

**Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING APRIL 23, 2018**

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The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 6:15 p.m.

Call To Order

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Melanie Lynn, Tonya Rodriguez, Sarah Wohlford and Erica Wolf

Members Absent: Amy Crites and Vincent Lyon-Callo

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

MOVED By Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED BY Melanie Lynn that the board adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to Section 8(c) and 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and attorney-client privileged communication.

Closed Session

Roll Call

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

AYE: 5 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 2 **MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 6:19 p.m.

Amy Crites arrived at 6:23 p.m. and Vincent Lyon-Callo arrived at 6:55 p.m.

The board reconvened at 7:11 p.m.

Reconvene

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

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

Kinawa Principal Steve Stierley and Chippewa Middle School Principal Jody Noble presented 5-8th grade level activities and strategies guided by the Equity Plan to close the achievement gap. Staff education was described and included a variety of training opportunities on mindfulness, trauma, linguistic inclusion and more. They also reported on student education including assemblies and programs directed toward mindfulness, anti-bullying, world culture days and the daily network.

Presentation:
5-8th
Equity Plan

These buildings apply a whole student approach that addresses the behavioral, social, emotional and ultimately academic needs of the student to close the achievement gap.

Melanie Lynn inquired about the African American Student Initiative.

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about the mindfulness theme and activities.

The Elementary Math Review Committee presented information regarding the review process and recommendation for a new elementary math curriculum, Math Expressions beginning with the 2018-2019 school year. The committee explained the need for an updated curriculum; the criteria that was used in assessing the different programs; as well as the process used to develop the recommendation. Distinguishing features of the Math Expressions program were explained; next steps include staff training, collecting the experiences of the pilot classrooms, and parent and community input.

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Elementary
Math
Program

Amy Crites inquired about the Montessori math program.

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about the manipulatives available; technology; and homework vs. school work.

Melanie Lynn inquired about the transition the students will experience with the new program.

Dean Bolton inquired about the intervention materials and programs available.

Superintendent Alena Zachery-Ross reported on the following: thanked the Math Committee for their efforts; thanked all those involved in making the April 18th Community Conversation successful; upcoming Kindergartent Parent Information meeting on May 2nd; upcoming Kindergarten Round Up activities; update on the Hiawatha Principal hiring process; upcoming events including a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at Hiawatha, Kinawa Entrepreneur Night on May 7th, OHS production of Les Miserables; ongoing M-Step Testing; congratulated OHS athlete Laya Hartman who was selected to compete in the USA Basketball team trials at the Olympic Training Center; and recent Career In Sports night at OHS.

Superintendent
Report

Anupama Atre addressed the board regarding equity, specifically students with disabilities.

Citizens Address
Agenda &
Non-Agenda
Items

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Krista Black, Elizabeth Blair, Jesse Greene and Gail Richmond regarding the Wardcliff building; Scott Imberman concerning grade reconfiguration; Chuck Canestraight with a news article regarding college graduates; Cyndi Webster acknowledging the OEF, the Michigan Humanities Council and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs for their sponsorship of the recent visit by Holocaust storyteller Judy Sima; Habiba Abdelhay, Mercedes Gillard, Grant Hendrickson, Shawn Moore and Kate Stevenson regarding sexual abuse prevention training; and Steve Vagnozzi regarding a resolution against assault rifles.

Board Reports &
Request

Sarah Wohlford reported on the recent Parent Council meeting; and reminded the community of OEF Apple Awards.

Dean Bolton reported on the recent legislative breakfast.

MOVED By Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED BY Sarah Wohlford that the board approve items 1 and 2 for immediate implementation and appropriate action:

Consent
Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 9, 2018;

Item 2: Approve the request for a Leave of Absence for Amy Olivarez, 2nd Grade

Teacher at Hiawatha for the period of May 22nd through June 13, 2018.

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AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED By Amy Crites, SUPPORTED BY Erica Wolf that the board award the following facility maintenance project for completion during summer 2018, funded from the district's Building and Site Sinking Fund: Asphalt Replacement: Okemos High School Parking Lots and Drives – not to exceed \$349,167.75

Building &
Site Sinking
Fund

Roll Call

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

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED By Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED BY Amy Crites that the board award the artificial turf project, privately funded, not to exceed a total of \$550,887:

Artificial Turf
Project

Roll Call

Dean Bolton	Yes	Tonya Rodriguez	Yes
Amy Crites	Yes	Sarah Wohlford	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes	Erica Wolf	Yes
Vincent Lyon-Callo	No		

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

MOVED By Erica Wolf, SUPPORTED BY Vincent Lyon-Callo that the board award the custodial services contract to Hi Tec not to exceed a total of \$ 688,296:

Custodial
Services

Roll Call

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

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED By Amy Crites, SUPPORTED BY Melanie Lynn that the board read and adopt the resolution establishing May 8, 2018 as Staff Appreciation Day in honor of the employees of the Okemos Public Schools.

Staff Appreciation

Roll Call

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

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED By Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED BY Amy Crites that the board waive the reading and adopt final reading of board policies 1312 Complaints Regarding School Personnel; 1324 Soliciting Funds From and By Students; and 1326 Student Production of Goods and Services.

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Board Policies

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED By Amy Crites, SUPPORTED BY Sarah Wohlford that the board approve the 2018-2019 Okemos High School Student-Parent Handbook and OHS Curriculum Guide for distribution to students and parents.

OHS Student-
Parent
Handbook

AYE: 7 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 0 MOTION CARRIED

The board reviewed the recommendation for School of Choice openings to be advertised through the Ingham Intermediate School District for the 2018-2019 school year. The proposed openings are as follows: 1 opening per grade level.

18-19
School of Choice
Openings

The board discussed the placement of the Technology, Security, Transportation, Capital Outlay, and Facilities bond and/or millage on the November 2018 and/or May 2019 ballot. Members discussed the advantages of funding through a bond vs. a millage; and the criteria set by each funding source. The board agreed that a May, 2019 election timeline would be ideal for adequately preparing.

Discussion:
Bond/Millage

Assistant Superintendent John Hood presented the new textbook recommendations for 2018-2019. Mr. Hood also reviewed the process for developing the recommendations. It is not assumed that funds will be available in the general fund to purchase textbooks. The recommendations include: U.S. History; AP Biology; American Literature; Functions, Systems & Trigonometry; Algebra II; AP Statistics; Geometry; French and K-5 Math.

Textbook
Recommendations

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about the novel recommended for American Literature; as well as the guidelines for identifying bias in curriculum and materials.

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding textbook budgeting and the ability to expense the cost of the K-5 math program and the accompanying consumables over the next eight years or the possibility of setting aside funds for future year purchases. The benefits and the challenges of each method were described.

Textbook
Budgeting

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided an update and the board continued discussing the development of the 2018-2019 budget. An updated comparison of State Aid Proposals from the State was provided.

2018-2019
Budget

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about budget priorities and the process used to determine which to implement. Several items will be brought for discussion at each of the May meetings.

Jennifer Davis and Scott Schopieray encouraged the board to pursue a November election.

Comments From
The Public

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about the Citizens Millage Committee.

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 10:20 p.m.

Adjourn

Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary