

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 12, 2018

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11-12-2018

The regular 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, Amy Crites, Tonya Rodriguez and Sarah Wohlford
Members Absent: Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo and Don Romain

Student Representative Alma reported on upcoming Okemos High School activities; as well as the recent State Championship Boys Tennis and Water Polo teams.

Student Report

MOVED By Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED BY Amy Crites that the board adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations.

Closed Session
Contract
Negotiations

Roll Call

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

AYE: 4 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 3 **MOTION CARRIED**

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

Vincent Lyon-Callo arrived at 6:55 p.m.

The board reconvened at 7:09 p.m.

Reconvene

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Amy Crites, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez and Sarah Wohlford
Members Absent: Melanie Lynn and Don Romain
Administrators: Interim Superintendent Catherine Ash; Assistant Superintendent John Hood, Assistant Superintendent Cheri Meier, Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Interim Superintendent Catherine Ash reported on the following: upcoming budget revision; annual discipline and bullying reports; Lacrosse team follow up; bus capacity follow up; feedback regarding new security video and buzzer system; Okemos Road bridge construction assessment; air conditioning and possible offset information; student-athlete average GPA; Okemos High School will host the MHSAA Division I state semi-final football game; and upcoming drama production.

Superintendent
Reports/Requests

Assistant Superintendent John Hood reported on the following: Asja Wilcox will serve as an interim Director of Curriculum & Instruction until a formal hiring process can take place in the spring; recent gift from The Sherwood Foundation to enhance humanities studies and extend language arts opportunities; and information regarding the ideal school size.

Sarah Wohlford requested that we continue to monitor the workload of building administrative assistants impacted by the video and buzzer system.

Vincent Lyon-Callo commented on bus capacity limits; as well as the discipline report,

including restorative practices and alternative discipline methods especially as they pertain to attendance issues.

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No one addressed the board.

Citizens Address
Agenda and Non
Agenda Items

President Bolton acknowledged receipt of correspondence from the following: Grace Miller concerning drug and alcohol use prevention; Kathy Stansbury concerning bus capacity; Ingham County Road Department regarding Okemos Road bridge assessments; The Sherwood Foundation with information regarding donations; and an Anonymous regarding a community member.

Board Reports
& Request

Dean Bolton reported on a recent Ingham School Officers Association meeting; and the MASB Annual Conference.

MOVED By Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED BY Amy Crites 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 October 22, 2018;

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of October 22, 2018

Item 3: Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 24, 2018;

Item 4: Acknowledge receipt of the October financial statement and approve payment of bills for October.

Item 5: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the requested leave of absence for Tasha Rader, School Psychologist at Hiawatha Elementary School for the period of January 7th through March 27, 2019.

Item 6: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the extension of a requested leave of absence for Kathy Harbert, Physical Education Teacher at Chippewa Middle School through January 7, 2019.

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

The board continued their discussion of the recommendations from the Facilities/Site Committee, Technology/Security/Transportation/Capital Outlay Committee and the Leadership Council, as well as reviewed their input from the October 22nd work session.

Facility,
Technology
Security
Transportation &
Capital Outlay
Recommendations

Dr. Ash reviewed the recommendations that have been proposed so far including: flexible learning environments; personal learning devices; school bus purchases; air conditioning; other technology and security improvements; capital outlay needs; facility upgrades; and the addition on Bennett Woods Elementary to address elementary capacity issues.

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz reviewed bond terms including the district existing debt; existing building and site sinking fund; the tax impact of the recommendations; and potential future building and site sinking funds and/or bond. Administration is recommending a 6 year bond term for approximately a \$24.88 million bond proposal.

Additionally, Dr. Ash provided recommendations for district focus for 2021 and beyond; as well as provided next steps including initiating the process for ballot proposal, bond application procedures, prioritizing and establishing committees.

Members discussed the following: school bus purchases; possible solar panel installation; and the miscellaneous/contingency amount.

President Bolton congratulated Katie Cavanaugh and Mary Gebara on recent board election victories.

Other Matters

No one addressed the board.

The board entered into a work session for the purpose of understanding the roles and responsibilities of counselors, social workers and school psychologists within our district. The following individuals attended the work session to offer insights and answer questions: Ashley Abrams, Social Worker; Mark Abrams, Social Worker/Behavior Specialist; Kristen Rosenbrook, Counselor; Tim Case, Counselor; Amanda Hall, Psychologist; Jody Noble, Principal; Christine Sermak, Principal; Noelle Palasty, Principal; Hedlun Walton, Counselor; and Heather Pricco, Director of Special Education. The goal was to ensure that there is a common, foundational knowledge of available support services, including programming to address student mental health issues. This information will help to inform Board discussions when considering 2019-20 budget priorities.

Work Session
Student Support
Positions

While this portion of the meeting was not televised, it did remain public per the Open Meetings Act.

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 9:41 p.m.

Adjourn

Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary