

December 2, 2024

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance

The Board of Education of the Olympia CUSD #16 was called to order by President Kevin Frazier for a regular scheduled Board of Education Meeting at 6:04 p.m. on Monday, December 2, 2024 in the Gymnasium of Olympia South Elementary with the following Board Members and Administrators present: Kevin Frazier, Carolyn Hansen, Doug Maris, Mary Springer, Justin Dietrich (6:10 p.m.), and Allie Parks; Superintendent Laura O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Andy Walsh, Olympia South Elementary Principal Stacey Rogers, and Assistant Principal Lisa Steve.

Board member Shawn Hohulin was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Addisyn Minder.

Recognition of Visitors

President Frazier welcomed all visitors who included Olympia High School Teacher Jennifer Love; OMS Girls' Softball Coach's Tricia Gale and Kendra Finck; OMS Students Leah Brammeier, Brinklee Burns, Chloe Collins, Inez Dawson, Violet Frerichs, Teagan Haning, Brynlee Hereford, Taryn Jacobs, Kaitlin Milligan, Addi Minder, Kiersten Nichols, Lucy Prestegaard, Allie Rich, Elise Rutledge, Aerianna Steel, Quinn Thoennes, Kinsley Gale and Amelia Rebbe; parents/community members Jessica Steel, Matt Rutledge, Ashlee and Justin Minder, Claire and Jeff Jacobs, Renee and Tyler Hanning, Shannon Brammeier, Adam Davis, Rob Thoennes, Megan and Jason Frerichs, Heather Callahan, Michael Nichols and Mary Ann Nannen.

Student Recognition

The Board recognized the Olympia Middle School 4th Place State softball team. Head Coach Tricia Gale commended the girls for a fantastic season and noted that the team finished with a 20-3 record. She also stated that player Lucy Prestegaard set the Class 3A State Tournament record for Most Total Bases.

The Board also recognized Mili Rebbe for her 10th place finish at the IESA State Cross Country Finals. Superintendent Dr. Laura O'Donnell stated that the Board is looking forward to Mili's future success in high school.

Opportunity for Public Input

There was no public input.

Approval of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Allie Parks, seconded by Kevin Frazier, to approve the Consent Agenda, which included:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes from the November 11, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting
- C. Approval of the following resignations:
 - 1. Kaylee Weber - Olympia West Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
 - 2. Allison Spracklen - Library Media Technician at Olympia South Elementary, effective December 6, 2024.
 - 3. Austen Manahan - Olympia High School Boys' and Girls' Assistant Soccer Coach, effective November 18, 2024.
- D. Approval of the employment of the following certified positions:
 - 1. Meghan Briscoe - Olympia South Elementary Multigrade Support Teacher, effective January 6, 2025.
- E. Approval of the following Extra Curricular volunteers, effective for the 2024-2025 season:
 - 1. Stevie Miller - Olympia Middle School Volleyball
- F. Approval of the International Travel Request for a trip to France and Germany for Olympia High School Students from May 26, 2026 to June 3, 2026 is recommended.

Discussion. Vote: Parks (aye), Hansen (aye), Maris (aye), Hohulin (absent), Springer (aye), Dietrich (aye), Frazier (aye). Motion carried 6-0.

Communications

There was no Communication folder.

Administrative Committee Reports

There were no Administrative Committee Reports.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Walsh shared a brief summary of the FY24 Levy information he presented during the Public Levy Hearing, and recommended approval for the FY24 Property Tax Levy.

Lastly, Mr. Walsh shared the recommendations from the Calendar Committee for the draft school calendar for the 2025-2026 school year which included:

- First day of student attendance - Thursday, August 14th.
- Final day of student attendance (with no emergency days used) - Wednesday, May 20th.

- Christmas Break- last day of student attendance/end of first semester- Friday, December 19th. Students and staff return on Monday, January 5th.
- We will still have the 4 traditional Teacher Institute Days but are moving away from the half School Improvement Days to full School Improvement Days. There will be a total of 3 full day School Improvement Days (October 31st, February 27th, and April 20th) instead of the 5 half day School Improvement Days we have had the last several years.
- Fall Conferences- Elementary will be on Wednesday, October 15th, and Thursday, October 16th. Olympia Middle School and Olympia High School will have conferences on Tuesday, October 14th, and Wednesday, October 15th.
- Spring Conferences- Elementary will be on Tuesday, March 17th, and Wednesday, March 18th, and Olympia Middle School and Olympia High School will be on Wednesday, March 18th, and Thursday, March 19th.
- The last day of school will be a half day School Improvement Day to allow staff to wrap up year end activities in their building once the students are dismissed.

Mr. Walsh stated that because we are recommending full day School Improvement Days instead of half day School Improvement Days, we will need to have a hearing before the January Board Meeting to approve pursuing that change. Then at the January Board Meeting, he will seek approval from the Board for the recommended 25-26 school calendar.

Olympia South Elementary Principal Stacey Rogers and Assistant Principal Lisa Steve shared their Student Achievement & School Improvement presentation with the Board. The school received a Commendable Summative Designation this year with substantial growth in both Math & ELA scores. Mrs. Rogers was excited to report that there was only a 1% gap in achievement for the low income subgroup. Mrs. Rogers stated this year's School Improvement focus is for 90% of classrooms to meet the projected growth classroom goal in reading, and for 60% of students in ELA specific Tier 2 Interventions to meet their Spring AIMSWeb Progress Monitoring goals. They are planning to do scheduled walkthroughs, and monitor progress by doing monthly grade level meetings to assist with goal attainment.

Superintendent Dr. Laura O'Donnell updated the Board on the County Facilities Sales Tax resolution for McLean County. She stated the District with the largest enrollment in the county has to pass this resolution for the question to appear on the ballot. All of the Districts agreed to have their School Boards vote on the resolution to show that the entire county is in favor of moving forward and placing this question on the ballot in April.

Dr. O'Donnell reported the additional money will be used for safety, security, facilities, and mental health. The projected revenue from this 1 cent sales tax is \$937,774 and 30% of that is from out of county residents. She stated that all McLean County Superintendents are interested in exploring the public's desire to broaden the tax base to support these areas in our schools.

Lastly, Dr. O'Donnell summarized the recent policy updates. She stated most of the changes are the result of changes to Title IX law. There is a current lawsuit around the Title IX process and there is anticipation that some of the requirements will be rolled back. Our legal counsel recommended we adopt them as they are and operate under the guidelines until there is a change.

This was the first reading for the updates and Dr. O'Donnell will ask for approval at the January Board meeting.

Other Business

President Kevin Frazier informed the Board he would be sending out Dr. O'Donnell's annual evaluation in the next two weeks.

Action Items

A motion was made by Mary Springer, seconded by Allie Parks, to approve the resolution for the McLean County Facilities Sales Tax, as presented by Superintendent Dr. Laura O'Donnell.

Discussion. Vote: Springer (aye), Parks (aye), Hansen (aye), Maris (absent), Hohulin (absent), Dietrich (aye), Frazier (aye). Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Kevin Frazier, seconded by Mary Springer, to approve the FY24 Property Tax Levy to be collected in 2025 as presented by Assistant Superintendent Andy Walsh and as listed by the following funds: \$13,828,277 Education; \$3,050,355 Operations & Maintenance; \$813,428 Transportation; \$203,357 Working Cash; \$553,131 Municipal Retirement; \$166,752 Social Security; \$203,357 Fire Prevention & Safety; \$1,143,444 Tort Immunity; \$162,685 Special Education; \$203,357 Leasing.

Discussion. Vote: Springer (aye), Hansen (aye), Maris (absent), Hohulin (absent), Dietrich (aye), Parks (aye), Frazier (aye). Motion carried 5-0.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Allie Parks, seconded by Kevin Frazier, to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

EXECUTIVE SESSION
December 2, 2024

There was no Executive Session.