

**OTTAWA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 140  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 26, 2015  
6:30 P.M.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** President Timothy J. Creedon III called to order the regular meeting of the Ottawa Township High School Board of Education District 140 at 6:30 p.m. on January 26, 2015. Members present: Tim Creedon, Bill Byczynski, Gene Duffy, Karen Fisher, Don Harris, Anita Kopko, and George Shanley.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Matt Winchester, Mike Cushing, Jeff DeWalt, Janet Pearson, Kelly Schmitt, representatives from the media: WCMY radio and The Times newspapers.

**MINUTES:** Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Shanley to accept and approve the minutes for the regular meeting on December 15, 2014 and the special meeting on January 9, 2015 as submitted. On roll call all members present vote yea. Motion carried.

**DESTROY TAPES FROM CLOSED SESSIONS:** Motion made by Creedon, seconded by Fisher to destroy tapes from closed session meetings that were held more than 18 months prior: January 2013 – June 2013. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR REVIEW OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Creedon to keep the following closed session meeting minutes closed: July 21, 2014, August 8, September 22, October 27, and December 15, 2014 as per the review committee of Karen Fisher and Tim Creedon. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

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

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS: NONE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**SUPERINTENDENT:** I will be amending the calendar to reflect the three weather related cancellations. Second semester exams were originally scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> and will now be held on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>. Graduation remains as originally scheduled and will be held on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.

As mentioned previously, the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) Board of Directors initiated a plan to create a "visioning" process to develop a long-range blueprint for improving public education in Illinois. "As school leaders, we need to establish a common voice and shared vision for the future of education in Illinois." This process is known as Vision 20/20. Later in the New Business portion of the meeting, I will ask Board President Creedon to read the Vision 20/20 resolution and ask for a motion to approve.

Each year we put out a tentative calendar to the Division Heads and teachers for input. I will ask for a motion to approve the 2015-2016 school year calendar in the New Business portion of the meeting, but

wanted to discuss the highlights at this time. School would begin on August 17<sup>th</sup> with a teacher institute. All students would report on August 18<sup>th</sup>. The proposed calendar would have winter break on December 21<sup>st</sup>, returning Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> with a teacher institute day. Spring break is scheduled from March 21<sup>st</sup> through March 28<sup>th</sup> with teachers and students returning on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Ottawa Township High School and Ottawa Elementary band and choir students will be performing in Kingman Gym at the annual OEHS Music Fest on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. This is a great opportunity to hear the talent of Ottawa's finest student musicians.

The OTHS Educational Foundation's mini-grant program application deadline is February 12th. The Educational Foundation Board will review grants in March and award winners will be notified in April.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Hall of Fame dinner and banquet will be held in our cafeteria and auditorium on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, with a social at 6pm and dinner at 6:30pm. Hall of Fame inductees will also be honored at our home basketball game vs. Sterling on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to this year's inductees: George Willy (faculty member and administrator 1942-1967), Val Vander Meer, Michael (Mike) Balint, Donald Grobe (Class of 1947), Dr. Richard Loeb (Class of 1951), Ron Slack (faculty member, counselor, and coach (1964-1994), Dr. Frank Kneussl (Class of 1957), Dr. Julie (Dierstein) Jastrow (Class of 1969), and Dr. Stephen Brusatte (Class of 2002).

A reminder that next month's Board meeting is not until February 23<sup>rd</sup> due to President's Day on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

The state owes the OTHS District \$358,619.18

**PRINCIPAL:** On Saturday, December 20, 2014 OTHS Head Girls Basketball Coach Mike Cooper won his 400<sup>th</sup> game. Congratulations to Coach Cooper!

Current enrollment as of January 26, 2015 is 1,383. Please keep in mind that this number does not include those students who graduated at the end of the first semester.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Open House that took place on January 15, 2015 was well attended by future OTHS students and their families. A special thank you to Matt Gross, OTHS Freshman Academy Coordinator, for his help in the organization of this activity.

Registration for the 2015-16 school year is well underway. Counselors are in the process of registering our current 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. The counselors will begin visiting feeder schools on the week of February 9th and will conclude the registration of current 8<sup>th</sup> graders on Friday, February 20, 2015. If any parents or guardians have any questions about the registration process they should contact their child's counselor as soon as possible.

The OTHS Pirate Pom Kid's Camp was held on January 10, 2015 and conducted by Ms. Erin Hanley. The camp culminated with performances during the half-times of the basketball games that took place on Friday, January 16, 2015.

The Ottawa Elementary School and Ottawa High School Music Festival will be held in Kingman Gym on Sunday, February 8, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

OTHS Seniors, John Girka and Elisa Klaassen, will be recognized at a breakfast hosted by the Starved Rock Region of the Illinois Principals Association at Streator High School on February 19, 2015.

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS:** Ten OTHS students have been selected as Illinois Music Education Conference (ILMEA) All-State musicians and have earned the opportunity to participate in the ILMEA All-State Festival this Wednesday night through Saturday (January 28-31). Gillian Buendia, Maddie Burress, Trenton Einhaus, Lainey Fiesel, Joe Halm, Adrienne Havelka, Haley Isenhower, Simon Tiffin, Abbey Walker, and Josh Yacko.

8<sup>th</sup> graders who will soon become the OTHS Class of 2019 have completed placement testing for their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. I would like to thank Testing Coordinator Mrs. Riordan and the rest of the counseling department for their work in administration of the Explore test in November and the administration and teachers from our feeder districts for their cooperation with OTHS math placement testing and Lexile score collection. I will be compiling data from these various sources and sharing it with counselors to review, along with student's grades and teacher recommendations, when deciding on appropriate coursework for each student in their freshman year.

Sherry St. Clair's January visit was postponed due to inclement weather. She will be here on February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> to continue working with me and with department chairs on curriculum alignment and pacing guides, examining data from fall semester common assessments and revision of those tests, and creation of common assessments for elective course offerings.

#### **PERSONNEL**

**RETIREMENT:** Motion made by Kopko, seconded by Duffy to approve the retirement request of Sue Williamson, English Teacher and Division Chair, effective at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 school year. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**SIGN LANGUAGE CLUB:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Shanley to approve Caroline Hannigan for the position of Sign Language Club sponsor, due to the resignation of Wanda Conness. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**VOLUNTEER COACHES:** Motion made by Kopko, seconded by Duffy to approve the list of spring volunteer coaches as presented: Boys track - Rusty Wells and Fletcher Wells; Baseball - Ben Diss; Girls track - Ron Slack; Boys Tennis - Dan Le; Softball - Rob Smeets. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**MID-YEAR GRADUATES:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Kopko to approve the addition of four mid-year graduates as of January 6, 2015, and based on Ottawa Township High School District 140 and the State of IL graduation requirements the following students be approved and certified as mid-year 2015 graduates: Devin Michael Jaros, Skyler Jean Rieuf, Amber Raye Krause, and Jordan Andrew Wilkinson. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2015-16 CALENDAR:** Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Kopko to approve the proposed calendar for the 2015-16 school year. Teacher Institute will be August 17, 2015, students report on August 18, 2015, and graduation is scheduled for June 3, 2016. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**VISION 20/20 RESOLUTION:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Shanley to approve the Vision 20/20 Resolution as presented. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, motion made by Duffy, seconded by Creedon to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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**President**

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**Secretary**