

Olympia Community Unit School District #16 **NEWS RELEASE** – April 13, 2021

By Velma Runyard

The Olympia Board of Education was called to order by President Kevin Frazier for a regular scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 12, 2021 in the Learning Center of Olympia High School where the following actions were taken:

- A. Approved Agenda
- B. Approved Minutes from the March 8, 2021 regular scheduled Board of Education meeting
- C. Approved Bills & Financial Reports
- D. Approved the following resignations:
 - 1. Brittany Lescher – OHS Flag Sponsor, effective at the end of the 2020-2021 season
 - 2. Erica Mattingly – OHS Paraprofessional, effective April 9, 2021
 - 3. Corban Williams – OHS Business Teacher, effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year
 - 4. Nicholas Jackson – Bus Driver, effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year
 - 5. Joe Gaither – Transportation Director, effective April 23, 2021
- E. Approved Frank Arnolts as Olympia High School Assistant Principal, effective for the 2021-2022 school year
- F. Approved the employment of the following Certified Teachers, effective for the 2021-2022 school year:
 - 1. Cassidy Johnson – RISE Special Education Teacher at Olympia North Elementary
 - 2. Allison Baker – Guidance Counselor at Olympia High School
 - 3. Cammi Hartman – Spanish Teacher at Olympia High School
 - 4. Lance Bergmann – Olympia High/Middle School Math Teacher/Interventionist
 - 5. Addie Patton – Special Education Teacher at Olympia West Elementary/Olympia Middle School
 - 6. Brock Weigelmann – Business Teacher at Olympia High School
- G. Approved the employment of the following Education Support Personnel:
 - 1. Nick Jackson – Transportation Dispatch Operator, effective August 1, 2021
 - 2. Brooke Witzig – OMS Health Clerk, effective for the 2021-2022 school year
- H. Approved the employment of the following Extra-Curricular Personnel:
 - 1. Andrew Sims – OMS Assistant Wrestling Coach, effective for the 2020-2021 season
 - 2. Sarah Brown – OHS Yearbook Sponsor (split stipend), effective for the 2021-2022 school year
 - 3. Brendan Hoskins – OHS Girls' Head Cross Country Coach, effective for the 2021-2022 season
 - 4. CJ (Christopher) Hamilton – OHS Girls' Head Track & Field Coach, effective for the 2021-2022 season
- I. Approved Jon Rask to be a Volunteer Nurse for an ECE student at Olympia South Elementary, effective for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year
- J. Approved James Zapushek to be a Volunteer for the Olympia Soccer program, effective for the 2020-2021 season
- K. Approved the Job Description for Transportation Director/Assistant Activities Director
- L. Approved the Job Description for Transportation Dispatch Operator

- M. Approved the 2021-2022 Fee Schedule
- N. Approved the data operators as listed per SOPPA (Student Online Personal Protection Act) & Board Policy 7:345, *Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy & Security*
- O. Approved the updated Risk Management Plan for 2021-2022

Dr. O'Donnell introduced Mr. Frank Arnolts to the Board. Frank will be serving as the new OHS Assistant Principal and is coming to us from Central Catholic where he has been the Assistant Principal for the last five years. He is excited to transition to Olympia.

Both the OHS Group Interp & Speech Teams were recognized for their successes this year. The Group Interp Team finished 2nd at the IHSA Sectional, going on to State where they narrowly missed advancing to the final round. Group Interp members include Neil Alford, Michael Bagby, Grace Castleman, Morgan Cisco, Julia Collins, Andria Ewalt, Kyalie Kesner, Zachary Manahan, Clinton Markham, Justyn Olson, and Tanner Pipp.

The Speech Team also participated in the IHSA Sectional producing both 3rd place spots and Sectional finalists, qualifying them for State participation. Speech members include Amy Dederich, Katherine Helms, Savannah Hoeft, Lily Houzanga, Shay Huntschroers, Kyalie Kesner, Justyn Olson, Tanner Pipp, and Rachel Spratt.

Building Principal Reports were shared. OHS Juniors are preparing for the SAT test, while Seniors are preparing for their final weeks of school. OHS Administration also released details for the 2021 Prom – Covid Style.

During the month of April, select OMS students are serving on a Leadership Team and will be performing classroom walk-throughs and documenting their observations. This documentation will later be used to help OMS teachers focus on thinking skills to generate a community of inquiry.

After-school interventions have proven to be successful for elementary students. Elementary teachers continue to use PBIS positive incentives for motivation such as extra classroom activities, popcorn parties, dress-up days, and extra outdoor break time.

Assistant Superintendent Andy Walsh presented an updated Risk Management Plan which will now include a section for the responsibilities of a Transportation Dispatch Operator, a new position effective for the 2021-2022 school year. He also presented the 2021-2022 Fee Schedule and announced that there will be no increases for the new year. Parents/Guardians will, however, see a restructuring of fees as the current \$200 Registration Fee & \$100 Activities Fee will be combined into one \$300 Registration Fee which will include textbook costs, material costs, Chromebook costs, Science lab fees, field trip transportation costs, admission into Olympia's home extra-curricular events, and students' extra-curricular participation fees.

Mr. Walsh recommended using the firm of Clifton, Larson, and Allen (CLA) from Bloomington to conduct the annual FY21 District Audit. CLA comes highly recommended and prides themselves in being responsive to their clients throughout the year, not just during the audit season.

Mr. Walsh announced that the Regional Office of Education, along with the State Fire Marshall & Maintenance Director Scott Thornton completed the walk-through building inspection over Spring Break. No major violations were found during the walk-throughs, Mr. Walsh contributed these results to the hard work of Mr. Thornton, the Operations & Maintenance staff, the custodial staff, and all staff members.

Mr. Walsh shared that a survey had been distributed to all OHMS parents/guardians during March & April to gather feedback from them prioritizing what they felt the most important qualities of a successful extra-curricular program would look like. There were 11 options on the survey, and parents/guardians were asked to choose 5 of the 11 options. Mr. Walsh explained that the purpose of this survey is to provide information to our Activities Directors as they work with a committee to design program evaluations for our clubs and athletic teams.

Lastly, Mr. Walsh provided a financial update including Fund Balance history and projections. It is projected that the Fund Balances will continue to decrease over the next 3 years based on projects that are planned through the FY23 school year, as well as a possible decrease in enrollment. Mr. Walsh announced the receipt of Emergency Relief Funds which are designed to address learning loss caused by the pandemic. He noted that these funds will not only go toward learning loss expenses, but also for extra technology needs, summer & extended learning opportunities, and O & M expenses, all due to the pandemic. Mr. Walsh also presented a look at how the District will adjust the support staff Salary Schedule over the next 4 years to stay in compliance with the minimum wage increase. Mr. Walsh indicated this schedule has been shared with a representative committee and it will be brought to the Board of Education for approval at the May meeting.

Superintendent Dr. Laura O'Donnell shared a report from Heartland Community College showing trends in Olympia's dual credit data including the number of credits students have earned and the amount of money families have saved on tuition. Dr. O'Donnell noted that the growth in dual credit has been amazing over the past 5 years, but she expects the growth to level off as the District is nearing the limit of what can be offered within the buildings due to both staffing & HCC limitations. Olympia Administration will be meeting with HCC during the summer to discuss other college preparation opportunities.

Dr. O'Donnell announced that there have been changes to the School Code which requires school districts to have a committee and a governing manual (Behavior Intervention Guide) that lays out behavioral procedures. Olympia's committee will consist of building Principals, a parent, District Administration, and Special Education Administration. The manual will be shared with all stakeholders and will be reviewed annually. Dr. O'Donnell noted that most of the language found in the manual can also be found in other District documents such as Handbooks, MTSS Manual, Board Policy, etc.

Dr. O'Donnell reviewed Olympia's residency waiver currently in place stating that non-residential employees can send their children to Olympia schools without paying out-of-district fees for no longer than 18 months. She shared that most other districts with this waiver have no time provision, but some do have an additional fee that non-resident employees would pay in lieu of paying out-of-district tuition. Dr. O'Donnell recommended that due to the shortage of school

employees, Olympia update their waiver to eliminate the time in which non-residential employees' children can attend the District, but also include a nominal fee.

Dr. O'Donnell shared that OAC & K12 members participated in the Phase I (Envisioning) of the Strategic Mapping process. Results of this session will be reviewed and shared at a later date in order to determine the next steps.

Dr. O'Donnell announced 2021 Graduation plans. An outdoor event is being planned for both OHS Graduation & OMS Promotion. Graduates will be allowed 8 visitors if outdoors / 4 visitors if it is necessary to move indoors due to weather. The Administration is working through all the details and will have back-up plans in place. Dr. O'Donnell noted that 8th Grade Promotion is being moved up to 6:00 p.m. to help alleviate issues with the sun setting during the ceremony and blinding spectators.

Lastly, Dr. O'Donnell shared that they are still in the process of finding staff for the 2021 Summer School.

In separate motions, the following actions were taken:

- A. Approved Monday, May 3, at 6:50 p.m. as the date/time for a Waiver Hearing to amend the non-resident employee student attendance waiver.
- B. Approved the services of Clifton, Larson, & Allen to complete the FY21 District Attorney for the amount of \$27,300
- C. Approved the Behavior Intervention Guide as presented by Superintendent Dr. Laura O'Donnell.

The Board met in Executive Session to discuss personnel. No action was taken as a result of that Executive Session.

Adjournment was at 9:32 p.m.

The next regular scheduled Board of Education Meeting will be held on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Learning Center of Olympia High School. A Hearing for the purpose of amending the Non-Resident Employee Student Waiver will precede this regular meeting at 6:50 p.m.