

OSCEOLA SCHOOL DISTRICT#1 BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting, Annual Report to the Public and Facilities Master Plan Meeting
Osceola School District
Administration Building
October 12, 2015
5:00 p.m.

Present: James Baker, Jacqueline Baker, Sylvester Belcher, Torian Bell, Ollie Collins,
Michael Ephlin and Denise Williams

Absent:

Others present: Michael Cox, Superintendent
Alfred Hogan, Assistant Superintendent
Jeanette Walker, Board Recorder
Steve Knox, Osceola Times
Ellouise Tubbs, ALE Director
Shantele Raper, Educational Technology Director
Christie Morris, Technology Director
Christel Smith, STEM Principal
Janee' McElhanon, LEA Supervisor
Pamela Smith, Pre-K/GT Director
Dee Wallace, CSE Assistant Principal
Sandra Landry, North Principal
Tiffany Morgan, High School Principal
Gary Raper, Brian Holthouse and Sally Ann Parks

1. James Baker called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. Ollie Collins offered invocation.
3. Motion Jacqueline Baker, seconded by Michael Ephlin to approve the September 14, 2015 Regular Minutes and the September 25, 2015 Special Minutes. Motion passed 7-0.
4. Mr. Cox began the Report to the Public by presenting an update on the 2014-2015 Accreditation Report explaining the probations and stated that we have addressed the issues and these probations will come off this year's report and that we are fully accredited in Advanced Ed. Mr. Cox also presented an update on the current student enrollment and the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO).

Sandra Landry presented the North Elementary update stating that they are using the SFA program and pulling resources from other areas with a very rigorous curriculum. When asked by Michael Ephlin about the school letter grade of D, Mrs. Landry stated that we are a feeder school so what Carroll Smith Elementary does is what our grade is but we are cross communicating between school to work with each other across the grade levels.

Dee Wallace presented the update for Carroll Smith Elementary stating that the State AMO for Carroll Smith Elementary was raised to 94% based on the District's AMO for 2012-2013. She stated it will be difficult for 94% of our students to pass the test but 60% can show growth.

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Mrs. Wallace also stated that the classroom teachers are outstanding and the pull-out teachers are doing very well. We are working with Generation Ready and each other to keep the lines of communication open.

Christel Smith presented the update on Osceola STEM Academy stating that STEM is a Year 4 Priority School and the bottom 5% in the State of Arkansas in terms of student achievement. Mrs. Smith explained that we have a huge gap in achievements and growth but we now have Reading now in fifth and sixth grade and we have math consultants that work with our math coaches, teachers and students. She stated that we are working science and math together and we need more rigor and student engagement. Mr. Cox stated that we lost some students through school choice but we have also gained some students. When asked by Ollie Collins if the Library is up to date, Mrs. Smith answered that we have gotten some new books and we are working on getting more leveled books for the students. Mr. Cox stated that Mrs. Smith is doing a great job bridging the gap between Carroll Smith and High School.

Tiffany Morgan presented the High School update stating that you will hear for the next few years that we are in Priority status because there is nothing to compare our test scores to. We started over this year holding this place and we will hold this place next year because of lack of consistency in assessments but we are making gains. Mr. Cox stated that we have to do all we can to get and keep quality teachers here in the delta. Mrs. Morgan stated that we are the only school in the nation to receive the School Improvement Grant twice and we got it because of our improvements and the State was very impressed with the grant we wrote. Mr. Cox stated that we have gained so much over the years but the State keeps raising the percentages. Mrs. Morgan stated that through incentives we have gotten a really good group of teachers.

Ellouise Tubbs presented the ALE/Choices update. She stated that this is her second year at ALE/Choices and there is a difference being made. Last year we graduated seven students that may not have graduated without this program and so far this year we have four students on target to graduate. She stated that ALE is not just for discipline but is also for students who don't always fit in a regular classroom setting. She stated that we take two trips a year to ASU so students can see what's there for them. Mrs. Tubbs stated it is a privilege to be able to work with these students and help them graduate. Through the years we have graduated 24 or 25 students because of the Choices Program.

Pamela Smith presented the Gifted and Talented update stating that Brandi George is the new GT teacher this year and she has brought new ideas to get students excited about the gifted program and the word is getting out to other kids. She stated that the fourth grade GT students made a video and held a red carpet event to show their video about school procedures. She stated that Mrs. George has brought a lot to technology to the GT program.

Shantele Raper, addressing Advance Placement and technology stated that in an effort in improve AP scores we started an AP Academy last year that was held after school and 25 students participated. She stated that we have also purchased Kindles for our Pre-AP students

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so all the literature works they have to read will be loaded on the Kindles and the students will keep the Kindles through their 12th grade year. Mrs. Raper also stated that Chromebooks were purchased for testing so we can test more kids at one time. Mrs. Raper also presented the Career and Technical Education update stating that it is our goal that all students are career ready or college ready and we have two ANC Career Development Facilitators.

Christie Morris presented the technology update and thanked the Board for hiring two new IT technicians. She stated that having two extra people gives us the time we need to do necessary research to keep our technologies rolling. We had time to research the wireless upgrades at high school to make sure it's what we needed and will do the job we need it to do. Mr. Cox stated that the wireless at High School was in bad shape so we used some of the school improvement grant money to upgrade it. He stated that next year we will upgrade the wireless at the other schools and will apply for Erate to do that. Christie Morris stated that the state increased our bandwidth to 250mb which doubled our bandwidth and really helps with all the devices using bandwidth we don't have the lag we had before.

Janee McElhanon presented the plans for Special Education and stated that our goal is to have as many students in general education with inclusion and we are working on increasing literacy and math skills to close the gap.

Sandra Landry addressing Dyslexia stated that dyslexia is a neurological disorder. We have to teach more of the basics because one in five kids comes to kindergarten with some marks of dyslexia.

Pam Smith addressed Parental Involvement stating that Kim Reece is the District Parent Coordinator and we also have a parent coordinator at each campus. She stated that parents are showing an interest in restarting the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) program.

Shantele Raper gave an update on Federal Programs and Mr. Hogan gave the Equity update.

Mr. Cox presented information about Professional Development, Facility Master Plan, and School Board training. Mr. Cox then thanked the parents, students and patrons for their continued support of our schools and stated that we join with you in being proud of our schools, our students and their achievements. (Attachment - School Board Annual Report to the Public)

5. Mr. Cox gave an update on the 2016 Facilities Master Plan and Partnership application for the 2017-2019 Biennium. Mr. Cox then presented the planned projects which includes the HVAC renovations, surveillance system and tuck point masonry at Middle School, roof renovation and athletic addition at High School. He stated that we probably won't get any partnership money for athletics but we might get donations. He stated that we may build a new gym which will require a millage increase but if you are even thinking about doing something it has to be on this plan. Mr. Cox stated that we are required to pass a resolution for support for the Master Plan.

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Mr. Cox then asked the audience if there were any questions or comments. There being no questions or comments, Mr. Cox presented the resolution.

Motion Torian Bell, seconded by Michael Ephlin to approve the Resolution For Local Support of the 2016 Facilities Master Plan & Partnership Project Applications for the 2017/2019 Biennium. Motion passed 7-0.

6. Sylvester Belcher moved to maintain the current Board Officers by acclamation for another year. The officers are James Baker, President, Michael Ephlin, Vice-president and Denise Williams, Secretary. Michael Ephlin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
7. Sylvester Becher moved that Michael Ephlin remain the District Disbursing Officer. Denise Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
8. Mr. Cox explained that ACT 1120 of 2013 states that if anyone gets a five percent increase in pay the Board has to pass a resolution. Mr. Cox then reviewed the list of 2014-2015 employees who received a five percent or more increase along with an explanation for the increase. Mr. Cox then introduced the Resolution of the Osceola School District Board of Directors. Motion Sylvester Belcher, seconded by Denise Williams to accept the Resolution for the income increases of five percent or more to be submitted to the State Department of Education. Motion passed 7-0.
9. Mr. Cox presented the Statement of Assurance stating that we have to certify that we are doing what we are supposed to be doing and that the reports submitted to the State Department of Education are correct. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Sylvester Belcher to approve the State of Assurance to be submitted to the State Department of Education. Motion passed 7-0.
10. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Denise Williams to approve the Timed Agenda with the adjusted time of 7:21. Motion passed 7-0.
11. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Jacqueline Baker to approve Lisa Parke as District Treasurer. Motion passed 7-0.
12. Mr. Hogan handed out the Minority Recruitment report and explained the hiring and recruitment procedures. Motion Sylvester Belcher, seconded by Torian Bell to approve the Minority Recruitment report. Motion passed 7-0.
13. Mr. Cox reviewed the financial reports with the Board. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Jacqueline Baker to approve the financial reports. Motion passed 7-0.

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14. Mr. Cox reviewed the list of bills with the Board. Michael Ephlin asked about the utility savings. Mr. Cox stated that they are working on report for us now. Motion Denise Williams, seconded by Jacqueline Baker to pay the bills as listed. Motion passed by 7-0.
15. Mr. Cox stated that the Board doesn't have to appoint an Arkansas School Board Association School Board Delegate to the conference in Little Rock but we've done it some in the past. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Denise Williams to appoint Jacqueline Baker as School Board Delegate. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Cox stated that the Regional School Board Meeting will be in Blytheville on October 19, at 5:30. He also stated that the State School Board Conference in Little Rock is December 8-11 and we have reserved seven rooms.

Executive Session was held from 7:41 pm – 8:00 pm with no action taken.

16. Mr. Cox recommended hiring Shawn Rose as an Aide. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Jacqueline Baker to accept Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Cox recommended accepting the resignation of Michael Heath Behrens. Motion Sylvester Belcher, seconded by Michael Ephlin to approve Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Cox recommended transferring Toshiba Pugh from Math Coach at High School to School Improvement Specialist at High School and Charles Webster from ALE Dean to School Improvement Specialist at STEM. Motion Sylvester Belcher, seconded by Jacqueline Baker to accept Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Cox recommended changing Shantele Raper's salary to Director of Federal Programs and Special Projects and setting her multiplier from 1.08 to 1.24. The Director of Federal Programs and Special Projects new multiplier will be 1.24 on the salary schedule. Motion Sylvester Belcher, seconded by Ollie Collins to accept Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Cox recommended moving Lisa Parke from Step 5 on the Classified Salary Schedule to Step 25. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Jacqueline Baker to approve Mr. Cox's recommendation. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Cox stated he would also like to recommend giving Jeanette Walker a \$2500 stipend for special projects.

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Motion Jacqueline Baker, seconded by Torian Bell to accept Mr. Cox's recommendation.
Motion passed 7-0.

17. Motion Michael Ephlin, seconded by Sylvester Belcher to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0. (8:03 pm)

(Signed) James Baker, President

(Signed) Denise Williams, Secretary