

**Owosso Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.
Report 25-135**

Present: Adam Easlick, Nick Henne, Rick Mowen, Shelly Ochodnicki, John Pappas, Olga Quick, Marlene Webster
Absent: None

President Ochodnicki called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Washington Campus Administration Building, 645 Alger St, Owosso, MI 48867.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The agenda was amended to include the Central Elementary PFCU Account Authorization Update. Moved by Quick, Support by Mowen. Motion passed.

Building Reports

Celebrate Kids – Owosso High School and Lincoln High School Top Graduates

Superintendent Steve Brooks introduced the Celebrate Kids segment, recognizing outstanding academic achievements of students from Owosso High School. He invited high school administration and staff to assist in honoring the students. It was noted that twenty-six students achieved a grade point average of 4.0 or higher, demonstrating exceptional academic dedication. While not all students were present due to other school commitments, those in attendance were individually recognized and invited to share their future educational and career plans, along with introducing family members present for support.

The recognition also highlighted the Starfish Award presentations, where students previously shared impactful stories about influential mentors in their lives. These speeches were described as powerful and meaningful, with plans to professionally record them for broader sharing within the district and community. Students were also informed of upcoming opportunities to receive recognition items once all materials are prepared.

Lincoln High School staff then presented their top graduates, emphasizing the unique mission of the alternative education program, which focuses on providing students with another opportunity for success. The five top graduates were recognized for their perseverance and commitment to completing their education despite challenges. Several students shared their plans after graduation, including entering the workforce or pursuing higher education. The Board expressed pride in all students recognized and commended their resilience, hard work, and accomplishments.

Student Representative Report

Student representative Aubrey Reeves provided updates on recent student activities and achievements across the district. Highlights included recognition of student accomplishments in athletics, such as participation in regional competitions and record-breaking performances. Additional updates included student involvement in school events and activities that contribute to school culture and engagement. The Board thanked the student representative for her report and acknowledged her leadership and contributions. She was excused from the meeting early to attend other school-related commitments.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Brooks began his report by reflecting on the pre-meeting reception held to honor the district's Teacher of the Year, Maggie Gobel, and Support Staff Member of the Year, Buck Flagg. He recognized their dedication, professionalism, and the positive impact they have on students and staff. Both honorees introduced family members in attendance, highlighting the support systems behind their success.

Mr. Brooks continued with a comprehensive update on district initiatives and accomplishments. He reported that Owosso High School sophomores successfully completed International Baccalaureate personal projects, showcasing critical thinking and independent learning. He also congratulated staff members on professional achievements, including certification accomplishments.

Facility and program updates included progress on the FFA barn project funded through grants and donations, upcoming construction timelines, and improvements to athletic facilities such as track and field upgrades and press box renovations completed by CTE students. He also highlighted the installation of new tennis court wind screens funded by the Owosso Sports Boosters.

Student-focused initiatives included recognition of the Starfish Awards, which honored influential mentors, and plans to record student speeches for future use. Additional highlights included blood drive success at Lincoln High School, increased community participation at school events such as Bryant Elementary's Family Fun Night, and the implementation of programs like the Bryant Boutique to support students transitioning to middle school.

Mr. Brooks also shared updates from various buildings, including grant awards, student competitions, and upcoming performances such as the fifth-grade all-city band concert. He concluded by emphasizing the strong community involvement and dedication of staff across the district.

Curriculum Director's Report

Dr. Dwyer provided an update on curriculum development and instructional programming across the district. She discussed planning efforts for summer programming, with a focus on creating meaningful and engaging learning opportunities for students. A new in-person Algebra I course will be offered, providing students with additional academic support and advancement opportunities.

Dr. Dwyer also highlighted ongoing partnerships and enrichment experiences, including educational travel opportunities such as the eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C., which provides students with hands-on learning experiences related to history and government.

A significant portion of her report focused on the implementation of Michigan's new K-12 Literacy and Dyslexia Law. She explained that the district has begun early planning efforts to ensure compliance, including identifying stakeholders, collaborating with other districts, and aligning instructional resources. She emphasized that this will be a multi-year process requiring thoughtful planning, professional development, and resource allocation to ensure successful implementation.

Public Participation

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment. No individuals came forward to speak during this portion of the meeting.

For Action

Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick, to approve the Consent Agenda, including the March 25, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes, April 08, 2026, Committee Meeting Minutes, Current Bills, and Financials. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnick, Pappas, Webster, and Quick. Nays-None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Webster, supported by Mowen, to approve the Middle School Science Curriculum. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick, to approve the Core Literacy License Extension. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen, to approve the Central Elementary PFCU Account Authorization Update with the addition of Jill Arend and the removal of Kim Klapko (effective June 10, 2026) as authorized signers on the Central Elementary PFCU account.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnick, Pappas, Webster, and Quick. Nays-None. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

The Board will be asked to review the Bond Election. Moved by Henne, supported by Mowen, to move to For Action at the May 27, 2026, Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board will be asked to review a new bus purchase. Moved by Quick, supported by Pappas, to move the bus purchase from Future Action to For Action and approve the purchase of the bus at the Regular Board Meeting. Roll call vote: Ayes – Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnicky, Pappas, Webster, and Quick. Nays – None. Motion carried unanimously.

For Information

The Board was informed of the recent personnel changes.

Public Participation

No individuals came forward to speak during this portion of the meeting.

Board Member Comments

Vice President Easlick congratulated the graduates of Lincoln and Owosso High Schools, noting that Lincoln students often face unique challenges that make their accomplishments especially meaningful. He expressed appreciation for the teachers and support staff for their dedication and hard work in supporting these students. He also thanked district staff for their efforts in securing grant funding, emphasizing that these funds help maintain a healthy fund balance and support the district's ability to invest in future needs.

Trustee Mowen echoed Mr. Easlick's remarks and expressed appreciation for the High School Spring Concert, highlighting its unique combination of music and a light show. He noted that the event was a special and emotional evening, commending those involved for doing a great job. He also thanked Dr. Lintner for making arrangements related to the Starfish event and recognized the value of recording the performance so others can experience and appreciate its impact.

Trustee Webster shared that she attended the band concert on Monday night and described it as a fantastic and memorable experience. She noted that the venue was completely full, with attendees standing along the edges, reflecting strong community support and enthusiasm for student performances. She echoed earlier sentiments about the event being a moving evening and expressed her anticipation for the upcoming graduation season, including celebrating students at both Owosso High School and Lincoln.

Treasurer Quick shared that many positive things are happening across the district and noted her attendance at both the middle school and high school band concerts,

highlighting the large turnout and strong community interest. She also attended the Starfish Award event, describing it as especially meaningful and a powerful reflection of the district's focus on building relationships. She emphasized the significant impact that staff members have on students through everyday interactions, even when those efforts may go unrecognized. Treasurer Quick expressed sincere appreciation for the dedication, energy, and commitment of all staff, acknowledging that their work truly makes a difference in students' lives.

President Ochodnický shared a personal connection to the district, noting that several of her grandchildren have had Mrs. Gobel and highlighting the strong relationships formed between staff and students. She praised the dedication of district staff and acknowledged that this time of year provides a meaningful opportunity to recognize their hard work and efforts. She also expressed appreciation for the continued tradition of the Washington, D.C. trip, describing it as a valuable, once-in-a-lifetime experience for students, and thanked those involved for maintaining the program.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

May 06: Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5:30 PM, Washington Campus Conference Room 112


May 27: Board of Education Regular Meeting, 5:30 PM, PAC

Adjournment

Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by: Melissa Buehler

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Henne", is written over a horizontal line.

Nick Henne, Secretary