVID UPDATE

Mr. Brooks shared that the district has seen a significant rise in COVID positive cases in the last week. "One issue that is concerning is the positive cases in staff. Currently we have ten teachers in the district that are out, three support staff and one bus driver that are positive with COVID. Several are vaccinated several are not. On a positive note, at the end of last week we were able to test just shy of five hundred students with an average of eighty to one hundred students testing a day. The system we have in place has been efficient, the main goal of Test to Stay is keeping these kids in class."

Dr. Tuttle stated "We are having a real human resource issue right now. We have exhausted our staff this year and it is only November. I am concerned about the lack of human resources. We are trying to keep the district running but it is becoming an increasing challenge. All of staff has been amazing. Teachers, support staff, operations, transportation, everyone has been working tirelessly to keep our kids safe and in school."

Thanksgiving Break

President Mowen announced that Thanksgiving Break this year would take place on November 24, 25, and 26.

Before the Board moved to closed session, Vice President Ochodnicki wanted to share "A couple of weeks ago I walked into a Board meeting that was not like any other I had been to before. A series of events happened that led up to my attendance of a county meeting. I was looking for reasoning as to why we were quarantining healthy students as possible contacts to COVID and why we would treat our unvaccinated population different than our vaccinated population. I was met with a lot of resistance over a few months period. I know that I do not have a doctoral degree behind my name – I have something better, I graduated from the school of hard knocks. My life experience has taught me things you could never learn in a classroom. My concerns will not be diminished by the cancel-culture tyranny I had to experience. I am choosing to take the high road that attacked my accountability and devotion to kids. These types of actions do not serve our kids well. For those that know my work, take the time to ask questions don't fall

into this culture where we are canceled through Facebook and social media. Around the time school started I asked myself what are we asking families to compromise on? Should parents be able to compromise the right to parent? When do we draw a line on keeping sick children home? Should families be willing to keep their healthy kids home? Should parents lose their jobs due to these measures? None of what we do in this school ever makes sense. We have honors night packed in the gym but we can't hold a Halloween party in the gym at Bryant. None of these things make sense. I had to draw a line in asking myself all of these questions. In July 2012 I saw my son take an oath to protect this country and our constitution, our freedoms and our rights. My son vowed to give his life to protect the liberties we take for granted. Six week after he swore that Oath we lost Owosso hero Shane Cantu. My son then started his service. Through this time I've asked repeatedly to bring the parents into this decision making process. I've requested surveys, special meetings to consider policy. I have a message for the parents of our community, never let your voices go unheard. No one knows your children's needs better than you, never. Never forget that we work for you. It is time to figure out what your line in the sand is. You have every right to disagree with me, to your opinion. Those who choose to disagree with me, there is a process you can follow to recall me from my position or can fire me at the 2022 election. I will not allow the cancel culture tyranny to take me down and my voice that represents our children in this district. Before I am done I do have some questions regarding our last meeting. We received this policy that was presented by Trustee Quick. This is not typically how we introduce policy. This document was typed up before our meeting. I don't know what that means. I have questions as to the policy itself and the amendment to it. It says it only goes in to effect if the health department signs a legal requirement. I don't know if this is on our website yet I haven't had the chance to look. But I would like to know more about where this document came from."

Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick to move into closed session at 6:20 p.m. President Mowen conducted a roll-call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Krauss, supported by Keyes to return to open session at 7:17p.m. President Mowen conducted a roll-call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates.

- **November 22:** Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 pm
- **November 19, 20, 21:** OHS Musical
- **November 24, 25, 26:** Thanksgiving Break
- **December 1: OHS Band Concert.**

Adjournment

Moved by Quick, supported by Krauss to adjourn at 7:22 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Webster

Marlene Webster, Secretary