

OCUSD #220
BOARD MINUTES
December 14, 2015
Regular Board Meeting

1. Meeting called to order by Mr. Smith at 5:30 p.m.
2. Roll call, present were Smith, Obendorf, Haugh, Wills, Wilken and Buck. Absent was Griffin.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Motion by Wills, second by Buck to go into closed session. All voted aye. Motion carried.
5. Closed session began at 5:32 p.m.
6. Closed session adjourned at 6:23 p.m.
7. Meeting called to order by Smith at 6:30 p.m.
8. Motion by Obendorf, second by Wills to deny the appeal for the suspension of Student A from the November 16, 2015 meeting. Roll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.
9. Motion by Wills, second by Buck to approve the following resignations:
 - Carlos Gutierrez as DLR Assistant Wrestling CoachRoll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.
10. Motion by Wills, second by Haugh to approve the following employments:
 - Shawn Gadow as Technology Director
 - Steve Stinson as Network Administrator
 - Robin Cervený as Transportation Director
 - Dominic Marchetti as DLR Assistant Wrestling Coach
 - Sue Coine as District Bus DriverRoll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.
11. Motion by Wills, second by Wilken to approve the following retirement:
 - Gretchen Ihde-Nelson at the end of the 2019-2020 school yearRoll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.
12. Motion by Obendorf, second by Buck to approve the resignation agreement for Francis Zelek. Roll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.
13. Smith welcomed all of the community members in attendance at the meeting and read aloud the district mission statement "educate students to be to be lifelong learners who are productive, responsible citizens."
14. Recognitions - Mr. Crandall recognized staff members Gretchen Nelson, Miles Beske, Deana Koruba, Michelle Bothe, Jamie Fulton and Tabitha Smith for stepping in and helping work the AFC basketball games that had to be moved to DLR to due a water main break.
15. Presentations:
 - Hawk Force presented. The group was started last year at Oregon High School. The group meets every Friday at 7:40 a.m. Hawk Force painted the lobby windows and doors for Homecoming. They are making magnets for each athletic and activity club to sell and had them on display at the meeting. They will be hosting a school song contest in which students can submit videos or posters. Hawk Force will be holding a dress

giveaway for an upcoming school dance. New handstamps have been ordered for entry into events to promote school spirit.

- Dungeons and Dragons presented. Students who are members gave examples of challenges and events they face in the game. One participant tried to have other participants calculate the slope of a staircase. If it was too deep or too shallow consequences occurred. Examples of comical situations with other scenarios in the game were given. Story of a battle that leads to an entire cave collapse was told.

16. Mr. Noble presented on behalf of the Ogle County Educational Cooperative. He provided an overview of the schools who participate and the enrollment from each school. The coop has been in existence since 1976. Mr. Noble provided an overview of services provided which included school social work, school psychology, CPI training and autism support. For those who are members of the coop, the special education director is provided. If a school is not a member of the coop it is required by school code that a special education director is on staff. OCEC provides several screening services for students as well as provide student record management for those who receives services through the coop. OCEC works with Rock Valley College to provide continuing education programs for the older students. Tuition programs offered by OCEC include PLUS, SOAR, Chana Educational Center, and Rock River Challenge Program. Mr. Noble reviewed the evaluation components of OCEC staff with students. He also reviewed the list of equipment provided by OCEC to support student needs every day. Wilken asked about enrollment and if OCEC has noticed a decline as other districts have. Mr. Noble stated that the coop's enrollment has appeared to stay steady.
17. Public comment – Ms. Gruber stood to speak and asked why the district hired a full time transportation director? Ms. Gruber stated when she worked for the district the superintendent also acted as the transportation director. Why couldn't Oregon do that? She spoke on behalf of the district support staff stating the board needs to provide these employees with a fair contract. She introduced a few members of the staff which included Kathy Hoffman and Diana Steinmetz who have been bus drivers for several years in the district. Diana gave a description of some of the ways in which she goes above and beyond in her daily work responsibilities. Ms. Gruber also introduced Gay Vickers, who is an aide for the district, and Mindy Thomas who is the head cook at Oregon High School. Ms. Gruber stated the board seems interested in only saving money or maybe it is power. Ms. Gruber indicated that the Board will not settle on a fair contract and that it is more about power than financial issues.
18. Motion by Wills, second by Obendorf to approve the tax levy as presented. Mr. Mahoney reviewed the levy to be submitted. The district is asking for 4.17%. Roll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.
19. Motion by Buck, second by Wilken to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mahoney reviewed a few of the invoices that were paid for the month. Roll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.
20. Mahoney presented the medical insurance renewal for approval. The renewal with BCBS of IL came in at a 2.28% increase, which is about a \$22,000.00 increase. He informed the board that United Health Care came in at a \$76,000.00 decrease. The insurance committee decided to renew with BCBS of IL. Had they recommended United Health Care it would have reduced the

deficit by approximately \$100,000.00. The board asked why the need to stay with BCBS and Mahoney stated that the members of the committee stated that some staff and dependents were currently working with specialists who would not be available if a new plan was chosen. Haugh asked if it was made clear to the committee that the cost increase could have been two to three jobs in the district. Mahoney stated yes, it had been addressed. Obendorf had asked if other options had been discussed such as an increase in the deductible to help save costs. Mahoney stated that had not been discussed but would be included with the next renewal. Board asked what would happen if the renewal was not approved at this time. Mahoney stated that the district would have to carry at least one more month with BCBS at this point and the renewal rates would most likely not apply since we did not agree to a contract and could be as high as 13.17% increase for the one month. Mrs. Haugh clarified that by choosing BC/BS the district missed the opportunity to reduce the deficit by \$100,000 or 3 teaching positions. Motion by Wills, second by Buck to approve the health insurance renewal as presented. Roll call vote. Wills, Buck and Wilken voted aye. Haugh and Obendorf voted nay. Motion carried.

21. Motion by Wilken, second by Buck to approve the following board policy updates:

- 2:200 Types of School Board Meetings; 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting; 5:100 Staff Development Program; 6:15 School Accountability; 6:50 School Wellness; 6:60 Curriculum Content; 6:160 English Learners (renamed); 7:50 School Admissions and Transfers To and From Non-District Schools; 7:100 Health, eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students; 7:130 Student Rights and Responsibilities; 7:140 Search and Seizure; 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention (renamed and rewritten); 7:300 Extracurricular Activities; 7:305 Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries; 7:340 Student Records

Roll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.

22. First reading of the Athletic Code amendments. The amendment would remove the clause “attendance at events where the substances are being used illegally”. Policy committee is recommending the change so we as a district reward appropriate behavior and do not apply a negative consequence for making the right decision. Second reading for approval will be held at the January board meeting.

23. Motion by Obendorf, second by Wills to approve adding a Girls’ Soccer team for IHSA competition. The board asked if the cost is 100% covered by the Soccer Club and Mahoney stated that yes, it would be covered 100% by the Soccer Club. Board asked if any other sports that started self-funded are still that way. Mahoney stated no, other sports that began self-funded have become funded by the district. Mr. Wills took a moment to inform that board that he made his choice for the children and that is why he is a board member for the district to do what is in the best interest of the children and students. Roll call vote. All voted aye. Motion carried.

24. Administrator Reports – Discussion was held regarding the PARCC exam, what the results mean for the district at this point and how many years it will take to value the assessment in general. Mr. Larsen stated at this point these scores don’t mean much and that it will take several years of this assessment to see any value in the scores themselves.

- Haugh asked about the referral increase at OES and what was the cause of the increase. Mr. Hickerson stated it was a rise in disrespect and physical aggression. Haugh asked OHS about their transgender student population and if the high school has received the appropriate training. Nelson stated that training was received last week. Haugh asked about sexual harassment policy for transgender and Nelson stated it would be the same protocol as for other students.
- Discussion about OHS students and their college enrollment numbers and completion after high school. Larsen stated there has been a gradual decrease in both two and four year enrollments since 2012. He did state that our completion rate (graduation from college) has been on a steady rise however.
- Haugh asked about the Hawk Café and where the funding comes for the free snacks. Boyer stated that a community member had supplied snacks and staff has also taken the initiative to provide snacks as well.

25. No new business before the board

26. No other matters before the board

27. President's Prerogative – Smith discussed the meetings that have been held between board members and building staff. He would like to see it continue. The board's intent is not to micromanage but to work with staff. He asked that staff members please take into consideration that other board members have later work schedules and look at planning early evening meetings if possible.

Smith also asked board members to take a moment and discuss what they participated in at the IL School Board Conference. Obendorf gave an overview of the conference and noted that Oregon has presented for the past three years. This year was the presentation on the technology cooperative agreement with Meridian. After listening to other districts he came away with the idea to look at other shared services to help save costs. Wills and Buck discussed how we as a district are on the cutting edge of ideas and techniques after listening to other presentations. Obendorf discussed the Sunday presenters and that each member should take the opportunity in the future to attend. Each one in the past has been very motivational and uplifting.

28. Motion by Wills, second by Buck to adjourn. All voted aye. Motion carried.

29. Meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.

Board President – OCUSD #220

Board Secretary – OCUSD #220

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 14, 2015
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Meeting called to order by Mr. Smith at 5:30 p.m.
2. Roll call, present were Smith, Obendorf, Haugh, Wills, Wilken and Buck. Absent was Griffin.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Motion by Wills, second by Buck to go into closed session. All voted aye. Motion carried.
5. Closed session began at 5:32 p.m.
6. Review of OESPA negotiations. Offers were made back and forth and the last negotiations meeting between the union, mediator and board council. No agreement could be made and another negotiation meeting has been scheduled for January.
7. Student discipline appeal from November 16, 2015 meeting. Teacher stated student A was not given a notebook to write down feelings. Notebook was given to practice writing skills student A has been struggling with.
8. Quad Graphics plant in Mt. Morris was sold under value as previous owners wanted it off of their books. Mahoney asked the board for permission to work with the Village of Mt Morris and the Mt Morris Fire on a private appraisal which would cost approximately \$3,000.00. This would help confirm the value of the property and help EAV funding in the future.
9. Technology Staff moves. Shawn Gadow is being moved to Technology Director and Steve Stinson will move to Network Administrator. The district will still participate in the coop with Meridian continuing to save the district funds on directors' salaries.
10. Upcoming district reductions. Mr. Mahoney reviewed the reserve funds from surrounding districts in our area. He also reviewed two scenarios for cuts that would need to be made in the spring. He asked to the board to consider both as a decision will have to be made in January to start the process.
11. Health insurance renewal. Insurance committee approved renewing with BCBS of IL even though it was a \$22,000.00 increase from the previous plan year. Mahoney stated United Health Care came in \$76,000.00 less. With opting for BCBS it is approximately \$100,000.00 increase in expenses, which could potentially be two to three jobs in the district. Board asked if the renewal could be denied and Mahoney stated yes, but we would have to go at least one more month with BCBS and the renewal rates offered at this time will most likely not stay and could cost the district potentially the annual increase in one month. The board asked if at discussions next year the option of increasing the deductible could be reviewed.
12. Motion by Buck, second by Haugh to adjourn from closed session. All voted aye. Motion carried.
13. Closed session adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Board President – OCUSD #220

Board Secretary-OCUSD #220