

Dear Okemos Families and Staff:

As a result of COVID 19, the district has prepared for significant budgetary impacts working throughout May and June to revise the 19-20 budget, identify areas for potential cost savings/revenue enhancements for the 20-21 budget, and to adopt a preliminary 20-21 budget. On Monday, June 22, the Okemos Board of Education adopted a preliminary budget for the 2020-21 school year that included revenue reductions and enhancements totalling over \$2 million dollars. Negotiations from all of our employee groups contributed to a significant savings for the district which helped offset deeper cuts across the district.

It is important however for our community to be aware of the impacts of these reductions on our students, families and school system and to advocate for public education funding so our schools can reflect the rich programming we want for our students. A brief overview is included below- for the complete list, please visit the [Business and Finance page](#) of our website and look for the “Level 1” reductions in the June 22 Budget Reductions and Revenue Enhancements document.

Overview of Level 1 Budget Reductions and Revenue Enhancements 2020-21

Elimination of K-12 student club funding

Elimination of zero hour offerings at OHS

Raising of athletic fees to pre-2019/20 levels

Reinstating participation fees for other extracurriculars

Reduction of LMC clerk hours 2 hours per day at each school

Elimination of Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources position

Elimination of one building level custodial position

Delay hiring of one desktop technician

Reduction in supply budgets

Reduction in school improvement budgets

Increase in Community Education’s class sizes for programs

Reduction in planning time and office hours for Community Education staff

Reduction in gifted and talented coordinator

Reduction in technology coordinator

Reduction in reproductive health coordinator

Reduction in transportation mechanic hours

Raising credit recovery class fees

Reduction of OHS administrative assistant by 30 minutes daily

Elimination of 9th grade football program

Reduction of number of assistant coaches in extracurricular athletics

As a reminder, districts are required to adopt a balanced budget by June 30th. The State of Michigan has a different fiscal year with their budget required to be adopted by October 1st. Once school funding by the State is determined, the District will likely need to revise the budget accordingly.

We encourage community participation in our Board meetings, which can be attended remotely via a zoom meeting link found by clicking here: [Meetings / Notice of Board Meeting and Agenda](#). The Board and administration are pursuing options to continue to live stream meetings once the state of emergency is lifted so we may continue to best engage our community.

Upcoming Board Meetings, 7pm

July 13 July 23 August 3 August 24

Please look for a communication next week which will include timelines for the preliminary release of our return to school planning and additional input/feedback opportunities for our community.

I wish you all a wonderful start to the summer!

John J. Hood - Superintendent