

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Regular Meeting
March 14, 2022
Report 21-119

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

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

Building Reports

Dr. Tuttle welcomed the first presenters of the evening, owners of Paradise Dog Training Lori and Jack Grigg. Dr. Tuttle explained the District is considering purchasing therapy dogs to help ease the mental health issues that have been prevalent among students and staff in the last couple of years. Lori and Jack introduced therapy dogs Emmy and Wally and started by saying they are a small company out of Fenton, Michigan, and they train about four to six dogs per year. Lori explained the selection process for each dog is extensive; they research the genetic history of the dog dating back 100 years, they verify the health of the dog, and the dog must have a specific temperament. Each dog is trained for several months to Therapy Dog International Standards. Once the dog is placed with a host family within the District, Lori and Jack spend several months training those who will be handling the dog at the school (up to 18 handlers per dog). Dr. Tuttle thanked Lori and Jack for their time and willingness to come before the Board and answer questions.

For the Celebrate Kids portion of the evening, Bentley Bright Beginnings teachers Ms. Erika Sumbera, Ms. Brittany Murphy, Ms. Heather Kirby, and a group of their kindergarten students (Killian Shaulis, Meadow Domingos, Liviana Amburgey, River Stiff, Ariella Cannon, Amara Mason, Aubrey Lamrouex, and Nylah Griffin) demonstrated for the Board that they are learning their letters. The teachers held up single letters on flash cards and the students identified the letter, the sound the letter makes, and an animal associated with the letter. Dr. Tuttle thanked Bentley Bright Beginnings for their presentation and praised the students for their dedication to learning.

For her report, Student Representative Madalyn Hasyn congratulated the participants at the BPA State Finals in Grand Rapids. Madalyn commended student Elijah Whiteside as he will be moving on to the national competition in Dallas, Texas. Elijah is the first student in Owosso history to earn the honor of participating in the national competition. Madalyn reported the J.V. Quiz Bowl team earned second place in their competition in Grand Rapids and the varsity team

was awarded third place. The band and choir achieved the superior rating of 1 at their festival competition the previous week. Madalyn wished the Trojan Marching Band the best of luck in their travels to Disney and their performance in the park. Madalyn finished her report by congratulating the students who were inducted into the National Honor Society and thanked the seniors who are graduating for making OPS and their community a better place.

To end the building reports, Coach Curran escorted student athlete Hannah Hart to the microphone and described her recent accomplishment in girls' wrestling. Hannah competed in the all-female MHSAA Wrestling Tournament and placed in the top eight. She earned all-state honors and accomplished this with a broken finger. The Board commended Hannah for her perseverance and determination.

Board Correspondence

Dr. Tuttle reported the third graders at Bryant participated in a field trip to the Capitol Building in Lansing. The students were invited to the Senate and had a wonderful time while also learning about Michigan's government. District-wide, the third graders also had their musical debut at the Performing Arts Center, the performances were well-received by the students and parents alike. Dr. Tuttle continued that March is Reading month at all OPS schools and many guest readers from the community have signed up to visit the classrooms and read to students. The middle school had their annual history day, students could build a website or make an exhibit and the judges are always complimentary of the Owosso students and the effort they put into their projects. In athletics, Owosso had great success with both seventh and eighth grade boys' basketball teams having winning seasons. Dr. Tuttle congratulated the OPS band and choir for their ratings at the district festival. The unveiling of the state championship softball banner occurred at the Corunna basketball game two weeks prior; Dr. Tuttle, several members of the girls' softball team, Athletic Director Mr. Steve Irelan and Coach JoEllen Smith were there to commemorate the occasion. Dr. Tuttle also commended Transportation Director Renee Secor-Jenks and Connor Sergent for their hard work during the snow days over the past week. Dr. Tuttle finished her report by welcoming the new high school football coach Mr. Rob Tyner.

Curriculum Director Mr. Steve Brooks began his report by saying that the Professional Development planned for March 11 had to be rescheduled due to the snow days, the District is working on another opportunity to provide Professional Development for staff. Mr. Brooks also said that for the last couple of months, administration has been working on 6-12 math resources and to provide family support at home. Administration is also preparing for testing season next month, organizing materials and enrollment that needs to be done for the SAT and PSAT. Mr. Brooks finished his update by saying that administration is also preparing for the 2022-2023 school year to have all materials ready by fall 2022.

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.

The following individuals addressed the Board:

- Tom Manke
- Karen Michalec
- James Zimmerman
- Dan Sellen
- Karen Robinson

For Action

- Moved by Krauss, supported by Webster to approve the February 21, 2022, Regular Board Meeting Minutes, the Current Bills and Financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnický to approve the OHS Out of State Travel Chicago Choir trip. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, Supported by Easlick to approve the ESSER Fund Recommendation. Secretary Webster conducted a roll-call vote. Trustees Easlick, Krauss, Quick, Secretary Webster and Vice President Ochodnický voted for the recommendation. Keyes is absent. Motion passed in roll-call vote.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Krauss to authorize the Owosso Public School's Maintenance department to dispose of two vehicles that no longer service the needs of the district, a 1994 Chevy Dump Truck and a 1995 GMC Pick Up Truck. Motion Carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Webster to approve the discontinuation of the Daily COVID testing at the Performing Arts Center. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Krauss, Supported by Webster to table the Paradise Dog Training contract until the April 25, 2022, regular Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to award the contract on April 25, 2022, for replacement of interior doors at all three elementary schools based on bids to be submitted on March 16, 2022.
- The Board will be asked to approve the contract with Spicer Group, as presented, for retention of their services for the design, bidding and fieldwork for the projects identified for summer work.
- The Board will be asked to adopt the Budget Revision #1 resolution for the 2021-22 appropriations for the General, School Service, and Sinking Funds as presented.

For Information

Dr. Tuttle announced the following personnel changes:

Accepted Positions

- Heather Dorn has accepted the 6.5-hour Monitor position at Emerson Elementary.
- Theresa Riley has accepted the floating Bus Driver position.
- Julie Nelson has accepted the 52-week Secretary position at Owosso Middle School.

Resignations

- Jennifer Sanders, Special Education Teacher at Bryant Elementary has submitted her letter resignation effective February 25, 2022.
- Maggie Keech, Third Grade Teacher at Bryant Elementary has submitted her letter of resignation to be effective at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year.
- Scott Buddy, Science Teacher at Owosso Middle School has submitted his letter of resignation to be effective at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year.
- Angelina Manns, Food Service Supervisor has submitted her letter of resignation to be effective March 21, 2022.
- Nathan Lepley, Custodian II at Owosso High School has submitted his letter of resignation to be effective February 25, 2022.

Retirements

- Shawn Alexander, English Teacher at Owosso Middle School has submitted her letter of retirement effective at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year after 25 years of service with the District.
- Devin Pringle, Teacher at Owosso High School and Head Football coach has submitted his letter of retirement to be effective at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year after 5 years of service with the District.
- Gerald Gerstler, Teacher at Owosso High School has submitted his letter of retirement to be effective at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year after 26 years of service with the District.
- Tami Smith-Schaar, Paraprofessional at Bryant Elementary has submitted her letter of retirement to be effective at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year after 26 years of service with the District.
- Elizabeth Ramirez, Paraprofessional at Emerson Elementary has submitted her letter of retirement to be effective at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year after 24 years of service with the District.

Public Participation

The following individuals address the Board:

- Tom Manke

Board Reports

Vice President Ochodnický congratulated Hannah Hart on her success and likened her to another successful Owosso wrestler, Megan Vondrasek.

Secretary Webster praised the Bentley students for their presentation and applauded administration for the marketing that was done for kindergarten registration. Secretary Webster said OPS does make a commitment to not send registration packets to neighboring districts, but the school should be doing everything in its power to draw new students to the district. Secretary Webster ended her comments by saying that Lincoln Alternative High School rose to the top spot it is at now under Dr. Tuttle's leadership and commended her for administrative guidance.

Trustee Quick congratulated the band for their performance during the district festival. She also congratulated Hannah Hart for her success and thanked CFO Omer for her hard work on the budget.

Trustee Easlick said he is excited to learn more about the therapy dogs and think they would be a great addition to the community. He thanked Madalyn for her student report and congratulated Hannah Hart for her success in wrestling.

Trustee Krauss congratulated Hannah Hart, the band for their festival performance, and wished good luck to the new football coach. Trustee Krauss ended his comments by saying that several of the Board members works closely with Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership and focus on the needs and work-force development in our community. He stressed that it is important that we share information amongst each other and the community about the CTE program Owosso has to offer.

President Mowen said he was delighted to be a judge at the Natural History Day exhibition. He said the projects by the students were fascinating and he enjoyed talking with the students about their interests. President Mowen also praised the new facilities and said other judges were impressed by all that Owosso has to offer. He wished the best to the Owosso retirees and thanked them for their service to the District. President Mowen praised Lincoln Alternative High School teachers for their passion for their students and their subjects and thanked them for their hard work. He finished his comments by applauding the IB curriculum Owosso has to offer, and that Owosso teaches our kids to be knowledgeable, to be thinkers, to communicate, to be principled and open-minded, to be caring, to be risk-takers, to be balanced and reflective.

Upcoming Dates

- **April 11:** Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting, Washington Campus Gymnasium, 5:30pm
- **April 25:** Board of Education Regular Meeting, Washington Campus Gymnasium, 5:30pm
- **March 17-22:** OHS TMB Disney Trip
- **March 20:** District Art Show at the Performing Arts Center, All Day
- **March 28-April 1:** Spring Break

Adjournment

Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Webster

Marlene Webster, Secretary