

**OTTAWA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 140  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING/CLOSED SESSION  
JANUARY 27, 2014  
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 27, 2014. Members present: Tim Creedon, Don Harris, Karen Fisher, Gene Duffy, and George Shanley. Members absent: Anita Kopko and Bill Byczynski.

**VIA PHONE CONFERENCE:** Motion made by Creedon, seconded by Fisher to allow board member Bill Byczynski to join the meeting via phone conference due to his work out of state. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried. (6:31 p.m.)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Matt Winchester, Mike Cushing, Laura Pastirik, Jeff DeWalt, OTHSEA President Wendy Sheridan, Joe Schmidt, Jerry Guy(Green & Associates), representatives from the media: WCMY radio; News Tribune and The Times newspapers.

**MINUTES:** Motion made by Shanley, seconded by Duffy to accept and approve the minutes for the regular meeting on December 16, 2013 and the special meeting on January 10, 2014 as submitted. On roll call all members present vote yea. Motion carried.

**DESTROY TAPES FROM CLOSED SESSIONS:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Creedon to destroy tapes from closed session meetings that were held more than 18 months prior: January 21, January 30, March 7, March 26, April 16, May 11, May 21 and June 18, 2012. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR REVIEW OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES:** Motion made by Creedon, seconded by Fisher to keep the following with the exception of July 29, 2013 closed session meeting minutes closed: July 15, 2013, August 5, August 9, September 23, October 28, November 18, and December 16, 2013 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 Fisher to approve the district treasurer's report, financial statements, bills and payroll for December 2013. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**SUPERINTENDENT:** So far, we have no weather related building issues and the boilers are keeping up. We will not know if we have any pipe damage until things start to thaw. We had a couple issues during the last extreme freeze with pipes in the breezeway. Our maintenance and custodial staff do an excellent job during these weather events and I thank them for the extra time and effort they give during these extreme weather days.

We will be amending the calendar to reflect the need for weather related cancellations. The plan at this point will be to still hold graduation on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, but teachers would have to be back June 2<sup>nd</sup> for a teacher institute day unless we agree to modify the current calendar and either schedule a school day and/or the make-up institute day on one of the holidays (President's Day, Easter Monday, or Memorial Day).

The Ottawa Township High School and Ottawa Elementary band and choir students will be performing in Kingman Gym on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 3pm. Please consider attending as this is a great combined music festival between OES and OTHS!

A reminder that the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Hall of Fame dinner and banquet will be held in our cafeteria and auditorium on Saturday, February 8<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. Geneseo on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to this year's inductees: Michael Babcock, Steve Hawk, Bob Jordan, Susan (Hynd) Lewis, Taylor Mason, Steve Nelson, Ken Nikels, the 1969-70 Tennis Team, and the 1961-62 Football Team. Tickets are \$22 and can be purchased from Susan MacDonald.

We are owed slightly less this year than last year, but the state still owes us \$290,327.67

**PRINCIPAL:** Current enrollment as of January 24, 2014 is 1,356. 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 16, 2014 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.

Financial Aid Information Night was held on Monday, January 13, 2014. Registration for the 2014-15 school year is well underway. Counselors are finishing up 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 Tuesday, February 11 and will conclude the registration of current 8<sup>th</sup> graders on Friday, February 21, 2014. 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 11, 2014 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 17, 2014.

OTHS Seniors, Nathanael Nelson and Madeline Goetz, will be recognized at a breakfast hosted by the Starved Rock Region of the Illinois Principals Association at Streator High School on February 20, 2014.

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS:** None

**CLOSED SESSION** – Motion made by Shanley, seconded by Fisher to enter in to closed session at 6:43 p.m. 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 and to discuss negotiations with possible action to be taken.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:** Board President Creedon returned the board to open session at 7:57 p.m.

#### **PERSONNEL**

**MATERNITY LEAVE:** Motion made by Shanley, seconded by Duffy to approve maternity leave for English teacher Lisa Kerestes from early April 2014 thru May 13, 2014. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**SRAVTE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Duffy to appoint Principal Michael Cushing as the Starved Rock Area Vocational Technical Education Alternate representative. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**RESIGNATION(S):** Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Harris to accept the resignation from Physical Education teacher Jessica Kuhn from assistant volleyball effective immediately. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

Motion made by Shanley, seconded by Duffy to accept the resignation from Family/Consumer Science teacher Kara Wolff as assistant speech coach effectively immediately, with permission to post the position. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**VOLUNTEER:** Motion made by Shanley, seconded by Fisher to approve Doug Wisler as a volunteer coach and strength trainer with emphasis on rehabilitation for the balance of the 2013-14 school year. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**ASSISTANT SPEECH COACH:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Duffy to approve English teacher Sue Williamson as assistant speech coach for the remainder of the 2013-14 season. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**PRESS PLUS POLICY UPDATES:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Harris to approve the Press Plus Policy Updates in the following areas: Administrative Responsibilities of the Building Principal, Insurance Management, Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace; Tobacco Prohibition, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting, Staff Development Program, Curriculum Content, Teen Dating Violence Prohibited, and Visitors to and Conduct on School Property with the exception of the more detailed version of the firearm conceal carry act to be included in our Press Plus Policy. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2014-15 CALENDAR:** Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Fisher to approve the proposed calendar for the 2014-15 school year. Teacher Institute will be August 13, 2014, students will attend August 14, 2014 and graduation slated for May 29, 2015. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATIVE/NON-UNION PERSONNEL CONTRACTS:** Motion made by Harris, seconded by Fisher to accept the Administrative and Non-Union Personnel contracts as presented. The Administrative, with the exception of the Principal's contract were for 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years. The Principal's contract was for 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15. The Non-Union contracts were for 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**PARAPROFESSIONAL CONTRACT:** Motion made by Harris, seconded by Fisher to approve and ratify the bargaining agreement with the Paraprofessionals for 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 as presented. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**CLERICAL CONTRACT:** Motion made by Harris, seconded by Fisher to approve and ratify the bargaining agreement with the Clerical staff for 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 as presented. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**GIRLS SWIM CO-OP:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Shanley to welcome Serena High School in to the Girls Swim program, at no cost to the district along with Streator High School

for the 2014-15 school year. Serena may have one swimmer. 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 8:19 p.m. On roll call all members present voted yea, motion carried.

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**President**

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**Secretary**

**OTTAWA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 140  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING/CLOSED SESSION  
JANUARY 10, 2014  
7:30 A.M.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Board President Timothy J. Creedon III called to order the special meeting of the Ottawa Township High School Board of Education District 140 at 7:33 a.m. on January 10, 2014. Members present: Timothy J. Creedon III, Bill Byczynski, Karen Fisher, Tim Creedon, Don Harris, George Shanley. Members absent: Gene Duffy and Anita Kopko.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Matt Winchester, Mike Cushing, OTHSEA President Wendy Sheridan, Jeff DeWalt, Laura Bankowski and recording secretary, Susan MacDonald.

**VIA PHONE CONFERENCE:** Motion made by President Creedon, seconded by Harris to have Board member Gene Duffy join the meeting via phone conference at 7:34 a.m. due to his work schedule. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**CERTIFICATION OF MID-YEAR 2014 GRADUATES:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Shanley that as of January 7, 2014 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 2014 graduates: Rebeka Baker, Michael Bonavia, Jennifer Gates, Jenny Iverson, Jessica Kohl, Deanera Lindley, Michael Maynard, Joshua Schiffgens, Andrew Stramel and Michael Thompson. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**CERTIFICATION OF 2014 EARLY GRADUATES:** Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Byczynski that as of January 7, 2014 and based on Ottawa Township High School District 140 and the State of IL graduation requirements (fifty-four) students be approved and certified as early 2014 graduates as submitted by senior counselor Melissa Basil. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

Board Member Anita Kopko enters meeting at 7:38 a.m.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Motion made by the President Creedon, seconded by Shanley to enter in to closed session to discuss negotiations at 7:38 a.m., with possible action to be taken. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:** President Creedon returned the board to open session at 7:56 a.m.

**RATIFY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT:** Motion by Kopko, seconded by Harris to ratify the SEIU 73 Collective Bargaining Agreement for Custodial/Maintenance for the 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 term and with the school attorney to draft the contract as presented in closed session today. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Board President Creedon declared the meeting adjourned at 7:58 a.m.

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**President**

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**Secretary**