

**OTTAWA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 140  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING/CLOSED SESSION  
OCTOBER 21, 2024 - 6:00 P.M. - BOARDROOM #202**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** President Donald Harris called to order the regular meeting of the Ottawa Township High School District 140 Board of Education at 6:00 p.m. on October 21, 2024. Members present: Roger Amm, Laurence Bartman, Karen Fisher, Donald Harris, John Levy, George Shanley, and Sarah Shumway.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Superintendent Cushing, Associate Principal DeWalt.

**BOARD MINUTES:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Amm to approve the minutes from the budget hearing/regular meeting on September 16, 2024, and the special meetings on October 4 and October 15, 2024. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**BILLS/PAYROLL:** Motion made by Bartman, seconded by Shumway to approve the district treasurer's report, financial statements, bills, travel expenses and payroll for September 2024. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**SUPERINTENDENT:** Student of the Month – The OTHS Educational Foundation October Student of the Month is Landon Sawin, from the Social Sciences Department. Landon was honored by the Foundation on October 10, 2024, and they provided him with a certificate of achievement and a \$250 check.

OTHS Educational Foundation Donations – In September, the Foundation awarded the sponsors of all OTHS clubs and organizations either \$250 or \$500, \$7,000 in total, to be used during the 2024-25 school year. On October 10, 2024, the Foundation donated \$14,215 to the District for the replacement of the soundboard in Kingman Gym. Thank you to Kane Farabaugh, Foundation President, and members of the OTHS Educational Foundation for your generous donations.

October 20-26, 2024 is Principal Appreciation Week. I would like to publicly thank the administrators at OTHS for all their dedicated service to all members of the OTHS learning community. Very few people outside of the educational setting comprehend the amount of time and dedication that it takes to be a school administrator. Thank you to Principal Pat Leonard, Associate Principal Jeff DeWalt, Director of Special Education Sally Taliani, Assistant Principal Jessica Gass, Assistant Principal of Athletic & Activities Jon Leslie, Director of Teaching & Learning Kari Benning, and Dean of Students Chad Gross.

2024 IHSA Boys Golf 2A State Champions – On the table you can see for the first time in the 147-year history of OTHS a state championship trophy for an athletic team. Congratulations to Coach Keith Budzowski and the members of the golf team on this incredible achievement. The golf team was welcomed back into town Saturday night with a parade, and they were honored yesterday with a very nice ceremony in Kingman Gym.

**PRINCIPAL:** The end of the first quarter for the 2024-25 school year was Thursday, October 10, 2024. All first and third quarter report cards are provided electronically to parents. The first quarter report card will be made available electronically on Friday, October 18, through Skyward Family Web Access. Parents or guardians who would like to receive a paper copy of the report card may do so by contacting Marla Phillips, Registrar. Report cards will be mailed home at the end of each semester.

Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on Tuesday, October 22nd and Thursday October 24th, 2024, 5:00–7:30 PM. Parents/guardians may schedule appointments for a 10-minute phone conference, virtual conference, in-person conference, or as a walk-in conference (no appointment) based on teacher availability. Parents will also have the opportunity to attend 15-minute informational sessions in the auditorium presented by each counselor.

In preparation for the 2025-26 school year, 8th Grade New Student Enrollment opened on Tuesday, October 15th, 2024. Parents can enroll their student online by using the New Student Enrollment link posted on the homepage of the OTHS website. The deadline for 8th grade parents to enroll their student is November 29, 2024. After enrolling, students and parents may choose elective courses. OTHS Counselors pre-select "core" courses and return course selection forms to all feeder schools in December.

On October 2nd, the Ottawa Pirate Golf Team won their 6th consecutive 2A Regional title, which was held at Oak Ridge Golf Course. For the 2nd year in a row, Senior Chandler Creedon was the overall 2A Regional Champion, with an even par score of 72. On October 7th, they became 2A Sectional Champs after tying with Burlington Central at the IHSA 2A Sectional in Kaneland with a team score of 311. On October 18th and 19th the team competed in the IHSA 2A State Finals at Weibring Golf Course in Normal. Their Friday round of 298 gave them a 13 stroke lead going into the final round on Saturday. The Pirate golfers played strong on Saturday scoring a 311 to win the IHSA 2A State Championship besting 2nd place Benton by 7 strokes. This is the first athletic team state championship in OTHS history. Jacob Armstrong shot a 72 on Friday and 77 on Saturday to earn the 9th Place Individual Honor. Other scores for the State Finals are as follows: Chandler Creedon 75, 77-Colt Bryson 74, 79-Bryer Harris 77, 78-Seth Cooper 83, 82 - James Threadgill 82, 89.

Special congratulations to our OTHS Varsity Golf team and Coaches on their historic accomplishment! Coaches: Keith Budzowski, Mark Cooper, Ryan Gunderson and Gerry Couch. Team players: Chandler Creedon, Jacob Armstrong, Colt Bryson, Seth Cooper, Deklan Gage, Bryer Harris and James Threadgill.

### **PERSONNEL**

**RESIGNATION(S):** None.

**LEAVE REQUEST:** Motion made by Shanley, seconded by Bartman to approve the leave requests of Mrs. Kylie Judd as presented. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**RETIREMENT REQUEST:** Motion made by Levy, seconded by Amm to approve the retirement request of Mrs. Trisha Modeen as presented. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**PRESS PLUS POLICIES:** In September five policies were presented for a first reading. Motion made by Shumway, seconded by Fisher to approve the Press Plus Policies as presented. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF 2023-24 AUDIT:** Bill Newkirk from Newkirk and Associates was in attendance to discuss the audit and answer questions. Motion made by Bartman, seconded by Shanley to approve the 2023-24 audit as presented. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENTION TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$7,350,000 WORKING CASH FUND BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE DISTRICT'S WORKING CASH FUND, AND DIRECTING THAT NOTICE OF SUCH INTENTION BE PUBLISHED IN THE MANNER PROVIDED BY LAW:** Motion made by Fisher, seconded by Shumway to approve the resolution declaring the intention to issue not to exceed \$7,350,000 working cash fund bonds for the purpose of increasing the district's working cash fund as presented. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Not needed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, motion made by Bartman, seconded by Levy to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m. On roll call all members present voted yea. Motion carried.

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Donald Harris, President

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Patrick Leonard, Secretary