

Minutes of the Oscoda Area Schools Board of Education
Regular Meeting Monday, April 18, 2016

The April 18, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Oscoda Area Schools, Iosco and Alcona Counties, Michigan, Board of Education was called to order at 7:29 p.m. on Monday, April 18, 2016 by President Tony Johnson. The meeting was held in the Board of Education Meeting Room located in Oscoda Area High School, 3550 East River Road, Oscoda, Michigan 48750. President Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Secretary Davis read the district's Vision, Mission, and Belief statements.

Members Present: Ellis, Johnson, Davis, Kellstrom, Schlink
 Members Absent: Kahila, Reitler

The Oscoda Area Schools 2015-2016 "Hand-in-Hand" Awards were presented to the following individuals and groups at a dinner prior to the meeting:

Award Recipient

Jan Johnson
Carol Gaines
Angela Nelson
Jamie McGuire
Dave & Lynda Slaggert
The Brick Oven
Donna Edwards
Danielle & David Fisher
Mr. & Mrs. Mudridge
Nicole LeVasseur
Mary Reitler
Bill Gaines
Paul Fredenburg
Lindsey Moore
Sue Hurford
Maureen Olshanski
Beth Fredenburg
David Kane
Bob Skodack
Tamara Peters
Paul Hodgdon
Mary Hodgdon
Louie Alverson
Tony Castro
Sharlee Crooks
Janis Coughlin
Michelle Keiser
Rick Kimber
John Landry
Denise Mochty
John Novak
Dave Ostrander
Linda Ostrander
Clare Reker
Jane Sanderson
Debbie Schirmer
David Young
Penny Zacharias
Cooper Standard – Robin Champine
Shannon's Shoeboxes – Shannon Allison
Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative – Brandon Schroeder
Lake Huron Sports Fishing & AuSable Steelheaders
R.C. Laugal – Alpena Community College Instructor

Nominator

Shannon Livingston
Shannon Livingston
Shannon Livingston
Linda Skodack
Seth & Amy Alda, & Scott Lueck
Seth & Amy Alda
Penny Hutchison
Penny Hutchison
Penny Hutchison
Linda Stemen
Rebecca Brooks
Rebecca Brooks
Karen MacGregor & Shelley Revord
Karen MacGregor
Karen MacGregor
Shelley Revord
Shelley Revord
Carl Ridgway & Bernice Waradzin
Carl Ridgway & Bernice Waradzin
Scott Moore & Susan Barnhart
Scott Moore & Susan Barnhart
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Eric Allshouse
Eric Allshouse
Matthew McDougall
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The Board of Education heard no public/general comments.

Motion: by Davis, supported by Schlink, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda items which include: the approval of the Agenda for the April 18, 2016 Regular Meeting; the tentative minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Monday, March 14, 2016; the tentative minutes of the closed session held on Monday, March 14, 2016, the tentative minutes of the Facilities Improvement Committee Meeting held on Thursday, March 17, 2016; and the payment of the General Fund checks #12683 through #12807 totaling \$429,455.96 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Yeas: Ellis, Johnson, Davis, Kellstrom, Schlink
 Nays: None
 Absent: Kahila, Reitler
 Abstained: None
 Motion declared adopted with a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion: by Ellis, supported by Schlink, that the Board of Education approve the General Fund budget amendments as presented for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year, as recommended by the Director of Finance and the Superintendent of Schools. As directed by the Revised School Code in MCL 388.1618(2), the district “shall make the budget and subsequent revisions available on its website.”

Yeas: Johnson, Davis, Kellstrom, Schlink, Ellis
 Nays: None
 Absent: Kahila, Reitler
 Abstained: None
 Motion declared adopted with a 5– 0 vote.

Motion: by Kellstrom, supported by Johnson, that the Board of Education approve the Food Service Fund budget amendments as presented for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year, as recommended by the Director of Finance and the Superintendent of Schools. As directed by the Revised School Code in MCL 388.1618(2), the district “shall make the budget and subsequent revisions available on its website.”

Yeas: Davis, Kellstrom, Schlink, Ellis, Johnson
 Nays: None
 Absent: Kahila, Reitler
 Abstained: None
 Motion declared adopted with a 5– 0 vote.

Motion: by Ellis, supported by Kellstrom, that the Board of Education approve the Sinking Fund budget amendments as presented for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year, as recommended by the Director of Finance and the Superintendent of Schools. As directed by the Revised School Code in MCL 388.1618(2), the district “shall make the budget and subsequent revisions available on its website.”

Yeas: Kellstrom, Schlink, Ellis, Johnson, Davis
 Nays: None
 Absent: Kahila, Reitler
 Abstained: None
 Motion declared adopted with a 5 – 0 vote.

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Motion: by Schlink, supported by Ellis, that the Board of Education approve the Athletic Bond budget amendments as presented for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year, as recommended by the Director of Finance and the Superintendent of Schools. As directed by the Revised School Code in MCL 388.1618(2), the district “shall make the budget and subsequent revisions available on its website.”

Yeas: Kellstrom, Schlink, Ellis, Johnson, Davis
 Nays: None
 Absent: Reitler, Kahila
 Abstained: None
 Motion declared adopted with a 5 – 0 vote.

Motion: by Kellstrom, supported by Ellis that the Board of Education approve the request from RES teacher Whitney Dettmer for a leave without pay for the 2016-2017 school year.

Yeas: Schlink, Kellstrom
 Nays: Ellis, Johnson, Davis
 Absent: Reitler, Kahila
 Abstained: None
 Motion declared defeated with a 2 – 3 vote.

Vice-President Ellis stated that a year leave of absence is generous. Mrs. Dettmer can reapply if and when she decides to return to teaching. This decision is in no way a reflection on Mrs. Dettmer’s teaching ability.

Motion: by Ellis, supported by Kellstrom, that the Board of Education approve up to one (1) Board member to attend the LRN Conference on May 31, 2016 at the Lansing Center, and to pay for the applicable expenses as provided for in Board Policy.

Yeas: Schlink, Ellis, Johnson, Davis, Kellstrom
 Nays: None
 Absent: Kahila, Reitler
 Abstained: None
 Motion declared adopted with a 5 – 0 vote.

President Johnson made the following statement regarding the separation of employment with Barak Henderson:

"I would like to address a situation that developed recently that has led to the separation of employment with Mr. Barak Henderson from our district.

On April 1, 2016 Oscoda Schools’ administration learned that Mr. Henderson may have broken board policy in regards to appropriate use of social media. The administration immediately began an investigation into the allegations.

On April 3, 2016 the authorities were notified of the allegations as they were of potentially significant consequence. On April 4, 2016 all evidence gathered by the administration up to that point was turned over to the authorities. To our understanding, there is currently an open investigation. Considering this, no further comments beyond this statement will be shared at this time by any member of our team out of respect for the integrity of the investigation.

On April 10, 2016 prior to students coming back from Spring Break, Mr. Henderson was presented with the evidence and given an opportunity to respond. Following his response. It was unanimously determined by three OAS Administrators that there was enough hard evidence of violation of our policies to warrant a teacher due process dismissal hearing for Mr. Henderson in front of the Board of Education. Mr. Henderson elected to resign as opposed to submit himself to a Board Hearing.

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Through this entire process the legal authorities, Oscoda Schools Administration and the Oscoda Education Association worked cooperatively to make sure that this situation is resolved fairly and expeditiously. I would like to thank all those involved for their commitment to making our learning environment the best and safest possible place for children to learn and grow.”

Superintendent Moore stated that the district’s drinking water well was tested for PFC’s during spring break. The report shows that traces of PFC were found in the drinking water, which are considered normal and less than what is in Oscoda’s municipal water. Superintendent Moore stated that a copy of the report is available in the Board of Education Office.

President Johnson set as the date of the next Policy Committee Meeting May 9, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Trustee Kellstrom stated that the Hand-in-Hand awards were truly inspiring and he is glad that the district recognizes people that work with the district for the benefit of our students.

Superintendent Moore reported the hiring of Gary Lecuru as the boys soccer coach. The Board of Education acknowledged the resignations of OHS part-time Paraprofessional Pamela Miller, and part-time Dietary/Custodial employee Lorena Magalski.

Superintendent Moore informed that Board of Education that there is a proposed bill which sets a higher threshold for salaried employees. It is anticipated that this bill will be enacted into law.

The Board of Education acknowledged a one year leave of absence without pay for custodian Eric Miller.

Superintendent Moore stated that at the Superintendents’ Meeting at IRESA, billing and programming changes that our district believes needs to take place for CTE classes at the Tech Center will be discussed. He is hopeful the superintendents will be able to come up with a solution that is agreeable to Oscoda. Superintendent Moore stated that there are other options for CTE classes.

Superintendent Moore shared the graduation and dropout rate for the district for the past five years. The graduation rate` increased from 61.54 % in 2011 to 86.90% in 2015. Vice-President Ellis stated that this is due in part to the district’s top notch teaching staff. Mr. Moore reported that students behind in credits receive a letter stating that they must do credit recovery classes in the summer or be referred to truancy. Vice-President Ellis noted that another factor is that students don’t want to let their mentors down. The district also offers after school workshop for struggling students. Superintendent Moore stated that Dave Beauchamp has a big impact on struggling students, and some students behind in credits went to the Alternative Academy. President Johnson noted that there are bills in the House and Senate that tie truancy to benefits. Trustee Kellstrom noted that six or seven years ago the culture around the high school was not very positive. This school year the culture around the campus is awesome, and there have been no expulsion hearings this school year. Karen Rouse reported that in 2011 her daughter attended the Oscoda High School. She was unmotivated, failed every test she ever took, yet was on the honor roll and graduated with a C average. Mr. Beauchamp had a huge impact on her son and helped him to be successful. She has noticed a change in the district. Trustee Kellstrom stated that the number one influence on a student is the parent and we need never lose sight of that.

The Board of Education acknowledged the list of additional volunteers and the updated fundraising calendar.

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Motion: by Kellstrom, supported by Schlink, that the Board of Education enter into closed session at 8:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing employee negotiations, as provided for in Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act.

Yeas: Ellis, Johnson, Davis, Kellstrom, Schlink

Nays: None

Absent: Kahila, Reitler

Abstained: None

Motion declared adopted with a 5-0 vote.

The Board returned to open session at 9:22p.m. No action was taken during open session.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22p.m.

Edward Davis, Secretary
Board of Education
Oscoda Area Schools