CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL: President Wayne Fleming called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Ottawa Township High School, District 140 at 6:30 p.m. on March 18, 2013. Members present: Bill Byczynski, Karen Fisher, Tim Creedon, Wayne Fleming, George Shanley, and Anita Kopko. Member absent: Don Harris.

OTHERS PRESENT: Matt Winchester, Mike Cushing, Laura Pastirik, Jeff DeWalt, OTHSEA President Matt Smith, representatives from the media; Times newspaper, and WCMY radio.

MINUTES: Motion made by Creedon, seconded by Shanley to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on February 25, 2013 as printed. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

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

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS, CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you note from Easter Seals of LaSalle and Bureau Counties for the use of the auditorium for their telethon.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS
SUPERINTENDENT: Congratulations to the following OTHS Educational Foundation Grant Award Recipients. A total of $17,933 in grants were awarded! I thank the OTHS Educational Foundation for this grant program and the support given to our students, teachers, and school.

Kevin Olesen- Digital Cutter for the Art Department
Sarah Heuser- Read 180 books
Daniel Heaver -Unlimited access E-books and iPad mini
Ashley Bansberg/Doug Shumway- 6 iPads and wireless keyboards for transition students
Paula Carroll-Art display grid systems
Matt Gross-Individual student white boards for Freshman Academy
Tom Jeppson- CPSPulse clicker system to further enhance the use of MOBI technology
Steve Johnson-English II Novels
Sally Taliani- Twenty Nooks and E books
Pam Cronkright (Applied to Foundation-OTHS funded) - Rwandan genocide speaker
Sally Taliani/Paula Carroll (Applied to Foundation-OTHS funded) - Cyber Bullying speaker
Kim Swords/Jenny Rios (Applied to Foundation-OTHS funded) - North Central Behavioral Health Systems speaker
On Thursday, May 2, 2013, social at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:30, the Annual LaSalle County Excellence in Education Program Awards Banquet will be held at Celebrations 150 in Utica. Congratulations to this year’s recipients. RSVP to Susan by April 3 and cost is $21.

Category #1 - Educator Award (Certified only--Teachers and/or Administrators)
Pamela Cronkright  Holly Hall
Edward Frankenberger  Dan Le

Category #2 - Support Staff Award (Non-certified only--Secretary, Custodian, etc.)
Barb Kinzer

Category #3 - Retiring Educator (+20 years of service)
Wanda Ajster  Pete Armstrong  Joe Jakupcak  Gay Ann Kuhn
Vickie Alsene  Don Heaberlin  Gordon Kirkman  Jeane Schafer
Roger Amm

Category #4 - Retiring Support Staff (+20 years of service)
John Levy
Ray Stevenson

Category #5 - Board Service (+12 years of service)
Karen Fisher

Update on State Funding
The state currently owes the OTHS district $284,575

**Principal:** On Friday, March 1, 2013 a winter sports assembly was conducted to honor those students who were involved with winter sports and activities. This included Stephen Truchon, boys swimmer, who qualified for the state meet in the 100 meter freestyle, the girls basketball team (conference champions and regional champions for the third consecutive year), three members of the wrestling team who advanced to the state tournament (Daniel Close 4th place, Alex Fuentes 6th place, and Cyrano Rayfield who was a state qualifier), and our boys basketball team which won the Plano Christmas Classic and finished the season with a record of 22 wins and 6 losses.

The OTHS music department participated in the IHSA’s Solo & Ensemble contest on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at Princeton High School. 225 students participated in the contest. OTHS students amassed a total of 768 points, the second highest all time score for points earned, and competition will continue with Organizational contest on April 13, 2013 at LaSalle-Peru High School. OTHS music students are on pace to win their 17th consecutive state title and 18th overall.

The third nine weeks of the 2012-2013 school year ended on Friday, March 8, 2013.
On March 14, 2013 an article appeared in The Times describing the service project that the students in Ms. Sandifur’s Sewing Class are undertaking in which they are sewing items that will be sent to needy families in Uganda.

The OTHS Athletic Trainers annual fish fry will be held Friday, March 22, 2013 in the high school cafeteria from 4:30 to 6:30.

On March 20, 21, and 22, 2013 OTHS will hold its annual Fine Arts Festival. The festival will conclude with the Finest of the Fine Arts on Friday, March 22 at 7:00 in the OTHS auditorium.

All students will be dismissed at 2:30 on Friday, March 22, 2013. Spring Break will be March 25, 2013 through April 1, 2013.

The National Honor Society will induct its new members on Wednesday, April 3, 2013.

Current enrollment as of March 18, 2013 is 1400.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS: Laura Pastirik - On Friday March 8, 2013 OTHS made history in the regional competition for Computer Aided Drafting and Design (CADD) held at Joliet Junior College. Students from OTHS beat perennial champions Bolingbrook and Lockport High Schools by having nine students place. OTHS had a place finisher in every category entered. In Intro to CADD in third place was Gavin Mcgettigen, in second place was Adam Hines and the champion was Samantha Ehert. In Advanced Mechanical CADD Keoni Gross placed third. In 3D Architecture Design Wyatt Mach placed third. In 2D Architecture Design in second place was Luke Lancaster and the Champion was Jordan Mackiewicz. In 3D Solid Modeling David Sterner was the runner-up with a second place finish. In 3D Assembly CADD, defending State Champion Trevor Rexroat was again the regional champion. OTHS advanced a record six students to the Illinois State Championship to be held at Illinois State University on April 20, 2013.

On Saturday, March 9, 2013 the OTHS Art Department received second place at the Northern Illinois Big 12 Art competition. OTHS students placed first or second in six of the categories. First place recipients were David Sheridan (Mixed Media) and Hannah Walker (Graphic Design). Second place awards were given to Carly Haywood (Drawing Neutral), Norissa Nugent (Printmaking), Paola Perez (Computer Generated Imaging) and Jocelyn Schueler (Watercolor).

The Foreign Language Department is holding its annual International Banquet in the cafeteria at this time. Thank you to the foreign language teachers for all of their work in the coordination and implementation of this activity.

Jeff DeWalt - a call from Tribeca Flashpoint Media Arts Academy on Friday with great news regarding Nathan Wangler, a 2010 OTHS graduate. Nathan and his team were awarded the top prize at the Building a Healthier Future Summit in Washington, D.C. for their smartphone game, Jungo. Among the judges on the panel was First Lady Michelle Obama, who gave an
enthusiastic blessing to the team in awarding them first place. Included with the victory was a week-long trip to California to work with Microsoft, expert advice from business and marketing professionals and $10,000 to help get their get their business off the ground. I have copies of the press release if anyone would like one.

Another positive has been the venturing out of some of our doChange Mentors to Central, Shepherd and Milton Pope Schools. These visits have been made possible by a grant that Rikki Nevins and I were awarded from the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority. Our first meeting at each school consisted of a game encouraging students to treat one another with respect and small-group discussions about bullying. During the small-group sessions, mentors led groups of 5th-8th grade students in exploring the roles of the bully, victim, activist and bystander in a bullying situation. We are scheduled to visit each school two more times, with mentors presenting information and leading discussions focused on self-image and another, yet to be decided, topic. It is very rewarding to see our students as leaders and the positive interactions taking place between them and the younger students.

Finally, we are in the process of reviewing the Parent-Student Handbook for 2013-14. I will have any updates, which will be minimal, ready for you to review and vote upon at next month’s meeting.

PERSONNEL
RESIGNATION: Motion made by Creedon, seconded by Kopko to accept the resignation from Mark Cooper as assistant football position for the 2013-14 school year. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

AWARD TENURE: Motion made by Kopko, seconded by Fisher to award tenure to the following teachers: Social Studies – Pamela Cronkright, Mathematics – Dan Le, Physical Education/Driver Ed – Brent Moore, Special Needs – Kyra Parrott, Special Needs – Natasha West and School Psychologist – Margie Wrublik. These teachers have successfully completed their four year probationary period. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

FAMILY LEAVE REQUEST: Motion made by Kopko, seconded by Shanley to grant FMLA request to Chelsea Kuhel to start approximately May 10, 2013. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR: Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Byczynski to hire Katherine Riordan as a Guidance Counselor for the 2013-14 school year. This position will become available with the retirement of Counselor Wanda Ajster at the end of this school year. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

HEAD CUSTODIAN(Supervisor of Custodians/Facilities): Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Shanley to hire Brad Johnson as the Head Custodian(Supervisor of Custodians/Facilities) for the 2013-14 school year. This position will become available with the retirement of John Levy at the end of this school year. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.
VOLUNTEER COACHES 2012-13: Motion made by Creedon, seconded by Shanley to accept Ron Slack and Special Needs teacher Jacob Lambert as volunteer coaches for this girls track; and Graphic Arts teacher Kevin Olesen as volunteer for boys tennis. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
LIBRARY GRANT: We are in receipt of $1011 from the IL Secretary of State for the library grant that we applied for earlier this year.

NEW BUSINESS
IHSA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: Motion made by Creedon, seconded by Fisher to approve the IL High School Association membership renewal at no cost to the district for the 2013-14 school year. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION: Motion made by Creedon, seconded by Byczynski to enter in to closed session at 6:52 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employee(s) 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 discuss negotiations, with possible action to be taken. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried. After a brief media recess, the closed session commenced at 7:04 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Creedon to return to open session at 7:57 p.m. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Board President Wayne Fleming adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m. All members present voted yea. Motion carried.

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President                                                           Secretary