

**OTTAWA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 140
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING/CLOSED SESSION
DECEMBER 16, 2013
ROOM 202 - 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 6:30 p.m. on December 16, 2013. Members present: Timothy J. Creedon III, Bill Byczynski, Karen Fisher, George Shanley, Don Harris, and Gene Duffy. Member absent: Anita Kopko.

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

MEETING MINUTES: Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Fisher to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on November 18, 2013 as submitted. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

BILLS/PAYROLL: Motion made by Harris, seconded by Byczynski to approve the district treasurer's report, financial statements, bills and payroll for November 2013. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Acknowledge a donation made by the AJOC Corporation from Andrew, Kathy, Jane and Megan O'Conor all former OTHS students, for \$500 to Ottawa Township High School.

Thank you read from the Ottawa River Rescue Squad for the use of the pool in November for instructional drills.

RECOGNIZE GRAPHIC DESIGN STUDENTS: Superintendent Winchester introduced and presented six recipients whose holiday cards were selected for publication: Clara Fugatti – "OTHS Ornaments"; Jasmine Lorfald – "Winter Day"; Lauren Lenhausen – "Barn"; Moira Hyatt – "Girl & Snowflake"; Abigail Jordan – "Star"; Taylor Bangert – "Girl/wCandle". Congratulations to all and thank you to teachers, Kevin Olesen and Paul Carroll and their Graphic/Art Design classes for their ideas, research and marketing phase for this class project.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT: We had a fire alarm go off last Tuesday evening as a result of a roof heating unit malfunctioning. A sensor that tells the unit to work properly failed and did not shut down the heat in a section of the Manual Arts building. This caused a classroom heat sensor to trigger the fire alarm. Unfortunately, we had a couple minutes remaining in

our home basketball game, so we had to evacuate the building. The fire department came and checked out the area and the game resumed after they gave the okay to re-enter the building. The unit was being addressed today and they will be here tomorrow to repair. We are also having an issue with the heating unit on the Votech building which will also be repaired tomorrow. Both units are ten plus years old.

We are keeping an eye on the water pressure coming into our facility as it is spiking and causing some issues on the 900 floor. We are monitoring the situation in an attempt to determine the cause. I will keep you informed once we determine the source.

The OTHS Educational Foundation is accepting nominations for the 2013-14 Teacher of the Year Award. All members of the faculty, staff, administration, and community (especially former students) are encouraged to nominate current teachers for this award. Nominations are due by April 1, 2014. Nomination forms can be found on our website or can be picked up in the Main Office. The selected teacher will also receive a reserved parking spot for a year and their name will be added to a Teacher of the Year plaque that will be located on the 200 floor.

I would like to thank Sally Taliani and Paula Carroll for again organizing the annual Christmas Kids fundraiser. Twenty students will be receiving gifts this year. A total of \$2,000 was collected from OTHS faculty, staff, and administration. This includes a generous donation from Junior Achievement. In addition to the \$2,000 collected, a faculty member donated \$250 in gift certificates from local grocery stores.

I would like to thank Freshman Academy Coordinator Mr. Gross, Mr., Le, Mrs. Parrott, Mr. DeWalt/DoChange, and the 17 freshmen homerooms, faculty, and staff that donated canned goods and non-perishable foods to this year's Freezin' for a Reezin'. \$146 in cash and a truck load of items were donated this year. The OTHS Band, under the direction of Sarah Reckmeyer, performed at this year's event. Thank you to all involved.

Congratulations to Board member Karen Fisher as she has been elected President of the Illinois Association of School Boards. This is quite an accomplishment and honor and hope the media will do a full article recognizing this accomplishment.

The state currently owes OTHS \$251, 813.91

PRINCIPAL: Forty (40) of Ottawa Township's High School Class of 2014 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 749 different 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.

On Saturday, December 7, 2013 Ottawa Township High School's Student Technology Association competed in Chicago at the First Robotics Challenge regional qualifying tournament for the Illinois State Championship. OTHS qualified to advance to the state

championship and also won the Rookie All Star award, as a first year team. The State championship is in February. Congratulations to all the member of the robotics teams.

At this time we have approximately sixty-two (62) 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 18 and Thursday, December 19. This is the sixth 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 20, 2013 as final exams will be administered on Wednesday, December 18, 2013, Thursday, December 19, 2013, and Friday, December 20, 2013. 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 23, 2014 through Monday, January 6, 2014. On Monday, January 6, 2014 all teachers will take part in a Teacher's Institute and students will report back to school on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 to begin the second semester of 2013-14 school year.

An Open House for current 8th grade students will take place at OTHS on Thursday, January 16, 2014 from 6:30 to 8:00.

The Fall Band Concert took place on Thursday, December 5 and the Choir Christmas Concert took place on Thursday, December 12. 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.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS: None

Board Member Gene Duffy read a prepared statement based on the article written in the Times newspaper.

PERSONNEL

VOLUNTEER COACHES: Motion made by Fisher seconded by Byczynski, to approve Ron Slack and science teacher Sandrine Clairardin as volunteers for girls track 2014. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

SPRING ASSISTANT COACHES: Motion made by Harris, seconded by Duffy to approve the spring assistant coaches – baseball – John Alexander, Ryan Voitik, and Brent Moore; softball – Steve Doerrer, Steve Springer, and Jen Jobst; boys track – Doug Hearn and Glenn Weatherford; girls track – Brian Huebner and Heather Reardon; girls soccer –

Sean Porter; boys tennis – Dave Wultzen. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TAX LEVY CERTIFICATE: Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Shanley to approve the tax levy certificate as presented in the amount of \$10,309,030 for tax year 2014. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

POLICY UPDATES: Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Byczynski to approve the Press Plus policy updates in the following area: Students -Isolated Time Out and Physical Restraint. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

PRESS PLUS POLICY – FIRST READ

Areas of change: Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal; Insurance Management; Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace/Tobacco Prohibition; Abused and Neglected Child Reporting; Staff Development Program; Ethics and Conduct; Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal; Curriculum Content; Community Resource Person and Volunteers; Credit for Alternative Courses and Programs and Course Substitutions; Teen Dating Violence Prohibited; Extracurricular Athletics; Visitors to and Conduct on School Property.

CLOSED SESSION: Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Fisher to enter in to closed session at 7:05 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 and setting of price for sale or lease of property owned by the district – with possible action to be taken. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried. Media recess at 7:05 p.m. Closed session started at 7:20 p.m.

Board Member Anita Kopko arrived at 8:52 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: Board President Timothy J. Creedon III returned the Board to open session at 9:08 p.m. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Duffy, seconded by Fisher to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

President

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. 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.

President

Secretary