



## Oswayo Valley School District

277 E. Oswayo Street, Shinglehouse, PA 16748

814-260-1700 - Telephone 814-697-7439 - Fax

*Mr. Jed Camberger, Superintendent*

*Mrs. Amy Pohe, Business Manager*

*Mrs. Kristi Stedman, Assistant to Superintendent*

April 15, 2020

### **Oswayo Valley School District Public Meetings**

A priority of the Oswayo Valley School Board is to effectively and honestly represent the public (taxpayer). Providing accurate and transparent information (within the limits of the law) is a method of respecting the public's interest and a way that the Board believes will develop trust with the public in the business being conducted by the Board.

Conducting public meetings is an avenue for the public to witness and participate in the public meetings. Official meetings of the School Board are guided by the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, 65 Pa.C.S. §§ 701-716, Oswayo Valley School District (OVSD) policy, and School Board standard operating procedures.

Recent events with COVID-19 and social distancing added a challenge for the OVSD to conduct meetings, to provide open public meetings in person, and to allow public comments on matters facing the board. To address the challenge, the OVSD will provide public meetings via a combination of the OVSD website, the Internet, and social media. Information for participating will be posted on the OVSD website. Public meetings will be live streamed with both one-way audio (hear) and video. Recordings of each will be posted to the OVSD website within 5 days following the meeting.

It's important that everyone can see and hear the meeting. Every effort will be made to ensure that the public has access to the meeting. Please understand that the Internet and electronic platforms available are unpredictable and unreliable. The OVSD will do its best but cannot guarantee connectivity. The OVSD will have an IT Specialist standing by to address issues that arise. While streaming the meeting if there is a break or executive session that comes up, a message will be displayed that will inform you of the status and current situation.

Public comment on matters facing the board (agenda items) is important input and valuable to all School Board members prior to each of them making an educated decision on the item. Guidance on how to participate in public comment please refer to OVSD Policy Manual, Section: 900 Community, Title: Public Participation in Board Meetings, Code: 903, 65 Pa. C.S.A. 701 et seq, 65 Pa. C.S.A. 710, 65 Pa. C.S.A.

710.1, and OVSD Policy 006. However, there is an exception currently because of the COVID-19 social distancing recommendations and providing public comment on matters facing the board. The OVSB has opted to post the agenda a week in advance so that the public can provide comment via email at [publiccomment@oswayo.com](mailto:publiccomment@oswayo.com) no later than 3:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting. Comments will be read aloud during the meeting from the compiled responses.

Per OVSD Policy 903 the public can also address the School Board with items not facing the board at the time of a meeting by notifying the Board Secretary, Mrs. Yohe at [ayohe@oswayovalley.com](mailto:ayohe@oswayovalley.com) 10 days prior to a regularly scheduled meeting

At times, the District may hold an executive session for the purpose of one or more of the following reasons:

(1) Personnel Matters: To discuss personnel matters involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion. or disciplining of an employee of the District.

(2) Negotiations: To hold information, strategy, and negotiation sessions related to the negotiation or arbitration of a collective bargaining agreement or, in the absence of a collective bargaining unit, related to labor relations and arbitration.

(3) Real Property: To consider the purchase or lease of real property. "Real property." Land and all structures and fixtures thereon and all estates and interests in land, including easements, covenants, and leaseholders. Title 68 § 2103.

(4) Legal Issues: To consult with the District Solicitor regarding information or strategy in connection with litigation or with issues on which identifiable complaints are expected to be filed.

(5) Personnel Matters / Legal Issues: To review and discuss District business which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of information or confidentiality protected by law, including matters related to the initiation and conduct of investigations of possible or certain violations of the law and quasi-judicial deliberations.

(7) Safety and Security: To discuss, plan, or review matters and records that are deemed necessary for emergency preparedness, protection of public safety, and security of all property in a manner that if disclosed would be reasonably likely to jeopardize or threaten public safety or preparedness or public protection.

Executive meetings are explicitly designed to gather information for use in future public deliberations. Executive meetings are not for the purpose of making final decisions. Final decisions will be conducted by review, deliberation at a public meeting, and by a formal vote by a quorum of the board-as-a-whole.

Resources related to executive sessions can be found below:

Sunshine Act and Right to Know Law during the COVID-19

Emergency: [https://www.openrecords.pa.gov/Documents/COVID-19\\_Webinar.pptx](https://www.openrecords.pa.gov/Documents/COVID-19_Webinar.pptx)

OOR Sunshine Act Advisory: <https://openrecordspennsylvania.com/2020/03/11/the-sunshine-act-and-covid-19/>

PDAA (District Attorneys) Sunshine Act

Guidance: [https://openrecordspa.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/pdaa\\_covid-19\\_guidance.pdf](https://openrecordspa.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/pdaa_covid-19_guidance.pdf)

OOR RTKL Advisory: <https://openrecordspennsylvania.com/2020/03/12/the-rtkl-and-covid-19/###>

Board Participation:

School Board members have the option to attend meetings in person or, because of the COVID-19 guidance, they may connect with the board room via a virtual meeting site provided by the District. Board members will have two-way voice and visual communication with each other. Roll call, voting, and communication will be verified periodically to ensure that a quorum is maintained. As a temporary measure, a roll call vote will be conducted for every item on the agenda to verify all board members responded.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jed Hamberger', written in a cursive style.

Jed Hamberger  
Superintendent