

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
August 27, 2025
Report 25-37

Present: Adam Easlick, Nick Henne, Rick Mowen, Shelly Ochodnicki, 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

Building Reports

Student Representative Report – Presented by Aubrey Reeves for Paige Davis, noting high participation in back-to-school activities, strong early athletic results, and Homecoming game scheduled for October 3 and the Homecoming Dance scheduled for October 4.

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Brooks and the Board recognized Food Service employee Christine Tobey for 24 years of dedicated service. Christine began in 2001 as a substitute and quickly became a permanent staff member, known for her warm smile and commitment to students. She now looks forward to spending time with her grandchildren and family. The Board thanked Christine and presented her with a gift of appreciation.

Superintendent Brooks introduced Mikki Droste from Venture, Inc., who updated the Board on redevelopment plans for the former Middle School. She explained current funding efforts, including pursuit of a State Land Bank Blight-Reduction Grant for roof replacement. Board members discussed affordability, timelines, and community impact.

Superintendent Brooks reported a positive start to the 2025–26 school year. Parent orientations and open houses at all buildings were well attended, and kindergarten transition days supported students and families. In athletics, Girls Golf has broken two school records and opened the season 4–0. He highlighted the new Owosso Trojans mobile app, which provides athletics and performing arts schedules and integrates with transportation for real-time updates. At the high school, U.S. News & World Report ranked Owosso third in Shiawassee County, with a 92% graduation rate and the county’s highest college readiness score (21.2). Career and Technical Education participation includes 39 students attending RESD programs; including U of M–Flint Early College brings the total to 47. At OMS, class meetings and a new-student breakfast welcomed students from across Michigan and beyond; all sixth graders received Owosso MS shirts. Lincoln received donated backpacks and cupcakes from the VFW; Bryant held a back-to-school flag ceremony; Central reported strong transportation operations and announced “Donuts with Grown-Ups” on September 18; and Emerson’s fifth-grade patrols are underway. Bentley Bright Beginnings opened with preschoolers and introduced Millie, a new therapy dog. Food Service

served 33,098 meals over the summer through Meet Up and Eat Up. Transportation reported that over 95% of students are using bus passes and more than 650 families have enrolled in the app; the Argus-Press plans a feature on the program.

Dr. Cathy Dwyer reported that 15 new teachers were welcomed at New Teacher Orientation, connecting with district leaders and mentors to prepare for the year. All staff participated in three days of professional development focused on launching new literacy programs (Into Reading at the elementary level and Amplify ELA at the middle school), integrating Number Corner in mathematics, leveraging AI tools to support instruction, updates to special education documentation, and strategies for student engagement. Teachers spent time preparing first lessons in the new literacy programs, and feedback collected during PD is guiding ongoing training and support. All HMH and Amplify materials arrived on time and were distributed before school began; operations and technology staff ensured print and digital components were set up and functioning. Dr. Dwyer concluded that implementation is on track and the year is off to a strong start.

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

Amend Agenda

President Marlene Webster requested that the agenda be amended to include a Closed Session to review an attorney–client privileged communication that was received after the agenda was created. Moved by Ochodnick, supported by Pappas, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

For Action

- Moved by Ochodnick, supported by Pappas, to approve July 23, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnick, supported by Pappas, to approve July 23, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended to update the Closed Session section. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnick, supported by Pappas, to approve July 23, 2025, Closed Session Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnick, supported by Pappas, to approve August 13, 2025, Committee Meeting

Minutes, as amended to update the Closed Session section. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Pappas, to approve August 13, 2025, Closed Session Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Pappas to approve the Current Bills, and Financials as presented. Secretary Henne conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnicki, Pappas, Quick, and Webster. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Henne, to approve the Tax Levy (L-4029) for 2025. Secretary Henne conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnicki, Pappas, Quick, and Webster. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster, to renew the Contract with Venture Inc. Secretary Henne conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnicki, Pappas, Quick, and Webster. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Easlick, supported by Pappas, to approve the Vacant Property Improvement Grant Secretary Henne conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnicki, Pappas, Quick, and Webster. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board will be asked to approve the contract for the Agricultural Barn. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board will be asked to approve the OMS out of state travel to Washington DC for the 2025-2026 School year. Motion carried unanimously.

For Information

Personnel Update:

Superintendent Brooks reported that all teaching positions are filled and noted several support staff vacancies. Recognition for retiring employee Christine Tobey was reiterated.

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None

Board Comments

Vice President Ochodnicky thanked Venture, Inc. for their presentation and efforts on the Middle School redevelopment project.

Trustee Mowen congratulated retiring employee Christine Tobey on her years of dedicated service.

Trustee Easlick thanked all shareholders of Owosso Public Schools for ensuring a great start to the school year.

President Webster requested that a monitor be positioned to face the Board during meetings for improved visibility.

Meeting Updates:

- September 10: Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Conference Room 112
- September 24: Board of Education Regular Meeting, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Gymnasium
- October 8: Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Conference Room 112

Closed Session:

Following the agenda amendment, President Webster requested that the Board enter closed session to review the attorney–client privileged communication. Moved by Vice-President Ochodnicky, supported by Pappas at 6:34 p.m. to move into closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

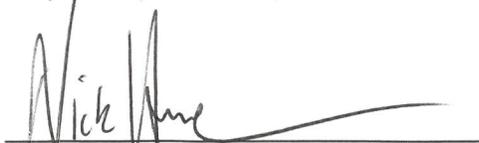
Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick, to move back into open session at 7:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by President Webster, supported by Vice-President Ochodnicky, to adjourn at 7:19 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Sara Selleck.

Respectfully submitted,



Nick Henne, Secretary