

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
July 23, 2025
Report 25-25

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

Absent: Adam Easlick

President Webster called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. The meeting was held at the Washington Campus Administration Building, 645 Alger St, Owosso, MI 48867.

Pledge of Allegiance

Building Reports

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Brooks reported that families are encouraged to check the district calendar for upcoming back-to-school activities, including open houses, registration days, pep rallies, and various sports and band events. He recognized several students for their outstanding summer athletic achievements. Owosso students Sydney Baker, Lula Calhoun, and Claire Woodworth played on the Crown Neito 12U Softball Team, which won the NSA Northern World Series. Additionally, Adysen Freeman is playing on a national team and is currently competing in the World Series of softball for her age group. Many other students are participating in summer sports such as softball, baseball, basketball, football 7-on-7 camps, and track and field, and are performing well with their travel teams.

At the high school, 53 half-credits have been recovered so far this summer through summer school programming. At the middle school, the OMS Builders Club has been actively involved in summer food distribution efforts. Student schedules will be mailed the first week of August, and the OMS Open House is scheduled for August 18 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. At Lincoln, the paraprofessional team, along with Ms. Rugenstein, completed their Check and Connect training. This program will be implemented during the 2025–2026 school year as part of the school improvement plan to boost attendance, improve academic success, and reduce problem behaviors.

Superintendent Brooks also shared that the "Books and Bryant" summer series has been a tremendous success, welcoming many new and returning families and featuring special guest appearances. Construction has begun on a new track at Bryant Elementary, funded entirely through the Michigan Running Foundation in partnership with the Alice's Playground project—without the use of taxpayer dollars. Planning is also underway for the upcoming Bryant Elementary Scholarship Fund Golf Outing. Transportation has remained active, supporting

YMCA camps and Bentley Bright Beginnings outings. Students were able to explore a school bus and new tablet technology during the "Books at Bryant" Touch-a-Truck event. There has been a strong response from families, over 1,000 signing up for transportation services and downloading the app.

Lastly, Superintendent Brooks added that the final day for the Meet Up and Eat Up summer food service program is August 1, and a full report with participation numbers will be shared next month. He concluded by commending the custodial and maintenance teams, who are working diligently to deep clean classrooms and prepare all district buildings for the return of staff and students.

Superintendent Brooks also shared the Curriculum report and indicated the HMH Into Reading materials have been delivered to all elementary buildings in preparation for the new school year. Unpacking support is scheduled for August 4th. Professional development with HMH specialists is planned for upcoming PD days to support a strong year-one implementation.

He also shared that 66% of 8th grade students scored proficient on the PSAT, exceeding the state average and matching the national average—an improvement from 55% proficiency last year.

The Books at Bryant summer series remains popular, with three events remaining, including “Fun with FFA and Fair Giveaways” and a PTO-sponsored back-to-school dinner and fair.

Summer school programs have been successful and are nearing completion, with elementary ending July 31st and high school wrapping up August 7th.

Superintendent Brooks concluded with an invitation to Board members to attend New Teacher Orientation on Tuesday, August 12th at Fortitude Farms & Events. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 AM, with staff arriving between 7:30 and 8:00 AM.

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 Quick, supported by Ochodnický, to approve June 25, 2025, Budget Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Henne to approve the June 25, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended to update the Closed Session section. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Henne, to approve the June 25, 2025, Closed Session Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Pappas to approve the Current Bills, and Financials as presented. Secretary Henne conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Henne, Mowen, Ochodnický, Pappas, Quick, and Webster. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Henne, to adopt the bond resolution and to call a special election on November 4, 2025, and submit to voters a bond proposal in the amount of \$35 million, with no increase to the current debt levy. Secretary Henne conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Henne, Mowen, Ochodnický, Pappas, Quick, and Webster. Nays: Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick, to approve the purchase and adopt *Amplify* as the Core Literacy Curriculum for 6-8. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen supported by Henne, to authorize the district to transition from NEOLA policy services to Thrun Law Firm policy services effective July 23, 2025. Ayes: Henne, Mowen, Pappas, Quick, and Webster. Nays: Ochodnický Motion carried.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Pappas, to approve and adopt the revised 2025–2026 handbooks for all listed schools within Owosso Public Schools, with the understanding that any clerical errors will be corrected. These handbooks are considered living documents and will be reviewed annually to ensure continued alignment with Board policy and current legal guidance. Ayes: Henne, Mowen, Pappas, and Webster. Nays: Quick and Ochodnický. Motion carried.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen, to adopt the membership resolution of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the year beginning August 1, 2025, through July 31, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen, to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso High School Choir students and teacher Claire Ingersoll on a trip to New York City, NY March 25-28, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Henne, supported by Quick, to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso High School Engineering students, Paige Davis and Aubrey Boggs on a SkillsUSA MI supervised trip to Washington D.C. September 20 - 24, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

- Moved by Pappas, supported by Henne, to approve the out-of-state travel for Owosso High School SkillsUSA students, teacher (Carrie Warning), and possibly a parent chaperone on a trip to Atlanta, GA, June 1-6, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Henne, supported by Mowen, to authorize the district to purchase one new 77-passenger bus for the 2025-26 school year. Secretary Henne conducted a roll call vote. Ayes: Henne, Mowen, Ochodnicki, Pappas, Quick, and Webster. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Mowen, supported by Henne, to approve the course listings presented for the Middle School, High School, and Lincoln High School for the 2025-26 school year. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of the following certified staff:

Name	Building/Grade	Recommending Administrator	Salary Schedule Step
Harper Newell	OMS/Special Education	Superintendent Steve Brooks	BA-1 \$44,415
Reghan LePior	Bryant/K	Superintendent Steve Brooks	BA-2 \$45,055
Nathan Bilotta	OMS/Math	Superintendent Steve Brooks	BA-1 \$44,415

Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

- The Board will be asked to authorize the transfer of ownership of Hampton Avenue (located in front of Bryant Elementary School) back to the City of Owosso through a quit-claim deed. Moved by Pappas, supported by Mowen, to move the transfer of ownership of Hampton Avenue from Future Action to For Action and approve the transfer. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board will be asked to approve the Tax Levy (L-4029) for 2025 as presented and as discussed during the Budget hearing at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on June 25th. Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnicki, to move to For Action at the August 27, 2025, Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- The Board will be asked to authorize the Owosso Public Schools Tech Department to officially declare (42) Brocade/Ruckus ICX 7250 network switches obsolete. Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnicki, to move to the Declaration of Obsolete Material from Future Action to For Action and approve the Declaration of Obsolete Material. Motion carried unanimously.

For Information

YMCA Memorandum of Understanding

The Board was informed that the Shiawassee Family YMCA and Owosso Public Schools renewed their partnership for after-school and before-school childcare for the 25-26 school year.

Emergency Operations Plan

The Board was informed that the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) was updated and reviewed for each school building in the District. The Emergency Operations Plan for Owosso Public Schools aims to reduce the risk to life and health and promote the safety of students, staff, parents, county employees, visitors, and emergency services personnel. This plan sets forth the procedures and planning guidelines for responding to an incident within the School District. Use of this plan is coordinated with local responding agencies and personnel. The District's Homeland Security expert created the Emergency Operations Plan, Mr. Tom Mynsberge, and tailored it to each of the districts in Shiawassee County.

Back to School Events

The Board was informed of the Back to School Events for the 2025-26 school year.

Superintendent Brooks announced the following personnel changes:

Resignations

Jamie Lumsden, Teacher at Bryant Elementary, has resigned effective July 1, 2025.

Briana Amman, GSRP Lead Teacher, has resigned effective July 2, 2025.

Stephanie Goetzinger, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, has resigned effective July 7, 2025.

Dannielle DeFrenn, Custodian, has resigned effective July 1, 2025.

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

Board Comments

Trustee Pappas and Vice President Ochodnicky had no comments. Treasurer Quick thanked everyone for all they do. Secretary Henne echoed Treasurer Quick's appreciation. Trustee Mowen shared enjoyment of summer, hoped staff had a chance to get away, noted athletes' involvement, praised staff efforts during the school year and summer, commended the Transportation Director for the successful program rollover, and welcomed new team members.

President Webster closed by saying it was great to see students active during summer activities, mentioned visiting summer school at Bryant, and expressed excitement about the new track at Bryant and Alice's playground for the students, community, and neighborhood.

Meeting Updates:

- August 13: Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Conference Room 112
- August 27: Board of Education Regular Meeting, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Gymnasium
- September 10: Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5:30PM, Washington Campus Conference Room 112

Closed Session

Moved by Mowen, supported by Ochodnicky, to move into closed session at 6:35 p.m. to address matters protected by attorney-client privilege and contract negotiations. President Webster conducted a roll call vote: Ayes: Henne, Mowen, Ochodnicky, Pappas, Quick, and Webster Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Quick, supported by Ochodnicky, to move back into open session at 7:31 p.m. for the purpose of adjournment. President Webster conducted a roll call vote: Ayes: Henne, Mowen, Ochodnicky, Pappas, Quick, and Webster Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Quick, supported by Henne, to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Carrie Yoho.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Henne

Nick Henne, Secretary

