

ONSTED COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

August 19th, 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Ray Tessier

Members Present: K. Williams, H.Ruttkofsky, A.Gast, R.Tessier, D.Vanbrunt, R.Reynolds
Members Absent: J.Terakedis

Others Present: J.Royce, A.Strong, K.Springer, C.Garrison, C.Garrett, T.Holly, C.McMichael, B.Jeffreys, M.Davis, T.Comden

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Tessier.

Motion by R.Reynolds to approve the agenda with amendment to add the leave of absence request for Caitlin Peterson to employment item 24-25 #08 . Seconded by D.VanBrunt. Motion Carried 6-0.

Motion by H.Ruttkofsky to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2024 BOE meeting. Seconded by A.Gast Motion carried 6-0

Motion by D.VanBrunt to approve the disbursements for the month of July 2024 in the amount of \$1,122,622.32. Seconded by A.Gast. Motion Carried 6-0 .

The Student Representative for 2024-2025 school year ,Addison Gudakunst, was introduced by R.Tessier.

Comments from the Audience: Tammy Holly promoted the Ben Carson event at Adrian College.

Reports - No building reports for the month of August

Addison Gudakunst reported that the Student Council did a retreat. They had a knockerball tournament and talked about homecoming float themes of board games and video games. They also discussed homecoming plans and spirit days.

Motion by H.Ruttkofsky to recognize the hiring of Anne Neal - Cook/Cashier, Alayna Narkun - Cook/Cashier, Jacob Delmotte - MS Teacher, Brenda Hubbard - AP/AR Clerk, Felicia Zuvers - ES Para, Cathy Smith - Cook/Cashier, Connie Nichelson - Cook/Cashier, Cherie Sayle - GSRP Third Person Caregiver. Seconded by R.Reynolds . Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by K.Williams to acknowledge the separations of Allison Hess - MS Para, Hunter Neal - GSRP Third Person Caregiver, Jessica Breese - ES Para, Anthony Aiken - MS Teacher, Thomas Bellair - Custodian, and Brody Helisek - HS Teacher. Support by D.VanBrunt. Carried 6-0

Leaves of absence were approved for Caitlin Peterson, Bus Driver and Alaina Ellison, MS Principal. Motion by A.Gast Seconded by D.VanBrunt Carried 6-0.

Committee Report - Finance Committee report shared by Alex Gast showed that we are in a better position than what we budgeted for. Next steps for finance is considering a sinking fund, changing from NEOLA to Thrun and considering the fitness center reopening. There was further discussion on the fitness center. There are alot of things that need to be done to get the fitness center back open if it is even possible.

Superintendent's Report - J.Royce reported on his first 30 days as Superintendent.He has met with Admin/supervisors, PTO Rep, band boosters, athletic booster rep, band families, Informal individual BOE members, LISD staff and instructional staff. The admin team is meeting on a weekly basis with him to create cohesiveness between the buildings. He is feeling pretty comfortable with the buildings and grounds. An email was sent out to all staff regarding the communication norms that are expected from the board office to create better customer service with staff. Looking into streamlining student handbooks, employee handbooks and policies by moving them to Thrun from Neola. Kudos to staff during the lockdown. Following the lockdown there was a followup plan. Training on hand held radios will help with any situations like this in the future. H.Ruttkofsky asked Mr. Royce, what has been the biggest strength he has seen in his first 30 days? J.Royce described the staff's willingness to work and the pride in their work as strength that stands out.

Board comments

R.Reynolds - Thanks to J.Royce for the quick communication during the lockdown and to the first responders that day.

D.VanBrunt - Thanks to the board candidates for coming to the meeting.

R.Tessier - Glad everyone was safe during the lockdown and thankful for the communication and follow up. Mr.Royce being visible in the community has created positive feedback.

A.Gast - Thanks to A.Strong for a strong financial report and keeping us in a good spot. Thank you to J.Royce for your energy and communication.

H.Ruttkofsky - Thanks to Mrs. Holly for coming here tonight. Great appreciation for the candidates for running. Mr. Royce is being well received and that is very important.

K.Williams - Follow Up on Mrs.Holly's comment on the Ben Carson event supporting Care Pregnancy Center. This is a very important cause. Best of luck to Mr. Royce as we begin this school year

Motion by K.Williams to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by R.Reynolds. Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

David VanBrunt, Secretary
Board of Education
DVB:nlr