



TALAWANDA SCHOOL DISTRICT

131 W. Chestnut Street, Oxford, Ohio 45056 | Talawanda.org

Empowering Every Learner Every Day!

September 2018- Board of Education Meeting Highlights

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR SESSION

Talawanda High School

7:00 p.m. Executive Session

7:30 p.m. Public Session

Mr. Mark Butterfield, President, Dr. Mary Jane Roberts, Vice President, Dr. Mike Crowder, Mr. Patrick Meade, Mr. Chris Otto

1. Opening of Meeting

A. Roll Call

2. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

3. Reconvene in Open Session

1. Opening of Meeting

A. Roll Call

B. Approval of Agenda

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Welcome to Visitors and Public Participation

- Holli Morrish shared some important dates: Homecoming Parade & Game September 20 & 21, HOCO Dance on September 22, Coffee with Dr. Theroux September 26, Hall of Fame Banquet September 27, Marvin Wilhelm Sports Complex Dedication September 28.
- Roger Reynolds, BC Auditor, \$70 K in fees will be returned to TSD! The Auditor's Office have tightened their belt and made some cuts in order to come up with the reimbursement to communities.
- Prue Dana, representing League of Women Voters, read a letter requesting that to increase transparency they encourage the BOE to allow board meetings to be video-recorded for the public.
- Kathy McMahon-Klosterman, ODE has developed a new strategic plan, and it includes a goal regarding students having a world perspective and understand/respect/appreciate diversity. She provided additional information from the federal government and other national

organizations, including the National Psychological Association in stopping the use of Native Americans as mascots. She wants schools to be safe and welcoming to all.

- Valerie Elliott, Smith Library, she wants to clarify some misconceptions about Talawanda history. She indicated the word "Talawanda" is not Native American, it is in fact the name of a local creek (it flows through the all of the townships which consolidated into TSD). Students from 1956 came up with the mascot "Braves", in following something similar to Miami University, as was done at the time. In the 1990's Miami University dropped the Redskin logo due to a request from the Miami Tribe. They now use the "Redhawks".
- Linda Musmeci Kimble, Oxford resident, she encourages TSD to stop using the Native American based mascot, and hopes that TSD will retire the image. She shared a list of organizations that support moving away from using a race based mascot. The list includes many national organizations, states, churches, and veteran groups.
- John Beckett, THS senior and community member, read a statement with the definition of the word "brave". He shared his experiences as a THS student and his feeling about the mascot and his feelings of pride. He feels the mascot signifies THS as a fierce competitor. He wants to increase school spirit, and he doesn't like it that some people have referred to him as a "racist" because of his feelings on this subject. He feels the mascot honors the local heritage. He encourages the board to keep the current image. He is proud of THS and is a basketball player.
- Donna Baker, Oxford resident, THS alumni (4 generations here), and she shared that she had a feeling of loss when she heard about the movement to change the current mascot. She specifically is concerned about the loss of the name. She shared her appreciation for the Hall of Fame Wall at the THS fieldhouse. She doesn't feel the image is offensive, and she appreciates the research she has heard, but shared that there is research on the other side. She mentioned NAGA, and mentioned behaviors that would be honorable, as mentioned by NAGA. In 2017 she mentioned that the supreme court allowed a music group to keep their Native American name. She is concerned about violations of free speech. She also mentioned that "clear water" (talawanda) is a native term and also there is a story about an Indian Princess named "Talawanda". She offered to send some research data to the BOE.
- Member of the Miami Tribe, George Ironstrack, TSD resident, and father of 3, is concerned that all opinions are not equal. He mentioned that Native Americans are a "living" people, and that many speakers this evening have mentioned Indians in the past tense. He is very concerned about the impact on children, but particularly Native American children. He mentioned how his ancestors were forcibly removed from this land, and how that has deep meaning to him and others. He shared that there is very little evidence of Native Americans that will support the use of Native Americans as mascots. He advocated for NARF (since 1971), and their credentials and then compare their credibility to NAGA, and how NAGA members have not been trained in research nor are they elected representatives of their tribes.
- Bonnie Norris, Oxford resident, and THS Boosters President. She thanked the BOE for the elimination for pay-to-participate. It's Homecoming week! She invited the BOE to the events. She thanked our student John Beckett for having the courage to speak in front of the group this evening.
- Charlie Ramsey, class of 1973, and very proud of his "T" jackets, and still a resident. He was moved to speak after hearing our THS student. He shared that he knows everyone has an opinion, but he feels that the mascot is a compliment to Native Americans. The student body competes under the mascot, work hard, and he respects the name the "Braves". He shared a memory of being a child and the opportunity to give a "high five" to football players coming off the field at games. He was very touched by this. He thinks that the the opinions

of all of the people living in the community should be the only ones considered regarding the mascot issue.

2. Resolutions/Presentations

A. Facilities Update - Bill Hubbard

- Mr. Hubbard came to “brag” on his people and department. He is very proud of the people and their work! He shared a slide-show, including facilities and grounds, improvement projects, and energy efficiency projects! There have been lots of maintenance/operations projects, but one in particular is the NEW maker-space at TMS! There is new LED lighting throughout the district. Parking areas have been improved, and some new areas of concrete sidewalks and other pad areas. Had a few patches to make at Marshall to keep things safe. A new gravel sidewalk around the building at Bogan too. Some areas have received new playground mulch. TSD mows 135 acres per week, 1200 work orders, snow removal, etc. On the horizon we will have a new Marshall soon, and a new lutron light system.
- Dr. Crowder asked if some areas could use some curbing at THS. Bill agreed that some areas that may help.

3. Reports

A. Butler Tech Liaison Report - Mrs. Vollmer

- This summer was very busy at BT with the new adult education site. She recommends a visit. She complimented the quick timeline for the new place. She shared that the School of the Arts are now back at D. Russell Lee, but making some updates to the stage area.
- The opening day went well, and on 9/6/18 the adult education area hosted a ribbon cutting.
- On 10/9/18 BOE members will be invited to the All-Boards dinner.
- Tomorrow they will vote on the merger with Hamilton Schools.
- Middletown Regional Airport will lease BT office space for the drone technology program.

B. Legislative Liaison Report - Mr. Meade

- He shared that it is campaign season. There is a governor race and a congressional race.
- HB-591 to reform the Ohio State Report Card, and was endorsed by OEA.
- He encourages everyone to research!

4. Report of the Treasurer

A. Approval of Minutes- Block 4A-4H- approved 5-0

B. Approval of Gifts

Anonymous Donation	Marshall 5th Grade	\$600.00
Anonymous Donation	Marshall Music	\$100.00
Anonymous Donation	Marshall Art	\$100.00

C. Approval of Financial Report for August 2018

D. Approval of Appropriation Modifications

E. Approval of Appropriation Increases/Decreases

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

G. Approval of Permanent Appropriation Resolution for FY19

H. Approval of Contract for Provision of Surrogate Parent Services

I. Board of Revision Update

- Ongoing process, and TSD has settled with the Bob Evans through BOR for \$15K, and a new value on the property.

J. Hamilton City TIF for Twin Run Development Totaling \$24 Million

- Tax incentive financing, and in revised code for economic development to use for funding, city of Hamilton will pass an ordinance, and for the next 10 years that valuation will go to fund the improvements. TSD will lose \$17K annually, but will continue to receive the normal taxes they have in the past.
- Dr. Crowder asked how many units? answer-120 units. Mr. Davis will check the base that is generated to TSD now and into the future.

K. BHP/Butler Advantage Update Including 2019 Rate Setting & Clinic

- Rates will be held flat for 2018. Mr. Davis will serve on the BHP Board again and will be term limited in 2021.
- Open enrollment starts November 1.

L. October Forecast Update

- Will be presented on 10/15/18.

M. Marshall Elementary & Kramer Elementary Update

- Marshall- there is work to balance the budget for the project.

N. Other Matters

- The Hardy Probate issue is ongoing, and we are named as a beneficiary in the will. Stay tuned for more information. The amount will likely be about \$20K for music programs.
- The energy tracking report looks good and our use only increased by 2%. TSD is increasing efficiency.

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

A. Certificated/Licensed Personnel

B. Approval of Classified Personnel

C. Approval of Supplemental Personnel

D. Approval of Contract with Ross Local Schools for the Provision of Title I Services at Queen of Peace School-

Block D&E approved 5-0

- Joan shared that we group together with other districts in order to support a full-time person under the federal program. This increases the consistency with the service.

E. Approval of Contract with Hamilton City Schools for Provision of Title I Services at Immanuel Lutheran School

F. Approval of MOU's with Butler County & Oxford City Regarding SRO Services- approved 5-0

- There are new requirements under the Ohio Revised code, so our BOE must update their vote on the required updated MOU's.

G. Approval of Overnight Field Trip Proposal for Fifth Grade ETC Trip to Space Camp-
approved 5-0

H. Second Reading and Approval of Proposed Dates for the 2019 BOE Meetings- approved
5-0

I. Informational Items

- **Proposed 2019 BOE Meeting Dates- Proposed 2019 BOE Meeting Dates-**
<https://www.talawanda.org/departments/board-of-education-2/>
- Reminder about September dates- see comments from Holli Morrish above.
- Branding Committee Organizational Meeting- No recommendations have NOT occurred yet. Stay tuned for new updates.
- We hosted our Bus Accident Drill in August, and Dr. Theroux shared details about the drill.
- Sarah Roche will present at the IGNITE program.
- TSD is required to host a business advisory, and we have joined Butler Tech in this.

6. Items From the Board Members

A. Items From the Board Members

- Dr. Crowder shared that we are required to have a brief student achievement update at each BOE meeting. He shared that Mr. Meade gave an update on report card, and we should be able to use the links available on the ODE website in order to keep up with the data.
- He shared student achievement workshops we can bring to the community. He noted that one of the workshops deals with students living in poverty.
- Dr. Roberts was in Hamilton Schools today and spoke with a new admin there about the third grade guarantee and shared our progress in the area and offered advice.

7. Close of Meeting

A. Future Board Events- BOE Mtg October 15th at THS 7:30pm

B. Adjournment- 9pm