

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
OTTO-ELDRED BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The regular meeting of the Otto-Eldred Board of Education was held in the Otto-Eldred Elementary School Technology Center on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President, Cynthia Murphy.

The meeting began with everyone present saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD MEMBERS: Lindsey Anderson, Lance Baker, Lisa Beaver, Robert DeLong, Jeannine Gray, Erikka Henretta, Cynthia Murphy, Nate Rodgers

ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATION: Matthew D. Splain, Superintendent; Nicholas J. LaBella, High School Principal; Lindsay A. Burns, Director of Student Services/Special Education; Nichole M. Garthwaite, Elementary Principal; Jodi L. Flexman, Business Manager/Board Secretary

ABSENT: None

FACULTY/STAFF: Erin Jackson, Ricci Jeannerette, Chris Krott, Ashley Shanahan, Amanda Tanner, Brandon Witmer

VISITORS: Kaci Daniels, Derrick Francis, Tracey Green, Amy Jordan, Daphne Knapp, Josh Rounsville, Kameron Rounsville, Nancy Rounsville, Jen Snow, Chris Snow, Wanda Stebbins, Spryce York

REPORTERS: Jo Wankel

At this time the board interviewed two individuals for the Otto Township position that was available based on the resignation of Joleen Schuessler. The potential candidates were Daphne Knapp and Jen Snow. Each candidate was asked the same questions.

New Board Member **Motion:** It was moved by Erikka Henretta, seconded by Lisa Beaver, to appoint Daphne Knapp, as the new board member. All present voted yes.

At this time, Daphne Knapp, new board member, was sworn in by the board secretary, Jodi Flexman.

Minutes **Motion:** It was moved by Lance Baker, seconded by Lisa Beaver, to approve minutes of the regular meeting held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. All present voted yes.

At this time, the Board provided time for public comment.

Matthew Splain spoke

“Rarely has there ever been such an issue in our community. Many areas experience this type of issue on a regular basis. We don’t. That’s why I’m here.

The best part of this job is that you truly get to know people. The worst part of this job is that you truly get to know people. I could clearly explain the embellishments, the accusations that were never witnessed, the nonspecific threat of retaliation, and the quotes that were never provided. However, in my situation I really have to consider the consequences of my actions. My professional obligation is to adhere to a set of expectations, principles and laws that keep confidential information confidential.”

“I believe a parent’s actions are mirrored by their children. If we wish to raise children that are accountable, respected and overall good people, we must set that example. Our expectations for ourselves should be in concert with the expectations we have of our children.”

“In every situation, I have worked toward the best outcome for Otto-Eldred and our students. That was as true on March 31, 2005, as it is today. Not everyone has agreed with my recommendations, my direction, or my actions, but no one can question my integrity. I do believe I have earned the respect of many in our community, our region, and across the state. I will let my record be the response to the article posted and printed.”

As a community, Otto-Eldred has always been exactly that; a community. We aren’t perfect, but that’s what is part of what makes us special. When we disagree, we talk it out. And that is my only regret in this situation, not forcing a discussion that has never taken place.”

“We are fortunate to have a great staff of coaches at O-E willing to take on any challenge. They are not perfect; none of us are. I do know they have the best interests of our kids at heart. Sometimes expectations do not align; sometimes communication lines are broken. Overall, they want our students to have the opportunities they deserve.”

Jeannine Gray expressed a wish to expand on Splain’s statement.

“We did receive some letters from parents about coaching issues,” she said. “For the ones we had bad support for, we also had good support. ... We didn’t go into any of these choices lightly, but in the end, we supported the administration and their staff.”

“I do feel terrible that it went to the paper before it went to the board, and I also know of a certain parent that has complained of other coaches, including my husband, and if anyone has seen him coach, he is a lot of fun but can be serious as well. This person complained about my husband as a coach, and never talked to him about it so he couldn’t address his why’s or have room to grow.

Board member Erikka Henretta expressed support and appreciation for Gray’s statement and went on to note, “I do think, as a board, I think that we are at a

moment of reflection in how we can use this situation to learn and grow. Speaking more to the issues that arise — and maybe there is and I'm not aware of it — is there a chain of command or process or procedure where students can create a grievance for situations that happen that, allows them to feel heard and understood and also is not going above and beyond and creating a snowball”.

Treasurers Report **Motion:** It was moved by Jeannine Gray, seconded by Robert DeLong, to approve the January 2026 Treasurer's report as presented. All present voted yes.

Bill List **Motion:** It was moved by Erikka Henretta, seconded by Nate Rodgers, to approve the February 2026 Bill List as presented. All present voted yes.

Cafeteria Report **Motion:** It was moved by Erikka Henretta, seconded by Nate Rodgers, to approve the January 2026 Cafeteria report as presented. All present voted yes

The Schedule of Accounts and Athletic Fund Reports for January 2026 were presented

Mrs. Garthwaite noted that professional development is continuing with Open SciEd, the 100th day of school was on 1/30/26, Read Across America week is 3/2 – 3/6, and NHS will visit on 3/3.

Mrs. Burns showed that enrollment is holding steady, early intervention meetings were being held on 2/4, the McKinney-Vento monitoring will take place on 2/12, and the Attorney Generals Office will be visiting both buildings on 2/12, focusing on social media use.

Mr. LaBella relayed that the McKean and Cattaraugus County scholarships have been released to seniors and their families, two students will move on to regional band, girls' basketball won the NTL, and student of the month winners are listed.

Mr. Splain shared that SB1004 Cell Phone Ban was sent to the House, there will likely be less Title funds available for 2026-2027, major road work will begin in Eldred from Elm to Mechanic in mid-June, and the track resurfacing is planned for June 2026.

Policies **Motion:** It was moved by Jeannine Gray, seconded by Lance Baker, to approve Policy #105.2 with the recommendations from the solicitor. All present voted yes.

Policies **Motion:** It was moved by Lisa Beaver, seconded by Erikka Henretta, to approve Policy #805.2 with recommendations from the solicitor. All present voted yes.

Policies **Motion:** It was moved by Erikka Henretta, seconded by Lisa Beaver, to approve the remaining policies as presented. All present voted yes.

Policy 626 is available for the first review and approval.

- Nurse Anticipation** **Motion:** It was moved by Lisa Beaver, seconded by Erikka Henretta, to approve the extended offering of employment or offering of substitute employment to fill the anticipated Certified School Nurse vacancy prior to the March board meeting. All present voted yes.
- Substitute** **Motion:** It was moved by Lisa Beaver, seconded by Erikka Henretta, to approve the following substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year:
 Substitute Teacher – Skylar Sherry, Chantella Reed
 Substitute Para/Café Worker – Tara Rounsville
 Substitute Nurse (LPN) – Amanda Dickerson
 Pending receipts of certifications, clearances, and any other necessary documentation. All present voted yes.
- Supplemental / Volunteer** **Motion:** It was moved by Lisa Beaver, seconded by Erikka Henretta, to approve the following volunteers for the 2025-2026 school year:
 Track & Field: Dylan Close, Jordan Sherwood
 Pending receipts of certifications, clearances, and any other necessary documentation. All present voted yes.
- Supplemental** **Motion:** It was moved by Lisa Beaver, seconded by Erikka Henretta, to approve the following for the 2026-2027 school year:
 Head Football Coach: Brian Neal
 Assistant Football Coach (4): Cameron Magee, Josh Rounsville, William Bair, Ben Mooney
 Football Volunteers: Chris Schwab, Dustin Bundy, Chris App, Tony Craig, Carson Neely, Josh Saltzman, Bryant Tronetti, Jake Knapp, Trent Neal.
 Pending receipts of certifications, clearances, and any other necessary documentation. All present voted yes.
- Agreement** **Motion:** It was moved by Erikka Henretta, seconded by Lisa Beaver, to enter into an agreement with Aveanna (Nursing Agency), if staff nursing services are required during the Spring of 2026. The rate is \$75.00 per hour. All present voted yes.
- Field Trips** **Motion:** It was moved by Erikka Henretta, seconded by Robert DeLong, to approve the following field trips:

 Senior High Quiz Bowl
 Date: 02/18/2026
 Location: Smethport High School
 Students: 8

Chaperones: 1 (Daniels)
Transportation: District Van
Total Estimated Cost: \$132.50

CTC Tour
Date: 02/24/26
Location: Port Allegany, PA
Students: 41
Chaperones: 3 (Jackson, Mealy, TBD)
Transportation: Todd's Bus
Total Estimated Cost: \$124.73

Envirothon
Date: 03/11/26
Location: UPB
Students: 15-20
Chaperones: 1 (Miller)
Transportation: Todd's Bus
Total Estimated Cost: \$250.72

PSU All-Sports Museum & Beaver Stadium (Sports History)
Date: 03/13/26
Location: University Park, PA
Students: 19
Chaperones: 2 (Johnson/Mooney)
Transportation: Todd's Bus
Total Estimated Cost: \$934.36

Penn York College Fair
Date: 03/17/26
Location: SBU
Students: 40
Chaperones: 2 (Jackson/Mealy)
Transportation: Todd's Bus
Total Estimated Cost: \$94

Model United Nation
Date: 03/17/26 and 04/13/26
Location: Smethport High School or IU9
Students: 8
Chaperones: 1 (Daniels)
Transportation: District Van
Total Estimated Cost: \$265

STEM Challenge-Boat Regatta
Date: 03/30/2026
Location: Kane Area High School
Students: 8,
Chaperones: 1 (Daniels)
Transportation: District Van

Total Estimated Cost: \$164

Envirothon

Date: 04/16/26 & 04/30/26

Location: McKean County Fairgrounds

Students: 15-20

Chaperones: 1 (Miller)

Transportation: Todd's Bus

Total Estimated Cost: \$501.44

Spring Challenge 24

Date: 04/17/26

Location: Fretz Middle School

Students: 8

Chaperones: 2 (Kio/R. Woodruff)

Transportation: District Van

Total Estimated Cost: \$244.70

Career Exploration

Date: 04/29/26

Location: Marilyn Horne Way-Bradford

Students: 6-7

Chaperones: 2 (Jackson/Mealy)

Transportation: District Van

Total Estimated Cost: \$16.80

All present voted yes

Adjournment

Motion: It was moved by Lisa Beaver, seconded by Lance Baker, to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 PM and go into executive session. All present voted yes.

The executive session ended at 8:22 PM. There was no voting required.

Respectfully submitted,



Jodi L. Flexman

Business Manager/Board Secretary