

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 21, 2022
Report 21-108

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

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.

Building Reports

Owosso Middle School Teacher and club supervisor Mr. Chris Bird introduced Builders Club President Quinn Schemenauer and Student Council President Ava Poag to begin their presentation on the Builders Club. The two students described projects the club creates and participates in such as the Wood Crate Popcorn Fundraiser, Builders Club and Student Council Powder Puff Game, and Shiawassee Serves. The proceeds of these fundraisers went to purchasing care package supplies, club supplies, Comfort Care Kits for Voices for Children, dog toys for the Humane Society, and classroom supplies, among other materials. Club President Schemenauer and Student Council President Poag both described feeling a connection to their community and building a relationship with their classmates by being a part of something bigger than themselves. The Board of Education members and Superintendent Dr. Tuttle commended the students and the club for their commitment to building up their community and thanked them for their presentation.

Student Representative Madalyn Hasyn reported to the Board that the Owosso High School (OHS) National Honor Society is working on their upcoming Male Beauty Contest titled “Mr. Wonderful”, scheduled for February 24 at 7:00pm in the Performing Arts Center. The Drama Club finished 5th overall in the State Finals for their performance of “Radium Girls”. Representative Hasyn finished her report by stating that the OHS Student Council is preparing for prom that will take place April 23.

Board Correspondence

Dr. Tuttle thanked Madalyn for her report and congratulated her and the Drama Club on their accolades for their performance of “Radium Girls”. She continued with an update on District events. “We have Kindergarten registration the week of March 7 through March 11. There has been marketing, video production, television commercials and communication sent to families and businesses in our community. The State of the District Address for our staff will be on March 11 in the Performing Arts Center from 2:00pm to 3:00pm and the Board is welcome to join that. As you know Mrs. Collison is retiring at the end of this school year, so the Bryant

interviews will be taking place over the next couple of weeks. Our middle school and high school both had their concerts this week. The Performing Arts Center was packed for those performances. We had Mr. Carl Knipe return to us to substitute for two band teachers on leave; it was a pleasure to have him back and the students sounded stellar. We have our Jazz Band concert coming up on February 26. Owosso Public Schools will also be hosting the District Band Festival for the first time as now we have the facilities to do so. Thank you.”

Curriculum Director Mr. Brooks said that the testing preparation for the PSAT, SAT and MSTEP is underway. “There is a lot of pre-work that goes into getting these tests prepared. We must make sure our technology is up to date and all our pre-rostering in the state is accurate so we’re ready to go by the spring. We also have teacher evaluations occurring right now, principals are in classrooms providing feedback and celebrating all the great things that are going on in classrooms right now. March 11 is a Professional Development day. We have health and wellness coach Whitney Foley coming in to present her Personal Development Project to District staff. At place you will see I’ve provided the materials she will be discussing; The Mental Health Playbook and a 30-day challenge journal that provides learning opportunities for those who participate.” Mr. Brooks completed his report by saying he attended athletic events at the north campus over the weekend and heard parents and students from other Districts complimenting the District’s beautiful facilities.

COVID Update

Dr. Tuttle asked Mr. Brooks to provide an update on the District’s COVID numbers before giving her recommendation to the Board. Mr. Brooks stated that since the January 24 meeting, positive cases have dropped 85%. The District had one positive staff member the week of February 14 compared to twenty positive staff members on January 24. 243 students were in quarantine due to family exposures at the time of the January 24 meeting, compared to 26 students in quarantine the week of February 14. Mr. Brooks finished his update by saying that numbers continue to drop. Dr. Tuttle thanked Mr. Brooks for his update and continued with her recommendation. She recommended the Board rescind the resolution passed in October and remove the mask mandate from the schools. She said masks will still be required on school busses per the federal mandate and positive cases will be required to isolate for five days. Positive cases must show an improvement of symptoms, be fever free for 24 hours, before they return to school, and they must wear a mask for days six through ten. All school close contacts, students sitting within three feet or less for 15 minutes with a Covid positive individual, will be communicated to parents via email. Individuals identified as close contacts should continue to monitor symptoms and test, as necessary. All family close contacts should be communicated to schools and should monitor symptoms and test, as necessary. The District would highly recommend that close contacts quarantine, but minimally close contacts should wear a mask for 15 days after exposure. The District will continue to provide daily testing for those who wish to be tested at the Performing Arts Center lobby on school days from 7:15-8:00am. District administration may recommend testing prior to some school field trips, such as the Disney Trip in March. Dr. Tuttle finished her recommendation by saying the District will continue to work closely with the health department.

Vice President Ochodnicky said she supports parent choice. She believes the Board is overstepping bounds and parents should decide what is best for their children.

Trustee Quick commented the Board tries to make the best decisions with the data and information available to them.

Trustee Easlick said he believes that the District has accomplished the priority of keeping kids in school with the alternative being online instruction. He said the Board has heard from numerous parents that online schooling is not ideal, and most people would like their kids in the buildings to learn. He said he is in favor of removing the mask mandate given the information presented.

Treasurer Keyes said she is in favor of this recommendation and giving parents a choice once again. She ended her comments by saying she hopes everyone can stay healthy and do what is best for the kids.

President Mowen said the District has kept buildings open and kids in seats where everyone wants them to be. He believes the Board took the necessary steps to provide a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

Trustee Krauss moved to adopt the recommendation given by Dr. Tuttle, Trustee Easlick supported the motion. Trustee Easlick, Treasurer Keyes, Trustee Krauss, Trustee Quick voted in favor of the recommendation. Vice President Ochodnicky voted against the recommendation. Secretary Webster was absent. Motion passed in 4-1 vote.

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:

- Amber Cole-Miller
- Tom Manke
- Bonnie Winslow
- Karen Bump
- Jena Samson
- Emma Livingston
- Shawn Grace

For Action

- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick to amend the January 24, 2022, Regular Board Meeting Minutes to read that the election of each office had no majority vote due to

member absences, and should all state "...with no majority vote, current officer remains in position effective immediately until next election". Moved by Quick, supported by Keyes to approve the amended January 24, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes, the February 14 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes, and the current bills and financials. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Quick, supported by Keyes to approve the Delegation of Election Duties. Dr. Tuttle stated, "This is annual item the Board votes on to authorize the Superintendent to manage school elections for the 2022 school year." Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Krauss, supported by Easlick to approve the retainment of the District's attorneys. Dr. Tuttle stated "This is another annual item. This allows us to retain Thrun Law Firm as the District's attorneys. They have been longstanding partners of Owosso Public Schools, so I recommend we continue to work with them." Vice President Ochodnický asked if there were other attorneys available to the District. Dr. Tuttle stated there are other options that the Board could investigate. Treasurer Keyes stated she would also like to entertain the idea of other attorneys. Trustee Quick said Thrun's knowledge and experience speaks volumes, but she would entertain looking at other options. President Mowen suggested a motion should be presented, as the District would not want to be without an attorney while other options are investigated. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes, supported by Ochodnický to authorize the Superintendent to accept resignations. Dr. Tuttle stated this is another annual item brought before the Board to allow the Superintendent to accept resignations as they are submitted to the District. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnický, supported by Quick to approve the Designation of Financial Institutions and Authorized Signers. Dr. Tuttle stated this is annual item brought before the Board to approve authorized individuals to transact banking business for the various accounts in the District. Those authorized signers are the Chief Financial Officer and Board Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick to elect President Mowen as the SRES D Representative. Dr. Tuttle stated the Board must elect one member among them to serve as a representative of the Shiawassee County School Executive Board and at the SRES D Budget Review and Election. President Mowen opened nominations for the SRES D Representative. Trustee Quick nominated President Mowen for the SRES D Representative with Trustee Krauss as the alternate. President Mowen and Trustee Krauss accepted. Trustee Easlick supported the nomination. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Krauss to authorize the Superintendent to Sign the Waiver of Notice and Consent for Delinquent personal property taxes. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Keyes, supported by Easlick, to approve the OHS Trojan Marching Band Out of State Travel to Disney World. Dr. Tuttle stated this is a great opportunity for the students to build camaraderie, to travel, and to have fun. She explained there are COVID protocols in place, at cost to the District, to ensure a safe environment for all students. Those protocols are having the District Nurse travel with the band to provide aid for ill

students, separate hotel rooms for COVID positive students, and an extra bus to transport COVID positive students' home. Dr. Tuttle stated that students who test positive before the trip will be allowed to get a second test to remove the possibility of false positives. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Ochodnicky, supported by Keyes to approve the contract for a second school nurse. Dr. Tuttle explained that the current school nurse and the partnership with Memorial Healthcare has been phenomenal. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Krauss to approve authorizing the Superintendent to proceed with litigation against Kingscott. Dr. Tuttle stated that the District would like to resolve this through mediation, but this action would let Kingscott know the District is serious about moving forward with litigation. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board will be asked to approve the OHS Choir Out of State Travel to Chicago. Dr. Tuttle stated this trip does not have the same protocols as the Disney trip because Chicago is much closer than Florida and therefore it is easier to arrange transportation if a student were to fall ill.
- The Board will be asked to authorize the Superintendent to contract with Spence Brothers out of Saginaw, Michigan in an amount not to exceed \$3,328,000 from ESSER III funds to promote indoor air quality.
- The Board will be asked to authorize Owosso Public School's Maintenance department to dispose of two vehicles that no longer service the needs of the District.

For Information

- Mr. Brooks shared that NWEA results are broken down by various subcategories and must be posted to the OPS Transparency Page per Public Act 48 of 2021.
- Dr. Tuttle reported the following personnel changes:
 - **Accepted Positions**
 - Laura Hyatt has accepted the 6.5-hour Monitor position at Central Elementary.
 - Andrea Savage has accepted the Custodian II position at Washington/Bentley.

Public Participation

The following participants addressed the Board:

- Carl Knipe
- Jackie Burzmor
- Karen Robinson

Board Reports

Vice President Ochodnicky stated it is exciting to have the kids planning for field trips again and she is thrilled for their opportunities during their travels.

Trustee Quick thanked Quinn Schemenauer and Ava Poag for their presentation of the Builders club. She also complimented the new facilities and thanked Mr. Carl Knipe for his service to the district. She ended her comments by thanking everyone who spoke during public participation.

Trustee Easlick commended Mr. Bird and the Builders Club for their presentation and work in the community. He thanked everyone for their comments and attendance to the meeting. He ended his comments by confirming with Superintendent Dr. Tuttle that the information the Board receives is available on the Owosso Public Schools website.

Treasurer Keyes stated she is very excited that the District will be hosting the Band Festival. She commented that the recent band concert was beautiful. She thanked Mr. Knipe for his service to the District. She ended her comments by saying she hopes everyone is respectful to each other in the coming weeks.

Trustee Krauss thanked the audience for their attendance. He also thanked Superintendent Dr. Tuttle and Curriculum Director Mr. Steve Brooks for the information they provide to the Board.

President Mowen thanked the audience for their attendance. He said the band concert sounded wonderful, especially in the new Performing Arts Center. He ended his comments by thanking Mr. Knipe for coming back to help the District.

Upcoming Dates

- March 14: Board of Education Regular Meeting, Washington Campus Gymnasium, 5:30pm
- 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
- February 22: Owosso Middle School Choir Concert, Performing Arts Center, 7:00pm
- February 23: Owosso High School Choir Concert, Performing Arts Center, 7:00pm
- February 24: Owosso High School Mr. Wonderful, Performing Arts Center, 7:00pm
- March 7,8: OHS MSVMA Choral Festival, Times TBA
- March 10: OHS NHS Banquet and Induction, Performing Arts Center, Banquet starts at 6:00pm
- March 11: State of the District Address, Performing Arts Center, 2:00pm
- March 17-22: OHS TMB Disney Trip

Adjournment

Moved by Krauss, supported by Ochodnicky to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Brooke Barber.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Webster

Marlene Webster, Secretary