

**Owosso Public Schools  
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 25, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.  
Report 25-124**

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

President Ochodnicky 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**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Building Reports**

Lincoln High School students presented on the “Knights of the Round Table” leadership group, outlining their role in promoting student leadership and school engagement. Students highlighted multiple fundraisers that support community initiatives such as adopting families, funding school projects, and contributing to local programs. They also shared participation in leadership events, including state-level conferences and legislative activities, as well as organizing blood drives and scholarship opportunities. Students emphasized the positive impact the program has had on building confidence, leadership skills, and creating a supportive school environment.

Student Representative Ellen DeLong reported on a wide range of student accomplishments. Fine arts students earned high ratings at band and choir festivals. NHS successfully hosted a fundraiser benefiting a local memorial fund. The culinary team competed at the state level, and multiple athletic teams and individual athletes advanced to state competitions. FFA students received state recognition, with some advancing to national competitions. Additional highlights included several seniors signing with colleges and a student being named to a state leadership position.

**Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Brooks reported on district-wide activities, beginning with a successful joint fundraiser hosted by the OPS Foundation and OHS Golf Team at Back 2 the Tee. He noted that the event sold out with ten teams participating throughout the day and that the 50/50 raffle raised \$900. He also acknowledged Chris and Stephanie Ross for their hospitality and coordination of volunteers from the OHS golf teams, and stated that final

profit totals will be available soon. He reported that kindergarten registration is nearing 186 students for the upcoming school year, reflecting strong early enrollment numbers. He further shared that Jessica Thompson is coordinating annual senior recognition projects, including yard signs, the Today's Trojans publication, and the OHS Senior Athletic Book, which provide meaningful recognition for graduating students and their families. He also noted that CERT drills were conducted in all district buildings, emphasizing that all buildings are Michigan Heart certified and prepared for cardiac emergencies, and he thanked the City of Owosso for its continued partnership in supporting student and staff safety.

He went on to report on high school activities, highlighting the success of the Unified Basketball Team, which completed its first year in state competition with a 2-0 record at East Kentwood High School. He shared that two seniors were recognized as Owosso Rotary Club Students of the Month. He also noted that the OHS culinary team placed 12th out of 30 teams in the ProStart Michigan Invitational, recognizing that 24 of the competing teams were from regional technical centers, making Owosso one of only six teams representing a single local high school.

Moving to the middle school, he reported that the OMS choir and band both received all "1" ratings at festival. He noted that state testing is scheduled for April 8 and 9 and shared that the Washington, D.C. trip is scheduled for April 22 through April 24.

At Lincoln High School, he reported that Mrs. Elbing's visual arts class recently completed a "Cup Design" challenge, with one student earning top honors. He shared that students also traveled to the Flint Institute of Arts, where they explored the "Threads of Time," "One Human Frame," and "A Symphony of Glass" exhibitions. He further reported that the Lincoln Knights basketball season concluded on March 12 with a hard-fought victory over Odyssey. In addition, Mrs. Wood's class is currently completing a mock trial as part of their Practical Law course, with students actively participating in a variety of courtroom roles including bailiff, prosecutor, witness, and jury members.

At the elementary level, he reported that Central Elementary held a successful third grade music concert and that kindergarten registration continues to go well, with additional students still being enrolled. He also shared that Central fifth graders departed for Hartley and expressed excitement for their upcoming experience. He noted that Emerson Elementary has been actively celebrating March is Reading Month through guest readers, a Bingo for Books family night, and an upcoming school-wide

assembly where students will be recognized and one student will receive a bicycle donated by Kiwanis of Owosso. He further reported that Bryant Elementary has welcomed numerous guest readers, including community members and local athletes, and that students are working toward reading goals in anticipation of an upcoming celebration and author visit. He added that each building has also celebrated third graders with concerts held at the Performing Arts Center.

He also reported that Bentley has been engaged in March is Reading Month activities, including guest readers and classroom door decorating inspired by Dr. Seuss, and noted that hearing and vision screenings were conducted for students during the month.

He concluded by reporting that the transportation department remains busy supporting spring sports and field trips while preparing for Michigan State Police bus inspections scheduled after spring break. The food service department will host its second foreign exchange luncheon for a student from France, providing a cultural learning experience for students. Spring sports have also begun and are underway across the district. The maintenance department continues to complete spring cleanup throughout district facilities, and new wind screens will be installed at the OHS tennis courts over spring break, funded by the Sports Boosters.

### **Curriculum Director's Report**

Dr. Dwyer reported on International Baccalaureate (IB) projects, sharing that 21 students successfully completed the IB Personal Project. She noted that students presented their projects to IB Coordinator Sarah Jurhs and OMS teacher Courtney Schiller, showcasing a wide range of interests, including hair styling, baton, photography, art therapy, athletics, and coding. She highlighted the creativity and ownership students demonstrated and shared that she was able to observe several presentations, noting the significant growth in student learning and the depth of reflection demonstrated throughout the process.

She reported that students in 7th, 9th, and 11th grades will participate in the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) survey on March 27. She explained that the survey is administered every two years, is completely anonymous, and that parents are notified in advance with the option to opt their child out. She noted that the district administers the basic version of the survey and that all questions are available for public review on the district website. She further shared that the data collected provides valuable insight into student needs, supports district and community efforts to address those needs, and assists with grant funding opportunities that benefit students.

Dr. Dwyer reported on state testing, noting that the district will enter the standardized testing window following spring break. She explained that secondary students will have

half days on April 8 and 9 to meet the testing requirements established by the College Board for the SAT and PSAT. She expressed appreciation for the efforts of building principals, testing coordinators, and the technology team for their planning and preparation to ensure a smooth testing process.

She reported on the district's literacy curriculum, noting that HMH Into Reading was selected following a comprehensive review process as the core literacy curriculum for grades K–5. She shared that the initial six-year license was funded through grant resources and that the district has since received additional grant funding to support continued implementation. She reported that a two-year extension of the current licenses is being recommended, allowing the district to complete an eight-year cycle and maintain consistency in instruction. She noted that the total cost of \$101,102.40 will be fully covered by 35M grant funds, resulting in no impact to the general fund.

Dr. Dwyer reported on the middle school science curriculum review, noting that the science department completed a thorough evaluation of several highly regarded programs aligned with district goals and Michigan State Science Standards. She shared that OpenSciEd was identified as the best fit for students and staff. She described OpenSciEd as a research-based, highly rated curriculum that emphasizes student-centered, hands-on learning and includes integrated videos and compatibility with Google Classroom. She noted that the curriculum is available at no cost, making it a fiscally responsible option, with future costs limited primarily to professional development and instructional materials to support implementation. She concluded by noting that OpenSciEd will be recommended for Board adoption as the core middle school science curriculum.

### **Public Participation**

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment. No public comments were offered.

### **For Action**

Moved by Henne, supported by Easlick, to approve the Consent Agenda, including the February 25, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes, March 11, 2026, Committee Meeting Minutes, Current Bills, and Financials. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnicki, Pappas, Webster, and Quick. Nays-None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Mowen, supported by Webster, to approve the ESS Contract Renewal. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen, to approve the teacher's return from medical leave. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick, to approve the ChromeBook Purchase.  
Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnicki, Pappas, Webster, and Quick.  
Nays-None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Mowen, supported by Henne, to approve the Bond Election Resolution.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Easlick, supported by Henne to approve the Superintendent Contract.  
Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnicki, Pappas, and Quick.  
Nays-Webster  
Motion carried

### **For Future Action**

The Board will be asked to approve Board Policy 5410.01. Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick, to move to approval of Board Policy 5410.01 from Future Action to For Action. Motion carried unanimously. Moved by Webster, supported by Mowen, to adopt Board Policy 5410.01. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board will be asked to review the Middle School Science Curriculum. Moved by Easlick, supported by Quick, to move to For Action at the April 22, 2026, Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board will be asked to renew the Core Literacy License Extension. Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick, to move to For Action at the April 22, 2026, Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

### **For Information**

The Board was informed of the recent personnel changes.

### **Public Participation**

No public comments were offered.

### **Board Member Comments**

Treasurer Quick commended the Lincoln High School students, noting that it warms her heart to see their growth and the wide range of programs offered.

Vice President Easlick welcomed Melissa Buehler to her new position and thanked Carrie Yoho for stepping in during the gap. He also expressed appreciation to the LHS students and Ellen DeLong for keeping everyone updated on school-related activities.

Trustee Mowen praised the preparation and quality of the LHS student presentations, noting that although the presenters may have been nervous, they did an excellent job.

He expressed pride in the work being done at LHS and appreciation for what the board has learned. He also shared positive remarks about the varsity softball team's 15–0 win and expressed satisfaction with the team's performance.

Trustee Webster echoed appreciation for Lincoln High School, particularly Principal Rugenstein, and commended the overall quality of the student programs. She also shared her experience attending the Central Elementary music program at the Performing Arts Center, noting that the venue greatly enhanced the experience for students, families, and attendees, and described the event as a truly top-notch experience.

President Ochodnický agreed with previous comments and shared her experience attending the athletic signing day. She congratulated the students who participated, noting the strong number of signings and expressing excitement for their future opportunities.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates**

April 08: Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5:30 PM

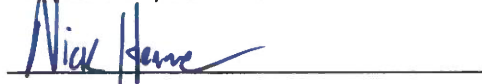
April 22: Board of Education Regular Meeting, 5:30 PM

**Adjournment**

Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by: Melissa Buehler

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick Henne". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Nick Henne, Secretary