



Talawanda School District

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TALAWANDA EMPOWERS!

February 2020- Board of Education Meeting Highlights

TALAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR SESSION

Talawanda High School

6:30 p.m. Executive Session

7:00 p.m. Public Session

Mr. Chris Otto, President, Dr. Mary Jane Roberts, Vice President, Dr. Rebecca Howard, Dr. Kathleen Knight-Abowitz, Mr. Patrick Meade

1. Opening of Meeting
 - A. Roll Call
2. Executive Session
 - A. Executive Session
3. Reconvene in Open Session
 - A. Approval of Agenda
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Resolutions/Presentations
 - A. Kramer Student- Environmental Concerns
 - Noel is from Kramer Elementary. He wanted to share some information regarding the use of plastics in the school lunch rooms. He did a project, and shared this with Oxford City Council as well. 1060 pieces of plastic on average per day is used during Kramer lunch. He

is concerned about the cumulative impact of this over the school year. He shared some photos of options of how lunch could be served without using plastic. He used his own photographs for his presentation. He shared some photos from a friend's school (all homemade food:-)), that do not use plastic. He also shared some figures on cost savings if metal utensils could be used. He also doesn't want to use polystyrene in addition to other plastics.

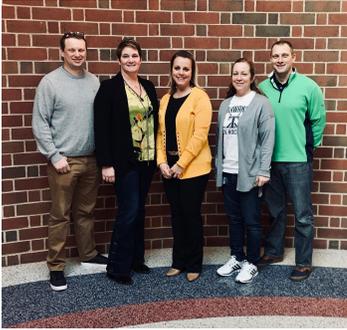
B. TMS Update - Mr. Malone & Ms. Aerni

- Ms. Case, TMS Choir Director, and the TMS 8th grade quartet were introduced (Amelia, Lydia, Emma, Lillian). They did not sing due to one student's illness (maybe will perform at a later date). They are involved in many other extra curricular activities.
- PBIS- Positive Behavior Supports is used to help students with behavior issues and related concerns. They do this under the TMS motto We ARE BRAVE! They wrote a grant to help with posters that share the message throughout the school. In addition, they make videos (kinda funny ones), but it helps get the messages across to the students. This is shared during tutorial time. They also have discipline education classes. They also use "LIVE School" that tracks students positive behavior points (but also the negative behaviors), but by isolating this information it helps them make adjustments. The reward points for positive behaviors can be turned in for fun activities. PBIS is their framework for looking at the whole child. This also connects to the strategic plan.
- The Alternative School Program has 25 courses with 2 teachers. This is for students that the "traditional program" is just not a good fit. Currently 14 students are in the program. This also connects well to the strategic plan. This is all about boosting student success. Students come to the program through referral because maybe a student is struggling with some subjects, but there are other reasons such as behavior. The program is just part of a students day.
- "St. Al's Day Treatment" is a student program (7 students) that receives a half day program with mental health support. 40 students receive some kind of counseling services through this connection. They hope this will evolve into a full day program for next year. The social/emotional learning is key to success.
- 71% of the teachers are MASTER teachers! The turnover is very low, so the culture/instruction is very stable.
- 210 students participated in Fall/Winter athletics, 360 in the 14 clubs at TMS, 20+ teachers volunteering their time.
- There have been changes, updates, expansion to math, science (expanded STEM), social studies, world language, and ELA. 425 students at TMS are involved in the music options!
- https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1P-mrgzxq0Q3reTfdgY3nND82BfprikMn7r2Cqlog_1A/edit#slide=id.p

C. Grade 23 Presentation - Mrs. Jones

- Mrs. Jones shared that TSD serves students aged 3-21 who are on an IEP. The goals include inclusion, authenticity, self-advocacy in places of learning. Students must and need to be prepared for adult life. TSD works directly with families on these personal goals. There is a focus on the skills needed for students to become more self sufficient, job skills for employment, as well as daily living skills that include fun things and social life. There is a yoga instructor too! Partners in the work program include TJ Maxx, LaRosa's, BW3's. Students also learn cooking, enjoy therapy dogs, yoga, mock interviews/resumes/work references. In house jobs include the Talawanda Coffee Cart, Bob Evans kids menus, laundry/cleaning, shredding/recycling. They have also partnered with Miami students and they are learning to take the lead role in their own IEP meetings, and there are some options

for working on skills at Miami too. They work on the transportation options for travel in the community as well. Ken Thacker and Missy Friede are donating a condo for the learning classroom for next year.



D. Welcome to Visitors and Public Participation

- Mr. Dittman, Hanover Twp., for over 10 years he has asked the BOE to be fiscally responsible. He is concerned about the per pupil expenditure. He is concerned that pre-K may be taken over by the district at an expense to the district. He is concerned that he is not receiving regular 2-way communication with the board via email. He is concerned that taking over pre-K is not wise. He is concerned that the BOE will be awarding Dr. Theroux a contract extension tonight. He is concerned that the BOE is not holding Dr. Theroux accountable for district performance.
- Mrs. Dittman, Hanover Twp., she is concerned that the agenda this evening does not have an update regarding Bogan Elementary. She is concerned about the performance at Bogan. She is concerned that there is something wrong with Bogan, and she is concerned that if it is leadership or teachers that they should be on an improvement plan or moved out of the district. She wants action taken, improvements made within the districts means, and soon. She is interested in TSD's plan for pre-K. She is concerned about misinformation and inaccurate information provided to her by staff. Her memory is that she does NOT remember a request for this additional information on Pre-K at a public meeting, and wants to know how the Pre-K discussion came about.
- Mrs. Shaiman wanted to respond to Mrs. Dittman's comments regarding pre-K, and she shared that at a BOE meeting in the Spring, parents brought forward concerns regarding this program. She is concerned that the current model does not serve all students well. She hopes the BOE will consider bringing the program back under the district's umbrella. The meeting she refers to was May of 2019, several parents spoke during public participation. Mr. Meade indicated at the close of the meeting he'd appreciate more information if possible.
- Chantel Raghu, Oxford City Council, she is thankful for the teachers volunteering, and she supports endeavors to better support pre-K programs.

5. Reports

A. Butler Technology & Career Development School Report - Mr. Meade

- Butler Tech has to turn away 47% (850 kids) of applicants because there is not enough space in programs. These represent industries that need workers, but Ohio does not support this well enough to train the numbers of workers needed in schools like Butler Tech.
- Dr. Roberts would like information regarding Talawanda students specifically and enrollment numbers in BT.

B. Legislative Liaison Report - Dr. Knight-Abowitz

- Ed-Choice is still under debate. She actually testified in some of the hearings associated with this. Over 55 testimonies in 9 hearings. She shared information regarding the flaws of

this program and also funding issues in Ohio. They are sending all of the testimony to the Governor

C. Arts & Athletics Liaison Report - Dr. Howard

- This month Dr. Howard was able to meet with folks from TMS, and also Fine Arts, and complimented the theater program. She is pleased with the high participation. She is happy for the many opportunities, and the many league champions from athletics. There are many music performances coming up. She is concerned about the way events are reported on multiple calendars. Communications and the IT Department can look into the calendar system.

D. Student Achievement/Academic Liaison - Mr. Otto/Dr. Roberts

- Students will be reviewed 3 times per year (MAP Test), and this allows to determine where the child is performing, and what kind of interventions and test taking strategies can be offered. On 2/26 all 11th graders will take the ACT.
- Elementary Summer School will be hosted at Bogan Elementary this summer. We hope this helps with transportation issues that have come up in the past. There is a discussion of taking turns at each elementary in rotation. The dates will be May 26-June 5. This will not be at the same time as Camp Invention.
- On March 17th the curriculum department will be hosting a professional development day. There are many different personal learning options available at the event.

6. Report of the Treasurer

A. Approval of Minutes- BLOCK 6A-F Approved 5-0

B. Approval of Gifts

Oxford Community Foundation	Dobot & STEM Education Works	\$3718.85
Goodman Family	Bantam Easy Stand Stander	\$3000.00 (est. value)

C. Approval of Financial Report for January 2020

D. Approval of Appropriation Modifications (Diff. OBJ/FUNC)

E. Approval of Appropriation Increases/Decreases (Same OBJ/FUNC)

F. Approval of Then & Now Over \$3,000

G. Auditor of State Update

- TSD will receive the Auditor of State Award this year.

H. BHP Update

- Prescriptions are putting pressure on costs. BHP is trending below where expected as far as the market out there. Another district may join BHP. This is a good program.

I. Energy Savings Update

- We spend a lot on energy costs/needs in TSD. We have some measures in place to help save on electric and propane.

J. Reily Property Matter - 1860

- In 1860, a ¼ acre for school purposes. This property belongs to the Reily BOE (absorbed into TSD in 1968), and now TSD has the rights if the property is used for education. It is no

longer used for education, so the district stands to gain \$25 and the property will be deeded back to the now rightful owner.

K. Ann B. Hardy Matter Update

- She bequeathed 10% of her estate for fine arts, and the district stands to gain from this.

L. Marshall Worksession Reminder

- Wednesday, THS Media Center at 6pm.

M. TMS Boiler Replacement

- This was approved in December, and (boiler and pumps) will be replaced. They have outlived their useful life with 31 years of service. \$409K total approximate cost.

N. Other Matters

7. Report of the Superintendent

A. Approval of Certificated/Licensed Personnel- BLOCK 7 A, 7B, 7C- Approved 5-0

B. Approval of Classified Personnel

C. Approval of Supplemental Personnel

D. Approval of Preschool Programming for the 2020/2021 SY - Ms. Jones & Dr. Theroux

- Mr. Meade would like to amend the program to have a "site manager" NOT an administrator.
- 113 students is the enrollment projection.
- TSD turned preschool over to Butler County 8 years ago due to a change and lack of materials/furnishings/etc.
- Some parents have asked TSD to take it over regarding some concerns around exclusion due to socioeconomic status.
- NOW Butler County is making changes, and that is one reason to consider taking over the program. Butler County is reducing the options available for next year.
- Some board members support taking over the program, but still have concerns about some costs associated.
- Dr. Theroux shared that if the board wants to do this they must decide tonight in order to have time to get the licenses. If this decision is delayed, it will have to be delayed for one more year.
- Mr. Meade asked a question about playground equipment for preschool. There is a need at all 3 schools due to changes in equipment compliance, and ADA compliant.
- Dr. Roberts called for the vote- Approved 4-1

E. Approval of College Credit Plus M.O.U.'s for 2020-2021 SY - Ms. Gregg & Dr. Theroux

- Approved 5-0

F. Second Reading of Policies (New and Revised) - Mr. Malone- Approved 5-0

0168	Minutes	Revision
1615	Use of Tobacco by Administrators	New
3215	Use of Tobacco by Professional Staff	Revision
4215	Use of Tobacco by Classified Staff	Revision
5512	Use of Tobacco	Revision
7300	Disposition of Real Property/Personal Property	Revision
7434	Use of Tobacco on School Premises	Revision

G. Approval of Consultant Contract with Melanie McDaniel for 2019/2020 School Year

- Approved 5-0

H. Approval of Videotaping of BOE Meetings (to begin in March as administrative aid)

- Mr. Meade wanted to remind members to remember to speak into the microphones.
- Approved 5-0

I. Finance Committee Establishment Discussion

- Mr. Otto requested this for it to remain on the minds of the board. He wishes for this to be a superintendent/administrative committee. He wishes to have 2 board members on the committee.
- Dr. Roberts would like to work on this and bring it back to the next meeting.
- Mr. Meade wants the group to be ready to vote on this when it comes back at the next meeting. He also indicated that Mr. Otto should participate as well as a member from both unions.

J. Informational Items

- ACT at THS on 2/26.
- Spring Break will be March 23-27

8. Items From the Board Members

A. Approval of Superintendent Contract- Approved 5-0

B. Items From the Board Members

- Mr. Otto is interested in having board input at Marshall construction meetings and to include a representative (or 2) from the board. Mr. Davis said these take place during the day.
- Dr. Knight-Abowitz shared information on Oxford Sharefest and thanked the student groups that participate.

9. Close of Meeting

A. Future Board Events- March 16th.

<https://www.talawanda.org/departments/board-of-education-2/>

B. Adjournment- 9:12pm