

A Meeting of the Board of Education of the Ozark Mountain School District.

Type: Regular Session

Place: St. Joe Campus, Library

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Date: August 16, 2022

Members Present: Travis Freeman, Matt Urioste, Donald Morris, Ben Taylor, Jesse Rose, and Travis Dixon

Members Absent: Gary Lovell

Ozark Mountain School Board President, Mr. Travis Freeman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m...

Mr. Lewis recommended that the Board approve the July 21, 2022 Regular Session Board Minutes as presented. Travis Dixon made the motion to accept the July 2022 Board Minutes, Ben Taylor second and the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Lewis presented the Financial Report for month ending July 31, 2022. OMSD reports an ending balance of \$4,396,573.64. Mr. Lewis shared with the Board that he wanted to wait until all Journal Entries from Period 13 had been entered before transferring money into the Building Fund, with a guestimate of \$820,000 to transfer. Mr. Rose had questions pertaining to travel and expenditures on the check register. He also questioned Senior Class balances on the Activity Account Reports and why funds had not been moved to the General Activity Fund, as per policy. Mr. Lewis responded to questions and concerns and with no other discussion, Donald Morris made the motion to accept the July 31, 2022 Financial Report as presented, Matt Urioste second and the motion unanimously passed. After additional discussion regarding the Building Fund, Mr. Lewis recommended that after APSRC had completed Period 13, that Fund 2000 be zeroed out and the balance transfer into OMSD's Building Fund. With no further discussion, Matt Urioste made the motion for Mr. Lewis to transfer funds out of 2000 to zero out fund and transfer to the Building Fund after Period 13 was finalized. Donald Morris second and the motion unanimously passed.

Next on the Agenda was Personnel. Mr. Lewis made the recommendation to accept the slate of resignation and new hires as presented to the Board. Donald Morris made the motion to accept the slate of resignations, Travis Dixon second and the motion unanimously passed. Travis Dixon made the recommendation to accept new hires as presented. Matt Urisote second and the motion unanimously passed.

Resignation of Position:

New Hires:

Certified Employee Name

Position

None

None

Classified Employee Name

Position

Sarah Taylor
Susanmary Swanson-Peoples

Paraprofessional – BP
Level I Cook - WG

New Hires:

Name

Certified Position

None

None

Name

Classified Position

Frankie Clover
Makayla Jarrett
Angel Wilson

Paraprofessional – ½ time at SJ & ½ time at WG
Level I Cook – BP
Interventionist – BP (ESSER)

Mr. Lewis then called on Nichole Cunningham to review the District Test Scores for SY '2021-2022. Ms. Cunningham shared a packet full of data with each member and highlighted OMSD's growth in 57 out of 84 areas. She also noted Bruno-Pyatt's 5th and 6th math had showed vast improvement, Western Grove's English scores grew by 55%, and St. Joe scored at the top of the Coop area three different times. After answering Board questions, Ms. Cunningham stated we have plenty of room to continue growing but overall was pleased with scores.

Mr. Lewis provided the Board with a USDA Grant update. He informed the Board that OMSD was closing out the accounts associated to the USDA Grants from SY '21-22 that were used to purchase new school buses and how very appreciative he was to have received the grants. He also stated he had visited with Ms. Jennifer Embach with USDA and was informed that there were no USDA Grant funds available in our service area for the 2022-2023 school year, so OMSD would be pulling their application back, and would not be submitting for this school year.

The next agenda item was *Updated ESSER Plan*. Mr. Lewis explained all that was going on in Little Rock with the Governor, Legislators and the Department of Education pertaining to the use of ESSER Funds and employee bonuses. He stated that until an updated plan was submitted by each school districts and approved by the Department of Education, all ESSER money was frozen by the State. Mr. Lewis shared he had sent an employee survey to all OMSD employees and with the survey, fifty-six (56) employees were in favor of all staff receiving some sort of ESSER Bonus with one (1) objecting. Forty-two (42) were in favor of including Administration in these bonuses with fifteen (15) opposing and asked participants to rank in order which would be most important to the district with Staff bonuses coming in as number one, followed by HVAC and buses. He also sent a community survey out for which eighty-three (83) favored a bonus and thirteen (13) objected. Mr. Lewis explained that he had visited with Ronnie Horton, Maintenance Director, about HVAC units and Mr. Horton recommended fifteen (15) at a budgeted cost of \$15, 000/unit. After much discussion to the three options that were presented by Mr. Lewis, he made the recommendation for Option 3 – Bonus \$4,000/Certified and \$2,000/Classified, noting that the bonus amounts are based on the employee taking home the amount listed, plus an added 23% for matching by the district. This will cost the District approximately \$447,720 out of ESSER Funds. This will allow for the purchase of fifteen (15) HVAC units at a later time and the district may have to transfer \$100,000 from building fund to

help cover, depending on cost per unit. Matt Urioste made the motion to accept the recommendation as presented, Donald Morris second and the motion passed with 5-1 vote, with Ben Taylor opposing. Mr. Lewis will write the Updated ESSER Plan and submit to the Department of Education for approval. Mr. Lewis is hopeful that employees would see the bonus on the October payroll, but would be contingent on the State's approval. With the Board approval of the Updated ESSER Plan, Mr. Lewis made the recommendation to discontinue the *Recruitment and Retention Plan* that was in place at OMSD. Matt Urioste made the motion to accept the recommendation to discontinue the existing *Recruitment and Retention Plan*, Ben Taylor second and the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Lewis shared with the Board the Authorization of Electronic Transfer of Funds for SY '22-23. The authorization is a requirement of Act 989 of 2011 concerning the powers and duties of school district treasurers and gives them authorization to utilize the electronic transfer of funds for disbursements of the district that are fully appropriate invoices, written contracts, or other documents that indicate an authority for disbursement. Travis Dixon made the motion to approve the Authorization or Electronic Transfer of Funds for the SY '22-23, Donald Morris second and the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Lewis recommended the Board accept new food service charges for Adults. This recommendation will raise the price of Breakfast to \$2.70 and Lunch to \$4.75. Donald Morris made the recommendation to accept as presented, Matt Urioste second and the motion passed unanimously.

Next on the Agenda were *Petition for Transfer of Students*. Mr. Lewis recommended the Board approve as presented. Donald Morris made the motion to accept the slate of *Petition for Transfer of Students* as presented, Travis Dixon second and the motion unanimously passed.

Transfers In To Ozark Mountain School District:

<u>Student Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Resident District</u>	<u>Receiving District</u>
Shaylee Young	9	Deer/Mt. Judea	OMSD – WG
Cole Young	7	Deer/Mt. Judea	OMSD – WG
Alyssa Manning	12	SCSD	OMSD – SJ
Allison Richardson	13	Harrison	OMSD – BP
Mason Sims	6	Valley Springs	OMSD – WG
Cayson Martin	5	Valley Springs	OMSD – BP
Herman Halloway	15	Yellville-Summit	OMSD - BP

Transfers Out of Ozark Mountain School District:

<u>Student Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Resident District</u>	<u>Receiving District</u>
Hazel Goodman	8	OMSD	Valley Springs
Sophia Hannum	5	OMSD – WG	Harrison
Cadince Jenkins	17	OMSD – WG	Deer/Mt Judea

In General Discussion, Mr. Lewis shared with the Board School Safety Training. Mr. Lewis shared survey result that were sent to all OMSD employees asking if they would be in favor of arming staff, sixty (60) responded yes, with only two (2) opposing. Thirty-seven (37) said they would be willing to carry. In the community survey, eighty-nine (89) favored and two (2) opposed of having armed personnel on campus. Mr. Lewis informed the Board he would arrange for ERT

(Emergency Response Training, LLC) to visit and go over their program with them at the next Board meeting. Next in General Discussion, Mr. Lewis shared enrollment numbers as of the first day of school. Bruno-Pyatt reported 78 in grades K-6 and 78 in grades 7-12, St. Joe reported 88 in grades K-6 and 48 in grades 7-12, Western Grove reported 134 in grades K-6 and 102 in grades 7-12, for a total of 528 face-to-face learners and 33 digital learners for a total enrollment of 561. Conversation ensued as to how long OMSD could financial continue with declining enrollment numbers and decreasing funding before the State would take over. Mr. Lewis shared that OMSD would be short approximately \$300,000 this year and next year that amount would be around \$800,000. Matt Urioste asked Mr. Lewis what he thought the district should do and Mr. Lewis stated he felt it was time the Board start looking at combining High School students onto one campus, leaving elementary students where they were for now, because there was not time to pass a mileage and build to get everyone under one roof before the State would intervene. After much conversation, Mr. Lewis reiterated that the Board needed to be unified going forward in moving high school students to one campus, and with a show of hands, all six Board members agreed to give permission for Mr. Lewis to start holding community meetings and discuss the possible move of high school students.

Due to a schedule conflict, the September Board meeting will be moved to Tuesday, September 20, 2022 and held on the Western Grove Campus at 6:00 p.m.. *This will also be OMSD's Report to the Public meeting and it will start at 5:30 p.m. in the Western Grove cafeteria.* Mr. Dan Lovelady will be presenting at the September meeting for Board member training hours.

With no other items on the Agenda, Donald Morris made the motion to adjourn and Matt Urisote second. With a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m....

Respectfully submitted.

Board President, Mr. Travis Freeman

Board Vice President, Matt Urioste