

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
September 24, 2025
Report 25-50

Present: Adam Easlick, Nick Henne, Rick Mowen, Shelly Ochodnicky, John Pappas, Olga Quick, Marlene Webster

Absent: None

President Webster 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

Celebrate Kids – Emerson Elementary

Mrs. Aue introduced Emerson students Elizabeth and Emily, who were recognized for their participation in the school's Tier 3 attendance intervention program. Staff reported on the program's success, with significant improvements in student attendance, and noted that the 'Strive for Five' initiative would continue this year with expanded supports.

Student Representative Report

Student Representatives Ellen DeLong and Aubrey Reeves provided updates on student activities, including the SkillsUSA trip to Washington, D.C., Peer-to-Peer Trivia Night, Homecoming, the equestrian team's district championship, and recent NHS service projects.

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Brooks

Superintendent Brooks spotlighted district attendance efforts and emphasized the value of relationships with families. He reported a \$1500.00 donation from the Curwood Festival Duck Race for Alice's Playground, the relaunch of the food backpack program with Young's and the Greater Lansing Food Bank and plans for Safety Patrol Night at the Owosso vs. Corunna football game (honoring Safety Patrols). He also reviewed bond communication strategies (mailings, social media), recognized the Homecoming Court and Rotary Students of the Month Danica Dwyer and Gabrielle Hufnagel, and noted athletic achievements including Samantha Ross's school golf record. Additional updates included Shiawassee Scholars recognition, choir concerts, attendance incentive programs, and detailed building highlights (e.g. Lincoln, Bryant, Emerson, Central, Bentley). He concluded by noting that district buses drive over 1,000 miles daily, meals served exceed 3,200 per day, and security camera upgrades have been completed at all elementary schools.

Curriculum Director's Report – Dr. Dwyer

Dr. Dwyer shared that Constitution Day was celebrated across the district with a variety of interactive activities. She announced receipt of a \$15,000 MiSTEM Math Recovery grant to support teacher training and course kits. She reported positive feedback on the district's cell phone policy, with improved

engagement and reduced distractions, and noted that fall testing is underway with data to be analyzed during MTSS Data Day. She added that elementary buildings have begun learning lab visits and OMS ELA teachers are engaging in collaborative professional development.

Public Participation

President Webster 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 they should 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.

The following participants addressed the Board:

None

For Action

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick, to approve August 27, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick, to approve August 27, 2025, Closed Session Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick, to approve September 10, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick, to approve September 10, 2025, Closed Session Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick, to approve the current bills and financials as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnick, Pappas, Quick, Webster. Nays – None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Henne, to award the contract for Phase II of the Agricultural Barn project to Swarey Construction as the lowest bidder. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnick, Pappas, Quick, Webster. Nays – None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Pappas, to approve OMS Out-of-State Travel to Washington, D.C. for April 2026. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnick, Pappas, Quick, Webster. Nays – None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Mowen, to approve the hire of Stephanie Loveless as a teacher at Bryant Elementary. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnick, Pappas, Quick, Webster. Nays – None. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board will be asked to approve the Thrun policy updates dated June 11 and July 25, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board will be asked to approve the Out-of-State Travel for the OHS Athletic Trainer Justin

McGraw to attend the GLATA Conference in Wheeling, Illinois, March 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Update

Superintendent Brooks provided a personnel update, noting several recent hires in food service and support staff roles, as well as a new executive secretary. He also reported a small number of resignations, including an executive secretary, a food service driver, and other food service staff members.

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Board Comments

Vice President Ochodnicki highlighted community partnerships, including support for homeless families and veterans. She praised Bright Beginnings and staff for helping a student with autism make significant progress, and emphasized the importance of celebrating such successes.

Trustee Mowen commended the district's athletic trainer and noted Owosso's preparedness at sporting events.

Trustee Easlick thanked stakeholders for a strong start to the school year and expressed appreciation for improved boardroom technology.

Treasurer Quick praised attendance initiatives and reminded the Board of the upcoming MSBOA Marching Festival.

Trustee Pappas thanked the community for its continued support of FFA programming.

Secretary Henne welcomed new staff, congratulated students on their achievements, and recognized the Board's collaborative efforts.

President Webster emphasized the importance of bond communication, attendance programs, and providing factual information about district properties.

Meeting Updates

- **November 12, 2025** – Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Washington Campus Conference Room 112
- **November 19, 2025** – Regular Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Washington Campus Gymnasium
- **December 10, 2025** – Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Washington Campus Conference Room 112

Closed Session

Moved by Ochodnicky, supported by Pappas, to enter closed session at 6:18 p.m. for attorney–client privileged communication. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Ochodnicky, supported by Quick, to return to open session at 6:36 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Webster, supported by Ochodnicky, to adjourn at 6:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Sara Selleck.

Respectfully submitted,



Nick Henne, Secretary