

**Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 26, 2018**

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Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez, Sarah Wohlford and Erica Wolf

Members Absent: Amy Crites

Administrators: Superintendent Alena Zachery-Ross; Assistant Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Cheri Meier and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Okemos High School Principal Christine Sermak, OHS Counselor Hedlun Walton and OHS students Lilley Schatz and Emma Petroff presented on the topic of mental health. They discussed ways in which the high school works with students and families to increase awareness, identify needs and offer support.

PRESENTATION:
9-12th
Mental Health
Strategies

Mrs. Sermak described resources available to students, as well as how those resources are communicated. Mr. Walton explained other strategies to address mental health including: Signs of Suicide presentation given to students and staff; mental health minutes; the “zen den” within the counseling office; crisis intervention referrals; group therapy; art therapy; opportunities during Flex time for wellness or relaxation; and student assemblies.

There will be a presentation by Mental Health Advocate Will Heining on April 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the OHS Auditorium for the Okemos Community and families.

Several student led activities and initiatives were reported on including the United in Social Progress Team’s ribbon project; and Team Jude’s suicide awareness and prevention activities.

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about how the district assesses the effectiveness of these initiatives and what might be done next; as well as the need for more counselors.

Student Representative Josh also shared additional methods the counseling department may use to communicate events, activities and resources to students.

High School Principal Christine Sermak presented proposed revisions to the Okemos High School Student- Parent Handbook, as well as revisions to the OHS Curriculum Guide as they relate to 21f (online courses) enrollment and participation in the commencement exercises.

Discussion Moved
Forward: Student-
Parent Handbook
& Curriculum
Guide Revisions

The proposed revisions included language allowing students who are on the Certificate of Completion track to participate in the commencement exercises one time while enrolled at Okemos High School. In addition, students with an IEP who have met all of the graduation requirements, but have not met their post-secondary transition goals may participate in the commencement exercises.

Proposed revisions to the curriculum guide included requirements for 21f students, who must enroll in 21f (online classes) in the spring during the school-wide registration process, as well as additional requirements for mentor contact time.

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Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about the drop and add period for 21f students.

Superintendent Zachery-Ross reported on the following: thanked Meridian Township Police, OHS staff and families for their support during last week's bomb threat at OHS; support from community during the recent passing of an OHS student; recent Fine Arts Festival and performances; congratulated the Kinawa Science Olympiad team who placed 3rd at regionals and will move on to the State tournament; the reports and recommendations from the Technology, Security, Capital Outlay and Transportation Committee, as well as the Facility Use/Site Planning Committee are now on the district web site.

Superintendent
Report

Assistant Superintendent John Hood explained where the community may find information regarding the Personal Health and Sexuality Education curriculum, as well as meeting dates.

Student Representative Josh reported on the following Okemos High School activities: Fine Arts Festival including Wooster College performance; ACTION club dodge ball fundraiser; and the Boys Basketball Team made it to the regional finals.

Student Rep
Report

The following individuals addressed the board: Angela Wilson; Hedlun Walton; Brett DeGroff; Bill Struck; Ashweena Gonuguntha; Nicole Sammatino; Mark Polsdofer; Aaron Davis; Joy Collins; Scott Schopieray; Kristin Brooks; Megan Nyquist; Chad DeKatch; Amy Burton; Alexia Mansour; Jane Manfredi; Laura Bell; Anupama Atre; Quenda Story; Jennifer Davis; Young Mi Choi-DeYoung and Shane Cavanaugh regarding school safety and security.

Citizens Address
Agenda &
Non-Agenda Items

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Laura Bell; Michael Bernstein; Rhonda Bueche; Amy Burton; Amy Cavanaugh; Shane Cavanaugh; Change.org; Davis Coye; Chad Dekatch; Thomas Deits; Karen Fraser; Deb Hamilton; Tom Hopper; Pat Jackson; Sara and Paul Jodoin; Stefanie Konrad; Donna Kregelka; Anna Krystyniak; Jayne Lock, Valerie Long, Mark Polsdofer; Matt Royle; Scott Schopieray; Angela Wilson; Carrie Zwyghuizen; and Secure Our Schools Group concerning school and student safety. Kate Stevenson regarding sexual abuse prevention training. Carla Bayron regarding an interview. Martha Hentz concerning the Okemos Education Foundation and 18-19 funding. Ody Norkin regarding the Redi Ride bus program. Meridian Township regarding a joint meeting of local governments.

Board Reports &
Request
Board Reports &
Request

There were no other board reports or requests.

MOVED By Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED BY Sarah Wohlford that the board approve items 1 through 5 for immediate implementation and appropriate action:
Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the special meeting of March 7, 2018;

Consent
Agenda

- Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the executive session meeting of March 7, 2018;
- Item 3: Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of March 12, 2018;
- Item 4: Approve the request for a Leave of Absence for Aaron Dawdy, 6th Grade Math and Science Teacher at Kinawa for the period of March 26th through June 13, 2018; and Laura Ross, English Teacher at OHS for the 2018-2019 school year.
- Item 5: Approve the renewal of a Personal Leave of Absence for Andrew Moore, Corey Quintus and Amanda Wenzel for the 2018-19 school year; as well as the renewal of a Health Leave of Absence for Lisa Holmes and Beth Josephson.

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Consent Agenda
Continued

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED By Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED BY Sarah Wohlford that the board award the buzzer camera system project, including installation, to be funded through the general fund, to Escon Group not to exceed a total of \$25,000:

Buzzer & Camera
System
Purchase

Roll Call

Dean Bolton	Yes	Tonya Rodriguez	Yes
Amy Crites	---	Sarah Wohlford	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes	Erica Wolf	Yes
Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes		

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED By Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED BY Erica Wolf that the board amend the contract of Superintendent Alena Zachery-Ross to extend the date of employment through June 30, 2021.

Superintendent's
Contract

Roll Call

Dean Bolton	Yes	Tonya Rodriguez	Yes
Amy Crites	---	Sarah Wohlford	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes	Erica Wolf	Yes
Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes		

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

Superintendent Zachery-Ross provided information regarding the development of the District Safety Team including membership and purpose. The team will include district staff, local law enforcement, outside experts and mental health professionals. The team will be responsible for the development of the District Crisis Response Plan and the District Crisis Team.

District Safety
Team

Superintendent Zachery-Ross explained the best-practice layers involved in establishing a comprehensive district safety plan including: emergency management; staff training; exercise planning and assessment; hardware and software; and a positive school culture.

Melanie Lynn inquired about community involvement opportunities on the District Safety Team.

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided an update and the board continued discussing the development of the 2018-2019 budget.

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2018-2019 Budget
Development

2017-2018 budget revisions were provided and included increased IISD Special Education revenue, FICA on the 3% ORS contributions refund, and positions not filled.

Updated assumptions and projections for 2018-2019 were also provided and included possible leasing of a bus and adding a driver, an additional ASD classroom at Kinawa, an additional elementary classroom, IISD Special Education revenue and staffing updates. Currently, the projected carry forward impact on the General Fund is approximately \$302,140.

Ms. Lentz reviewed a comparison of the Executive and Senate State Aid budget foundation proposals.

Additional school social workers and counseling staff, as well as curriculum adoptions were identified as the top priorities by administration, Leadership Council and the board.

Assistant Superintendent John Hood provided information regarding the age of various curricula and textbooks in the district.

Melanie Lynn inquired about the additional classroom at Cornell Elementary; and requested additional information including possible presentations regarding the top five priorities identified to gain context and intent. She also inquired about a timeline of curriculum needs.

Vincent Lyon-Callo suggested a possible work session to discuss how members arrived at their priorities; and the impact of the loss of the OEF's club funding.

Tonya Rodriguez inquired about staffing that could fulfill multiple roles; as well as establishing an annual target for increasing the fund balance.

Melanie Lynn and Sarah Wohlford will work with President Bolton to determine the format to be used at the April 18th Community Conversation including intended outcomes, a facilitator and participation options for stakeholders not able to attend.

Katie Cavanaugh addressed the board regarding school safety and security.

Comments From
The Public

There will be an executive session meeting on April 23rd at 6:15 p.m. for the purpose of contract negotiations.

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 11:01 p.m.

Adjourn

Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary