

# OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## Minutes of the meeting on April 17, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 4:05PM by Chairman Jim Leathley. Trustees present were **Jim Leathley, Cyndie Gerken, Susan Morgan, Sharon Leathley, Virgil Studebaker, Sara Suver**, and ex officio TLS Superintendent **Paula Crew**. There were no guests present. Since the January meeting had been cancelled and a status report was sent to all trustees and ex officio members, Chairman Jim Leathley suggested we suspend the reading of the minutes. A motion to suspend reading the minutes was made by Cyndie Gerken and seconded by Sara Suver. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was distributed by Treasurer Sharon Leathley. She highlighted that our current balance is \$19,513.33 with expected future income from The Turner Foundation 2024 grant whose award is paid in quarterly installments. The report also listed expenses, receivables and stated that Sharon had completed the registrations and forms that were due for our continued charitable status. She also mentioned our 2024 dues are due.

Under Old Business, the status of grants and awards was reviewed including that we had received our original \$5,000 back from the Springfield Foundation Horizon Fund, we had been awarded \$5,760 from The Turner Foundation for dry wall and painting the foyer and SE classroom, and that we had received nothing from the Della Selsor Trust. Cyndie Gerken stated she was encouraged to keep applying by the Trust's co-trustee Steven McCready. Renovation updates were discussed and Chairman Leathley stated that Alec Ashbaugh was working on outside repairs in preparation for painting and he was hoping to make progress now that the weather will be warming up. Alec has also been in touch with the drywall installers regarding the SE classroom. Cyndie Gerken asked about the need to install some electric in that classroom prior to dry wall installation. Chairman Leathley stated that electric could be run after the drywalling since we need only some basic lines and installation would be in conduit on the outside of the wall. Chairman Leathley stated that next steps would be to remove plywood from the floor in the SE classroom and possibly begin work on readying the SW classroom for drywall. That room had previously been used as a shop and there is some remaining equipment that would need to be removed.

Under New Business, Chairman Leathley stated he had been in touch with a gentleman that just sold a multimillion dollar business and that he could prove to be a source of donation or find funding for our project. He also mentioned that Alec Ashbaugh had been in contact with a source that may donate to our renovation.

Under Misc. Business, Chairman Leathley began a discussion of what we want to do for renovation, such as do we want to tear out lowered ceiling and tile to original states, or do something different. Virgil Studebaker suggested that perhaps the SW classroom could be renovated to a different era of the school's history when lowered ceilings were installed. The tile floor was discussed as to what year it may have been put down and who may know that. Trustee Howard Stall was mentioned to check with to see if he has an idea on that. Some discussion was held on future application to grants since this year's awards were somewhat disappointing. Superintendent Paula Crew suggested that we apply to the Springfield Foundation again. She stated that their award choices lean heavily on DEI regarding the trustee board of the group applying. Some discussion was held about the ethnic /racial representation of our area. It was mentioned that we are predominately Caucasian but that we do have Appalachian and Hispanic representation in our population. Cyndie Gerken stated she may check on the percent of Caucasian in our schools. Sara Suver suggested that perhaps we could ask a Hispanic citizen to serve on the board to represent their interests in the future use of the building.

With no other discussion, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Cyndie Gerken, seconded by Virgil Studebaker and Chairman Leathley adjourned the meeting at 4:57PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Morgan, Secretary