

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**March 11, 2026 – 5:30 pm**  
**Report 25-112**

**Board Members Present:** Shelly Ochodnicki, President, Adam Easlick, Vice President, Olga Quick, Treasurer, Nick Henne, Secretary, Rick Mowen, Trustee, John Pappas, Trustee, Marlene Webster, Trustee.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Owosso Public Schools Board of Education was called to order by President Ochodnicki 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 Superintendent Contract. Moved by Quick, Support by Easlick. Motion passed.

**Public Participation**

President Ochodnicki stated that the Board of Education is a public body and recognizes the value of public comment on education issues. Time has been included in the meeting's agenda for public participation. Members of the audience were reminded to announce their name and group affiliation when applicable and to limit their participation time to three minutes or less. Comments should be directed to the Board and be relevant to the business of the Board of Education. This is not an opportunity for dialogue with the Board of Education. The rules of common courtesy should also be observed.

No members of the public addressed the Board.

**Agenda Items**

**Energy Savings Performance Contracting-Trane Presentation**

Representatives from Trane presented information regarding a Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contracting program. The program evaluates district facilities to identify opportunities to reduce energy and operational costs through improvements such as HVAC system upgrades, LED lighting replacement, water conservation devices, energy management systems, and potential renewable energy options.

Trane explained that projects are structured so the energy savings generated from improvements help fund the project costs, often through a non-voted bond approved by the Board. If guaranteed savings are not met, the company contractually covers the difference. The process includes evaluating building systems, utility bills, and operational costs across the district.

Examples of potential savings opportunities discussed included lighting upgrades, boiler efficiency improvements, water conservation measures, adjustments to utility rate structures, and other operational efficiencies. Trane also noted that the program includes a five-year measurement and verification period to ensure savings are achieved.

Trane is currently reviewing the district utility information and additional data, and potential project numbers could be available by early summer if the district chooses to continue exploring the option. The Board asked questions regarding existing service contracts, infrastructure conditions, and how potential projects could align with future bond work.

### **ESS Contract Renewal**

Superintendent Brooks reviewed the annual ESS contract renewal used to provide staffing for the district's Bright Beginnings program and coaching positions. The district hires third-party coaches through this arrangement resulting in lower overall costs compared to hiring the positions directly as district employees. No changes to the fee structure were proposed. The item will move forward for Board action.

### **Facilities/Bond**

Superintendent Brooks provided an update regarding ongoing planning for a potential bond proposal. The district has been working with Clark Construction and Spicer Group to refine project priorities and timelines. Updated projections indicate the bond proposal could total approximately \$37.9 million, an increase from earlier estimates of \$35 million after financial adjustments by PFM.

Projects under discussion include infrastructure improvements such as roofing, windows, plumbing, and electrical work across district buildings. Safety and security improvements were identified in survey feedback as a top priority, and ballot language is being adjusted to better emphasize those improvements.

Additional potential projects discussed include secured vestibules at several buildings, including Bentley Bright Beginnings, Bryant, Central, and the Washington building. These vestibules would allow visitors to enter a controlled entry area before being granted access to the building.

The Board also discussed potential upgrades to Willman Field, including seal coating the existing bleachers, replacing expansion joints, and improving restrooms and locker rooms. Superintendent Brooks noted these upgrades could help preserve the historic facility and potentially encourage community support for future improvements.

Plans for a transportation and maintenance facility were also reviewed. This could allow the district to consolidate operations and take multiple existing properties offline, including the current transportation and maintenance locations.

Board members also discussed facility maintenance concerns, including roof leaks at several buildings, aging infrastructure, and other long-term maintenance needs that could be addressed through the bond.

### **A. Venture Update**

Superintendent Brooks reported that the developer working on the Venture project continues to pursue funding. The most recent communication indicated the developer has progressed through an initial funding round and is pursuing a second round of investment.

Board members discussed potential contingency plans should the project not proceed. Superintendent Brooks indicated preliminary estimates suggest demolition of the building could cost approximately \$2–

\$2.5 million, in part due to asbestos abatement and environmental considerations related to the building's proximity to the river. The Board also discussed the possibility of exploring grant funding or working with the county land bank if necessary.

### **B. Wilkinson Property**

Superintendent Brooks reported being contacted by a realtor representing a neighbor interested in purchasing district property on Wilkinson Road. Initial review of county records indicates the district may own two parcels, though administration believes additional parcels may also belong to the district and plans to verify ownership records.

The property includes a garage currently used for equipment storage. Superintendent Brooks will gather additional information, including property values and ownership details, before bringing the matter back to the Board for further discussion.

### **Teacher Return from Medical Leave**

Superintendent Brooks reported receiving medical clearance for a teacher currently on approved medical leave to return to work beginning April 6. The Board will consider formal action to approve the early return at an upcoming meeting.

### **Review of Honorary Options Following Student Passing, Board Policy 540**

The Board reviewed Board Policy 5410 and discussed possible honorary or memorial options following the passing of a student. Discussion focused on ensuring that any recognition is consistent with board policy and applied consistently across situations.

### **Band Instruments**

The Board discussed the condition and age of several band instruments currently used in the district's music program. Superintendent Brooks noted that many of the instruments have been in service for several years and may require repair or replacement in the near future. Board members discussed potential options for addressing these needs, including prioritizing the replacement of instruments that are no longer repairable. Administration will continue to review inventory and associated costs and will bring additional information back to the Board.

### **Board Meeting Locations**

The Board discussed the possibility of holding future Board of Education meetings at various locations throughout the district. Members noted this could provide an opportunity to highlight different school buildings, programs, and facilities while also increasing community engagement and visibility of the Board's work. Potential locations discussed included school buildings and other district facilities. The Board agreed that the May 27, 2026, Regular Board of Education meeting will be held at the PAC.

### **District/Superintendent Goals**

Superintendent Brooks revisited the goals previously identified by the Board, including attendance, academics, behavior, and facilities. He shared his SMART goal documents aligned to these focus areas, and the Board provided positive feedback on the progress and direction outlined.

### **Superintendent Contract**

The Board discussed the Superintendent's contract and the timeline for potential contract extension or renegotiation. Board members reviewed information regarding superintendent contracts from surrounding districts and discussed how contract terms compare regionally. Superintendent Brooks

shared additional data and contracts from other Shiawassee County districts for Board review and requested clarification regarding the status of the contract and any potential next steps.

Discussion also included the process previously used for negotiating the contract in 2024, including the role of the Board's executive committee and the use of legal counsel. Board members discussed options including allowing the current contract to continue as written, extending the contract term, or renegotiating certain provisions. It was noted that the Board must make a decision prior to the April 1 deadline. No formal action was taken during the meeting.

#### **Round Table**

During round table discussion, a Board member shared concerns that the high school cell phone policy may not be consistently enforced. The member noted receiving complaints regarding students not following the policy and suggested reminding building administrators to ensure the policy is implemented as intended, including the use of classroom phone storage caddies and follow-up when compliance issues occur.

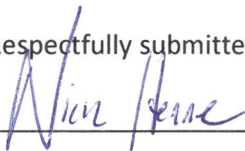
It was clarified that the recently discussed state legislation related to cell phone policies does not take effect until the fall and that the district is already in compliance with the upcoming requirements.

#### **Adjournment**

Moved by Henne, supported by Pappas, to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Carrie Yoho.

Respectfully submitted,



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Nick Henne, Secretary