

OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting on July 10, 2024

Held at Olive Branch School

Chairman Jim Leathley had previously notified the OBSPS that this meeting would be held at the Olive Branch School so that everyone would have chance to see the progress of the renovations. As we gathered to meet at 4:00PM, Chairman Leathley invited everyone to take a few minutes to look around at the newly-completed dry wall in the SE classroom and front entrance foyer areas, as well as the ongoing eave repairs and the cleaned out SW classroom (which will be our next room to renovate).

At 4:15PM Chairman Leathley called the business meeting to order. Trustees present were **Jim Leathley, Cyndie Gerken, Susan Morgan, Sharon Leathley, Alec Ashbaugh, Virgil Studebaker, Scott Suther, Sara Suver, and Don Wallace. Howard Stahl** was given an excused absence for health reasons and Ex Officios TLS Superintendent **Paula Crew** and TLS Director of Facilities **Brian Dixon** were both out of town. Also attending were member **Wes Baker** and guests **Bill Berry** and **Hank Morgan**.

The April 17, 2024 minutes were read by Secretary Susan Morgan. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Scott Suther and seconded by Sharon Leathley. Motion carried.

A written treasurer's report was distributed by Treasurer Sharon Leathley. Sharon highlighted that the second payment of The Turner Foundation grant was received in April (a third payment is due later this month) and that Miami County Drywall had been paid. The balance on July 9, 2024 was \$17,173.33.

Under Old Business, Chairman Jim Leathley commented on the great job that the drywall company did on the SE classroom and foyer. He also mentioned that he was told that the ceiling of the SE classroom is called a "plate ceiling" as it looks like an upside down plate. Cyndie Gerken thanked Alec Ashbaugh for all of the time and labor he has provided for the building restoration. Alec mentioned that the exterior eave work was in process and repairs were being done as needed along the way. He asked about resolutions to deeper areas of disrepair on the eaves as to if we wanted extended repair or patch repair such as a metal patch painted. The group decided the patch would be preferred for our needs right now. Chairman Leathley mentioned the need for an electric installation estimate for the SE classroom and foyer. Some discussion followed, including how many outlets and lights would be needed and Scott Suther suggested that we may want to wire for a restroom while we had the electrician out. Jim Leathley also mentioned that on the stage area there was a hanging light that would look nice in the center ceiling of the foyer. Alec Ashbaugh asked about paint color and it was decided that white would work best for interior walls as well as for the eaves. Alec also said he would get an estimate on the drywall for the SW classroom. Regarding ongoing renovation projects, Jim Leathley mentioned that he had removed the rest of the floor tile in the SE classroom. Several members noted that there was a small step up into the classrooms from the cement floor in the foyer that may need to be addressed to prevent trips. Further planned 2024 SW classroom work would include removing wall cabinets and shelving, floor tile, lighting and ceiling tile. The wood at the wide door to the rotunda also needs to be removed. At a prior meeting there was discussion about whether to finish the SW classroom in a different era of the school and leaving the ceiling lowered. Cyndie Gerken asked if some structure would be needed to hold up drywall for a lowered ceiling. Alec Ashbaugh stated that he could evaluate that as they proceeded with the work of adding drywall since it is heavier than ceiling tile.

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Minutes of the meeting on July 10, 2024 (cont.)

Under New Business, Cyndie Gerken reported that she just finished the Della Selsor Trust grant application and it was mailed on July 8, 2024. Any award given would be used to update the website, print brochures, do event invitations, etc. Cyndie also mentioned that the 2025 Turner Foundation grant application was due sometime in September and the group discussed what to ask for with Cyndie mentioning that we need to ask for specific projects with written estimates. Alec stated he would get the drywall estimate for SW classroom to Cyndie prior to the grant being due. Electric work and outside paint estimates were also mentioned to add to that grant. Cyndie stated she will consider these but sometimes asking for too many different things may not go over well with the Foundation and keeping it to one project area may increase our chance of a grant award.

Under Miscellaneous Business, Jim Leathley noted that Cyndie will post updated photos of renovations on the Facebook page (and those will then be added to the website) now that the board and members have had a chance to see the progress. He also mentioned that a couple of class reunion groups planned to tour the building in the upcoming months. Scott Suther asked about a public open house and Jim Leathley stated that none will be scheduled real soon with work being done and scheduling concerns. Several ideas of how we could decorate the room and foyer once they were painted were discussed. Scott and Susan both have some old school desks and things like old class photos could be framed and hung. Jim and Sharon Leathley mentioned that they viewed an old classroom display while on a trip and got several ideas on décor of that era, such as the ABCs above the chalkboard. Don Wallace mentioned that WSU has old OB class photos and the original address to the first Olive Branch graduating class that perhaps could be worked into a display. He also mentioned that OSU had some funds in the name of B. G. Lamme (an 1883 Olive Branch graduate) that might be able to be used for some of our ideas. He said he will check on that. Alec Ashbaugh mentioned that Matt Davis from COHatch would be willing to come and talk with us at a meeting about possible sources for renovation funds of which we may not be aware.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Sharon Leathley and seconded by Virgil Studebaker. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:14PM by Chairman Jim Leathley.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Morgan, Secretary