

**Okemos Board of Education**  
**Okemos, Michigan 48864**  
**REGULAR MEETING MAY 14, 2018**

PAGE 8618  
5-14-2018

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:02 p.m.

Call To Order

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

Members Absent: Amy Crites and Melanie Lynn

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

The board reviewed the Ingham Intermediate School District proposed 2018-2019 General Fund Budget as required by Michigan law to determine its action at the next meeting to support or not support the budget. Ingham Intermediate School District Superintendent Dr. Scott Koenigsknecht and Ms. Helen McNamara, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business presented the budget information.

Presentation:  
2018-2019 IISD  
Budget

Superintendent Alena Zachery-Ross reported on the following: information regarding the upcoming board election; Town Hall event on June 4<sup>th</sup> regarding microaggressions sponsored by the Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee, as well as the application process to be a panelist; and upcoming end of the year activities and performances.

Superintendent  
Report

Barbara Curtis and Michael Kielszewski addressed the board regarding the Wardcliff building.

Citizens Address  
Agenda &  
Non-Agenda  
Items

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Virginia Caldwell; Pat Hammerschmidt; Mike Kielszewski; Andrew and Amanda Phelps; Ron Styka regarding the Wardcliff building; Kristine West concerning Security; Katie Cavanaugh encouraging the board to pursue a November, 2018 election; Joe Latterman regarding using the high school parking lot; Dave Chapman with an invite to the OHS Science Symposium; and Donna Kregelka with an invitation to the OEA Retiree Tribute.

Board Reports &  
Request

Vincent Lyon-Callo reported on the following: recent OHS presentation by Judge Marilyn Atkins; upcoming Engaging in Equity event; recent communication from Steve Vagnozzi regarding a possible resolution; and 21f policy language in the student handbook as it pertains to equity and the district's philosophy regarding online learning.

Erica Wolf inquired about the timeline for the facilities audit and accompanying reports.

Sarah Wohlford reported on the recent OHS production of Les Miserables.

Dean Bolton reported on the regional intergovernmental meeting at Meridian Township; and the Ingham School Officers Association meeting.

MOVED By Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED BY Vincent Lyon-Callo that the board approve items 1 through 5 for immediate implementation and appropriate action:  
 Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the community conversation meeting of April 18, 2018  
 Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 23, 2018  
 Item 3: Approval of the minutes of the executive session meeting of April 23, 2018  
 Item 4: Acceptance of the resignation and approval of the settlement agreement for an Okemos Public Schools teacher.  
 Item 5: Acknowledge receipt of the April financial statement and approve payment of bills for April.

PAGE 8619  
 5-14-2018  
 Consent  
 Agenda

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

MOVED By Vincent Lyon-Callo, SUPPORTED BY Sarah Wohlford that the board employ Julie Bellinger as an elementary principal at Hiawatha Elementary School effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020 at step 1 of the administrative salary schedule.

Hiawatha  
 Principal

Roll Call

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

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

MOVED By Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED BY Erica Wolf that the board award the soccer lighting project, not to exceed a total of \$237,800:

Soccer  
 Lighting  
 Project

Roll Call

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

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

MOVED By Erica Wolf, SUPPORTED BY Vincent Lyon-Callo that the board approve the recommended openings to be advertised through the Ingham Intermediate School District for School of Choice enrollment in the Okemos Public Schools.

18-19  
 School of Choice  
 Openings

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

MOVED By Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED BY Erica Wolf that the board adopt the new textbooks and materials for use at Okemos High School beginning with the 2018-2019 school year:

Textbook  
 Recommendations

- U.S. History – American History: Reconstruction to the Present
- AP Biology – Biology AP, 13<sup>th</sup> Edition
- American Literature – The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
- Functions, Systems and Trigonometry – Algebra and Trigonometry, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition
- Continuing Algebra II – Envision Algebra II
- AP Statistics – The Practice of Statistics, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition

- Geometry – Envision Geometry
- French I – Bien dit!

PAGE 8620  
5-14-2018

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

MOVED By Vincent Lyon-Callo, SUPPORTED BY Sarah Wohlford that the board adopt the “Math Expressions” program for K-5th grades beginning in the fall of 2018.

K-5 Math  
Expressions

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

MOVED By Vincent Lyon-Callo, SUPPORTED BY Sarah Wohlford that the board amend the contracts of Assistant Superintendent Cheri Meier and Assistant Superintendent John Hood to extend their dates of employment through June 30, 2021.

Assistant  
Superintendent  
Contracts

Roll Call

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

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

Attorney Teresa Bingman and Superintendent Alena Zachery-Ross provided for board discussion a follow-up summary of documentation from the April 18<sup>th</sup> Community Conversation and shared recommendations for next steps.

Community  
Conversation  
Follow Up

Mrs. Zachery-Ross reviewed the information given at the community conversation, as well as described the format that was used at the meeting.

Dr. Bingman provided a summary and a sampling of the community feedback that was given, including the “I likes” and the “I wonders” for transportation, technology and air conditioning; long-term facilities options; capital outlay; and security.

Next steps, including a proposed timeline was described and includes data collection and facility assessments; exploring and refining options; identifying projects; community and voter engagement; and ultimately the election.

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about the opportunity to reduce the carbon footprint in new and/or existing buildings, as well as the ability to add and prioritize energy efficiency when considering and planning possible projects.

Erica Wolf inquired about communicating timelines and community involvement opportunities.

Dean Bolton commented on the committee’s work and clarified that Wardcliff is not for sale; Wardcliff was considered and will continue to be considered throughout this facilities and bond process.

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz presented the proposed amendments to the 2017-2018 budget for board discussion. The 2017-2018 budget experienced an increase in revenue of \$425,068, and an increase in expenses of \$421,259; the projected impact to the fund

2017-2018  
Budget  
Amendments

balance is \$3,809. Amendments included increased expenses due to retiree healthcare fund reimbursements, the buzzer and camera system, adjustments to contracted services, and staffing updates. IISD revenue increased, as well as state aid revenue, grants and MPSERS. These and other miscellaneous adjustments resulted in a positive net adjustment of \$3809 to the general fund. The board will act on the revised budget at the May 21st board meeting.

PAGE 8620  
5-14-2018

The board continued discussing the development of the 2018-2019 budget. Updated budget assumptions were provided and included updated healthcare costs, textbooks, custodial services, and technology expenses. The result is a projected impact on the general fund of \$895,619.

2018-2019  
Budget

Impending budget topics were also mentioned including negotiations, staffing, club funding and other variable sources of general fund revenue that impact the budget but are not included in the assumptions.

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about the possibility of decreasing the pay to play/participate fees.

Information regarding possible budget priorities was provided. Club funding, school social workers and counselors, as well as instructional supplies were identified as priorities by the board and also recommended by administration. Administration proposed funding clubs at a level of \$40,000, increasing instructional supplies and materials to 65% of original allocation, and adding a social worker/counselor at the elementary level.

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about how the supply budgets are determined and dispersed; as well as recommended an additional social worker position at the high school level.

Tonya Rodriguez inquired about the caseloads and ratios for special education students to social workers.

Dean Bolton inquired about adding student supervisor positions.

Jesse Green addressed the board regarding the Wardcliff building.

Comments From  
The Public

The board discussed a special meeting for the purpose of the superintendent evaluation.

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 10:05 p.m.

Adjourn

---

Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary