



Talawanda School District

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TALAWANDA EMPOWERS!

January 2020- Board of Education Meeting Highlights

TALAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR SESSION

Talawanda High School

7:30 p.m. Public Session

Executive Session to follow "Items from Board Members" (End of meeting).

Present: Mr. Chris Otto, President- Dr. Mary Jane Roberts, Vice President- Dr. Rebecca Howard- Dr. Kathleen Knight-Abowitz- Mr. Patrick Meade

1. Opening of Meeting

A. Roll Call

B. Approval of Agenda

- Amendment to agenda on date for sub pay rate to be Feb 1, 2020.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Resolutions/Presentations

A. Lego Presentation - Sarah Roche

- Ms. Roche is in Year 5 in the STEM role, and she visits 29 classrooms per year. In 4th grade TSD has a "lego" focus in the STEM work, and they also work with an organization named "FIRST" that focuses on STEM initiatives. The teams are in grades 4-8, they work from August until December, when the tournament takes place. They worked with a program named "City Shaper" (some of the kids wore t-shirts for this program this evening). They

practice a lot and the kids put a lot of work in. The tournament is very much like a sporting event. There is a robotic component, a research project, and discovery/innovation/impact/inclusion/teamwork/fun are all a part of the event. They have 5 volunteer parent coaches. They practice in the basement of the Animal Care Clinic (thank you). The two teams, *Lego Legends & Bot Builders*, helped design team shirts. Many of the students attended the presentation and share thoughts about the season and the tournament. They shared several storyboards with the BOE. The kids would like to expand the program for older kids, as these kids would like to stay in this program in the future. One student shared they could use some additional legos for some ideas they have. They are also interested in a larger tournament. One student demonstrated with a lego robot on the stage for the BOE and audience. Some of the kids present tonight will be back next year, and they are thinking of keeping some meeting times going throughout the other months of the year! Really bright and innovative work...kudos to these students!

B. Talawanda High School Update - Tom York

- The Talawanda Band came in for the opening of the presentation and performed some awesome percussion and the school fight song!!! They were incredible!
- Mr. York shared how proud we are of our students, and to help graduate them and help them on to their next thing. The motto at THS is "Relationships Before Issues & Tasks", and the high school lives by this. THS is learning about trauma, and trauma informed educators help our students. 220 students are taking AP classes, 23.6 is the avg ACT score, 169 students taking CCP, 27 recognized as Summa Cum Laude in 2019, THS is ranked in the TOP 10 in Ohio that are college/career ready, 99 students at Butler Tech, 427 included in Butler Tech satellite programs, THS is a purple heart school recognized for serving military families (Veterans programs with help from FCCLA).
- Mrs. Merz shared that Advanced Ed/High Schools That Work have recognized THS for the great work and focus on every child, with alternative school, TOL-online, CBIP-career based intervention, Freshmen Academy, Academic Seminar (we had a past program 'Connections' and this program helps with those students identified as needing some additional help transitioning to high school)
- Ashley Sammons talked about how Academic Seminar helps identify freshmen that need help transitioning. Clare Squance shared that they help with establishing appropriate classroom behaviors/organization systems, and they earn teacher credits through actively listening and other good study habits that can be cashed in for times when the student's need extra help or some grace. Christene Alfonzi shared that the students attempted 220 courses and passed 207 courses. The students are passing and learning. Students have shared that teacher credits are important because it is helping them learn to reach out, speak to teachers, and increase confidence. One student talked about his goals to begin gaining credits by making up missing work and how the program is motivating kids towards helping themselves and creating success.
- SAP- Student Assistance Program- Mr. Phelps shared about this support with 9 teachers/counselors/school psychs (and Mr. Phelps) meet each week to discuss student needs, 54 students are being served. A THS student shared that he has struggled with taking responsibility for his work, and how this program has helped him to gain some skills and be more successful academically, and is passing all courses. He has recently been accepted to Miami University. He said this would not be possible without SAP. There were 324 courses attempted and 310 were passed. There is a math teacher available at all times, and then there are an additional 2 teachers from the other school subjects available each period. 70 ETEH (extra time/extrahelp) is really helping so many students.
- Tutorial Period occurs each day and this time allows for students to see teachers and receive extra help.

- The Guidance Department helps over 500 students each month (October the number was 881...WOW). These are face-to-face meetings serving students, not counting emails/phone calls/and college connections. THS now has a full-time therapist to help serve student needs in the building, and this helps to remove barriers to learning along with school social workers.
- HOPE SQUAD, a student driven suicide prevention program is in place.
- PRIDE- People Respecting Individual Difference Every Day!
- Mix-It-Up Day happens (occasionally) at lunch so kids can meet other people.
- 85% OF STUDENTS are involved in extra-curriculars, and multiple awards that have been earned were shared by Mr.York!
- Mr. Rhoton shared some information [Ranking every Ohio school district \(adjusted for income\) with 2019 report card grades](#). Talawanda is ranked 51 in the state (sourced by Cleveland.com) outperformed rank is 92%.
- Fermata Nowhere performed the finale!!! Outstanding!

C. Recognition of National School Board Member Month - Dr. Theroux

- The proclamation from the Ohio Department of Education was read by Mrs. Morrish while Dr. Theroux passed out certificates to the board.

D. First Reading of Policies (New and Revised) - Mr. Malone provided an overview of each of the policies to be reviewed- see list below.

File Attachments

- po0168 - Minutes.pdf (120 KB)
- po1615 - Use of Tobacco by Administrators - New.pdf (169 KB)
- [po3215 - Use of Tobacco by Professional Staff.pdf \(172 KB\)](#)
- po4215 - Use of Tobacco by Classified Staff.pdf (168 KB)
- po5512 - Use of Tobacco.pdf (197 KB)
- po7300 - Disp. of Property.pdf (440 KB)
- po7434 - Use of Tobacco on School Premises.pdf (171 KB)

E. Welcome to Visitors and Public Participation

- Mrs. Dittman, Hanover Twp., she wanted to know if there would be any discussions after the executive session at the end of that session this evening? She is also concerned about Bogan as an EdChoice school and she would like to know more about the plan for that school. She is concerned that TSD has spent too much time complaining about the state report card and EdChoice. She hopes to hear more about the plan in the future.
- Mr. Dittman mentioned at the last meeting that he thinks \$50million has been wasted in 10 years, but now believes it is closer to \$70million. He is concerned about the cost of salaries in the district. He is concerned that TSD's overall operating budget is more than both Ross and Monroe. He indicated that he believes that the data supports his comments. He would like to see some change in the future.

• 3. Reports

A. Butler Technology & Career Development School Report - Mr. Meade

- BT had this year's organizational meeting recently. He will serve on the legislative committee. He will be meeting with state senators soon, and will attend a meeting in Washington DC this Spring. He hopes that through this connection he can also discuss some of the issues that TSD faces as well. He shared some information about BT's new program with 4 regular class days, but on Fridays students can opt in to other

courses/electives/drivers ed/etc. Most students have signed up for these opportunities. He is very pleased to have access to the data available through BT, and he mentioned that Talawanda has the second lowest participation rate in the county. He would like to explore some options of our students attending some courses on the Hamilton campus now that Hamilton has joined in.

B. Legislative Liaison Report - Dr. Knight-Abowitz

- EdChoice continues to be a concern and other districts are speaking out about this. Senator Dolan has proposed a change for EdChoice, and they have until 2/1/20 to act on this. Under this...Bogan would come off the list. There is concern that this is only a band-aid. Parents/citizens are encouraged to continue to reach out to elected officials.
- The Cupp/Patterson bill- this school funding bill has been delayed and there is no word on whether this will move forward.
- Fixes to the state report card may also still be on hold.

C. Arts & Athletics Liaison Report - Dr. Howard

- No report this evening. She mentioned how pleased she is with the music shared this evening, and a shout out to THS Hockey!

D. Student Achievement/Academic Liaison - Mr. Otto/Dr. Roberts

- She is excited to be on the committee. She shared that all of us as stakeholders should have interest, and shared that some of the practices that parents in the community had during their own education journey...may have changed and modernized. She is networking with the Teaching & Learning Department.

4. Report of the Treasurer

- A. Approval of Minutes 12/16/19- 3 Approved, 2 Abstained (not on the board in December)
- B. Approval of Minutes 1/13/20- (amendment to the minutes- Mr. Meade nominated Dr. Roberts for VP, NOT Mr.Otto) BLOCK 4B-4G -Approved 5-0

C. Approval of Gifts

- *Mr. Dick Munson - L'Obel NurseryPlant Donation- for Kramer Courtyard-\$444.00*

D. Approval of Financial Report for December 2019

E. Approval of Appropriation Modifications

F. Approval of Appropriation Increases/Decreases

G. Approval of Then & Now Over \$3,000

H. Marshall Update - Charlie Jahnigen (SHP) and Ben Posey (RCS)

- Mr. Davis shared that the bids had come in nearly \$800K over. The architect and construction management group were tasked to review the project and try to find ways to reduce costs. Tonight the base bid should be discussed, and alternates may be reviewed at a later date. They hope to break ground on March 2, 2020. Mr. Davis mentioned that a work session in the future might be best for additional discussion (hopefully the week of 2/10/2020).
- Mr. Posie, the construction manager, shared that even with trying ways to reduce without compromising, the costs have been brought down...so it's now \$389K over the budget.
- Bids were accepted on November 21, 2019. The low bidders will extend their pricing to the end of January 2020. It is time to send a notice of intent if we want to secure the pricing guarantees that we have currently.
- The schedule was also shared with the board.
- Mr. Jahnigen shared some images with the board and audience.

- Mr. Posie shared that the roof will be replaced on the gym, even though that space is being kept.
- Mr. Hinton is concerned about lack of storage in the design.
- Mr. Hinton looks forward to exploring the alternates list.
- Mr. Hinton is interested in the playground area.
- Mr. Hubbard is also interested in the playground equipment.
- Mr. Hubbard has questioned about the change in the windows in the plan, since the aluminum windows have been swapped out. Mr. Jahnigan explained the 3 tiers of windows. Tier 3 is being looked at for this school, and it is allowed by the state. Mr. Hubbard would like to know if any customers using the tier 3 windows are happy with this choice.

I. Resolution to Approve OSBA Legal Assistance Fund for 2020

- Approved 5-0

J. Approval of IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate for CY2020 of \$.575/mile. (Old rate was \$.58/mile)

- Approved 5-0

K. Audit Update

- This work continues

L. BHP Update

- The rate came back just over 100%...and Mr. Davis would like to see the percent to be lower. We will see some medical increases in the future, but will hold flat for dental. Clinics are doing well. Health assessments are scheduled for April.

M. EdChoice Training

- Tomorrow is the training for Mr. Davis (hoping for the Dolan amendment).

N. Other Matters

- None

5. Report of the Superintendent- BLOCK 5A-5C - Approved 5-0

A. Approval of Certificated/Licensed Personnel

B. Approval of Classified Personnel

C. Approval of Supplemental Personnel

D. Second Reading of Two-Year Calendar Proposals

- Approved 5-0 for a 2 year calendar - Third week in August start, end of May ending, and a consistent Spring Break (last full week in March).

E. Resolution Authorizing Continued Membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association for the 2020-2021 School Year-

- Approved 5-0

F. Resolution Regarding Board of Education Meeting Start Times and Executive Sessions-

- Approved 4-0

G. Approval of increase in Classified Staff Substitute Pay to \$11 per hour (to be active Feb 1, 2020)

- Approved 5-0

H. Approval of Overnight Field Trip Proposal for Key Club State Convention in Columbus, OH

- Approved 5-0

I. Pre-K Discussion - Dr. Ed Theroux and Stephanie Jones

- Mrs. Jones shared a cost analysis that included days of operation- including information about continuing the program with Butler County, and information about Talawanda operating its own preschool program (both a 4 and a 5 day option) . Questions included transportation changes, eligibility to free breakfast/lunch programs, and staffing. Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Tafelski will come back with detailed answers.

J. Preliminary Finance Committee Discussion

- Dr. Theroux shared ideas of how the committee could provide some help and ideas to the BOE. Mr. Davis wants to explore what the expected deliverables will be and he provided a document to the BOE with suggestions. Mr. Meade indicated that if this ends up being a committee appointed by the BOE, that there are legal requirements that have to be met, versus a committee led by a school or district administrator. Dr. Roberts emphasized that transparency is important. Mr. Otto would like to continue to discuss this further.

K. Informational Items

- 2/26/2020 THS will be hosting the ACT for 11th graders ONLY!
- THS received the Purple Star Award from ODE for the excellent service to military families (a very rare award...congratulations to THS).

6. Items From the Board Members

A. Items From the Board Members

- Dr. Roberts attended a hockey game recently and is happy for their success. She also shared that it's important to continue with the information sharing on EdChoice.
- Mr. Otto has requested that Mr. Davis put together a training session to better understand the school finance of our district. He is also requesting that Mr. Davis share a weekly report to the board on the finances of the district in an effort to keep board members up on the data and to help them learn.

B. Future Board Events- Next meeting February 24, 2020

Link to BOE Meeting Schedule 2020-

<https://www.talawanda.org/departments/board-of-education-2/>

7. Executive Session- This BOE will go to Executive Session to discuss personnel and compensation.

10:19pm

A. Executive Session

8. Reconvene in Public Session

9. Close of Meeting

A. Adjournment