

**OTTAWA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL #140  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING/CLOSED SESSION  
ROOM 202 – BOARD ROOM  
OCTOBER 27, 2014  
6:30 P.M.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Board President Timothy J. Creedon III called to order the regular meeting of the Ottawa Township High School District 140 Board of Education at 6:30 p.m. on October 27, 2014. Members present: Karen Fisher, Gene Duffy, Bill Byczynski, George Shanley, Timothy Creedon, and Anita Kopko. Member absent: Don Harris.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Matt Winchester, Mike Cushing, Jeff DeWalt, OTHSEA President Matt Gross, Darren Walter, Steve Wilson and Joe Schmidt from the FFA Alumni Association, members of the media: Times, News Tribune newspapers, and WCMY radio.

**MINUTES:** Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Kopko to approve the minutes from the budget hearing and the regular meeting on September 22, 2014 as presented. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**BILLS/PAYROLL:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Shanley to approve the district treasurer's report, financial statements, bills and payroll for September 2014. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:** Dan Heaver presented the state library grant application. Darren Walter, Steve Wilson, and Joe Schmidt presented a check from the FFA Alumni Association for \$5,000. Special Needs teacher Kate McIntyre presented the transition proposal for a work partnership with SafeNow Products. Christine Miskell commended teachers Bryan Guenther and Dan Le, with no specifics given. Certified Public Accountant Duane Lockas from Roenfeldt & Lockas presented the 2013-14 audit report.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**SUPERINTENDENT:** I would like to thank counselors Kim Swords and Karen Stachowiak for organizing a group of 53 students from OTHS as they all attended a Discovering Manufacturing Career Expo held by SRAVTE. Students were given tours of VACTOR Manufacturing in Streator and EAKAS in Peru. All students then experienced the Peter Miller Technology Center at IVCC where they rotated throughout the building for presentations. This was an excellent opportunity for our students and very much appreciated.

Last week was Principal's Appreciation Week and this past Friday was Principal Appreciation Day. This year Governor Quinn again had a proclamation recognizing the work principals do each and every day for our students. I would also like to publicly thank our administrative staff for the work they do.

The OTHS Hall of Fame decade committees forwarded their nominees to the selection committee as part of the 2015 Hall of Fame inductee selection process. The selection committee will be meeting this week to choose this school year's award recipients. The OTHS Educational Foundation Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony will be held on Saturday, February 14, 2015.

Fuel tanks have been installed on-site and the maintenance department finished installing crash protection, signage, and electrical requirements needed for the tanks. The Fire Marshall will be visiting the site to inspect and sign off. This improvement will not only save the district on fuel expenses, but also improve safety and liability of filling and transporting multiple gas cans. We had a number of wear and tear repairs that were recently completed on our track and pole vault and long jump approaches. Lane painting will start in the next week or two assuming the weather cooperates.

I previously reported that we had one of our two boilers down. I am glad to report that our maintenance staff was able to get our second boiler up and running so both are fully operational. An outside contractor had to be called in to complete some minor welding to the south boiler. This work has to be completed by a licensed professional and reported to the state.

Maintenance is also working on installing a fiber optic line from the Votech building to the softball press booth. This will provide phone lines, internet and security cameras to all outer buildings.

We are still exploring options for the pool area to determine costs for converting the area to a multifunctional physical education space. Rough estimates for transforming the existing space to a new multi-purpose room are in the \$350,000 - \$400,000 range. I will need to get Board direction on what you consider to be a reasonable renovation amount and if we can create a useable space with that number in mind.

As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, the State owes OTHS \$262,436.61

**PRINCIPAL:** The fall housing enrollment data submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education on October 14, 2014 reflected an enrollment of 1,449 students, with 1,393 of these students being served at OTHS. I would estimate that our official IHSA enrollment will be around 1,400 for the 2014-15 school year.

The end of the 1<sup>st</sup> nine weeks of the 2014-15 school year was Friday, October 17, 2014.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be taking place on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 and Thursday, October 30, 2014 from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. We will operate on a “C” schedule on both Tuesday and Thursday this week.

Congratulations to National Merit Scholar Commended Students Adelina Ceretto and John Girka. About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2015 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2015 competition by taking the 2013 PSAT/NMSQT.

Congratulations to National Achievement Scholarship Program Outstanding Participant Paul Turner-Sibigtroth. Paul is one of 3,100 named Outstanding Participants in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. These students scored in the top 3% of more than 160,000 Black Americans who requested consideration in the 2015 National Achievement Scholarship Program when they took the 2013 PSAT/NMSQT.

Congratulations to the OTHS Girls Tennis Team members Mariah Cavanaugh and Bailey Bradish for winning the sectional championship in doubles and advancing to the state tournament, which was held last Thursday and Friday.

On Friday, November 7, 2014 we will have an assembly to honor our fall sports and activities.

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL:** The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Explore test will be administered to students from all OTHS feeder schools this Saturday, November 1. Check-in will begin at 7:30 a.m. on the 200 floor. Students should arrive no later than 7:40 so that testing can begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. Test results will be used to place students in the appropriate courses when meeting with our counselors in February, so it is imperative that students put forth their best effort. Questions may be directed to Mrs. Katie Riordan, Test Coordinator, at 815-433-1323 ext. 2494.

### **PERSONNEL**

**SPEECH PATHOLOGIST:** Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Kopko to approve the hire of Kari Mooneyham as speech pathologist. Kari replaces Sarah Shumway. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**WINTER ASSISTANT COACHES:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Duffy to approve winter assistant coaches – boys basketball – Brent Moore, Dave Wultzen, Dan Heaver and Bob Bartman; girls basketball – Pete Armstrong, Luke Windy, Jeff Davis and Sean Porter; boys swim – Georganna Greanias; bowling – Kathy Long; wrestling – Steve Doerrer, and Kevin Aughenbaugh for the 2014-15 season. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**WINTER VOLUNTEER COACHES:** Motion made by Kopko, seconded by Shanley to approve the winter volunteer coaches for the 2014-15 season – wrestling – Mark Gretzinger; boys basketball – Brent Anderson, Bret Lockas and Ryan Gunderson; girls basketball – Dan Le. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**MATERNITY LEAVE:** Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Kopko to approve a ten week maternity leave request as presented for English teacher Chelsea Kuhel from approximately January 10, 2015 through March 13, 2015. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**MATERNITY LEAVE:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Kopko to approve the request for maternity leave as presented for piano accompanist Camille Galvan for approximately eight weeks from September 30, 2014 through November 24, 2014. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Byczynski to approve the hire of Janet Pearson from Oglesby as the Chief Financial Officer to replace retiring Brenda O'Donnell. Janet is to start on November 17, 2014. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Shanley to approve the hire of Kelly Schmitt from Streator as the Executive Secretary to replace retiring Susan MacDonald. Kelly is to start November 10, 2014. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**PRESS PLUS POLICY UPDATES:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Creedon to adopt the Press Plus Policy updates in the following categories: School Board, Operational Services, General, Professional, and Educational Support Personnel, and Students. The above categories are mainly language changes and updates. Board President Creedon and VP Fisher, policy review members, requested that Special Needs Director/Administrator Dawn Roalson be named one of the Non Discrimination and Complaint Managers for the district. Former assistant principal Laura Pastirik-Bankowski previously held this position. Press Plus will be directed to replace this name change in any capacity previously held by Laura Pastirik. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION TO ABATE WORKING CASH FUND:** Motion made by Kopko, seconded by Fisher to adopt the resolution to abate the working cash fund for District 140, LaSalle County, IL in the amount of \$1,450,000 to the education fund. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**CITY OF OTTAWA FORCE SEWER MAIN:** Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Byczynski to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Ottawa for the easement agreement proposed by the City of Ottawa for the Force Sewer Main project. Members present voted yea: Karen Fisher, George Shanley, Timothy J. Creedon III, Bill Byczynski, Gene Duffy. Member abstained from the vote: Anita Kopko (because of law firm association with the City of Ottawa). Member absent: Don Harris. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION FOR ISSUANCE OF TAXABLE OBLIGATION BONDS 2014A/2014B:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Byczynski to adopt the resolution(s) to sell Taxable General Obligation School Bonds Series 2014A in the amount of \$4,735,000 to Centru Bank; and the resolution to sell Taxable General Obligation School Bonds Series 2014B in the amount of \$3,310,000 Life Safety Bonds to J.P. Morgan Chase Bank as presented by Elizabeth Hennessey from William Blair & Co. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**STATE LIBRARY GRANT APPLICATION:** Motion made by Kopko, seconded by Shanley to approve the library grant application/evaluation for submission with the Secretary of State, based on Media Specialist Dan Heaver's presentation earlier. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**AUDIT 2013-14:** Motion made by Shanley, seconded by Duffy to approve the 2013-14 audit as presented by Duane Lockas from Roenfeldt & Lockas. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**PERMISSION TO SELL MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:** Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Kopko to sell a 2005 Blue Bird bus with 59,714 miles, an 18ft. storage trailer in rough shape and several car engines. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**CLOSED SESSION:** to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity – with possible action to be taken. Session began at 8:01 p.m.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:** Board President Creedon returned the board to open session at 8:24 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. All members present voted yea. Motion carried.

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**President**

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**Secretary**