

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**  
**January 14, 2019**  
**Report 18-92A**

President Jenc called the Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 5:00 pm. The meeting was held at the Washington Campus, 645 Alger Street, Owosso, MI 48867.

Present: Tim Jenc, Sara Keyes, Ty Krauss, Rick Mowen, Olga Quick, Shelly Ochodnicky, and Marlene Webster  
Absent: All members were in attendance

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Jenc welcomed new member Olga Quick to the meeting.

President Jenc asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. The participants of the meeting included President Tim Jenc, Vice President Rick Mowen, Secretary Shelly Ochodnicky, Trustee Sara Keyes, Trustee Ty Krauss, Trustee Olga Quick, Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle, Curriculum Director Steve Brooks, and Administrative Assistant Clara Pitt

**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.

Mr. Gary Burke, Friends of the Shiawassee River Board member reported that the FOSR or The Friends is a local nonprofit organization committed to "Care, Share and Enjoy" the Shiawassee River. The organization has been in existence for approximately 20 years. Mr. Burke informed the Board that the "stream team" program helps document the water quality of the Shiawassee and tributaries through assessment of the aquatic insect community. The benefits for students include experiencing hands on science in the field and increasing resource appreciation and stewardship, while having fun. They would like to encourage continued participation in the annual river clean-up. The Friends desire to work with OPS to engage the community and develop support for such initiatives that could include native tree/shrub planting, rain gardens and other measures of storm water management to reduce peak runoff and pollution loads to the Shiawassee River from OPS facilities.

Mr. Burke stated that the Friends would like to encourage the Board to relocate the school bus garage to a new facility away from the existing site. He stated that the existing buildings and site are in the "floodway," not just the floodplain of the river. The Friends are willing to partner with OPS to seek grant funding and community volunteer involvement with the goal of structure demolition and greenbelt restoration at no taxpayer expense.

Mr. Phil Hathaway, Friends of the Shiawassee River member reported that he has done some homework on state trails and believes that Owosso will eventually be a water trail town. He stated that property owners along the river and the school system could become major players in this. He commented that the loop trail that runs along the river and is adjacent to the transportation facility is very popular. This was made possible through an easement with the District in 1996. Mr. Hathaway informed the Board that there is a ground water monitoring well on the transportation property and he is not certain if this well has been closed. He asked if a member of the OPS staff could look into closing the well. Mr. Hathaway reported that it is the desire of the Friends to remove the dams along the Shiawassee River within the county.

Mr. Gary Burke stated that they have completed an initial assessment on dam removal or modifications. They currently are focusing on the Shia town dam and then will move on to the Corunna dam. He remarked that if the removals go well, they plan to then focus on Owosso's dams. The goal is to achieve a clear passage for aquatic boats and fish with the removal of the dams. Mr. Burke encouraged everyone to become members of the Friends of the Shiawassee River and assist with the clean-up.

### **Property Transfer Hearing**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that the SRESA will be conducting a meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of a property transfer hearing. The property in question has been owned by the same family for 30 years and after a survey was conducted, a small portion of the property was split and is in the Corunna School District.

### **Bond Expenditure Summary**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle provided the Board with a document containing bond expenditures through December 31, 2018. Upon review of the document, she explained that the District is doing very well with its expenditures up to this point; however, construction costs continue to escalate.

### **Foundation and Site Work:**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that we were hoping to have all Kingscott Architectural plans ready to submit to Clark Construction to prepare the bid document by January 18<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, we did not hit the deadline for the entire package, but we are on schedule for the foundation and site work with the balance of the building on track to be submitted to Clark Construction on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sinking Fund/Safety Grant/cook Donation/Bond Proceeds**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained the complexity of working with various pots of money that are being used for the elementary and secondary campus bond work

### **Groundbreaking at Secondary Campus**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that the District is still on track for ground breaking in March or early April for the secondary campus. Clark has also been working with Consumers to try and get ahead of the game for the secondary campus so we do not experience the same delays that we did at the elementary buildings.

Superintendent Tuttle announced that Bryant is the furthest ahead in construction, then Central. Emerson is behind schedule because of the hold up by Consumers Energy. She stated that a tour of the elementary construction sites is scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup>. New drone footage of the construction progress will be taken and be available on the District's Facebook page and website.

### **Precision Electric**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that the Precision Electric inspection came in higher than expected. During the inspection it was realized that the buses could not be parked inside the building and would result in additional costs to allow this. There also were concerns with the bays and drainage. Superintendent Tuttle stated that it is her recommendation to not proceed with the purchase because it does not meet our needs. Prior to Christmas break a meeting was held with representatives of the transportation and maintenance departments. During the meeting, the representatives voiced their concerns with the Precision Electric building after touring the facility. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that they shared some valid concerns and issues with the building.

### **Middleton Property**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle shared her thoughts about potentially placing the Transportation Department at the Middleton property. A huge concern is the traffic flow on North Street when the secondary campus is completed. She stated that she has spent hours with the City of Owosso and the Transportation Department and they now have a plan that would help avoid congestion. A document representing a proposed access drive and traffic flow to Middleton Road was shared with the Board. The road to the Middleton property would be used as an access drive for buses and completely eliminate the mixing of buses and cars. The road would be blacktop. Buses would enter off Middleton Road, turn around in what will be the bus loop and a restricted parking area during the day (will be used for pool event, youth

football, and softball/baseball parking after 4 pm), turn around and head back out to Middleton. Middle school students would exit the 600 hallway and high school students would exit in the hallway next to the cafeteria. People would not be allowed to park in the existing parking lot to the North of the school during the school day as this area would include some basketball hoops and maybe a plaza area for middle school students to use during lunch. The proposed plan would eliminate any homeland security issues by providing two entrances and exits to the secondary campus.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle shared a site diagram and preliminary cost estimates for the high school access drive to Middleton Road. The cost for the total access drive project is estimated at \$875,000.00. It was her recommendation to at least go with the new access drive to Middleton Road.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that the proposed new bus garage would include two bays, a lift system, an office, restrooms, and a breakroom. The preliminary cost for the transportation center is estimated at \$840,000.00. It was noted that this does not include an addition for the Maintenance Department.

### **Sinking Fund Update**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that as of January 8, 2019, projects identified to be covered by the Sinking fund (not including OMS and OHS) amount to \$19,327,050.00. She stated that student and staff safety concerns continue to be a top priority when looking at the needs. It was noted that the bond does not cover all of the roof repairs that are needed at the high school. Structural work at Emerson needs to be addressed immediately. Other areas of concern include the elimination of asbestos floors, gymnasium improvements, bleacher improvements, high school parking lot, and the tennis courts.

### **Middle School Property**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that potential parties have expressed an interest in the middle school property. She stated that the Board would be updated on this as soon as she receives additional information.

### **Education**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained that while attending the MASA Fall Conference in September she sat in a SMART Hour session. Fraser Public Schools is an innovative leader in education and they have had success with this concept. A class period would be added in every day extending our seven periods to eight within the same hourly confines of a school day. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated that she has shared information about SMART hour during meetings with Mr. Jeff Phillips and members of his staff. It is her belief that this would help kids that are struggling by giving them an opportunity to obtain assistance from their teachers during the SMART hour. The SMART hour would be a homeroom period and students could work on homework. The pros and cons of the concept were shared with the Board.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle provided the Board with information about Hybrid Classes or anytime/anywhere education. She explained that it is similar to the seat time waiver program at Lincoln High School. A Hybrid class is a class that combines meeting with students face to face (FF) for some class periods and students working on-line (OL) at an alternate location (media center, home, etc.) on other days. Prior to the first class, students would be provided a schedule from their hybrid teacher delineating which days of the semester would be designated as FF and which would be designated as OL. Although these days may vary depending on circumstances, ideally, they would remain constant from what the teacher provides at the beginning of a semester. Teachers would choose if they wanted to teach a Hybrid class and they would have to plan their whole year prior to the start of school. The entire class syllabus would be completed and lessons would be available on a program similar to Blackboard. Teachers can choose if they want to teach at least one Hybrid class. Students must have parent permission and at least a B average in all of their courses to qualify for a Hybrid class. Superintendent Dr. Tuttle shared the pros and cons of Hybrid classes. She stated that she would like to continue discussions about SMART Hour and Hybrid classes with teachers.

### **Potential New Classes**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle shared a lists of potential new classes for the high school. The classes include: Natural Resources/Agri Science Year 3; Family Living and Interior Design, 9-12 grade; and Construction Trades III (MC3).

### **Marshall Plan**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that a Marshall Plan meeting is scheduled for January 23. She along with Curriculum Director Steve Brooks plan to attend the meeting.

### **Legislation**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that a Bill recently passed changing teacher and administrator evaluations to now be based on 40% of student growth and assessment data. She commented that the school aid fund is also being raided to fund roads.

### **Organizational Meeting**

Superintendent Tuttle provided the Board with an explanation about the January 28<sup>th</sup> organizational meeting.

### **Teacher/Staff Member of the Year**

Superintendent Tuttle reported that the Foundation Board is working on a rubric for the selection of a teacher and staff member of the year.

### **Board Member Terms**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained that she would like to change the Board Policy for Board member terms. She stated that it is not good for a District to have four members seeking reelection at the same time. Examples of Board member rotation schedules was discussed with the Board.

### **Alumni Directory**

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reported that the District is working on updating a new Alumni Directory. The last one was updated in 2006.

### **Board Comments**

Olga Quick commented that she is glad to be a member of the Board and eager to learn.

Shelly Ochodnicky remarked that she is happy that the District continues to seek innovative and creative ways to educate students. She stated that she likes the SMART Hour and Hybrid class concepts.

Ty Krauss welcomed Olga Quick to the Board of Education and stated that he looks forward to her participation.

Rick Mowen presented Olga Quick with a gift and welcomed her to the OPS Board.

Tim Jenc expressed his interested in attending MASB CBA classes that will be offered in February.

Shelly Ochodnicky commented that she highly recommends attending the CBA classes. She stated that she has had some great experiences and enjoys talking to Board members from other school districts.

Steve Brooks informed the Board that the potential new classes that were shared earlier in the meeting will be taught by our current staff. The new classes will add an extra layer for students that have interests in specific areas. He remarked that Construction Trades is going very well.

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

January 28: Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 pm

February 11: Board of Education Workshop, 5-8 pm

**Adjournment**

Moved by Jenc, supported by Mowen to go into closed session at 7:20 pm for the purpose of discussing a student discipline issue. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Mowen, supported by Jenc to return to open session at 7:26 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Mowen, supported by Krauss to adjourn at 7:27 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

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Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary