

OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Committee Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2026 – 5:30 pm
Report 25-104

Board Members Present: Shelly Ochodnicky, President, Adam Easlick, Vice President, Olga Quick, Treasurer, Rick Mowen, Trustee, John Pappas, Trustee, Marlene Webster, Trustee.

Board Members Absent: Nick Henne, Secretary

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

Attendance/Behavior Data

Mr. Brooks reviewed attendance data as of the 99th instructional day. Students with 9.9+ absences are being monitored toward the chronic threshold of 18 days. Bryant was identified as an area of concern, and staff are working with Mrs. Spielman and the team on targeted interventions. Behavior data was reviewed by building using MTSS tiers. Approximately 76% of Bryant students and 96% of Central students have 0–1 referrals, with the district goal of 80–85% in Tier 1. Data includes both minor and major infractions, including tardies. OMS and OHS numbers are influenced by phone violations and tardy coding practices. A request was made to filter out OHS tardies and OMS phone violations for clearer analysis, and administration will prepare that report.

Physical/assault-type incidents were reviewed by building. Totals include minor contact incidents and verbal entries, not solely serious altercations. Bryant reported the highest number of incidents, though only five staff-involved incidents occurred in the past three months, none resulting in injury reports. Coding inconsistencies earlier in the year impacted monthly breakdowns; however, totals remain

accurate. The district plans to streamline behavior codes (approximately 20–25), define them clearly, and train staff for consistent data entry beginning next school year.

Bryant-specific challenges were discussed, including trauma, placement delays, staffing instability, and community stressors. Multiple supports are in place, including a success coach and student facilitator. A previously unstable kindergarten classroom has improved following the return of experienced staff. Board discussion acknowledged that while aggregate data is positive and most students have 0–1 referrals, targeted interventions remain necessary for higher-need populations. Broader system concerns were noted, including limited access to RESD services, housing instability, mental health gaps, and funding challenges for special education and support services. Bryant continues hosting strong family engagement events to build school connectedness.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration plans were shared. Principals are connecting with preschools and families, and the event will include signing tables, mini-videos, and student activity stations. A multi-channel outreach effort is underway.

School of Choice

Proposed School of Choice revisions will be an action item at the next meeting. The proposal moves from unlimited to limited openings, narrows the window to May 4–June 3, and excludes 12th graders to protect graduation rates. School of Choice guidelines limit consideration of attendance history, while non-resident enrollment allows greater discretion with legal justification. Administration recommends expanded use of non-resident enrollment, particularly for kindergarten, to allow flexibility while maintaining compliance.

Facilities/Bond

The board reviewed bond planning for a proposed 4.7 mill, zero mill increase, generating approximately \$35 million. Timing considerations (August vs. November vote) impact project sequencing and inflation costs. Scope adjustments under consideration include removing the Bentley classroom addition to offset approximately \$1.5 million in inflationary reductions. Survey participation is around 360–370 responses, with a goal of 600. Communication strategies were discussed, including providing visuals of facility needs while protecting district reputation, forming a positive community committee, and posting project details online. External factors such as city ballot items, water rate increases, and pending funding requests were also noted.

Energy Savings Performance Contracting-Trane Presentation-March 11

Trane will present to the Board on March 11 to provide information regarding potential energy savings opportunities that could support future capital improvement projects. Potential savings related to boilers, lighting, and system controls may create an opportunity to address larger infrastructure needs over time.

Prior to any agreement, a full legal review will take place. Our discussion included the procurement process, vendor transparency, conflict-of-interest safeguards, and the importance of legal counsel reviewing all contracts.

We also discussed a prior energy program that was not well received and acknowledged the importance of clear communication and due diligence moving forward. This type of process could potentially be used in conjunction with a future bond initiative to help maximize community investment dollars.

District/Superintendent Goals

Mr. Brooks requested board direction on priorities and will draft SMART goals for Facilities, Behavior, Academics, and Attendance. Goals will align with evaluation timelines and be presented at the next meeting for board review.

Strategic Planning

The current strategic plan (2022–2025) requires updating. MASB facilitation is available in the fall at approximately \$13,500; alternative facilitation options are being explored to complete the process this year. Emphasis was placed on community and staff engagement to ensure the plan is actionable and aligned with the superintendent's goals.

Round Table

Discussion was held regarding the conversion of Central's multipurpose room to a library 3–4 years ago due to enrollment growth. Restoring multipurpose space remains a future consideration pending enrollment trends and bond outcomes.

Turnover in the administrative assistant role was discussed. Administration will review compensation and retention strategies to improve stability. Appreciation was expressed to staff members who have stepped up to take on additional responsibilities and support one another during staffing transitions and increased workload.

An update was requested regarding the superintendent contract; feedback from the attorney is expected by March 3.

Adjournment

Moved by Quick, supported by Easlick, to adjourn at 7:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Carrie Yoho.

Respectfully submitted,



Nick Henne, Secretary