

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OOSTBURG
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
High School Innovation Room
February 19, 2025

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Jim Swart.
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance.
 - B. Roll Call. Board members present: Jim Swart, Eric Hartman, Terry Lemkuil, Wendy Den Boer, Jack Stokdyk, Deb Harmeling, and Chris Wolfert. Board members absent: None. Administrators present: Kevin Bruggink, Kris DeBruine, Josh Cole, Sherri Stengel, Terry Hendrikse and Ashley Hinze. Administrators absent: None. Others: Lucas Allen, Bob Launer and several community members.
 - C. Proper posting of agenda was certified by Kris De Bruine.
 - D. Harmeling made a motion, supported by Lemkuil, to approve the agenda. Motion carried; unanimous.

- II. Public Letters / Comments –
 - A. Ms. Rynne Gainey, HS English Teacher and Forensics Coach, introduced Owen Pence, who performed his forensics piece for the School Board and audience.
 - B. Ms. Ashley Hinze introduced a video that was created to showcase the new high school support group started by Ms. Ashley Holzer called Healthy Minds/Healthy Living.
 - C. Ms. Abby Mazza and Mr. Michael Travia, both music instructors at the high school, presented their request to take the high school band and vocal musicians to Orlando, FL during spring break of 2026.
 - D. Mr. Clint Selle, of Bray Architects, presented long-range facility recommendations to facilitate alignment with more immediate internal building repairs and renovation.

- III. School Board President / Administrators Reports
 - A. Board President – Mr. Swart congratulated the winter athletic programs on their success, and thanked the student body for their attendance and support for the teams at their games/meets.
 - B. Superintendent – Mr. Bruggink commented on the implementation of Visitor Aware, a software platform to manage visitors and background checks to enhance school safety. He also discussed the wide range of activities currently going on in the district, including the wrestling team’s state qualification and the upcoming spring musical Matilda. He informed the board on the increased community use of the PAC, including most recently, the Theater for Young Audience’s play Footloose, the upcoming Sheboygan Youth Symphony’s concert, and OCEF’s Celebration of the Arts. Written report was provided.
 - C. High School Principal – Mr. Cole echoed Mr. Bruggink’s sentiments on the active student life during extra-curricular, both athletic and performance arts, that is occurring in the high school. Written report was provided.
 - D. Middle School Principal – Ms. Stengel thanked Mr. Hartman for working with her and Christina Singh of the Boys & Girls Club regarding starting a program in the Youth Center of the middle school. Written report was provided.
 - E. Elementary School Principal – Mr. Hendrikse discussed the rostering process that is currently being worked on for the 2025-2026 school year. Written report was provided.
 - F. Director of Special Education – Ms. Hinze notified the board that Terry Mentink has accepted the open Special Education van driver position. She also commented on the work of her area peers with The Richardson School to look into starting a facility in Sheboygan County. Written report was provided.
 - G. Director of Finance/Personnel – Ms. DeBruine commented on the federal ESEA audit being finalized and the current Open Enrollment numbers, even though the OE window remains open. The trend of requests to come into the Oostburg School District is still strong. Written report was provided.
 - H. Building and Grounds Coordinator – Mr. Launer commented on district training changes that are coming up, along with work on physical security of the building that his team is working on. Written report was provided.
 - I. Technology Coordinator – Mr. Allen commented on upgrades to both physical security and cybersecurity being made in the district. Written report was provided.

- IV. Consent Agenda Items –Lemkuil made a motion, supported by DenBoer, to approve all consent agenda items. Motion carried; unanimous.
 - A. Approved the minutes of the following school board meetings:
 1. Monthly board meeting of January 15, 2025
 - B. Finance
 1. Approval of January Expenditures of \$984,145.44
 2. Approval of January Revenues of \$2,381,726.18
 3. Approval of January computer check numbers 10015405 – 10015432, wire numbers 202400180 – 202400212 and ACH numbers 242500470 – 242500627

- V. Action Items
- A. Motion by Lemkuil, supported by Harmeling, to reject the petition for small territory transfer from Sheboygan Area School District to the School District of Oostburg pursuant to §117.12(3), Wis. Stats. Motion carried, unanimous.
 - B. Motion by Lemkuil, supported by Stokdyk to approve the trip to Florida by the high school music department for the spring of 2026. Motion carried; unanimous.
- VI. Topics for Discussion
- A. Legislative Committee Report – Stokdyk commented on Governor Evers’ budget. Bruggink also commented on the Legislative meeting held at Lakeshore Technical College on February 17th.
 - B. Finance Committee Report – No report.
 - C. Buildings and Grounds Committee Report – No report.
 - D. Transportation Committee Report – No report.
 - E. Negotiations Committee Report – No report.
 - F. Policy Committee – No report.
 - G. OCEF Report – Wolfert noted that the OCEF board is working on the Celebration of the Arts.
 - H. Long Range Planning – Bray Architects presented ideas for future projects during the Public Input part of the agenda.
- VII. Lemkuil made a motion, supported by Harmeling, to adjourn to closed session per state statutes 19.85 (1)(c). Motion carried; unanimous (by individual voice vote). Closed session started at 7:31 pm.
- VIII. Lemkuil made a motion, supported by Harmeling, to come back into open session at 7:49 pm. Motion carried; unanimous. (by individual voice vote).
- A. There were no action items from closed session.
- IX. Future board meeting dates: Negotiations committee meeting on March 19, 2025, at 5:30 pm and the Regular board meeting on February 19, 2025, at 6:00 pm in the high school innovation room.
- X. Lemkuil made a motion to adjourn, supported by Stokdyk. Motion carried; unanimous. Meeting ended at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy DenBoer, Clerk

NO PERSON MAY BE DENIED ADMISSION TO ANY PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT OR BE DENIED PARTICIPATION IN, BE DENIED THE BENEFITS OF, OR BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN ANY CURRICULAR, CO-CURRICULAR, STUDENT SERVICES, RECREATIONAL OR OTHER PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY BECAUSE OF THE PERSON'S SEX, RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, CREED, RELIGION, PREGNANCY, MARITAL OR PARENTAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, HANDICAP OR PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL OR LEARNING DISABILITY IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES OPERATED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OOSTBURG.

Board Update

Oostburg School District

To: Board Members and Administration

From: Kevin Bruggink

Date: February 14, 2025

- We are excited to share that a member of the forensics team will be presenting a segment of their performance at the beginning of our board meeting, and we plan to have a video highlight of another student opportunity which has been impactful this year.
- Our winter season extracurricular activities continue to experience high levels of participation and success. Both the girls basketball and boys wrestling teams have secured conference championships and are preparing for the state tournament series. The boys basketball team is in position to potentially share a conference title and our archery team has experienced quite a bit of success at recent tournaments. Our spring musical, Matilda, is in full swing with rehearsals throughout the week. We hope you can attend one of their performances scheduled for March 13-15. Forensics is preparing for their state competitions and the [Big East Art Show](#) is scheduled for April 5-13 at the Rahr-West Art Museum in Manitowoc. We continue to track extra and co curricular participation in relation to our district goals and celebrate the reality that student involvement in Oostburg is pushing against the general trend showing lower participation in most Wisconsin schools.
- The Wisconsin State Assembly has been active in drafting legislation which would impact education. In fact, the first six bills of this session each focus on education.
 - [Assembly Bill 1](#): - revert to previous labels and cut scores
 - [Assembly Bill 2](#): - cell phone and wireless communication ban
 - [Assembly Bill 3](#): - write legible cursive by 5th grade
 - [Assembly Bill 4](#): - Civics instruction
 - [Assembly Bill 5](#): - parent inspection of materials
 - [Assembly Bill 6](#): - 70% on direct classroom expenditures

AB 1 & 2 have received considerable attention in state news outlets and we believe both bills have merit. AB 3 & 4 expand curricular expectations which we believe should be local control decisions of our school board. AB 5 does not provide any rights that parents don't already have with regard to inspecting materials and OSD policy 5780 specifically addresses this right. AB 6 was described as "problematic" by Assembly Education Committee Chairperson Joel Kitchens, and appears unlikely to advance out of committee.

- Our contract with Otte Bus Company includes the following language:

This contract shall be effective for a period of three years starting July 1, 2024, and shall be automatically extended each July 1st so that it will have three years to run on any anniversary date except that the District may advise the Contractor, or the Contractor may advise the District in writing on or before April 1st of any year, that the contract will not be extended beyond the then current three-year term.

We will include consideration of this contract on our March board agenda. At this time we advise the board to allow the contract to extend.

- We received notice that the Sheboygan Area School District denied the Petition for small territory transfer from Sheboygan Area School District to Oostburg Area School District pursuant to §117.12(3), Wis. Stats. Our board is also required to act on this petition, and OSD has typically approved requests of this nature when they involve adding a parcel to our boundaries. However, this request has a unique variable which leads us to recommend that we deny approval. Adding this parcel would move our district boundary to clearly within five miles of Sheboygan Lutheran High School. The consequence of that change would require us to pay transportation stipends to district residents who attend Sheboygan Lutheran High School.

Board Update

Oostburg School District: Finance

To: School Board Members, Administrators

From: Kris De Bruine

Date: 2/10/2025

Cash Position:

	Current Year 1/31/25		Prior Year	
	Balance	Interest Rate	Balance	
OSB - Checking	\$102,358.95	0.35%	\$196,548.46	0.35%
OSB - Credit Card Processing	(\$1,762.28)	0.00%	\$15,676.70	0.00%
PMA - General Fund	\$752,291.48	4.367%	n/a	n/a
Cash Boxes / Petty Cash	\$800.00	0.00%	\$800.00	0.00%
OSB-Cert of Deposit-General Fund	n/a	n/a	\$295,000.00	5.09%
OSB - Money Market-General Fund	\$635,803.62	2.76%	\$783,557.73	2.80%
OSB - Cert of Deposit - Donation Fund	n/a	n/a	\$886,678.08	5.09%
PMA - Fund 21	\$1,000,000.00	4.367%	n/a	n/a
OSB-Money Market- Bond Fund	\$3,639,189.81	2.74%	\$1,703,268.38	2.78%
OSB-Cert of Deposit-Bond Fund	n/a	n/a	\$1,324,089.77	5.04%
OSB - Capital Imp	\$296,337.23	2.26%	\$38,940.53	1.76%
PMA - Fund 46	\$703,024.85	4.367%	\$665,050.70	Various
LGIP -Capital Imp	\$0.01	0.00%	\$0.01	0.00%
OSB-Cert of Deposit-Community Rec	n/a	n/a	\$105,000.00	5.09%
TOTAL CASH	\$7,128,043.67		\$5,816,061.90	
Fund 10/27 cash	\$1,125,672.98		\$1,076,029.11	
Fund Balance (10/27)	\$1,120,155.58		\$1,091,694.52	

- An updated (through January) report is attached as a separate document. Please let me know of any questions or concerns. The updated three-year cash flow and cash balances report are attached for you as well.

Finance Update:

- Each year, we are required to disclose our audit to the MSRB (Municipal Securities Rules Board). I have submitted a copy of our audit as well as a required operating update.

Personnel Update:

- I'm working on costing for upcoming negotiations as well as the 25-26 budget. The final CPI for negotiations is 2.95%.

DPI Update:

- The 2nd Friday Pupil Count has been completed and submitted to DPI. We reported 925 students in January, compared to 922 in September. Last year we were at 937 in September and 952 in January.

Board Update

Oostburg High School

To: Board Members and Administration

From: Josh Cole

Date: February 14, 2025

Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement Update:

I recently met with Mrs. Stielow and Mrs. Otte to finalize how we will infuse this requirement into our scheduling practices. It has been decided that we will require our students to enroll in and complete our year-long Personal Finance course either their junior or senior year to satisfy the State and now District graduation requirement. We feel the content taught in this course best aligns with our upperclassmen, as they find themselves in the position to connect the lessons taught in class directly to their life outside of school and as they plan for life after graduation. As a reminder the class of 2028 is the first class that is required to complete a .5 credit of Financial Literacy prior to graduation.

Senior Exit Interview Adjustment:

Over the last almost decade we have facilitated “Senior Exit Interviews” on the morning of State Testing (Pre-ACT and ACT). We really value these interviews and believe our students are positively impacted by this final check-in. With that in mind, we have decided to adjust the logistics of these interviews. Instead of holding these one-on-one interviews on the morning of March 19th, we will be facilitating them throughout the end of March and through April. We will be allowing our seniors to sign up for a meeting time with either Mr. Bruggink, Mrs. Holzer, Mrs. Stielow or myself. We believe this arrangement will allow the process to not feel rushed, and foster more intentional interactions and opportunities for questions between our students and staff members. I am personally looking forward to experiencing these interviews within this framework to see if it enriches the experience for our students. A special thank you to Mrs. Stielow who has taken the lead on reimagining what this experience looks like and how it is facilitated.

Academic Honors Banquet: I am in the middle of planning the banquet, and I thought you may be interested in knowing who our Top 10 seniors are based on cumulative GPA, and who they have selected as their Most Influential Teacher. This year’s Academic Honors Banquet will be held on the evening of March 3rd.

Student	Teacher
Acacia Schuh	Mr. Travia
Hailey Veldboom	Mrs. Timm

Caeden Steuerwald	Mr. Bruggink
Sarah Parrish	Mrs. Hahn
Matthew Wilterdink	Jack Rauwerdink
Caden Weavers	Mr. Rentmeester
Mikayla Rogers	Mrs. Nyenhuis
Jack Hudak	Mr. Rentmeester
Savanna Buttram	Mrs. Hansen
Monet Walvoort	Mr. Ehrhorn

Student Recognitions:

The Northeast Wisconsin High School Sports Awards is an athletic recognition program honoring the Northeast Wisconsin area’s top-performing athletes, coaches and teams. The nine-month program, selecting and announcing nominees each season, culminates in an in-person awards show where winners are announced and special awards are given.

Matthew Wilterdink (Cross Country) and Cade Dirkse have both been nominated for this award. Here is the [link](#) information regarding this program.

Sarah Otte, Eliana Schuh, and Acacia Schuh participated in *Vocal Arts Festival and Honors Choir*. They applied back and put on a tough concert with some of the top singers in This is Sarah's third year participating and Acacia's second.



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Board Update

Oostburg Middle School

To: Board Members and Administration

From: Sherri Stengel

Date: February 14, 2025

1. **Boys and Girls Club Update:** Rick Hartman and I had a brainstorming session with Christina Singh, the CEO of Boys and Girls Clubs of Sheboygan County. A special thank you to Rick Hartman for his willingness to represent the board as we help facilitate OMS becoming a site for a middle school Boys and Girls Club. We spent time strategizing around resource planning, timing, and communications. We largely focused on discussing the fundraising goals that need to be achieved by the club in order for them to launch a club at OMS. Christina will start reaching out to local businesses to share the goals of the organization and how they may be able to help make the Club a reality in Oostburg. The board approved the use of OMS's current Youth Center as a future location of a Boys and Girls Club. However, the funding for the club is solely done through Christina Singh and the Boys and Girls Club. [Here](#) is a copy of the presentation she shared with the board earlier this school year for your reference.

Oostburg Elementary School

Board Update

To: OSD Board Members and Administration
From: Terry Hendrikse
Date: February 14th, 2025

OES Summer Programming Update: As we plan for summer 2025, we have decided to combine Summer School and Summer Camp into two sessions: July 7–10 and August 4–7, running from 8:15 AM – 11:30 AM each day. We have also increased our schedule and will meet for four days per week instead of three. In meeting with the summer camp and summer school coordinators, Ashley Holzer and Kristin Richter, this change is driven by the staffing challenges we faced last year, particularly in recruiting teachers for a traditional, remedial, academically focused summer school. However, finding staff for high-interest sessions was not an issue. To address this, we are restructuring our approach to ensure we can effectively support our students who need additional help while maintaining engaging opportunities for all students.

Our focus will be on scheduling academic intervention for our lowest learners, while also incorporating a mix of high-interest sessions. This blended model allows us to provide essential academic support in a way that is engaging for students and more sustainable for staff. We believe this approach will create a more effective and well rounded summer program. A “save the date” will be communicated with our families next week and more details will be shared with them as we finalize the schedule.

OES Reading: We met on Wednesday, February 12 with an OES committee consisting of nine individuals across all grade levels in addition to special education to discuss our reading curriculum. As you recall from a recent update, OES is showing strong growth in both math and language as it was our focus over the past two years, but our reading scores are not improving at the same rate. In coming together, we reviewed the current MAP growth and Forward achievement results and discussed two different options for moving forward: Spending next year intentionally connecting across grade levels to continue building and fine tuning our standards based reading curriculum, or start looking at reading curriculums assembled by publishing companies. Our committee will continue to meet throughout the spring with the goal of formulating a plan we can put into place starting in the 25-26 school year.

Author Baptiste Paul Visit Recap: On Wednesday, February 12th, our third, fourth, and fifth-grade students had the exciting opportunity to hear from children’s author Baptiste Paul. His presentation on "Everyday Heroes" engaged and inspired students, encouraging them to recognize acts of courage and kindness in their daily lives.

Following the presentation, students enjoyed the chance to have their books personally autographed by Baptiste. It was a meaningful and memorable experience that reinforced the power of storytelling and the impact of real-life heroes. Inspired by his presentation, our 5th and 3rd grade teachers are currently brainstorming how their classes can organize a cross curricular unit in science and reading to help raise awareness and money for wells in Africa.

A special thank you to **Janna Heinen** for organizing this event and to **OCEF** for providing the funding to make it possible.



Oostburg School District: Director of Special Education

Board Update

To: Board Members and Administration
From: Ashley Hinze
Date: February 14th, 2025

- **Van Driver Secured:**

I am ecstatic to inform the board that Terry Mentink will be joining our Special Education team to fill the retirement vacancy. A special thank you to both Jack Van Ess and Phil VanDriest for taking the time to have Terry ride along to get to know our students and the routes. We look forward to having Terry join us in the upcoming weeks.

- **The Richardson School (TRS):**

As a group, Sheboygan County's Directors of Student Services met with The Richardson School (TRS) representatives to explore potential strategies for bringing TRS closer to our area. As discussed before, the largest barriers currently preventing access for our students include proximity and associated costs. Our OSD student that accesses these services currently attends the Brookfield location, which is our closest option.

Key points discussed at our meeting were understanding student profiles in each district and needs, potential location considerations, and facility and staffing considerations. Next steps include continued discussions between TRS and county Directors of Student Services to assess broader needs and interest levels, identifying potential locations, and gathering further data on student profiles, anticipated enrollment numbers, and staffing feasibility.

This meeting was a productive step in identifying potential solutions to better serve our students and surrounding districts. I will keep the Board updated as we progress in these discussions.

Board Update

Oostburg School District: Technology

To: Members of the Oostburg School District Board
CC: Kevin Bruggink, Josh Cole, Sherri Stengel, Terry Hendrikse, Ashley Hinze, Kris DeBruine,
Bob Launer
From: Lucas Allen
Date: 2/14/25

Cybersecurity: We have successfully implemented new, highly-regarded software on our devices, significantly enhancing our security posture.

Physical Security: We have introduced a visitor management system to streamline and improve security. Following a productive call with the vendor, we will be installing visitor kiosks at our offices next week. These kiosks will conduct background checks, print visitor badges, and allow students who are tardy or leaving early to print passes or check out with minimal assistance from office personnel. In addition, we've made several adjustments to the fitness center and refined our management of the 30 regular groups, clubs, and teams that use our indoor spaces.

If you would like more detailed information on these updates, feel free to reach out to me directly.

Summary: Our efforts over the break reflect our ongoing commitment to creating and maintaining a safe environment. These new partnerships and technologies will further strengthen our defenses and improve efficiency.

Board Update

Oostburg School District: Building & Grounds

To: Members of the Oostburg District School Board

CC: Kevin Bruggink, Josh Cole, Sherri Stangel, Terry Hendrikse, Ashley Hinze, Kris DeBruine, Lucas Allen

Date: February 19, 2025

1. I have been working with Vector Solutions on updating our training courses for our staff on compliance training for Federal and State standards.
2. Working with Lucas on updating our security system for our High School/Middle School buildings.
3. Planning out summer cleaning schedules and working with Terry at our elementary school around summer school and summer camp weeks.
4. Working with Jim Batzner on getting quotes for replacement of the two middle school scoreboards due to age/unable to obtain parts.
5. I have attended two meetings with the long term planning committee as the district looks into options for our future as it pertains to our buildings and grounds.