

**DRAFT
FOR APPROVAL
11-23-09**

Otsego Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
November 9, 2009

Page 1 of 3

The meeting was called to order by President Campbell at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center at Dix Street Elementary.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Campbell, Cronen, Herm, Ransbottom, Sleeman, Stafford and Weeldreyer

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Patzer and interested staff and citizens

Motion by Herm, support by Cronen to adopt the agenda for November 9, 2009 as presented.

AYES: Campbell, Cronen, Herm, Ransbottom, Sleeman, Stafford and Weeldreyer

NAYS: None

The Dix Street Elementary building report focused on early childhood programs. Reports were given by Kristen VanWyk and Sue Squires on the 5x5 program and all day, every day kindergarten. Autumn Steketee presented information on her classroom for Early Childhood Developmentally Delayed (ECDD) students.

Superintendent Patzer reported that the Girls' Varsity Cross Country team finished 6th in the state last Saturday. He announced that former teacher and coach, Pete Fager is being recognized as an outstanding coach at the Wolverine Conference annual meeting. The Otsego/Plainwell Shared Services Committee met and is developing a list of short and long term goals. They will meet again in two weeks. There will also be a special countywide meeting of Superintendents and Boards of Education in December to discuss the impact of State aid reductions throughout the county.

Bill Houseman was presented with an "Outstanding Hero Award" for assisting a choking staff member during lunch time by administering the Heimlich maneuver.

High School students Julee Campbell and David Back attended the meeting to announce the annual canned food drive and receive donations from the Board Members. This year's collection of 5,500 items will be donated to Christian Neighbors and the local churches for holiday food baskets. The students also held an Otsego/Plainwell competition to collect canned items during the week of the annual varsity football game. Otsego won with 1,000 items.

Past Board Member Al Frasier was invited to attend the meeting for official goodbyes and presentation of a plaque and retirement bell since he was unable to attend his final meeting in June. Mr. Frasier was unable to attend this meeting also but words of appreciation for his service were announced.

The presentation of a project that Al had proposed a couple years ago was made. A coloring book of outstanding Otsego alumni and their careers was presented to the Board. The pages in the book were drawn by elementary art teacher, Cassandra Boyce. The book includes a page with a picture of Al Frasier when he was a police officer for the City of Kalamazoo. They will be distributed to elementary students during career awareness days to show them career choices of Otsego alumni and provide role models for the students as they plan for their future.

The annual audit report was presented by representatives from Plante & Moran. They stated the audit ran smoothly this year and there were no reportable findings.

Motion by Herm, support by Ransbottom to approve the following agenda items:

- A. Approve Minutes of October 26, 2009
- B. Payment of Monthly bills in the amount of \$2,523,118.95
- C. Employment of Staff:

Chapman, Patty	Food Service Cashier at Alamo
Ennis, Darcy	OMS Cheerleading Coach (20%)
Garbe, Nicole	BASE Aide at WSE
Leonard, Brandi	OMS Cheerleading Coach (80%)
Zimmerman, Morgan	BASE Aide at Alamo

AYES: Campbell, Cronen, Herm, Ransbottom, Sleeman, Stafford and Weeldreyer

NAYS: None

Motion by Stafford, support by Weeldreyer to affirm support of and partnership with the 2010 census to ensure every resident is counted.

AYES: Campbell, Cronen, Herm, Ransbottom, Sleeman, Stafford and Weeldreyer

NAYS: None

Rhonda Plumley, Director of Business, gave an update on the state budget and school funding. In addition to the \$165/student reduction already received this year, the legislators are proposing another \$127/pupil reduction. They are also predicting another \$600/pupil reduction for the next 2010-11 school year. It was noted that we have made budget cuts of approximately \$1.2 million in the past two years in an attempt to absorb underfunding by the State. Everyone was encouraged to contact the legislators in Lansing to voice their opinions on school funding.

Assistant OMS Principal, Lesley Emmons, gave a report on hours of instruction and student absences. She stated that the two days Otsego was closed for illness will count towards the five days allowed by the state for snow days.

Superintendent Patzer reported on maintenance of the district's pool. The Pool Pak control panel needs a total replacement. It will cost approximately \$14,000 to get it running properly again.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Donna M. Weeldreyer, Secretary
Board of Education

NEXT MEETING
Monday, December 14, 2009
7:00 p.m. - Middle School Media Center