

**Okemos Board of Education**  
**Okemos, Michigan 48864**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OCTOBER 15, 2018**

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The special meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 6:30 p.m.

Call To Order

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

Members Absent: Amy Crites

MOVED By Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED BY Sarah Wohlford that the board adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to Section 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of reviewing applicant reference feedback.

Closed Session  
Supt. Search

Roll Call

Dean Bolton	Yes	Tonya Rodriguez	Yes
Amy Crites	---	Don Romain	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes	Sarah Wohlford	Yes
Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes		

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

The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 6:31 p.m.

The board reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

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

Reconvene

Members Absent: Amy Crites

Administrators: Interim Superintendent Catherine Ash; Assistant Superintendent Cheri Meier, Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

The OEF presentation has been postponed until the October 22<sup>nd</sup> board meeting.

Interim Superintendent Catherine Ash reported on the following: transportation update; acknowledged Athletic Director Ira Childress and a recent Lansing State Journal article; congratulated high school teacher Dawn Reed who is being recognized by the Michigan Council of Teachers of English to receive the Ray Lawson Award for leadership; recent Be Excellent Day activities at Okemos High School; an M-Step assessment issue; SAT data comparison with other states; and board correspondence regarding a proposal from a commercial real estate company for selling the Wardcliff property.

Superintendent  
Reports/Requests

The board determined to add the Wardcliff property as a discussion item later in the meeting.

Vincent Lyon-Callo requested a discussion item to follow up on the Redi-Ride situation addressed at a previous meeting.

There was no student report.

Student Report

Betsy Montgomery and Barbara Curtis addressed the board regarding the Wardcliff building. Anupana Atre addressed the board regarding committee membership and including someone with a disability or the parent of a student with a disability.

Citizens Address  
Agenda and Non  
Agenda Items

President Bolton acknowledged receipt of correspondence from the following: Michele Borgialli, Janelle Craig, Steve and Darlene Vagnozzi, Deb Wieber, Nancy Wright and a Concerned Okemos Parent regarding the superintendent search; Christy Brandt concerning a student incident; Trevor Jones regarding a newspaper article; Barbara Curtis, Todd Houser, Wayne Loebig, and Betsy Montgomery regarding the Wardcliff building; Mike Froh regarding the October 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting agenda; and Chippewa Middle School thanking Marilyn Latterman for the generous donation.

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Board Reports  
& Request

Dean Bolton report on the following: recent legislative breakfast; the National Merit Award reception; recent parent council meeting that included interviews of the school board candidates; and placing the superintendent candidate interview feedback for on the web.

MOVED By Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED BY Don Romain that the board approve items 1 through 6 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 24, 2018;

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of September 24, 2018;

Item 3: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 8, 2018;

Item 4: Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 9, 2018;

Item 5: Acknowledge receipt of the September financial statement and approve payment of bills for September.

Item 6: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the requested leave of absence for Claire Bellamy, Vocal Music Teacher at Okemos High School for the period of October 15, 2018 through January 7, 2019; and Ursula Morris, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Kinawa for the period of November 12<sup>th</sup> through December 10, 2018.

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

MOVED By Don Romain, SUPPORTED BY Melanie Lynn that the board the employment of Ashleigh Doop, Social Worker at Hiawatha Elementary at Step 4, Division III of the teacher salary schedule, effective October 29, 2018 in accordance with sections 1230 (2) and 1230 a (2) of the Revised School Code conditioned upon receipt of acceptable criminal history checks and criminal records checks

Employment –  
Certified

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

MOVED By Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED BY Sarah Wohlford that the board accept the audit report of Maner & Costerisan P.C. for the 2017-18 school year.

Audit Report

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

The board discussed correspondence it received expressing interest in purchasing the Wardcliff property. Members agreed that they had no interest in exploring a proposal to sell the Wardcliff property.

Wardcliff  
Proposal

Committee Facilitator Catherine Ash presented information from the Facilities/Site Committee, including recommendations and short term options to alleviate building capacity issues as a result of increased enrollment. Dr. Ash provided a brief overview of the committee's purpose, scope of work, committee membership, meeting and the process used. The options the committee considered were described. The preferred option of the committee is to add 4 or 5 classrooms onto Bennett Woods Elementary. The advantages and challenges of this option were explained, as well as the challenges of other options not being recommended.

Facilities  
Committee  
Recommendations

Additional security options were considered as well. The committee also presented recommendations for 2021 and beyond and the process to use was outlined. The board will continue their discussion at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

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Facilities  
Recommendations  
Cont.

Members inquired about the following: purpose and benefits of the additional specials classroom; turning Bennett Woods into a 4 unit school instead of a three; opportunities beyond 2021 including a balanced calendar, STEM or immersion program; the size of the Wardcliff building including the halls, gym and cafeteria; the cost difference between expanding Bennett Woods versus Cornell; traffic flow at Bennett Woods; funding in 5 years and effect on taxpayers; and adding green space to offset the environmental cost of construction.

No one addressed the board.

Public Comment

The October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting will begin with a closed session for the purpose of reviewing superintendent candidate reference feedback as well as a reviewing their profile assessments. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of interviews will be October 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m. The community is invited to attend and will have the opportunity to provide feedback.

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Adjourn

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Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary