



**ONSTED COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
October 20, 2025**

Meeting called to order at **7:01 p.m.** by President Jason Terakedis.

Members Present: David VanBrunt, Jason Terakedis, Ray Tessier, Alex Gast, Craig McMichael, Calby Garrison

Members Absent: Ryan Reynolds

Others Present: J. Royce; K. Sanders; T. Comden; A. Ellison; A. Fain; M. Rivera; K. Dechert; K. Roe; K. LaFollette; R. Pustay; M. VanBrunt; L. Hartmann; K. Springer; M. Springer; A. Jewell; B. Jeffreys; E. Metcalf; T. Slater; K. Barber; and various other community members.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by President Terakedis. The mission and vision statement of Onsted Community Schools was read by President Terakedis.

MOTION by C. Garrison to approve the agenda with the addition of the Item #24 under Discussion - MASB Delegate Assembly. Seconded by C. McMichael.
Motion carried **6-0**.

MOTION by A. Gast to approve the minutes of the September 15th, 2025 BOE meeting. Seconded by R. Tessier.
Motion carried **6-0**.

MOTION by A. Gast to approve the disbursements for the month of September 2025 in the amount of \$1,559, 279.16. Seconded by D. VanBrunt.
Motion carried **6-0**.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT, Presented by Alexis Edwards, Student Body President:

High School: Homecoming was a great success with perfect weather, a big parade crowd, and our first outdoor dance under the tent! We're looking forward to Parent-Teacher Conferences and continuing to recognize our Wildcat Way Students of the Week—watch for them on Facebook every Friday.

Our Youth In Government students attended a pre-conference workshop, and many 10th graders explored the Center for a Sustainable Future at LISD Tech. About 16 students will take the PSAT/NMSQT this Thursday. Fall sports are wrapping up with several teams heading into postseason play.

Middle School: Thanks to everyone who supported the Book Fair! Congrats to Mr. Lilienthal, Mrs. Smith, and Mr. Morrison for earning Onsted Alumni Association Grants. Conferences are October 30th, and students and staff are excited for Halloween dress-up day.

Our Youth In Government group travels to Lansing November 16–18, and Student Voice continues to run the student store and popcorn sales—students can even save PBIS tickets to be Mrs. Ellison for a day!

Elementary School: The Elementary received a \$2,000 Farm Bureau Grant to support student snacks and weekend food backpacks—thank you! The Book Fair runs Monday–Thursday next week with late hours Tuesday (3–5 PM).

Staff are attending training tomorrow focused on Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) which is a therapeutic approach using motor learning principles and a voice output communication aid (iPad) to give non-verbal individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities a method to develop independent and spontaneous communication. Their VOICE!!!

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

R. Pustay - Thank you to the Board from the Band Boosters - Band Trailer is wrapped and looks great - Band had the best looking trailer at their competition this past weekend. They also received #1 rating at the band festival.

M. VanBrunt - shared a very frustrating experience with communication working with the Athletics office/department and coordinating gym time during volleyball season.

A. Jewell - asked if the funding coming in from the state aid loan will cover everything in the deficit?

J. Terakedis - saving is needed - final budget isn't there from the state, enrollment numbers aren't yet; statewide declining enrollment is a challenging issue.

K. Roe - asked where are the kids (in regards to enrollment decline)? Will there be lay-offs?

J. Terakedis - statewide decline/problem; decline in birth rates and family expansions; no new subdivisions, new families in the area, etc

R. Tessier - Speaking as 1 of 7, we have awesome staff and we understand that decisions that are made affect the staff and students in the district, we do not take that lightly

REPORTS

Tim Comden presented High School Senior Students of the Month.

Alaina Ellison presented Middle School Students of the Month.

Matthew Rivera, Tina Slater, & Alex Fain presented Elementary Students of the Month.

Matthew Rivera and Tina Slater presented on the Teacher Mentor Program.

M. Rivera shared his experience about being a new teacher in the District and a new resident in the area. T. Slater was assigned to be his Mentor at OCS. M. Rivera shared how the experience helped ease his transition as a new teacher and community resident and helped him grow as a new teacher. T. Slater shared how the experience sparked her teaching experience and refueled the passion for teaching each year. T. Slater expressed her gratitude for the experience and the relationship building it allowed her.

Alex Fain presented the FIRST LEGO League Challenge RoboCats Team. A. Fain was joined by 3 students from the team: Asher and Kit Ellison and Miles Shaffer. The 3 students brought their robot and their coding computer. They showed their coding progress and their robot (technical difficulties with their robot updating prevented a robot demonstration), and explained how their robot works. The Robocats are four-4th grade students; one-5th grade student; and one-3rd grade student. Teams are allotted six members each. Mrs. Fain provided a presentation on the donations and grants secured to finance and support the team and program this year. The Robocats will be competing on December 7th at Columbia Central in their first competition.

EMPLOYMENT

Motion by A. Gast to recognize the hiring of Wendy Sims as a Regular Route Bus Driver. Seconded by R. Tessier.
Motion Carried **6-0**.

Motion by C. Garrison to recognize the separation of Jennifer Sawicky-Leon as a Regular Route Bus Driver. Seconded by D. VanBrunt.
Motion Carried **6-0**.

Motion by D. VanBrunt to approve the leaves of absence for T. Slater and J. Bartig. Seconded by C. McMichael.
Motion Carried **6-0**.

DISCUSSION

Discussion was held on the topics that will be discussed at the Michigan Association of School Boards' Delegate Assembly Resolutions & Bylaws Committee Meeting later this week. Craig McMichael will be attending as the Delegate for the Onsted Community Schools Board of Education.

ACTION

Motion by A. Gast to approve the Adams Outdoor Services snow removal bid for the 2025-2026 School Year. Seconded by R. Tessier.
Motion carried **6-0**.

Motion by R. Tessier to approve the State Aid Note Borrowing Resolution as presented. Seconded by D. VanBrunt.

Roll Call Vote:

C. Garrison - YAY; C. McMichael - YAY; A. Gast - YAY; R. Tessier - YAY; J. Terakedis - YAY; D. VanBrunt - YAY

Yes - 6

No - NONE

Motion carried **6-0**.

COMMITTEE REPORT

The Grounds Committee met October 9th, 2025 to discuss the work needing to be done around the school; alternative assessments were discussed and the minimum work necessary was reviewed to assess if it is needed to maintain current facilities and what repairs are currently needing immediate attention. Additionally, involvement with athletics was assessed and how volunteers, families can be partnered with to accomplish the upkeep and maintenance to athletic fields. Discussion of bond proposals and needs were briefing discussed and status of current sinking funds assessed.

J. Terakedis spoke to the information that bonds/millage funds are separate funds from budget and general funds for school. The money does not overlap and cannot be used to cover/assess the same gaps/fund purposes.

The Finance Committee met October 20th, 2025 proceeding to the regular board meeting to discuss the annual finance audit of 2024-2025. The financial audit for the 2024-2025 year was reviewed.

J. Terakedis - special thank you to Karen Springer, and her family, for taking the time to get everything back to square one, putting everything back to where it belongs. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, sacrifice; giving up many hours of your personal time and family time to get everything done and for the District. Thank you to Erica Metcalf, of Maner CPA, for her hard work helping us get back to basics and get everything back to the right way.

A. Gast - This is the second year in a deficit of spending. Fund Balance finished the year at 14% which is above Board policy minimum of 12%. There are three accounts over budget. There is improvement in financial management over the course of the last year (pay bills on time, paying taxes, benefits, etc).

R. Tessier - sharing the District is a way to help get out of the challenging place we are in. Sharing positive words and the great things that we are doing here in Onsted; increasing enrollment and student count helps our financial outlook.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Presented by Superintendent Jonathan Royce:

The HVAC upgrades across the District. The Facilities department is currently down one custodian and J. Kelly is working to redistribute custodians and workload as necessary.

Food Service acquired a new grant to get new Lattes in the High School Cafeteria!

The Transportation Department is down a regular route bus driver, the newly hired regular route bus driver passed their driving test and is able to be driving on the roads starting tomorrow!

Tech Inspection - HS Audio speaker system is done.

PSAT/NMSQT testing is scheduled for later this week; all state testing is completed for this fall. The math curriculum is under review. More professional development and learning to be prepared and adapt to the new Michigan Dyslexia Law. Elementary bringing in Hands-on learning with Hydroponics. Parent Teacher Conferences coming up next week.

Athletics has completed seasons for Girls' Golf and Boys' Soccer; Volleyball and Football are wrapping up with senior nights scheduled. Cross Country is wrapping up as well. Mr. Hiram is planning Winter and Spring schedules.

Finance - currently still under spending and hiring freeze across the District. The State Aid Loan has been secured. Middle School received new grants for three teachers in math, social studies, and trades. Elementary had a great fundraiser for their pumpkin sale for the 5th grade class. High School Haunted Hallways and Elementary Trunk or Treat is next week - come out and support! The Band has their Glow Show next week! They perform in the dark, by memorization and glowing instruments.

BOARD COMMENTS

J. Terakedis - Thanks to the custodians, thanks to the food service team, thanks to the teachers, Tony, thanks to Tish, thank you to the Transportation department. Also, next week is the Volleyball Cancer Quad, invites all to come out - helps a local family/community member battling/touched by cancer basket/donations. Four teams in pink for a good cause. Go cats!

R. Tessier - Thank you all for coming. Appreciate the hard work, Erica and Karen, for the finance meeting earlier, being good financial stewards - thank you for your time today. Thank you to the families and volunteers that helped out with the baseball fields - in the future, I'll work to help coordinate that so the neighbors are aware and a part of any work that is happening as well.

D. VanBrunt - Thank you, thank you!

A. Gast - Thanks everyone! Finance, so excited! Go grants! So many exciting grants, Budget, can be hard times, but grants help so keep going for grants!

C. McMichael - Band Trailer looks great! Thanks all for coming. Gateway Church has financial aid assistance for anyone/families if they need help with food, bill, clothes, etc. Please share/reach out if you know someone. Go cats!

C. Garrison - Thank you all for coming. Your attendance and interest shows how much you care. Kudos to the Robocats and their improv with their robot not working. Go cats!

Motion by A. Gast to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by C. McMichael.

Motion carried **6-0**.

The meeting adjourned at **8:12 p.m.**

David VanBrunt, Secretary
Board of Education
DVB:nlr