

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**April 08, 2026 – 5:30 pm**  
**Report 25-125**

**Board Members Present:** Shelly Ochodnicki, President, Adam Easlick, Vice President, Olga Quick, Treasurer, Nick Henne, Secretary, Rick Mowen, Trustee, John Pappas, Trustee, Marlene Webster, Trustee.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Owosso Public Schools Board of Education was called to order by President Ochodnicki 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.

**Public Participation**

President Ochodnicki 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 to 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.

No members of the public addressed the Board.

**Agenda Items**

**Facilities/Bond**

Superintendent Brooks provided an update on the bond process, noting that all required paperwork had been submitted to the Department of Treasury. Minor adjustments were requested and completed, with no impact on project scope or outcomes. Discussion centered on concerns regarding public trust and the timing of a potential bond election, particularly in relation to rising costs and community perception. Board members discussed the importance of having a contingency plan should the bond not pass, including possible scaled options or alternative funding strategies.

Significant discussion also occurred regarding the former middle school property and the ongoing partnership with Venture. Board members emphasized the need for a defined "Plan B" if redevelopment does not move forward by the August deadline, including the possibility of demolition, estimated at approximately \$2.5 million, and opportunities for grants can be utilized.

**A. Wilkinson Property**

Regarding the Wilkinson property, Superintendent Brooks reported that there has been interest from a neighboring property owner and a developer. The district currently has four buildable lots available, and outreach efforts to potential buyers are ongoing. No final sale or valuation has been determined at this time.

An update for the FFA barn was also provided on current facilities projects. The water line installation has been completed and is undergoing testing, while site preparation for the new barn is underway with construction anticipated to begin by the end of the month.

### **Board Sound System**

The Board reviewed options for upgrading the current sound system due to ongoing difficulties with audibility during meetings. Two options were presented: a basic system (\$12,450), similar to the current one with improved wireless microphones, and a more advanced system (\$26,928), with individual board member speakers and enhanced sound control. Board members expressed support for improving sound quality to enhance communication and accuracy of meeting minutes. Superintendent Brooks will review funding options and bring a recommendation forward at a future meeting.

### **Graduation 2026**

Superintendent Brooks provided a comprehensive schedule of end-of-year events, including graduations and other ceremonies across all buildings. The schedule will be shared district-wide to ensure clear communication. A clarification was made regarding dates to avoid conflicts, specifically confirming the timing of Lincoln High School's graduation in relation to the May board meeting.

### **Handbook Updates**

Superintendent Brooks shared that building administrators will begin reviewing student handbooks as part of the annual update process. All handbooks are aligned with board policy, and any policy changes are automatically reflected. Additional updates will focus on building-specific procedures and clarifications. Final revisions will be presented to the Board for approval in June.

### **Curriculum Updates**

Dr. Dwyer provided an update on district testing, which has begun at the secondary level and will continue across buildings in the coming weeks. She highlighted the work of staff in preparing for a smooth testing process.

Dr. Dwyer shared that two curriculum items will be brought forward for Board action. The first is an extension of the K–5 reading curriculum license using additional grant funds, allowing the district to move to a full eight-year cycle at no cost to the district. The second is the adoption of a new middle school science curriculum, which is free and integrates digital and hands-on learning, though some costs for training and materials will be required.

Dr. Dwyer also provided an update from the district health committee, including upcoming vacancies for required committee roles. Attendance and discipline data were reviewed, with discussion focused on chronic absenteeism, contributing factors such as suspensions, and the need for clearer data definitions and consistency in reporting.

### **Board Retreat**

The Board discussed the possibility of holding a retreat but determined there are no immediate needs requiring one at this time. Discussion shifted to the district's strategic plan, which must be updated by 2026. Superintendent Brooks will begin reviewing and revising the current plan, with a draft expected later in the summer.

**Cell Phone Policy**

The Board reviewed the current cell phone policy in light of upcoming state requirements. Current policy aligns with the new law, restricting phone use for K–8 students and allowing limited use for high school students. Discussion included the possibility of implementing stricter “bell-to-bell” restrictions for all grade levels. Superintendent Brooks will gather feedback from staff, students, and parents before bringing recommendations back to the Board.

**TASC to MESSA Summit**

Superintendent Brooks informed the Board of the transition from the TASC program to MESSA’s flexible spending account program. The change will eliminate approximately \$7,500 in annual administrative fees and align benefit timelines with the calendar year, simplifying the process for employees. The transition has been communicated to staff and will be implemented moving forward.

**Superintendent Evaluation Rubric**

The Board reviewed alternative superintendent evaluation tools in addition to the current model. Superintendent Brooks presented options, including the Collins and Blaha framework, which streamlines scoring by evaluating components holistically rather than individually and MASA. Board members will review the materials and revisit the discussion at a future meeting. Planned training on the current model will be postponed pending further consideration.

**Round Table**

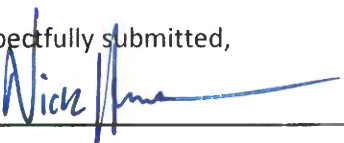
Board members shared updates and comments. One member noted potential limited attendance at upcoming events due to a family medical situation. Superintendent Brooks provided additional updates on insurance cost increases and potential legislative changes that could impact district finances. Early staffing projections for the 2026–2027 school year were also discussed, including anticipated reductions through attrition and ongoing efforts to balance class sizes and enrollment trends.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Easlick, supported by Henne, to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Melissa Buehler

Respectfully submitted,



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Nick Henne, Secretary