
**Otsego Public Schools
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 9, 2009**

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The meeting was called to order by President Bryon Campbell at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Patzer, staff and citizens

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

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

NAYS: None

Erik Hascall, OHS Junior, attended the meeting to report to the Board about the project he did, with the help of his parents, at the Environmental Study Area on west campus. He received a grant for \$432 from the Allegan County Community Foundation TAG program to build about 50 feet of boardwalk across flooded areas on the trail. He also spread woodchips on the trail that were donated by the City of Otsego. This was a personal project that he wanted to do so other community members could enjoy walking in that area.

Kevin O'Neill, Superintendent of Coopersville Public Schools and President of Region 3 Michigan Association of School Administrators, attended the meeting to present certificates to staff members for receiving "Winners' Circle" awards at the MASA winter conference. Tim Allard, Trish Martin, Sue Raven and Kim Seger were recognized for the "Rewiring the Brain" program and Heather Badders, Amy Nieuwenhuis and Lori Bronkema were commended for their "Jump Start" program.

Superintendent Patzer announced that OHS senior Tommy Brinn received a track scholarship to attend the University of Nebraska. Mr. Patzer commented on the article in the Kalamazoo Gazette about the reading program at the Alternative Education Department. For the past two years Teacher Steve Long has received a grant for funds to purchase books for the students. This is Principal Appreciation Week and Mr. Patzer thanked the principals for their hard work and dedication to the district.

Also in attendance at the meeting were several members of local Boy Scout Troop #98 and their leaders. The scouts attended to learn more about community involvement and civic responsibility as part of the requirements for a "Citizenship in the Community" merit badge.

Motion by Stafford, support by Herm to approve the following agenda items by consent agenda approval:

- Minutes of the January 26, 2009 meeting
- Payment of monthly bills in the amount of \$1,806,962.26
- Employed:
 - Slev Long, Girls Track Coach
 - Kristin Alkire, Girls' Assistant Track Coach
 - Jarae Protho, OMS Track Coach

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

NAYS: None

Motion by Herm, support by Cronen to allow an out of state trip to Georgia for the Varsity Baseball team over Spring Break, April 4 – 11, as requested by Coach Matt Eldred and the Athletic Director.

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

NAYS: None

Motion by Stafford, support by Ransbottom that the Board of Trustees of the Otsego School District does hereby recognize and express respect and support for all of Michigan Boards of Education for their courageous leadership and service in today's challenging economic environment.

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

NAYS: None

Motion by Ransbottom, support by Stafford that all Board members become certified through the Michigan Association of School Boards and the full Board maintain this honor status, as agreed upon at the Board of Education Planning Retreat held on January 9, 2009.

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

NAYS: None

Tim Syrek, OMS Athletic Director and Community Education Director, updated the Board on the middle school sports and community activities. He said 300 students have participated in the fall and winter sports programs. They are in the middle of the second winter season and all teams are doing well.

OHS Athletic Director Mike Garvey reported on the high school sports teams. All winter teams are doing well and the boys' swim team has seven swimmers who qualify for the State competition. Also, the varsity competitive cheer team is currently ranked 6th in the state. The "Bulldogs for a Cure" event is receiving a lot of support. They have printed 1,300 t-shirts so far.

Last week was National School Counseling Week. Our school counselors, Rita Mitchell, Angie Bender and Michelle Wrenfrow, reported on their job responsibilities and programs.

Tom Gilmer, Energy Educator, gave his annual report on energy conservation. We are at the end of the four year program and it has done everything that we expected. Our utility cost savings is in the 27.5% range and we are not only saving money but helping the environment. We have saved approximately \$600,000 from March 2005 through January 2009. This cost avoidance has allowed us to redirect funds to educational programs for the students.

Dan Bushouse, Director of Instruction, explained a new program called "Five by Five" that we are going to implement in a collaborative effort with Plainwell schools. This is a school readiness and parent awareness program. We are going to meet with preschool and daycare providers in the district to make them aware of five things that all children should know to be prepared for kindergarten. The goal of the program is to encourage parents to be actively involved in helping their children learn about letters, numbers, rhyming word and family information (name, address and phone number).

Motion by Ransbottom, support by Herm to go into closed session to discuss employee negotiations (8:25 p.m.).

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

NAYS: None

Motion by Frasier, support by Ransbottom to return to open session (9:19 p.m.)

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

NAYS: None

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

**James W. Herm, Vice President
Board of Education**

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center at
Washington Street Elementary**