

OCUSD #220
BOARD MINUTES
November 20, 2023
Regular Board Meeting

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll call, present were Wills, Guzman, Griffin, Haugh, Baker, Nesemeier and Buck.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Motion by Guzman, second by Buck to go into closed session.
Voice vote, 6-0. Motion carried.
5. Closed session began at 6:00 p.m.
6. Closed session adjourned at 6:29 p.m.
7. Meeting called to order by Wills at 6:33 p.m.
8. Motion by Buck, second by Haugh to open the Public Hearing for a proposed Property Tax Levy.
Voice vote, 6-0. Motion carried.
 - a. Dr. Mahoney presents a reminder of the types of funds used in the tax levy as well as a reminder that the district's policy is to have 50% in reserves and currently stands at 49.63%. He also presents the anticipated revenues based on the assessors estimated EAV. He shares that the district asks for higher amounts on the levy in the event the actual EAV is higher than the estimate. He believes the amounts projected to be received will help to create a balanced budget in future years. The board discusses the current budget and how the levy funds will help to balance the budget but not yet add to the reserves. Dr. Mahoney reminds the board of the upcoming contractual pay increases as well as operational increases that happen with each year as with any business.
 - b. Public comment – Bruce Obendorf shares comments on Dr. Mahoney's presentation and asks the board to consider reducing the levy.
9. Motion by Griffin, second by Nesemeier to close the Public Hearing for a proposed Property Tax Levy.
Voice vote, 6-0. Motion carried.
10. Public Hearing closed at 6:52 p.m.
11. Wills welcomes the public to the open meeting at 6:53 p.m.
12. Public Comment:
 - a. Bruce Obendorf shares his appreciation to the board and for the work they do. He asks questions regarding last year's budget and this year's budget.
13. Motion by Buck, second Haugh to expel student A through the 2024-2025 school year with the expulsion held in abeyance of successful completion of an alternative program.
Roll call vote, 6-0. Motion carried.
14. Motion by Guzman, second by Nesemeier to approve the following employment motions:
Employments:
 - a. Lisa Rogers as High School Assistant Girls' Track CoachLeave of Absence:
 - b. Sue Braden, up to 6 month beginning November 27, 2023
 - c. Karen Howard, approximately 6 weeks beginning November 26, 2023
 - d. Dawn Merrill, approximately February 1 – February 29, 2024Terminations:
 - e. Jason Hitchcock as Custodian
 - f. Sara Hite as CustodianRoll call vote, 6-0. Motion carried.

15. Wills read aloud the district mission statement "Educate students to be to be lifelong learners who are productive, responsible citizens" followed by the school board members reading aloud the board affirmation "I am dedicated to our mission. I am passionate about our students' education. I am committed to the success of our kids, our staff, and our community. It's great to be an Oregon Hawk!"
16. Recognitions:
 - a. Dr. Mahoney recognizes the work Bill Nesemeier has done to secure new underground cables from ComEd at no expense to the district. He explains that the district has had ongoing 'brown outs' for over a decade due to faulty cables and temporary fixes were constantly being made. It was through Bill's consistent work with ComEd and help in identifying the problem as well as marking out other underground utilities that made the replacement possible.
17. Motion by Haugh, second by Guzman to approve the consent agenda as presented. Dr. Mahoney highlights some of the month's bills.
Roll call vote, 6-0. Motion carried.
18. Motion by Buck, second by Nesemeier to approve the 6-month review of minutes for April 2023 through September 2023.
Roll call vote, 6-0. Motion carried.
19. Motion by Guzman, second by Haugh to approve the proposed tax levy as presented.
Roll call vote, 6-0. Motion carried.
20. Dr. Mahoney shares that the Annual Statement of Affairs (ASA) is a report required by the State of IL to be filled out and published in the local paper as well as the district website every November.
21. Motion by Haugh, second by Guzman to approve one (1) Early Graduation requests. Dr. Mahoney states that he has read through and approves of the request, he recommends the board approves it.
Roll call vote, 6-0. Motion carried.
22. Motion by Buck, second by Griffin to approve the district 2022-2023 Audit.
Roll call vote, 6-0. Motion carried.
23. Motion by Haugh, second by Griffin to approve the 2023-2024 Discipline Improvement Plan. Dr. Mahoney shares that state requires the district to update the plan annually and it was adjusted this year to change the level of consequences for 1st offense versus following offense behaviors as well as adding more restorative practices. He credits Miss Cremeens for her work on the plan.
 - a. Haugh inquires about trauma-informed information and while it is not in the plan, more training is held on the subject every year.
Roll call vote, 6-0. Motion carried.
24. Motion by buck, second by Nesemeier to approve the amended 24-25 school year calendar. Dr. Mahoney explains that after approving the last amended calendar, the governor released a proclamation for election day 2024 to be a no school day. The amendment reflects that day.
Roll call vote, 5-1. Motion carried.
25. Motion by Haugh, second by Baker to approve the revised evaluation plan for certified staff. Dr. Mahoney states that the revision moves the formal evaluation for tenured staff from every two (2) years to every three (3) years but requires staff members to participate in an informal reflective evaluation during the 'off' years.
Roll call vote, 6-0. Motion carried.
26. Motion by Buck, second Guzman to approve the MOU between OCUSD and the OEA to update the contract language regarding the updated evaluation plan.

Roll call vote, 6-0. Motion carried.

27. Motion by Nesemeier, second by Buck to approve the MOU between OCUSD and the Oregon Health Department.

Roll call vote, 6-0. Motion carried.

28. Motion by Haugh, second by Guzman to approve the MOU between OCUSD and the OESPA guaranteeing full-time bus drivers a minimum of 30 hours of work per week. Dr. Mahoney states that this has been a vital part of hiring and maintaining bus drivers.

Roll call vote, 6-0. Motion carried.

29. Motion by Baker, second by Griffin to approve the new Board Policy:

- a. 4:155 Student and Staff Memorials

Roll call vote, 6-0. Motion carried.

30. Motion by Buck, second by Nesemeier to approve the following Board Policy Updates:

- a. 2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct; 2-80-E Exhibit Board Member Code of Conduct; 2:200-E4 Exhibit – Open Meeting Minutes; 2:20-E8 – Board of Education Records Maintenance Requirements; 240-E1 Exhibit – PRESS Issue Updates; 6:10 Educational Philosophy and Objectives; 6:190 Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities; 6:240 Field Trips; 7:275 Orders to Forgo Life-Sustaining Treatment; 7:330 Student Use of Building – Equal Access; 8:25 Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities; 8:95 Parental Involvement; 2:20 Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification; 2:120 Board Member Development; 2:200 Types of Board of Education Meetings; 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure; 2:220-E2 Exhibit – Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting; 2:220-E6 Exhibit – Log of Closed Meeting Minutes; 2:220-E7 – Access to Closed meeting Minutes and Verbatim Recordings; 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management; 4:60 Purchases and Contracts; 4:130 Free and Reduced-Price Food Services; 4:160 Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds; 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria; 5:190 Teacher Qualifications; 5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal; 5:210 Resignations; 5:220 Substitute Teachers; 5:250 Leaves of Absence; 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves; 6:15 School Accountability; 6:30 Organization of Instruction; 6:50 School Wellness; 6:60 Curriculum Content

Roll call vote, 6-0. Motion carried.

31. FOIA Requests – None

32. Administrator Reports:

- i. Mr. Larsen shares a presentation on Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) explaining an overview of what the act requires in terms of growth and progress, the data used to rate schools, and how OCUSD has deconstructed the formulas for calculating the data to continually show growth.
- ii. He stated that both schools at OCUSD received Commendable ratings and showed where the schools stood in comparison to the rest of the state as well as areas of success and areas to work on.
- iii. Dr. Mahoney added that the work that was done is being honored but the district is also focusing on the areas that still need improvement. Wills commended the district's growth on the other side of the pandemic and says, "Awesome Job, Congratulations."

- b. Dr. Deininger shares information she has researched regarding students growing in Math and how the Jr/Sr High school is working toward utilizing the tasks suggested, especially in areas of getting students into Algebra in Jr. High. She also shares that the Special Education staff is working to have their students spend more time in a general education environment to give them the best learning opportunities.
 - i. She gives shouts outs regarding the Veteran's Day Assembly and the Seven (7) State Scholars that the High School currently has and reminds the board of "All Things Holiday" happening: Winter sports, holiday concerts, and Madrigals.
- c. Mr. Huels adds to Dr. Deininger's comments on the Veteran's Day Assembly sharing that it was student led, the emcees were 5th and 6th graders and the grade levels performing the military songs went viral, receiving comments from military all over the world!
 - i. The board agreed that they were extremely impressed with the program and could see that the veterans in attendance were as well.

Mr. Huels shares that regarding Mr. Larsen's presentation of ESSA, OES ranked highest in 3rd-6th ELA performance in the county. Collaboration with 7th grade has been great now that the teachers are across the street, and Wednesday early dismissals are vital to OES' professional development.

33. New business:

- a. Dr. Mahoney shares information regarding the county-wide 1% sales tax. He explains that Lee and Whiteside County voters have approved the tax and that the tax can be used to fund School Resource Officers, lower property taxes, and other facility costs.
- b. The board discussed in depth how the money is used or saved, what the extra revenue would look like to the district's budget, how often the money would be received, and how the county money is distributed to each district.
- c. Dr. Mahoney reminds the board that if they pass a resolution, they will not be approving a new tax. They would simply be allowing the voters to determine if they want to approve the new tax.

34. Old business: None

35. President's Prerogative: None

36. Motion by Haugh, second by Guzman to adjourn.

All voted aye. Motion carried.

37. Meeting ended at 8:02 p.m.