

**OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY  
ANNUAL MEETING REPORT  
OCTOBER 09, 2024**

In accordance with the bylaws, the OBSPS Chair presents this annual written report to the Board of Trustees and makes it available to the general membership. The following report reviews the activities, decisions and other such information deemed important to the operations of the Society. Activities and meetings occurring this past 12 months included:

- During an Executive Committee discussion, it was determined that there was little (if any) “business” to discuss amongst the group at the Quarterly Trustee meeting (scheduled for January 10, 2024). Given this, it was decided that the January meeting would be cancelled. Notice of the cancellation of the meeting was made to all Trustees and school administration via email and/or regular U.S. mail. Also included in the mailing was notification of a date change for the April meeting. Due to various schedule conflicts, the meeting date was changed from April 10<sup>th</sup> to April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- On March 5, 2024, Alec Ashbaugh and I met at OB, to discuss and coordinate the renovation efforts for 2024. As time and weather will allow, Alec and his men will continue the efforts to repair and paint the exterior eaves, and paint the exterior white “banding” around the building. We will be providing the paint, as well as pay the hourly labor costs for Alec’s men. Alec will be coordinating the drywall installation in the SE Classroom and Foyer. The work will be done by Miami Valley Drywall, a contractor which Alec has used on many of his commercial projects. In addition, Alec advised that he and his men will prime and paint the new drywall once installed. OBSPS will pay for the primer, paint, and labor for the painting, and all necessary equipment will be provided by AR Ashbaugh Construction. We are so grateful for Alec and his men’s contribution to this project.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Trustee meeting for April was held on April 17, 2024. Trustees were informed that (as discussed and agreed prior) funds originally deposited with The Springfield Foundation (\$5,000.00) have been returned to us, and deposited in our checking account. Having received no grant opportunities nor outside donations as a result of our association with The Springfield Foundation, nor any interest income or return on our funds in over 5 ½ years, it was determined that we would be best served to use the funds for renovation expenses.

In addition to the above, Trustees were informed that we were awarded \$5,760 from a grant through The Turner Foundation, for the installation and painting of drywall in the foyer and SE Classroom. Funds will be disbursed in 4 quarterly installments of \$1,440 each. At the same time, we unfortunately received word that our grant application to Della Selsor would not be funded in 2024. However, we were encouraged to keep applying by Co-Trustee of The Della Selsor Trust, Steven McCready.

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- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Trustee meeting was held on July 10, 2024 at the Olive Branch School. The meeting was held to allow Trustees the opportunity to view the most recent renovations to the building (specifically, the drywall installation in the SE Classroom and Foyer). Trustees were informed of the pending interior priming and painting. In preparation for the drywall painting, I removed the remaining plywood from the classroom floor. While no specific timeline has been established, Alec advised that eave repairs and painting was still pending, and would hopefully be completed prior to this winter. While the pressure washing done prior did remove a large portion of the old paint, Alec advised that additional “scraping” will be necessary to properly prepare the eaves for painting. In addition to the above, Trustees were informed (and saw) that the largest percentage of the SW Classroom has been “cleaned out” of the old wood shop equipment and “miscellaneous stuff.” Discussions were made regarding the potential look of the renovations for that classroom. In all likelihood, we will be looking at removing all of the fluorescent lighting and excess exposed and “ceiling dropped” electric wiring. In addition, the dropped ceiling tile will be removed and replaced with a dropped drywall ceiling and surface mount LED ceiling lighting. Additional renovations will be to remove the wall cabinets and shelving, floor tile, and removal of the wall blocking access to the rotunda. Estimates will be obtained for the drywalling of the classroom walls and ceiling. In addition, estimates will be obtained for renovating the electricity in the SW Classroom. This to include surface mount LED ceiling lights, some minimal electrical wall outlets (with surface mount, enclosed wiring). We will be submitting a grant application to The Turner Foundation to help pay for these renovations.
- On August 13<sup>th</sup>, Alec Ashbaugh and I met with Kevin Ledford, owner of Ledford Electric, at OB regarding getting an estimate for the electrical upgrades needed in the SE and SW Classrooms. In addition, Alec made contact with Miami Valley Drywall, regarding an estimate for drywalling the SW classroom walls and ceiling. The estimate for completing the drywall in the SW Classroom is \$4,500. As with the SE Classroom, the painting will be done by AR Ashbaugh Construction. The estimate for painting is \$1,000 (plus paint; to be provided by OBSPS). Several days later, Alec received an estimate from Ledford Electric. In summary – the estimate totaled \$48,800.00 (which included \$2,800 for plans, drawings and permits, if required by the county, and \$6,000 for emergency egress lighting, if required by the county). Both Alec and I were “taken back” by this estimate. Alec made some additional contacts with other certified electricians with whom he has done business. In short, we have an estimate from Victory Electric in the amount of \$10,000. Total of all estimates for the SW Classroom is \$15,500.00. These estimates have been submitted with the Turner Foundation Grant Application, which has (once again) been completed and submitted by Cyndie Gerken. **THANK YOU** Cyndie !

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- Sadly, just 2 short weeks ago, we learned of the passing of one of our own. OBSPS Trustee Howard Stahl passed away on Thursday, September 26, 2024 in his home. Howard was born May 29, 1940 in Springfield, Ohio, He was a 1958 graduate of Catholic Central High School. He received a B.A. in Political Science and Education from Lamar University and a master's degree in 1975 from Wright State University in Education Administration. He retired from Tecumseh Local Schools after 37 years. Survivors include one son, Howard (Angelica) Stahl, II; four grandchildren, Kassie, Alexius, Caitlyn and Skylar; two brothers, Frank (Linda) Stahl and Charles "Dick" Stahl, Jr.; and special friend and companion, Connie Sample.

Many of us remember Howard as that handsome young teacher who drove a beautiful gray Corvette convertible to school. Others remember him as a passionate, yet caring, teacher. Still others recall him as a co-worker, or an administrator. We all had the great fortune to know him as a friend.

Howard was not only a founding member of Olive Branch School Preservation Society - he was a cornerstone. His love for OB, as well as his love for the Tecumseh School District was unmatched. He was a vast resource of knowledge of the district. A resource which I personally "tapped into" many times over the years. A resource which we will all miss dearly. And, while we will more than likely need to "fill a position" on the OBSPS Board, we will NEVER be able to replace him. I am asking all of you to please keep Connie, and all of Howard's family, in your thoughts during this most difficult time. R.I.P Howard.

As year-end 2024 approaches, my concerns of long-term viability continue. Grant opportunities and donations have been minimal to diminishing. Viewing the overall picture of what will be needed to see the project to fruition is daunting at best. As we enter into the 17<sup>th</sup> year since the inception of this organization, and given the continued "seniority" of the group, I believe that we continue to be at a most critical crossroads. In my opinion, it will continue to be a time for introspection for all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Leathley, Chairperson  
Cyndie Gerken, Vice Chairperson  
OBSPS Board of Trustees