

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Regular Meeting
March 22, 2023
Report 22-118

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

President 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

Lincoln Alternative High School Principal Mrs. Carrie Rugenstein introduced LHS Social Studies Teacher Mr. Thomas Ogle to demonstrate their Celebrate Kids presentation. Mr. Ogle explained that when he hired into LHS, he made it a personal mission to introduce more after-school and extracurricular activities for the Lincoln students. Mr. Ogle created an afterschool table-top game, an after-school guitar club, as well as a film and media club. Mr. Ogle explained the purpose of these programs is to find unique ways to amplify students' voices inside and outside the classroom, to build friendships and student confidence. He said participation has increased gradually and he is proud of what the students have accomplished in these clubs. To conclude the presentation, a student-made montage of the Harry Potter films was played for the Board members. Mr. Ogle explained that in the film and media club, the students learned that the montage technique has been utilized for many years to capture the attention of the public. At the end of the clip, Mr. Ogle said if the montage had piqued any interest in seeing the Harry Potter films then the goal was achieved. Students Mars Miller, Vix Shive, Kaiden Comstock expressed their gratitude to Mr. Ogle and LHS for providing these opportunities not only to learn, but to have fun with their peers. Principal Carrie Rugenstein read a letter from student Khloe Dumond expressing the positive impact these clubs have had on her confidence and self-esteem. Dr. Tuttle and the Board thanked the students and Mr. Ogle for their presentation, and complimented their courage in sharing their experiences and projects.

Student Representative Alayna Scripter was next to give her report to the Board. Ms. Scripter informed the Board that last week was the National Honor Society Inductions and the event was well received with many families in attendance. She also reported the high school choir is currently in New York for their annual trip and from what she has heard the choral students are having a blast. Ms. Scripter reported that the Career and Technical Education Etiquette Dinner took place last night in the Performing Arts Center Lobby. OHS Culinary provided a four-course plated meal, Agricultural Science students provided floral centerpieces, Engineering students laser-engraved place cards, and the Business students provided invitations and the student

facilitator. The event was a great learning experience for all students and everyone had a great time. Ms. Scripter ended her report by thanking the Board for their time.

Board Correspondence

Dr. Tuttle reported to the Board that the high school recently held their dodgeball game. While this is usually a game for the students, the staff jumped in and everyone had a great time, including the spectators. Dr. Tuttle shared that on March 10 and March 11, the north campus hosted Band Festival for the first time and the students played phenomenally. On March 21, students from Ms. Melanie Lounds' 'Studies of Literature and Theater' class gave a live-performance of Dr. Suess stories to OPS Kindergartners. Dr. Tuttle said this was a joy to watch and the younger students absolutely loved the stories. Dr. Tuttle gave kudos to Ms. Lounds and Mr. Brooks for working together and providing the class for students. The class touches on drama history, voice and script analysis, body movement during a performance, stage production, and more. Dr. Tuttle says the class has been a great addition to the curriculum at Owosso Public Schools. Dr. Tuttle also reported that 27 students were inducted into the National Honor Society last week and on the same night The Shiawassee Scholars Reception took place. Students received well-deserved recognition for their commitment to their studies. Dr. Tuttle also acknowledged the OHS Choir trip taking place in New York and wished the students a fun learning experience. Dr. Tuttle reported the 5th Grade Exhibition for Bryant Elementary took place last week. She thanked Trustee Ochodnicky for attending and supporting the kids. She also gave kudos to all the students for their hard work. Dr. Tuttle said these exhibitions are great for kids to practice public speaking, to share their research and findings, and overall is a great skill-building opportunity. Dr. Tuttle reported that March is reading month and the celebration is in full-swing, especially at the elementary buildings. Guest readers have been invited to the elementary buildings to read to the kids, and the guests have ranged from staff to older students at the high school. Lincoln students and varsity athletes were among the guest readers and the younger students enjoyed their visits. Dr. Tuttle gave an update on Kindergarten registration; she said the roster is already at 200 and the goal is between 230-250 students. The OMS Quizbowl team, under the direction of Coach Mr. Lance Little, did a phenomenal job at their recent competition. One team in particular went undefeated for twelve rounds, Dr. Tuttle gave her kudos to the kids for their teamwork and well-deserved win. Dr. Tuttle finished her report by telling the Board that students and staff will have full schedules the next couple months with the Blue and Gold Banquet, the CTE Banquet, Top Ten Awards, Honors and Athlete Recognition, the district Art Show, graduation ceremonies for OHS and LHS, among other events.

Curriculum Director Mr. Stephen Brooks reported that spring assessments will be taking place on April 13 and 14, students and staff are well prepared.. Staff is also preparing for summer school, and the Instructional Leadership Council has been challenged to brainstorm creative ideas for learning opportunities for students. The goal is to provide clubs and activities that encourage student involvement, not just a credit recovery program. Mr. Brooks finished his report by telling the Board he is working closely with administration to host a job fair on June 6. Advertisements are being created and the district expects to have a great turnout.

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 participants addressed the Board:

- Karen Michalec

For Action

- Moved by Webster, supported by Krauss, to approve the March 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, the current bills and financials as presented. Secretary Krauss conducted a roll-call vote. Motion passed unanimously in 6-0 roll call vote.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Webster, to adopt the accompanying resolution authorizing and directing the Superintendent or designee to sign the Lawsuit settlement documents pertaining to the Juul 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 Juul. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Webster, supported by Quick to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso High School Business student and parent chaperone on a trip to Anaheim, CA, April 26-30, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to sign the proposed contract with ESS Midwest (formerly PCMI/Willsub) for the contract for the 2023-24 fiscal year.
- The Board will be asked to approve the out-of-state travel for the Owosso High School teachers Josh Dewley and Michele Schmitz to the International Baccalaureate Conference from May 6-May 11, 2023 (Design Training) Jessica Draper (Performing Arts) and Dallas Lintner (Head of School) will be traveling to Keystone, Colorado June 25-June 29, 2023. This training session is not offered virtually or at a closer location.
- The Board will be asked to adopt the Resolution Calling for a special election to be held on August 8, 2023 (August primary election date in Michigan) and authorize the Secretary to sign the related resolution on behalf of the board. This election will be held solely for voters to consider the approval of 3.00 mills for a sinking fund.

For Information

Dr. Tuttle announced the following personnel changes:

Accepted Positions

- Kelly Sereseroz has accepted the Paraprofessional position at Lincoln Alternative High School
- Russell Thomley has accepted the Custodian II position at Owosso High School
- Charles Albring has accepted the Sub Custodian position

Resignations

- Lewis Ward, Custodian II at Owosso High School has resigned effective March 10, 2023
- Vicky Swan, Food Service at Emerson Elementary has resigned effective February 28, 2023
- Amanda Rowell, Early Childhood Director at Bentley Bright Beginnings has resigned effective April 12, 2023

Public Participation

No public participants addressed the Board.

Board Comments

Vice President Marlene Webster thanked Mr. Ogle for his excellent service to the district. She said the presentation was outstanding and clearly the kids have loved what he has brought to Lincoln. She applauded the kids for their hard work, and commended their courage to come to the meeting and present their projects. She also thanked the administrators and teachers in the audience for all their hard work.

Treasurer Quick complimented the Lincoln students for their presentation, she said they did a wonderful job and she is so glad to hear the clubs have been gaining members. She looks forward to seeing more of their presentations in the future. Treasurer Quick ended her comments by saying that she was a guest reader at the elementary buildings this month and she had absolute blast reading to the kids. She is grateful to see the celebration of reading in each of the buildings.

Secretary Krauss thanked the Lincoln students for sharing their film project with the Board, he said they did an excellent job on their montage. He thanked Mr. Little for his efforts with Quiz Bowl, and in particular said his granddaughter has enjoyed being on the team immensely. Secretary Krauss thanked Mrs. Michalec for taking them on a trip down memory lane, and finished his comments by saying she will be sorely missed by students and staff.

Trustee Ochodnický thanked Mr. Ogle and the Lincoln students for their presentation. She said it is a joy watching kids present on topics they love, and it is encouraging to see their confidence grow. She also thanked BBB Director Amanda Rowell for her service to the district and wished her good luck in her future endeavors. She also commended the Bryant students for their 5th grade exhibition and said all the students did a fantastic job explaining the projects. She ended her comments by thanking Mrs. Michalec for her dedication to the Owosso community and she will be missed.

Trustee Henne apologized for being late to the meeting. He said this meeting has been a pleasure and he was particularly moved by Mrs. Michalec's comments. Trustee Henne also shared that he

has heard wonderful compliments regarding the secondary campus facilities, particularly during the weekend of the band festival.

President Mowen thanked Mr. Ogle for his work with the Lincoln students. He said Mr. Ogle's afterschool clubs are a welcome addition to the district of opportunities, and he enjoyed hearing directly from the students the impact these clubs have had on their personal lives. President Mowen thanked Mrs. Rowell for her dedication to the district and wished her well in her next steps.

Upcoming Dates

Moved by Ochodnicky, supported by Webster, to move into closed session at 6:41pm for the purpose of negotiations. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Quick, supported by Krauss to move into open session at 7:16pm for the purpose of adjournment. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Quick, supported by Henne, to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,


Ty Krauss, Secretary

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