

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2020
Report 19-193

Vice President Mowen called the Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 5:30 pm. The meeting was held at the Washington Campus, 645 Alger Street, Owosso, MI 48867.

Present: Ty Krauss, Rick Mowen, Shelly Ochodnicky, Olga Quick, Marlene Webster
Absent: Tim Jenc and Sara Keyes

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Participation

Vice President Mowen 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.

There were no comments from the public.

Sinking Fund Priorities and Bond Contingency

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that as of February 6, 2020, it is estimated that \$8,821,507 of sinking funds is available through December 2023. This amount is inclusive of expenditures for the secondary campus roofing project for the summer of 2020, Clark Construction fees, Spicer fees, and contributions to bond related projects as approved by the Board. The estimated total for committed projects to date is 1.6 million. Sinking Fund collections are estimated at \$1,090,994 annually through December 2023. Superintendent Tuttle stated that there is currently only \$83,000 remaining in the bond contingency and she has some recommendations for items that could be completed in the scope of the bond and need to be completed either through additional money applied to the bond or sinking fund projects. The following items and estimates were shared as follows:

- Air Handler \$25,000
- Fire Suppressant \$75,000
- Painting Entire Building \$50,000
- Cafeteria Flooring \$50,000
- Errors and Omissions \$200,000
- Fitness Center Needs \$50,000

Sinking Fund Project List

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle shared a list of current sinking fund projects that require attention and the reasoning behind the needs. Projects that were discussed included existing parking lot rehabilitation at the high school, salt bunker at OHS, dumpster enclosure at OHS, plaza paving improvements at OHS and a drive connector from the middle school lot north to outer loop at the secondary campus. A sidewalk from kindergarten classrooms to the playground at Central Elementary. Sinkhole and storm drainage improvements and a sidewalk to the north of the multipurpose room to playground at Emerson. In addition to parking lot rehabilitation at the bus garage on Jerome Street.

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle provided details on the projects listed and the rationale behind these needs. She stated that the Board will be asked to contribute an additional \$500,000 from the sinking fund to cover the bond contingencies and sinking fund priorities.

Hammered Glass

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle reminded the Board that a safety and security grant was written and awarded to cover the installation of hammered glass in the high school cafeteria and entry doors. This was completed in September 2019 in order to meet the requirements of the grant. The Board was informed that they most likely will be presented with a request to approve the installation of hammered glass on the newly renovated entry doors at the high school and areas of the middle school to mimic the high school for safety and security reasons.

Waste Management

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle informed the Board that she will be recommending that the District discontinue its relationship mid-contract with Waste Management (WM) and commence with Republic Services. The District entered into a contract with Waste Management in 2007 based on a county-wide bid process conducted by the Shiawassee RESD. Currently, due to cost considerations and challenges with timely responses from Waste Management, it was considered prudent by the Operations Department to pursue other options. Unfortunately, the contract is a three-year automatic renewal which the District was not aware of when the bid package was put together. It has since been learned that this is typical of these types of contracts and the renewal occurred in 2019, which obligates the District through August 2022. Waste Management submitted another cost proposal with reduced pricing; however, even with the reduced pricing from WM and the penalties, there still would be a projected cost savings to the District if we switch to Republic. The severing of the relationship with WM would result in over \$13,000 in savings over the length of the contract.

Fitness Equipment Bids

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle stated the Board will be asked to front the additional money from the general fund to cover the purchase of fitness center equipment for the new fitness center in the secondary campus over and above the \$90,000 that is being donated over a three-year period from the sponsorship agreement between the District and Memorial Healthcare. She stated that this money will be recouped and reimbursed to the District through other sources and donations.

Bond Timeline

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained that the bond timeline was included in a recent Friday Letter. She stated that Clark Construction has a very stringent timeline on when specific areas will be turned over to the District.

CHN Update

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle referenced the CHN update that was included in her February 7th Friday Letter. CHN has agreed to cover the cost of the flood surveyor and engineering plans at the middle school. The engineers are currently putting together a plan for the floodway located in the northwest corner of the middle school. CHN has also agreed to pay a portion of the utilities once the building has been vacated and up until closing.

Media Relations

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle provided the Board with an update on the current status of its media relations.

Kindergarten Registration

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle shared an example of this year's kindergarten registration packet.

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks stated that kindergarten registration is going very well. To date, 27 students have enrolled for kindergarten prior to any information on the registration being released to the public. He shared the plans for registration that will include the students and their parents visiting 10

different stations within their building where they will obtain information about their school. This has been designed to be similar to a scavenger hunt. A photo of the future kindergarten student will also be taken of them committing to Owosso Public Schools.

Curriculum Update

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks stated that he has been working on writing scripts and assisting with videos that are being shot across the District. There will be a total of nine 30-40 second videos that will be used to promote the District during kindergarten registration, elementary, middle school and high school buildings, CTE programming, and athletics. He stated that he believes this is a good way spend the District's money and get our message out to the community for a lot less money. The District will own all of the content of the videos.

Read by Grade Three Law

Curriculum Director Steve Brooks informed the Board that in 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed a law that requires schools to identify learners who are struggling with reading and writing and to provide additional help. The law states that third graders may repeat third grade if they are more than one grade level behind beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Brooks stated that about 2-3% of our students will be effected by this new law. In order to be proactive, a few facts about the law will be shared with families during the spring parent/teacher conferences. Data has been crunched and the District will know which students will be effected and recommended for retention. The progress of these students will also be closely monitored. It was noted that this does not include special education students.

Pupil Count Day

Mr. Brooks reminded the Board the Pupil Count Day is February 12th.

Health Curriculum

Mr. Brooks informed the Board that the District is working with the Child Advocacy Center on a 20-minute presentation about "good touch/bad touch" for kindergarten through second grade students. This is part of the Michigan Health Model curriculum. Parents will be provided with an opportunity to opt their child out of this presentation prior to it occurring.

Perception Data

Mr. Brooks presented the Board with the Perception Data Survey Results for 2019-20. The results for each building provided information on strengths and challenges as perceived by students, parents and staff. The buildings will be reviewing their results and implementing them into their school improvement plans. Principals will also review this information with their staff during the March 4th professional development day.

Professional Development

Superintendent Dr. Tuttle explained that during the March 4th PD staff members will have an opportunity to explore buildings and areas that they are not familiar with during a scavenger hunt activity. This will also give staff a chance to see the bond work that is ongoing at the secondary campus and what has been completed at the elementary buildings. She stated that she feels it is important for staff to see buildings that they do not work in and the opportunities that are available to students.

Round Table

Ty Krauss commented that he believes that marketing that the District is doing is far superior to anyone else and praised the District on a great job.

Rick Mowen stated that he recently read that the Federal Government wants to set up scholarships and tax breaks for students to attend private schools. Mr. Mowen also commended the District for using social media as a means to get our message out. He stated that on a national level, there is a strong need for skilled laborers in the areas of plumbing, electricians, etc. and believes our CTE programs are beneficial for these positions.

Shelly Ochodnicky asked for an update on the State's budget and if it will be completed in July.

Olga Quick commended the staff that attends the weekly bond update meetings. She also reminded everyone of the Jazz Band Dinner Dance that will be held on February 22. The deadline for ordering tickets to the event is February 14th.

Adjournment

Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnicky to adjourn at 7:13 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Clara Pitt

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ochodnicky, Secretary