

**OTTAWA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 140  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING/CLOSED SESSION  
DECEMBER 15, 2014  
AUDITORIUM - 6:30 P.M.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** President Timothy J. Creedon III called to order the meeting of the Board of Education of the Ottawa Township High School District 140, at 6:35 p.m. on December 15, 2014. Members present: Timothy J. Creedon III, Bill Byczynski, Karen Fisher, George Shanley, Don Harris, Anita Kopko, and Gene Duffy.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Matt Winchester, Mike Cushing, Jeff DeWalt; OTHSEA President Matt Gross, Kevin Olesen; students and parents from Graphic Design and Art classes; representatives from the media; News Tribune and Times newspapers and WCMY radio.

**MINUTES:** Motion made by Harris, seconded by Fisher to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on November 17, 2014 as submitted. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

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

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS:** Shannon Stevens - presented information regarding a Community Recreation Center feasibility study. Randy Brewer – consider open forum as an agenda item. Andre Coban – concerned about school. George Lukach from Dupont Lukach & Seed Industry presented a check for \$500.00 to the FFA. Stacie Walton – Spoke regarding teacher suspension.

**RECOGNIZE GRAPHIC DESIGN STUDENTS:** Superintendent Winchester introduced and presented five recipients whose holiday cards were selected for publication: Abby Jordon – “Cardinal in Window” and “Winter Bridge”; Katie Varland – “Clear Ornaments”; Erica Engel – “Happy Holidays”; Kristin Lindeman – “Season’s Greetings”; Brooklyn Terando – “Snowman”. Congratulations to all and thank you to teachers, Kevin Olesen, Paula Carroll and their Graphic/Art Design classes for their ideas, research and marketing phase for this class project.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**SUPERINTENDENT:** I would like to thank Sally Taliani and Paula Carroll for again organizing the annual Christmas Kids fundraiser. Twenty-five students received gifts this year. A total of \$2,500 was collected from OTHS faculty, staff, and administration.

I would like to thank the following for donating to this year's Freezin' for a Reezin' food drive: Freshman Academy Coordinator Mr. Gross, Mr. Le, Mrs. Parrott, Mr. DeWalt/DoChange, freshmen homerooms, faculty, and staff that donated \$228.66 in cash and 588 food items; Key Club/Smile Club for donating 300 lbs. of food and \$375 in cash; and Ottawa Wrestling for donating \$200 in cash. The OTHS Band, under the direction of Sarah Reckmeyer, also performed at this year's event. Thank you to all for participating!

The OTHS Educational Foundation announced that funding is now available for their Grants Program. Grant applications are due February 12, 2015 and recipients will be announced in March of 2015. The application was sent out today to all faculty and staff.

Board member Karen Fisher has been re-elected to serve as President of the Illinois Association of School Boards. Karen recently completed her one year term and was re-elected to serve a second year term. Congratulations, Karen!

The state currently owes OTHS \$332,425.19.

I would like to take a moment to recognize both Susan MacDonald and Brenda O'Donnell for their service to Ottawa Township High School District 140. Susan has been in various secretarial positions at OTHS and will leave us with 39 ½ years of service. For the past 13 ½ years, Susan served as the secretary to five Superintendents and multiple Board of Education members and will be retiring December 31<sup>st</sup>. Besides her daily responsibilities and the many hats she wears, Susan does a tremendous amount of work organizing and assisting with the annual Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony for the OTHS Educational Foundation. She has also worked countless games and extra-curricular activities during her tenure at OTHS. She will be taking many years of experience and much knowledge with her as she heads off into retirement. I appreciate all that Susan has done for me and for the dedication she has given to the OTHS District and wish her nothing but the best. I would like Board President Creedon to read a resolution commending Susan MacDonald for her service and congratulating her on her retirement.

Likewise, I would like to recognize our Chief Financial Officer and head of the business office Brenda O'Donnell. Brenda has been in her position for 12 ½ years and will also be retiring December 31<sup>st</sup>. Like Susan, Brenda wears numerous hats running the business office and assisting the OTHS Educational Foundation with their financial reports. She is one of the first to arrive and one of the last ones to leave each and every day. I am not sure if she will know what to do with all of the time on her hands after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year, but I am sure she will find a way to keep busy! I cannot thank Brenda enough for all of the assistance she has given me throughout the years and the extreme amount of dedication she gave to the OTHS school District. I would like Board President Tim Creedon to read a resolution commending Brenda O'Donnell for her service and congratulating her on her retirement.

**PRINCIPAL:** Thirty-six (36) of Ottawa Township's High School Class of 2015 have earned the distinction of being Illinois State Scholars this year. Illinois State Scholar winners rank in the top ten percent of high school seniors from high schools across the state. Selection is based on SAT, ACT, Prairie State Achievement Exam scores, and/or class rank at the end of the junior year.

The Fall Band Concert took place on Thursday, December 4 and the Choir Christmas Concert took place on Thursday, December 11. A special thank you and recognition to the music students, Ms. Reckmeyer and Mr. White as they did an excellent job in the production of these concerts.

At this time we have 56 students who have applied for early graduation. We will ask the board to certify those students who have met the qualifications for graduation at a board meeting in January.

Kim Swords and Jenny Rios, on behalf of Character Counts and the Recycling Club, are holding the Eco-Chic Boutique on Wednesday, December 17 and Thursday, December 18. This is the 7th consecutive year that this has been offered to the students at OTHS. The boutique offers free items to our students through the recycling of new and gently used clothing related items.

The first semester will end on Friday, December 19, 2014 as final exams will be administered on Wednesday, December 17, 2014, Thursday, December 18, 2014, and Friday, December 19, 2014. Students will be dismissed at 12:40 p.m. on Wednesday and 11:05 a.m. on Thursday and Friday.

Winter Break for students is from Monday, December 22, 2014 through Monday, January 5, 2015. On Monday, January 5, 2015 all teachers will take part in a Teacher's Institute and students will report back to school on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 to begin the second semester of 2014-15 school year.

An Open House for current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will take place at OTHS on Thursday, January 15, 2015 from 6:30 to 8:00.

Current enrollment as of Monday, December 15, 2014 is 1,433.

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL:** None

### **PERSONNEL**

**RESIGNATION:** Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Fisher, to approve the resignation of Kim Anderson, paraprofessional, effective November 30, 2014. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**NEW HIRE:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Byczynski to approve the hire of Paul Johnson as a Special Needs Paraprofessional. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**HEAD GIRLS SOCCER COACH:** Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Kopko to approve Sean Porter as the head girls soccer coach. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**SPRING HEAD COACHES:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Shanley to approve spring head coaches – baseball – Tom Hart; softball – Jeff Davis; boys track – Trent Swords; girls track – Jess Kuhn; girls soccer – Sean Porter; boys tennis – Matt Gross. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**ASSISTANT BASEBALL COACH:** Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Byczynski to approve Eric Buscher as assistant baseball coach. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**SPRING ASSISTANT COACHES:** Motion made by Harris, seconded by Kopko to approve spring assistant coaches – baseball – Ryan Voitik, Brent Moore and Eric Buscher; softball – Steve Doerrer, Steve Springer and Jen Jobst; girls track – Heather Reardon and Brian Huebner; girls soccer – TBA; boys tennis – Dave Wultzen; boys track – Glenn Weatherford and Doug Hearn. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**MATERNITY LEAVE:** Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Kopko to approve the maternity leave request as presented for counselor Katie Riordan, beginning February 20, 2015 to May 15, 2015. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**TAX LEVY CERTIFICATE:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Harris to approve the tax levy certificate as presented in the amount of \$10,494,304 with a 2.57% increase for tax year 2015. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**POLICY UPDATES:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Byczynski to adopt the Press Plus policy updates. The updates include: Communications To and From the Board- Rewritten, Guidance for Board Member Communications, Including Email Use- Rewritten, Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery, Transportation, Food Services- Rewritten, Free and Reduced-Price Food Services, Facility Management and Building Programs, Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment, Family and Medical Leave, Substitute Teachers, Leaves of Absence, School Year Calendar and Day, Curriculum Content, Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program, Grading and Promotion, Graduation Requirements, High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students – Rewritten and Renamed, Student Testing and Assessment Program, School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools, Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students, and Administering Medicines to Students. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**PERMISSION TO SEEK BIDS FOR SUMMER 2015 LIFE SAFETY WORK:** Motion made by Kopko, seconded by Byczynski to seek bids for summer life/safety work which includes the following: Manual Arts Restroom remodel including plumbing vents, floor tile replacement on the 900 floor, ceiling tile replacement on the 900 floor, Room 700 and 700A science lab floor replacement, 500 and 600 floor locker replacements, replacing the main entrance steps and concrete walk from the main entrance steps to Main Street. Other summer projects include: Implementation of the 2014 Energy Grant, replacement of twenty hollow metal doors, 400 floor restroom hot water heaters, lavatory decks, faucets, flush valves, and mirror replacements, and flooring replacement in corridor C507. There is also floor tile asbestos abatement that needs to be completed in the Shannon Building. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**COMMUNITY REC CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Byczynski that the board approve sharing in the cost of the feasibility study with an amount from OTHS not to exceed \$20,000. This funding is available in our Capital Project fund as this type of fund can be utilized for non-recurring projects. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

Board member Anita Kopko stated that if past efforts to establish a one-cent sales tax had not failed the district might already have accumulated the funds necessary to finance a pool project. She encouraged everyone to vote for it if it ever goes on the referendum again.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Motion made by Creedon, seconded by Fisher to enter in to closed session at 7:18 p.m. to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the 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. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried. Media recess at 7:18 p.m. Closed session started at 7:26 p.m.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:** Board President Timothy J. Creedon III returned the Board to open session at 8:21 p.m. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, a motion was made by Byczynski, seconded by Fisher to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

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**President**

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**Secretary**

