

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
October 22, 2025
Report 25-63**

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

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

Celebrate Kids – Bentley Bright Beginnings Tiny Trojans Cheerleading

Mrs. Eskew shared that this year marks the third season of the Tiny Trojans Cheerleading program. The group continues to grow in participation and community support, with high school cheerleaders helping mentor the younger students. The program recently received an Owosso Public Schools Foundation mini-grant, which helped offset mailing costs and fund tumbling equipment. The cheerleaders performed under the lights at a JV football game with 14 students participating and also performed at a volleyball game earlier in the season.

Celebrate Kids – Drama Club Mamma Mia

Drama Club Director Jerry Ciarlino previewed a dress rehearsal of Mamma Mia! performed by the Owosso High School Drama Club. The full performances are scheduled for November 13–16 at the Owosso Campus Performing Arts Center.

Student Representative Report

The student representative was not present at this meeting.

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Brooks

Superintendent Brooks highlighted district achievements: Boys' Tennis captured the Flint Metro title

(first time since the 1990s); both Boys' and Girls' Cross Country won Flint Metro titles; Girls' Golf won Regionals and finished 11th at State, with a freshman golfer placing in the top ten; an OHS teacher completed the Detroit Marathon; Rotary Students of the Month were recognized; the Marching Band continued its Division I streak dating to 1958; the Equestrian Team placed fourth at the MIHA State Finals and won Districts and Regionals; OMS drama is preparing a zombie-themed play; and building updates included Bryant's math night, a staff wellness grant, Central's PBIS celebrations, Emerson's book fair and therapy dog milestone, and recognition of bus safety week and facilities excellence.

National Principals Month

Superintendent Brooks recognized building leaders across the district in celebration of National Principals Month and expressed appreciation for their leadership, professionalism, and commitment to students, staff, and families.

Owosso High School (OHS)

Dr. Dallas Lintner is a calm and dependable leader whose door is always open. He never makes anyone feel inadequate for asking questions and is a true perfectionist when it comes to details. Dallas is firm with students while always treating them with respect and extends that same respect and care to all staff. He leads with quiet confidence and professionalism, approaching every task with focus and efficiency. He communicates thoughtfully, remains composed under pressure, and contributes positively to the team with his humor, gratitude, and genuine respect for others.

Mrs. Karen Van Epps exemplifies energy and enthusiasm in every aspect of her work. Whether interacting with students or staff, she makes everyone feel like the most important person in the room. Her passion for creating a positive environment at Owosso is evident in everything she does, and her dedication shines every day.

Mr. Nick VanDuser, Athletic Director and Assistant Principal, has quickly become a tremendous asset to OPS. Nick is personable, friendly, and knowledgeable beyond his years. He has connected deeply with students, peers, and community members, and his professionalism and positivity have made him an invaluable part of the high school leadership team.

Owosso Middle School (OMS)

Mr. Rich Collins is a hands-on, visible leader who listens to concerns and seeks solutions. He is in classrooms, hallways, and the cafeteria daily, supporting students and staff with positivity and care.

Mr. Zeb Perrin has seamlessly transitioned into his new role as assistant principal, forming strong relationships with students and staff alike. His approachable nature, willingness to help, and proactive support for teachers have made an immediate impact at OMS.

Lincoln High School (LHS)

Carrie Rugenstein, affectionately known as "Rugie," is a strong and resilient leader who meets challenges with determination and heart. She is the glue that holds the Lincoln team together and is deeply respected by staff and students.

Bryant Elementary

Mrs. Spielman is a compassionate, patient, and student-centered leader who consistently puts children first. She leads by example and is one of the hardest-working individuals in the district. Bryant is fortunate to have her dedication and care guiding its school community.

Central Elementary

Amanda is a supportive and encouraging leader who provides staff with both guidance and autonomy. She fosters collaboration, positivity, and professional growth, making Central a welcoming and uplifting place to work and learn.

Emerson Elementary

Jessi is a passionate and committed leader who cares deeply for her staff, students, and families. She goes out of her way to ensure everyone feels supported, often asking, “Are you okay? What can I do for you?” Her compassion and attentiveness make Emerson a nurturing and joyful school community.

Bentley Bright Beginnings (BBB)

Ms. Alex Eskew has been a bright spot at Bentley since stepping into her role nearly a year ago. She has shown exceptional adaptability in overseeing multiple programs and complex needs. Alex communicates effectively with both staff and parents and is a steadfast advocate for OPS’s youngest learners. Her leadership ensures Bentley remains a strong foundation for children entering Kindergarten—confident, capable, and ready for their next chapter.

Curriculum Director’s Report – Dr. Dwyer

A new teacher event was held last Thursday at the secondary campus for staff in their first three years, along with their mentors. The session, led by District Mentor Coordinator Jessica McClung, focused on preparing for conferences and collaborative lesson planning to deepen student engagement.

District-wide perception surveys are now open for students, parents, and staff. Feedback will be used to identify trends and guide improvement planning, with results shared with building leaders and the Board.

The SAEBRS / MySAEBRS social-emotional screening window is currently open. This screening, administered three times per year, provides data to help identify students who may benefit from additional supports and informs intervention planning.

Parent-teacher conferences are taking place this week, with elementary conferences held today following a half day of instruction and secondary conferences scheduled for Thursday evening.

Plans for the November 4 Professional Development Day are nearly complete. Staff will choose from targeted sessions focused on classroom implementation, including AI-supported lesson planning, IB strategies, reading and math supports, restorative practices, and data-driven instruction.

Public Participation

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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 September 24, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick, to approve September 24, 2025, Closed Session Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick, to approve October 8, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick, to approve October 8, 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 Easlick, to approve the Thrun policy updates dated June 11 and July 25, 2025. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnick, Pappas, Quick, Webster. Nays – None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick, to approve the Thrun policy updates dated June 11 and July 25, 2025. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnick, Pappas, Quick, Webster. Nays – None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnick, supported by Webster, to approve Travel for the OHS Athletic Trainer Justin McGraw to attend the GLATA Conference in Wheeling, Illinois, March 2026. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnick, Pappas, Quick, Webster. Nays – None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Jenne, supported by Webster, to approve the hire of Kerrie-Lynn Raymond as a 3rd grade teacher at Central 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 audit report for the 2024-25 fiscal year.
- The Board will be asked to approve the disposal of obsolete materials at the elementary level. Motion by Pappas supported by Mowen to move this into approval. Although initially listed for future action, the Board acted during this meeting to deem 15+ year-old elementary materials obsolete to expedite classroom space.

Personnel Update

Superintendent Brooks noted several accepted positions and resignations as listed on the Personnel Update form for Board review.

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None

Board Comments

Vice President Ochodnický – Shared excitement for the upcoming BBB pumpkin delivery event and expressed appreciation for the principals' hard work and dedication.

Trustee Mowen – Congratulated Owosso High School athletics and the marching band for their continued excellence and welcomed the new hire to the district.

Trustee Easlick – Thanked the Celebrate Kids presenters, commended the band concert, and expressed appreciation to all principals and staff for their leadership.

Treasurer Quick – Thanked the principals for their dedication and acknowledged the many positive things happening across the district.

Trustee Pappas – Encouraged community members to vote in support of the upcoming bond proposal, noting the Board and administration's efforts to communicate transparently and thoroughly with the public.

Secretary Henne – Thanked the operations team for maintaining beautiful facilities, congratulated the principals, and expressed appreciation for their work. He also shared excitement for the upcoming Booster Bash and thanked Superintendent Brooks and staff for their strong bond communication efforts.

President Webster – Expressed gratitude to Board members who attended recent community meetings and highlighted the importance of continued engagement and collaboration.

Bond Communication and Community Engagement

Superintendent Brooks summarized extensive efforts to ensure transparency and public awareness around the upcoming bond proposal. The district has hosted 13 community meetings and conducted an online survey to shape project priorities; presented 41 in-person sessions; displayed 15 community banners; and published detailed project cost listings on the district website. Two postcards have been mailed to more than 20,000 voters, with a final round scheduled for October 27. Additional outreach includes Argus Press ads (November 1–3), multiple backpack flyer rounds, regular newsletter coverage, 1–2 social media posts per week, School Messenger emails to families and staff, event announcements, and phone and voicemail reminders planned for November 3–4.

Open Meetings Act Reminder

Board members were reminded to avoid using "Reply All" in email communications to prevent potential OMA violations.

Superintendent Evaluation

Superintendent Brooks will present the evaluation rubric and supporting documentation at the November 19 Board Meeting. Board members will review materials from November 19 through December 10, with closed sessions scheduled for both dates at the Superintendent's written request. The evaluation will be completed by consensus on December 10.

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** – Board of Education Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Washington Campus Gymnasium
- **December 10, 2025** – Board of Education Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Washington Campus Gymnasium

Adjournment

Moved by Webster, supported by Ochodnický, to adjourn at 6:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Sara Selleck.

Respectfully submitted,



Nick Henne, Secretary