

**Owosso Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.
Report 25-111**

Present: Adam Easlick, Nick Henne, Rick Mowen, Shelly Ochodnicki, John Pappas, Olga Quick,

Absent: Marlene Webster

President Ochodnicki 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.

The agenda was amended to include an action item for an employee leave of absence and an informational item regarding the potential relocation of board meetings. Moved by Easlick, supported by Henne. Motion passed

Building Reports

Bryant Elementary was recognized during Celebrate Kids. Principal Spielman and Bryant students highlighted the school's whole-child support programs, including mentoring, social learning groups, sensory spaces, conflict resolution, and basic needs support. Students shared how these programs help with focus, problem-solving, anger management, and social skills. Board members participated in a mock check-in/check-out activity. The board expressed appreciation for the presentation and support of these programs.

Student Representative Ellen DeLong highlighted student achievements and activities: seven OHS students were recognized as top CTE students in Shiawassee County by SRESA. The OHS CTE program hosted an event for 8th graders to explore career and technical programs. FFA students performed well at district and regional competitions, with one senior advancing as a top 18 candidate for Michigan FFA state officer. The band programs held pre-festival concerts and the annual Night of Jazz. Winter sports are concluding, with two wrestlers placing third at district level and advancing to regionals.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Brooks reported several district updates and recognitions. March is Reading Month, which will begin soon, and board members were invited to participate as guest readers in classrooms throughout the district. The OPS Foundation is hosting its "Back to the Tees" indoor golf scramble on March 21, with information being shared with the community. Several students and community recognition were also highlighted. OHS junior was named Miss Teen Curwood 2026, and an OHS senior was selected as one of three statewide finalists for the FFA State Star Agricultural Placement Award, which will be determined at the Wharton Center.

An OMS student was named Curwood Junior Princess, and Bryant kindergarten teacher was selected as the Curwood Queen. Lincoln's February Rotary Students of the Month were highlighted.

The Superintendent shared updates from across the district, including well-attended band and choir concerts at both the middle school and high school. The high school also hosted a CTE Expo for incoming eighth graders to learn more about available career and technical education programs. The Lincoln Knights basketball team placed second in the Heartland Legacy Tournament and will participate in upcoming events, including a Legislative Day on March 19 and a blood drive on March 26.

Elementary updates included Bryant's Glow Run fundraising event and upcoming activities, as well as Emerson's kickoff of the American Heart Association Heart Challenge, encouraging families to learn about healthy habits and CPR awareness. Preschool registration has begun at Bentley for the 2026–2027 school year, and Valentine's Day activities were held to engage students and families.

Operational updates included recognition of the transportation department and bus drivers for safely transporting students during challenging winter road conditions, as well as appreciation for the maintenance staff for their efforts in clearing sidewalks and parking lots. The technology department has received approximately \$325,000 in new desktop computers for staff, with deployment planned during spring break and over the summer.

Athletics updates included recognition of Tom Trecha (bowling) and Dave Owens (basketball) as Coaches of the Year, with all-conference athlete announcements expected soon. The district will host a college signing day celebration for student athletes on March 11 in the OHS gym. Additionally, the Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony was recently held, honoring several individuals and teams.

The Superintendent also congratulated Treasurer Quick and Vice President Easlick for earning Level Two certification through the Michigan Association of School Boards, recognizing their continued leadership development, training, and service to the district.

Curriculum Director's Report

Dr. Dwyer reported on several curriculum and instructional initiatives across the district. The district recently hosted its winter new teacher event for educators in their first three years of teaching, along with their assigned mentors. Organized by Jessica McClung, the event included a guest speaker from the MEA who provided an informational session on financial planning topics such as insurance, 403(b) and 457 retirement plans, and the differences between traditional and Roth IRAs to help educators plan for their future.

At Emerson, approximately 50 students and their families attended a Title I Math Night focused on building excitement around math. Each grade level provided four family-friendly math games designed to strengthen numeracy skills, and families were able to take home a game and materials to continue practicing at home. Kindergarten registration will take place next week and has been expanded to include interactive stations highlighting key programs and opportunities that make the district unique. Dr. Dwyer thanked Jessica Thompson for developing the marketing materials and acknowledged the principals and Title I staff who are helping organize the event.

Bryant Elementary recently hosted instructional learning labs for kindergarten and first-grade teachers focused on the implementation of the Number Corner program. Teachers participated in a professional learning session on instructional strategies and routines, observed a kindergarten lesson in action, and then debriefed together to support consistent implementation in their classrooms.

Dr. Dwyer also highlighted the high school's National Honor Society induction ceremony. Current members were recognized for their volunteer service, including nine bronze awards (75+ hours), one silver award (100 hours), two platinum awards (150 hours), one sapphire award (325 hours), and one student receiving the Pearl Service Award for more than 600 hours of community service. The ceremony also welcomed 36 new National Honor Society members. In addition, the district held its CTE Awards Night, recognizing one outstanding student from each CTE program.

Public Participation

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

For Action

Moved by Mowen, supported by Henne, to approve the Consent Agenda, including the January 28, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes, February 11, 2026, Committee Meeting Minutes, Current Bills, and Financials. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnicki, Pappas, and Quick. Nays-None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Mowen, supported by Pappas, to approve the School of Choice Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen, to approve the personal leave of absence. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

The Board will be asked to renew the ESS Contract for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Moved by Mowen, supported by Henne, to move to For Action at the March 25, 2026, Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

For Information

President Ochodnicki shared that she recently discussed with the Superintendent the possibility of relocating future board meetings to another district facility. The current meeting location has been used since changes occurred during the bond project. Potential options could include one

of the district's newer multipurpose rooms or another facility that offers improved lighting, climate control, and a more comfortable seating arrangement that allows board members to sit at the same level as attendees rather than on an elevated stage.

Board members discussed considerations such as sound quality, room setup, and the logistics of setting up and taking down equipment for meetings. Some members noted that the current space allows equipment to remain set up, while moving locations could require additional staff time for setup. It was suggested that administration review possible locations, including spaces previously used such as the high school library, and evaluate feasibility with building principals, technology staff, and custodial staff. Administration will explore potential options and bring information back to the board at a future meeting.

The Board was informed of the recent personnel changes.

Public Participation

No public comments were offered.

Board Member Comments

Trustee Pappas shared that he is looking forward to the arrival of spring and the start of spring sports. He expressed support for exploring alternative locations for board meetings, noting that improvements to the room environment, including temperature control, could benefit both the board and attendees. Trustee Pappas also expressed appreciation for the staff whose efforts support student activities and athletics.

Secretary Henne expressed appreciation to Trustee Pappas for his earlier remarks during the Bryant *Celebrate Kids* presentation, particularly his comments about his father. He also congratulated the Bryant students on their presentation, recognizing the courage and confidence it takes to speak in front of an audience. He also shared appreciation for a former mentor, Dallas Lintner, recalling how his guidance during his time as a student made a lasting impact. Secretary Henne expressed appreciation for the positive influence educators have on students.

Treasurer Quick congratulated students and staff across the district for the many recent recognitions and accomplishments. She shared that she attended the middle school band concert, noting the PAC was filled to standing room only, and also attended the Band Boosters' Evening of Jazz event. She expressed appreciation for the performances and the strong community support for the arts. Treasurer Quick also highlighted the positive involvement of students volunteering at the event through the National Honor Society and commended the Bryant students for their confidence and professionalism during their presentation to the board.

Trustee Mowen commended the Bryant students for their presentation, noting that they spoke eloquently and demonstrated important values through the programs at Bryant. He encouraged them to carry those lessons forward throughout their education and into their lives. Trustee

Mowen also congratulated coaches for their leadership in the district's basketball and bowling programs and recognized the varsity boys basketball team for their efforts in district competition. He noted the team's perseverance and positive representation of the district following the recent loss in the community.

Vice President Easlick thanked the Bryant students for attending and sharing about the programs at Bryant. He noted appreciation for the use of the Bryant track and shared that he attended the recent Night of Jazz event, praising the performances of both the middle school and high school bands. He also thanked Student Representative Ellen DeLong for her updates on high school activities and expressed appreciation to the technology department for their work preparing the district's new computers for deployment.

President Ochodnicky echoed the sentiments of other board members and expressed appreciation for the administrative team, particularly Mrs. Yoho, for their support in covering the administrative assistant role. She also acknowledged the recent passing of Mr. Sheedlo, a highly respected former band director, highlighting his lasting impact on the district's band program and community. President Ochodnicky noted that visitation and the funeral were scheduled for Friday.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

March 11: Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5:30 PM

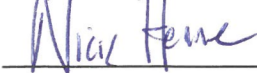
March 25: Board of Education Regular Meeting, 5:30 PM

Adjournment

Moved by Quick, supported by Mowen to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by: Carrie Yoho

Respectfully submitted:



Nick Henne, Secretary