

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
November 19, 2025
Report 25-75**

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

Absent: None

President Webster called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Washington Campus Gymnasium, 645 Alger St, Owosso, MI 48867.

Pledge of Allegiance

Amend Agenda

President Marlene Webster requested that the agenda be amended to include a Closed Session to discuss attorney client privilege information. Moved by Mowen, supported by Quick, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

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 they should 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.

The following participants addressed the Board:

1. Amanda Berndt
2. Marley Powers
3. Jason Freeman
4. Leslie Freeman
5. Adysen Freeman (letter given to Board)
6. Bella Harris (letter read)
7. Ava Pogue
8. Josie Cook
9. Ron Tyner

Celebrate Kids – Owosso Middle School Student Council & Builders Club

Superintendent Brooks introduced Mr. Collins, Mr. Byrd, Mrs. Rowley, and several student representatives from Owosso Middle School. Students shared updates on student leadership work, Builders Club service initiatives, and the Voices for Advocacy program. They described recent community engagement projects—including blanket-making for local support agencies—and efforts to create stronger student voice and collaboration across the school. The Board thanked the students and staff for their time and leadership.

Student Representative Report – Ellen DeLong

Student Representative Ellen DeLong reported on recent high school activities. She highlighted NHS events including Powder Puff, Volleyball Night, and the NHS induction ceremony. She provided updates on the Trojan Marching Band's successful fall season, upcoming choir concerts, and the cast and crew preparations for the OHS production of Mamma Mia! Ellen also shared updates on DECA conferences, FFA leadership development events, and recognized fall athletic accomplishments. She noted that winter sports tryouts were underway across the district.

Special Recognition – Chelsea Stress

Superintendent Brooks and Mr. Pepin recognized Chelsea Stress, a newly hired lunch monitor at Bryant Elementary, for her swift and life-saving response during a medical emergency in the cafeteria. During her first week on the job, Chelsea quickly assessed a choking situation and performed the Heimlich maneuver successfully before the LifeVac device arrived. The Board expressed deep appreciation for her composure and immediate action. District nurses were also thanked for their leadership in training staff and maintaining emergency readiness across all buildings.

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Brooks

Superintendent Brooks highlighted accomplishments and celebrations across Owosso Public Schools. He recognized every school for thoughtfully organized and meaningful Veterans Day programs, noting the strong attendance and emotional impact of the events. He announced a \$10,000 donation secured for the OMS Drama Club to support performance equipment and storage. He congratulated OHS Girls Swim Coach Mallory Ireland on being named Flint Metro League Coach of the Year and thanked community partners and sponsors who supported the highly successful Booster Bash, which raised over \$36,000.

He reported that Mamma Mia! received strong media coverage and community turnout. He shared that OPS has again been recognized as a Heart Safe School District by the MHSAA due to comprehensive cardiac emergency planning and training. Superintendent Brooks also highlighted that OMS raised approximately \$3,400 from its Powder Puff game to support the

Care Closet and SafeCenter, and that OMS held a powerful and well-attended Veterans Day assembly.

Additional building updates included:

- Lincoln High School: Recognition of Rotary Students of the Month; continued student success in trades programs.
- Bryant Elementary: Veterans luncheon, community partnerships, and holiday family support programs.
- Emerson Elementary: Field trips, literacy initiatives, and community learning activities.
- Central Elementary: Dental bus visits providing cleanings and follow-up care; PBIS rewards activities.
- Bentley Bright Beginnings: Early childhood SEL and literacy professional development for staff.

Curriculum Director's Report – Dr. Dwyer

Dr. Dwyer reported that fall data meetings were recently completed in all three elementary buildings. Teachers met with literacy coaches, school psychologists, Title I staff, and administrators to review academic data and develop targeted action plans to support student growth.

She reviewed outcomes from the November 4 Professional Development Day, which included sessions on Writing Revolution strategies, Amplify ELA, science practices, math intervention supports, accommodations planning, restorative practices, IB instructional strategies, and AI-assisted lesson planning. Teachers expressed appreciation for the practical, hands-on design of the day.

Dr. Dwyer noted that planning is underway for the January 2026 Professional Development Day, which will include CPI refresher training, CPR certification, literacy program work, and the annual State of the District Address. She provided an update on NICIP, the statewide school improvement process, and shared that OPS teams across all buildings have been reviewing and refining district goals and documentation ahead of the state's review timeline.

Audit Presentation

Auditor Gabe Seng presented the annual audit for the 2024–25 fiscal year. He reported that the district received an unmodified (clean) audit opinion with no material weaknesses. Mr. Seng noted the district's strong financial condition, including a General Fund balance of approximately \$10 million, healthy restricted funds, and well-managed capital and debt service

accounts. He also explained GASB-related pension reporting adjustments. The Board thanked the Finance Office for excellent fiscal stewardship and transparency.

For Action

Moved by Mowen, supported by Pappas, to approve the consent agenda including:

- October 22, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- November 3, 2025 Closed Session Minutes
- November 12, 2025 Committee Meeting Minutes
- November 12, 2025 Closed Session – Student Hearing Minutes
- Current bills and financials

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Easlick, Henne, Mowen, Ochodnický, Pappas, Quick, Webster. Nays – None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Mowen, supported by Easlick, to approve the 2024–25 Audit Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Mowen, supported by Henne, to approve a medical leave of absence extension for the remainder of the school year. Motion carried unanimously.

For Future Action

The Board reviewed Thrun policy updates, including revisions to Policy 3118 (Title IX legal definitions), Policy 4113 (ESTA compliance), and updates to associated forms. These items will return for approval at the December Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Personnel Update

Superintendent Brooks provided the Personnel Update and noted the accepted positions and resignations listed for Board review.

Public Participation

One participant addressed the Board: Leslie Freeman.

Board Comments

Board members shared acknowledgments, congratulated staff and students on accomplishments across the district, expressed gratitude for Veterans Day programming, and recognized the work involved in the district's extracurricular and academic activities.

Meeting Updates

December 10, 2025 – Regular Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Washington Campus Gymnasium

Closed Session

Moved by Ochodnicky, supported by Pappas, to enter closed session at 6:46 p.m. for attorney–client privileged communication and the Superintendent evaluation. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Ochodnicky, supported by Quick, to return to open session at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Webster supported by Ochodnicky, to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Sara Selleck.

Respectfully submitted,



Nick Henne, Secretary