

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**January 14, 2026 – 5:30 pm**  
**Report 25-89**

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

Board Members Absent: None

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

**FFA Barn Project Update**

Superintendent Brooks provided an update on the FFA Barn Project, noting that required state permits had been received after an extended delay. Discussion focused on a proposed infrastructure change order to remove the originally planned well and instead extend municipal water service to the site to support future development, including a potential bus garage and maintenance facility. Superintendent Brooks and the project consultant explained projected costs, available funding sources, and long-term benefits. The Board discussed whether the change order should return for formal action at a regular meeting, and Superintendent Brooks indicated that a detailed cost breakdown would be provided for future consideration.

**School Bond**

Superintendent Brooks reviewed bond proposal scenarios, including options for a May or August election. Discussion included millage impacts, projected bond amounts, voter turnout considerations, and the effect of inflation and timing on project scope. Updates were shared regarding investor interest in redevelopment of the former middle school property, potential use of brownfield funding, and

estimated demolition costs should redevelopment not proceed. Board members emphasized the need for a contingency plan if current redevelopment efforts are unsuccessful.

### **Trane**

Superintendent Brooks provided an overview of energy savings performance contracting through Trane, explaining that the program could allow the Board to approve a limited bond without a community vote to fund energy efficiency improvements such as boiler replacements and lighting upgrades. He explained that anticipated energy and maintenance savings could offset bond costs. Next steps include an energy-use analysis and a potential future presentation to the Board.

### **Process Overview – Board Officers Election**

Superintendent Brooks reviewed the process for the upcoming organizational meeting and election of Board officers, outlining nomination procedures, voting requirements, and the transition of presiding duties following the election of the Board President.

### **Budget Updates**

Superintendent Brooks provided an update on budget preparation and noted that a formal budget resolution would be presented at a future meeting following the Superintendent of Finance's return.

### **Computer Updates**

Superintendent Brooks reviewed pricing increases for staff desktop computers and discussed the urgency of proceeding with purchases due to rapid cost escalation. The Board discussed options and reached consensus to proceed with the purchase of instructional staff computers, including elementary computer labs, to avoid additional increases.

Moved by Mowen, supported by Pappas, to amend the agenda to allow for action and to approve the purchase of staff desktop computers, including elementary computer labs, as presented. Roll call vote: Webster – aye; Ochodnicki – aye; Henne – aye; Quick – aye; Mowen – aye; Easlick – aye; Pappas – aye. Motion carried.

### **27L Funding**

Superintendent Brooks reported receipt of approximately \$420,000 in Section 27L grant funding intended to offset rising healthcare costs for district employees. He explained that the funds would be distributed as a one-time stipend to eligible employees, subject to collective bargaining and pending guidance from the Michigan Department of Education.

### **Strategic Plan**

Superintendent Brooks reviewed the District's current strategic plan, which expires in 2025, and discussed options for developing a new plan. Board members emphasized the importance of community and staff engagement, measurable goals, and alignment with long-term district initiatives. Superintendent Brooks will consult with MASB regarding facilitation options and report back.

### **District Goals**

The Board discussed the development of Superintendent goals for the upcoming evaluation cycle, emphasizing the importance of collaboration, measurable outcomes, and alignment with district priorities. Proposed goals would be brought forward for Board review at a future meeting.

### **31aa Update**

Superintendent Brooks provided an update on Section 31aa funding, noting ongoing legal proceedings regarding the State's authority to impose conditions on the funding. He reported that many districts across the state had declined the funding pending resolution of the legal challenges.

### **County School Board Positions**

Superintendent Brooks noted that appointments for the Shiawassee County School Executive Board Representative and the Shiawassee RESD Budget Review and Election Representative would be presented for action at the January 28, 2026 regular meeting.

### **Curriculum Updates**

Dr. Cathy Dwyer presented updates related to attendance, discipline, and instructional initiatives. Data trends were reviewed, and administration discussed interventions, staff training, and support systems in place to address student needs.

### **Discipline and Attendance Data**

Dr. Dwyer reviewed discipline and attendance data, noting improvements at the secondary level and ongoing challenges at the elementary level. The Board discussed reporting practices, intervention strategies, and the impact of students with intensive needs on overall data trends.

### **Informed K-12 Software**

Dr. Dwyer introduced Informed K-12, a digital workflow platform designed to modernize district processes, reduce paperwork, improve efficiency, and support audit compliance. She reported positive feedback from other districts using the system.

### **MTSS Model**

Dr. Dwyer provided an overview of the District's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), explaining tiered academic and behavioral interventions and recent enhancements to instructional programs.

### **January 19, 2026 Professional Development Day**

Administration reviewed plans for the January 19, 2026 professional development day, including session structure and participation expectations.

### **Round Table**

Board members engaged in discussion regarding the Superintendent's recent evaluation and contractual considerations. It was noted that the Superintendent received an effective evaluation. The Board discussed the timeline and process for determining whether to roll over an additional year on the Superintendent's contract, including clarification of statutory requirements and contractual language. Questions were raised regarding whether salary increases associated with a rollover year are negotiable or fixed under the existing contract terms.

The Board reviewed advice received from legal counsel and discussed the distinction between a contract rollover and non-renewal, emphasizing the importance of acting in a manner that is not arbitrary or capricious and that aligns with the established evaluation rubric. Board members expressed differing perspectives on the practice of rolling contracts but agreed that further clarification from legal counsel would be beneficial before making a final determination.


The Board agreed to continue the discussion at a future meeting after receiving additional legal guidance, with the goal of making a determination by the end of February in advance of the April 1 statutory notification deadline.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Quick, supported by Webster, to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Sara Selleck.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Nick Henne, Secretary