

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2025
Report 24-112

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

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.

President Webster introduced Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Dwyer as the Superintendent for the Evening. Superintendent Brooks asked to be excused, as he had a prior commitment. The Board considered moving the night of the meeting, but the board decided to go ahead with Dr. Dwyer sitting in for Superintendent Brooks.

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

Recognition of All-State Wrestler Hannah Hart. Dr. Lintner, OHS Principal and Coach Poyner introduced Hannah Hart, All-State Wrestler. It was also acknowledged; Hannah is also an equestrian team member. Dr. Lintner and Coach Poyner praised Hannah Hart's achievements, highlighting her leadership and character. Hannah shared her plans to attend the University of Findlay in Ohio to study Equine Business and Management and Western training.

Celebration of Students from Emerson and Central Elementary. It was reported the celebration of Emerson students was rescheduled from a previous board meeting because of inclement weather.

Mrs. Jessica Aue, Principal, introduced Mrs. Feinauer, Title I Reading teacher at Emerson. Mrs. Amy Feinauer explains the Title I reading mentor program are fifth-grade mentors helping first through third-grade readers. Title I teachers, Mrs. Feinauer and Mrs. Cicalo along with four paraprofessionals work together to help student mentors get everything they need to mentor the readers to become the best they can be. Success stories from the program were shared, including a letter from a student expressing gratitude for his reading buddy.

Mrs. Amanda Rowell, Principal, introduced Beth Hutchinson and Rachel Nidiffer who have been coaching the Girls on the Run program for three years. The Girls on the Run program is an empowerment organization that inspires participants to be joyful, healthy and confident, using evidence-based lessons that combine relationships, building community strengthening, goal setting and physical movement. Mrs. Beth Hutchinson described the program's goals, including empowering girls through relationships, teamwork and goal setting. The Girls on the Run participants are preparing for a 5K at MSU in May. The program also addresses topics like

bullying, problem-solving, and emotional management. There are currently 22 participants in the program.

President Webster thanked the participants and mentors for their contributions to the program.

Student Representative, Page Davis provided an update on various activities at the high school, including the pasta culinary competition, spirit week, and spring break plans. The OHS drama club is preparing for a pro wrestling-themed fundraiser on Friday, April 11th. The class of 2028 raised money for their senior year. Prom is all set and will be April 26th at the Golden Glow in St. Charles. The National Honor Society inducted 17 new sophomores into their club and elected the 2025-2026 Board. All three high school bands earned first division gradings at the MSBOA Festival. The OHS FFA chapter had a successful State Conference at MSU with over 20 students receiving state awards. The OHS skills teacher will attend a state conference in April with six students attending as competitors. The boys' varsity swim team won the conference championship, and the OHS Student Government donated \$2,500 to the Toys for Tots foundation.

Board Correspondence

Dr. Dwyer, Curriculum Director, provided an update in place of the Superintendent, highlighting several important district activities and achievements. Over the past few weeks, community facility meetings have been held to gather feedback for upcoming improvements. In addition, track athletes visited elementary schools, and a baseball camp hosted 29 students from grades 3-8, who had the opportunity to work with JV and Varsity baseball teams. The Owosso High School Boys Swim Team recently won a Conference Championship, with four swimmers qualifying for the state competition. Although they were scheduled to attend tonight's meeting with Coach Binger, many of the athletes are now involved in spring sports.

Owosso High School also celebrated a successful trip to Disney World, where the Trojan Marching Band represented the school and community from March 20-25. On March 17, 17 students were inducted into the National Honor Society, and Danica Dwyer set several records in girls' basketball, including surpassing the 1,000-point mark—an impressive milestone. The FFA State Conference saw multiple awards for OHS students, while seven seniors committed to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Other noteworthy achievements include 5 bands between OMS/OHS earned straight ones at the MSBOA festival and the swim team winning the conference championship.

At Owosso Middle School, the band and choir festivals were a success, with both receiving straight I ratings. The 8th Grade Career Expo at the College and Career Readiness Center also went well. OMS hosted a successful Volleyball event, raising funds for the Humane Society, and the 8th Grade Quiz Bowl team won first place, defeating Flushing. Additionally, Mr. Wright's Culinary Trojan Time organized a "Food Truck Throwdown," where students researched, planned, and prepared dishes, judged by a panel. The winners, Sophie Fox and Bella Wright, created Peruvian Ceviche and Gouda Mac-n-Cheese.

Lincoln High School sent 10 student representatives to Lansing on March 20th for the MAEO Legislative Day, where they advocated for alternative schools and participated in team-building activities. LHS will host its third and final blood drive of the year on March 27th. The Service Learning class at Lincoln is progressing with the school's green certification, working on composting options and a community garden on the west side of the building.

Central Elementary has hosted several guest readers for March is Reading Month, including sports teams, liaison officers, and a city council member. Their third-grade concert on March 20th was a great success, and the Great Lakes dental bus provided much-needed dental care to students. Bryant Elementary celebrated the end of March is Reading Month with an assembly, featuring a bike giveaway sponsored by Kiwanis. Varsity Baseball and Football players visited classrooms to share their favorite books and discuss the importance of being an Owosso Trojan. Fifth graders are preparing for their exhibition projects, which will be presented this Friday, March 21st, and a trip to Hartley is scheduled for March 26th-28th. Bryant students will also benefit from additional visits from the dental bus.

Emerson Elementary has enjoyed a month of guest readers and held a successful Bingo for Books event on March 20th, with record attendance. Their school assembly on March 28th will include another bike giveaway. Fifth-grade exhibition projects are well underway, with students presenting to peers during lunch and organizing bake sales to address global issues. Bentley Bright Beginnings has been active with PTO events, guest readers for March is Reading Month, and a field trip to the Flint Children's Museum. Their staff also received support from Home Field Michigan Real Estate Consultants, who sponsored the "Treat Trolley" for staff.

In transportation news, Owosso Bus Drivers completed a 6-hour Continuing Education class on March 8th, staying current on industry updates and safety procedures. Food Service is preparing for the summer food program and has ordered over \$60,000 in new kitchen equipment to improve efficiency. With spring testing season approaching, the technology team has been working to ensure devices and software are ready for a smooth testing experience. Testing will take place on April 9th and 10th, with Lincoln High School participating in one half-day of testing while the other half-day will be used for a field trip. Dr. Dwyer concluded with the second round of literacy pilots is underway, with teachers now implementing new materials in classrooms. After these pilots, feedback will be gathered, and a recommendation for literacy materials will be presented to the Board of Education in May.

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

President Webster explained to the Board that the February 26, 2025, Board of Education, regular meeting minutes and the March 12, 2025, Board of Education Committee of the Whole meeting minutes will be separated from the other items on the consent agenda and will be voted on separately, as there were corrections to those minutes that are at place. This was brought forward this morning by a Board member of the needed correction.

For February 26, 2025, Board of Education meeting minutes at place, there is an added paragraph on the last page. It is a paragraph that was following a student hearing, and it was not noted in the original set of minutes that Treasurer, Quick abstained due to a conflict, and that has been added now. There were also some absent board members, which has been noted. This has now been corrected in the At Place minutes.

- Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnicki, to approve February 26, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes (at place), as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

For the March 12, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes, the first paragraph has been stricken. What was missing is a motion to table the decision that was made by the Committee of the Whole. The Committee of the Whole voted on the motion, which failed. This was not included in the original minutes but has been corrected and is in the amended March 12, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting minutes at place.

- Moved by Ochodnicki, supported by Easlick to approve the March 12, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes (at place), as amended. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick to approve February 26, 2025, Closed Session Minutes, Current Bills, and Financials as presented. Secretary Henne conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Pappas, Quick, Henne, Webster, Ochodnicki, Easlick, and Mowen. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Dwyer presented the proposal for phase one of the Ag barn project, including site preparation, excavation grading, cement work, and water supply. The project will be funded through the capital improvements fund, with no general funds or sinking fund dollars. The Board discussed the option of connecting to city water instead of installing a well, considering the potential cost and reliability. Dr. Dwyer presented two options to the Board, the first option would be to approve the bid as is, with the understanding that a change order would be coming to change the water supply connection once we receive that. The second option would be to approve the bid without the well, so the total cost would be reduced by \$40,000 and approve the water supply at a separate later date. The recommendation to the Board, along with Spicer's recommendation, is to move forward with the bid without the well reducing the total cost by \$40,000, which allows us to move forward with site work as soon as possible.

- Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick, with option two to authorize the Superintendent

to approve the bid of SP Powell Sand and Soil, without the well, to proceed with essential site work, ensuring the timely completion of the project in support of the agriculture program. This will allow Spicer Group to collaborate with SP Powell on a change order for the water source. This change order will be presented for Board approval in April. The bid of SP Powell Sand and Soil of \$192,444.00 would be reduced by \$40,000 without the well. After receiving five bids, SP Powell Sand and Soil submitted the lowest bid. To confirm the contractor's qualifications and experience were aligned with the project's requirements, the district worked closely with Spicer Group to assess SP Powell's past work and credentials. Following this thorough evaluation, SP Powell was deemed fully capable of successfully executing the project. Secretary Henne conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Pappas, Quick, Henne, Webster, Ochodnick, Easlick, and Mowen. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

No 'For Future Action' items were presented at this meeting.

For Information

Dr. Dwyer announced the following personnel changes:

Accepted Positions

Jordan Lanning has accepted the Sub Custodian position.

Harper Newell has accepted the Paraprofessional position at OMS.

Dannielle DeFrenn has accepted the Sub Custodian position.

Resignations

Kelly Kline, Paraprofessional at Central has resigned effective March 21, 2025.

Dave Jelinek, Monitor at OMS has resigned effective March 3, 2024.

Jessica Maginity, OHS Choir Teacher has resigned effective June 9, 2025.

Emily Lobb, OMS Teacher has resigned effective the end of the 24/25 school year.

Retirements

Connie Tew, Paraprofessional at OMS has retired effective February 10, 2025.

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Board Comments

Trustee Mowen acknowledged the successful basketball season of the Lincoln Knights, as they brought home some nice trophies. Trustee Mowen also acknowledged the students from Emerson and Central Elementary, as the Celebrate Kids portion is always a highlight of the meeting. Welcomed the Trojan Marching Band back from the Florida trip to Disney. Our students are well recognized by Disney personnel for their talents and abilities. This speaks well of our overall programs, as well as the ones that have performed there in the past. Trustee Mowen welcomed the Athletic Director/OHS Assistant Principal, Mr. Nick VanDuser. Congratulations to Hannah Hart on all of her achievements. Expressed appreciation to the Emerson Administration and teachers for all they are doing with the reading program and the Central Girls on the Run program. Gratitude to Paige Davis for keeping us updated on the happenings at Owosso High School.

President Webster acknowledged the well-behaved children in the audience. Parent introduced himself as Benjamin Crydeman and wife Katherine. He acknowledged he missed the opportunity to speak during public participation, but asked President Webster if he could address the Board. President Webster granted his request and proceeded to express thanks for his comments and bringing the children to the board meeting. They are beautiful.

Trustee Pappas, everything was well said, and he had nothing to add.

Treasurer Quick, so many great things in our district and the kids speaking tonight. Acknowledged the students coming up and speaking before the board and a lot of credit for the great job they did. It is incredible at MSBOA competition to hear the kids and directors talk about how incredible our facility is, and we are a preferred site.

Secretary Henne reported he had the opportunity to attend one of the community sessions for the facilities upgrades. He was impressed with the program that was put together and presented to the community. There will also be a survey coming out for community members who did not have an opportunity to attend the community meetings, giving them an opportunity to provide feedback.

Vice-President Ochodnicky, Mr. Brooks presented to the Kiwanis on the facilities upgrade. It was well received. Including the community and allowing them to provide feedback on projects is very key and went well.

Trustee Mowen reiterated that the Owosso Public Schools is a community school and a beautiful Performing Arts Center (PAC) that is used by the district and it is nice to see the community also use the PAC.

Meeting Updates:

- April 9: Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5:30PM, Wrought Iron Grill
- April 23: Board of Education Regular Meeting, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Gymnasium
- May 14: Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Conference Room 112

Important Upcoming Dates:


March 28: Half Day for All Students: Teacher Work Day (optional)
March 31-April 4: No School: Spring Recess
April 11: Bryant Family Fun Night, 5:00PM, Bryant School
April 15: OHS Talent Show, 7:00PM, PAC
April 16: OHS Blue & Gold Banquet/Starfish Awards, 7:00PM, PAC
April 18: No School, Good Friday
April 26: OHS Prom, 6:00PM, Golden Glow in St. Charles
April 29: OHS Band Concert, 7:00PM, PAC

Adjournment

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

Minutes recorded by Bev White

Respectfully submitted,



Nick Henne, Secretary

