



**OTWELL MILLER ACADEMY SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

The meeting of the Otwell Miller Academy School Board convened at 6:00 p.m.

Otwell Miller Academy School Board members present: Emily Willis, Jenny Byrd, Michelle Durcholz, Lou Fort, Valerie Schoppenhorst, and Kim Elliott

Otwell Miller Academy School Board student members present: Raeleigh McCracken (4th grade) and Noah Fort (5th grade)

Otwell Miller Academy staff members present: School Director Rick Fears and Nicole Sutton

**I. Call To Order**

Mr. Fears called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Prayer**

**IV. Student Board Member Reports:**

Raeleigh McCracken reported Otwell Miller Academy had their first Christmas program at the Otwell Community Center December 21, 2017. The students had a field trip to the movie theater to watch the movie Ferdinand The Bull. After the movie, the students ate at Shoney's. The students in Mrs. Elliot's classroom are researching a president of their choice. They will be doing an essay on the president they choose and various activities.

Noah Fort reported on the survey the 5th grade students did on the OMA staff. Noah handed out the results of the survey to board members and the public.

#### **V. Board Meeting Minutes Approval**

Emily Willis read the minutes from the December 4, 2017 OMA board meeting. Jenny Byrd moved to approve the meeting minutes from the December OMA board meeting. Kim Elliott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **VI. General**

1. Approve the procedures for public comments and participation policy  
Emily Willis read the procedures for public comments and participation policy. Valerie Schoppenhorst moved to approve the procedures for public comments and participation policy. Lou Fort seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **VII. Personnel**

1. Approve the search for a school director for next school year  
Emily Willis moved to approve the search for a school director for next school year. Valerie Schoppenhorst seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **VIII. Operations and Facilities**

Lou Fort mentioned that we had some service issues with the fire alarm and those issues have been resolved. Kelly Loveland and Associates, Steve Schoppenhorst, and Josh Byrd were thanked for installing window trim throughout the building. Carol Rose Horne was thanked for the parking lot work.

#### **IX. Finance**

1. 4th quarter budget to actual report
2. Charter Schools Program Grant (CSP)

Michelle Durcholz reviewed the 4th quarter budget to actual report. Jenny Byrd moved to accept the 4th quarter budget to actual report. Lou Fort seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The CSP Grant has been applied for a total of \$753,000 over a 3 1/2 year time frame.

## **X. Education and Outreach**

Valerie Schoppenhorst stated that University of Southern Indiana loans STEM kits to schools free of charge. Valerie has filled out the paperwork so the Teachers can order STEM kits. Valerie mentioned that her 5th grade students interviewed the staff and learned a lot about everyone. Valerie plans on getting the information they gathered from the interviews compiled and sent home with the children for their family to enjoy.

## **XI. Status of School**

1. Snow makeup days
2. ISTEP and IREAD testing
3. REC utility meeting
4. Pizza lunch

Rick Fears mentioned that he is working with the DOE with Title 1 and Title 2 grants. Rick is looking into applying to the state for summer school instruction. Rick stated that OMA currently needs to make up three snow days. Snow makeup days have not been determined yet. ISTEP testing window begins February 26, 2018, to March 9, 2018 for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. The second testing window of ISTEP is April 16, 2018, to May 4, 2018. Third grade IREAD testing is March 12, 2018 to March 16, 2018. Rick stated he had a meeting with REC utility concerning OMA's electric bill. The electric bill quadrupled between December and January. REC utility had some helpful ideas for OMA to lower the electric bill and is checking into energy saving strategies. The students will have a pizza lunch Friday, February 9, 2018, provided by members of the community. Pre-K and Kindergarten round-up for Lil HOOsiers and OMA is March 6, 2018.

## XII. Other

Emily Willis stated that the BBQ pulled pork meal is Sunday, February 11th at the Otwell Community Center at 11:30 a.m. All proceeds help support Otwell Miller Academy.

Nicole Sutton spoke about organizing a Student Council at OMA. Student Council will consist of two 3rd grade, two 4th grade, and two 5th grade student representatives. Nicole explained the responsibilities of the Student Council elects. Jenny Byrd moved to give permission to Nicole Sutton on getting the Student Council organized and established. Michelle Durcholz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Valerie Schoppenhorst moved to adjourn the Otwell Miller Academy board meeting at 7:12 p.m. Kim Elliott seconded the motion. The Otwell Miller Academy board meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m. Monday, February 5, 2018.

*Emily Willis*

Minutes submitted by Secretary Emily Willis