

**OTTAWA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 140
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2016
6:30 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Board President Timothy J. Creedon III called the regular meeting of the Ottawa Township High School District 140 Board of Education at 6:30 p.m. on January 25, 2016. Members present: Timothy Creedon, Gene Duffy, Donald Harris, David Keely, Andree-Marie Koban, John Levy, and George Shanley.

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Cushing, Jeff DeWalt, Janet Pearson, OTHSEA president Melissa Basil, representatives from the media: WCMY radio and The Times newspapers.

MINUTES: Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Levy to accept and approve the minutes for the special meeting on December 9, 2015, the hearing/regular meeting on December 14, 2015 and the special meeting on January 8, 2016 as submitted. On roll call voting yea were: Timothy Creedon, Gene Duffy, Donald Harris, Andree-Marie Koban, John Levy, and George Shanley. Dave Keely abstained due to the fact that he was not in attendance for the meetings. Motion carried.

DESTROY TAPES FROM CLOSED SESSIONS: Motion made by Creedon, seconded by Harris to destroy tapes from closed session meetings that were held more than 18 months prior: January 2014 - June 2014. On roll call voting yea were: Timothy Creedon, Gene Duffy, Donald Harris, David Keely, Andree-Marie Koban, and George Shanley. John Levy abstained due to the fact that he was not on the board during that time period. Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION FOR REVIEW OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES: Motion made by Creedon, seconded by Harris to keep the following closed session meeting minutes closed: July 20, September 4, 21, 26, and 29th, November 2, and December 9, 2015 as per the review committee of Don Harris and Tim Creedon. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

BILLS/PAYROLL: Motion made by Harris, seconded by Levy to approve the district treasurer's report, financial statements, bills and payroll for December 2015. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS: Lindsay Wheeler spoke regarding having graduation outside this year. Melissa Basil spoke regarding the 2016-17 calendar.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT: Monthly Facility Report - There are multiple items I would like to draw your attention to, first as noted by Mr. Clinch in his report the auditorium lights have been replaced with LED bulbs. We are projecting that by using the LED bulbs the District will save approximately \$2400 annually and this has greatly enhanced the lighting in the auditorium. Please be aware that the 2016 Life Safety Project has gone out for bid with all bids due on February 17, 2016. Over the next two weeks I will be meeting with finance and building/grounds committee to review the levee improvement project. It is my hope that at the February board meeting we will have Mr. Poundstone and a representative from Klingner & Associates here to answer any questions that you may have about the upcoming levee improvement project.

Also, I want to thank Mr. Clinch, Mr. Johnston and Mr. Coffey for their work over the winter break with flood control. Over multiple days during the break at least one of these individuals was here monitoring the pumps as the river crested at 468.06 which was the 5th highest recorded level of the river.

ACT/SAT - On January 5, 2016 we were informed by ISBE that the ACT will not be administered to our juniors this year and instead SAT has been awarded a contract to administer its assessment in Illinois this year. Specifically in its release the state provided this information, "Additionally, without a complete fiscal year 2016 state budget, the State Board does not yet know if appropriations will be available to fund the cost of providing a college entrance exam to students this spring. We certainly understand the uncertainty that exists as this process remains unresolved. We will work to keep you updated." Based on the information that we now have, we are not planning on administering the ACT or SAT during the 2nd semester and have adjusted the calendar to reflect that all students will be in attendance on March 1, 2016 with a regular 3:05 dismissal. We will closely monitor this situation as we move forward.

We have been notified that we will be required to administer a science assessment to our students at some point during the second semester. Most likely we will be administering this assessment in early May. We only know that this assessment will be aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards, will be computer based and will take students up to one hour to complete.

Calendar - 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 2016-17 school year calendar in the New Business portion of the meeting, but wanted to discuss the highlights at this time. The 2016-17 school year will begin on August 15, 2016 with a Teacher Institute Day. All students will report to school on Tuesday, August 16, 2016. The proposed calendar has Winter Break beginning on Monday, December 19, with teachers returning for a Teacher's Institute Day on Monday, January 2, 2017. Spring Break is scheduled March 20 through March 24 with teachers and students returning on Monday, March 27, 2017. Finally, the school year officially ends as graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 2, 2017 for the Class of 2017.

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 7, 2016 at 3 p.m. This is a great opportunity to hear the talent of Ottawa's finest student musicians.

As mentioned at the regular board meeting in December, the OTHS Educational Foundation announced that funding is now available for their Educational Grant Program. Grant applications are due February 11, 2016 and recipients will be announced in March of 2016.

The 10th Annual Hall of Fame dinner and banquet will be held in our cafeteria and auditorium on Saturday, February 27th, with a social at 6pm and dinner at 6:30pm. Hall of Fame inductees will also be honored at our home basketball game vs. L-P High School on the 26th. Congratulations to this year's inductees: Mary Fennessey Morgan (former OTHS faculty member), Dr. Nancy Rabenstein Pielemeier (Class of 1963), Robert Eschbach (Class of 1970), Dr. Richard Honer (Class of 1971), Greg Fenza (Class of 1988) and the 1971-72 OTHS Varsity Football Team.

A reminder that next month's Board meeting is not until February 22, 2016 due to President's Day on February 15, 2016.

PRINCIPAL/ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: The 8th Grade Open House that took place on January 13, 2016 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 2016-17 school year is well underway. On November 9, 2015, counselors began the process of registering our current 9th, 10th, and 11th graders. Parents or guardians should contact their child's counselor as soon as possible with any questions about the registration process.

Pre-Registration for the OTHS Class of 2020 will begin February 8th and will conclude on February 25, 2016. OTHS counselors will be visiting feeder schools to develop schedules with parents and students for the freshman year. Please keep in mind that this step pre-registers your child for high school. This process will continue when you receive a packet of information from OTHS in July. Parents of current 8th graders should contact the guidance department or me (Mr. DeWalt) with questions.

The OTHS Pirate Poms Kids Camp, conducted by Ms. Erin Hanley was held on Saturday, January 23, 2016. It was the largest Kids Camp to date with 252 participants. The camp will culminate with performances during halftime of the sophomore and varsity basketball games vs Rochelle on Friday, January 29, 2016.

The Ottawa Elementary School and Ottawa High School Music Festival will be held in Kingman Gym on Sunday, February 7, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

RESIGNATION: Motion made by Levy, seconded by Shanley, to approve the resignation of Steven Bruck, freshman volleyball coach, with permission to post. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

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

CHARACTER COUNTS SPONSOR: Motion made by Levy, seconded by Shanley to approve Kim Hiland and Jenny Rios as character counts sponsors. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

2016-17 CALENDAR: Motion made by Koban, seconded by Keely to table the proposed calendar for the 2016-17 school year to give OTHSEA time to review. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

ENGAGEMENT LETTER: Motion made by Creedon, seconded by Shanley to approve William Blair & Company to provide investment banking services as the exclusive Underwriter related to the preparation for and public offerings of one or more issues of Bonds or (the "Bonds"), as agreed by the Underwriter and the District. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

WORKING CASH RESOLUTION: Motion made by Creedon, seconded by Harris to approve the resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$3,780,000 Taxable General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2016, for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the execution of a Bond Purchase Agreement with William Blair & Company, L.L.C, in connection with the proposed sale of said bonds. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION ABATING WORKING CASH FUND OF THE DISTRICT: Motion made by Harris, seconded by Creedon to approve the resolution abating the working cash fund of the District. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

MID-YEAR GRADUATE: Motion made by Duffy, seconded by Koban to approve the addition of one mid-year graduate as of January 8, 2016, and based on Ottawa Township High School District 140 and the State of IL graduation requirements the following student be approved and certified as a mid-year 2016 graduate: Darius Earle. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION: Motion made by Creedon, seconded by Shanley to enter in to closed session at 7:08 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 negotiations - with possible action to be taken. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: Board President Creedon returned the board to open session at 8:08 p.m. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, President Creedon adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Timothy J. Creedon III, President

Patrick Leonard, Secretary