

**Okemos Board of Education**  
**Okemos, Michigan 48864**  
**REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 11, 2019**

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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, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez

Members Absent: Sarah Wohlford

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood, Assistant Superintendent Cheri Meier, Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Okemos High School Spanish Teacher Trisha Funk presented information for board discussion regarding a Spanish student trip to Costa Rica. The trip is proposed for June 18th through June 27, 2019 and is a cultural and language exchange. It was emphasized that all school rules and policies will be applied at all times while abroad.

Student  
Trip

The board recognized **Jennifer Woodruff, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher** at Bennett Woods Elementary who has attained 24 years of service with Okemos Public Schools.

Recognition:  
24 Years of  
Service

Superintendent Hood presented information regarding K-4 Michigan Model implementation updates this winter during professional learning time. The Michigan Model provides for consistent and more comprehensive curriculum to address a student's mental, emotional, social and physical health and well-being. Lessons include, but are not limited to: safety (internet, personal, around weapons, good touch bad touch etc.); nutrition; alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; bullying; and conflict resolution.

Michigan  
Model  
Presentation

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: school closures due to weather and accompanying processes; enrollment update; resignation of Athletic Director Ira Childress and tentative hiring timelines; and Kim Burchman has been recently selected as the Community Education Coordinator.

Superintendent  
Reports/Requests

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about school closures due to heat, and an alternate method for serving breakfast and lunch to students when school is closed.

Student Representative Lilian reported on the following OHS activities: Touch of Class event on February 17<sup>th</sup>; and recent Talent Show.

Student Rep  
Report

No one addressed the board.

Citizens Address  
Agenda &  
Non-Agenda Items

President Bolton acknowledged receipt of correspondence from the following: Susan Walsworth concerning emergency procedures; and Damia Hudson regarding 504 assistance.

Tonya Rodriguez reported on the recent OHS Talent Show and Parent Council meeting.

Board Reports &  
Request

MOVED By Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED BY Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve items 1 through 4 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 14, 2019;

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the special meeting of January 15, 2019;

Item 3: Acknowledge receipt of the January financial statement and approve payment of bills for January

Item 4: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the requested leave of absence for Victoria Alchin, ESL Teacher at Hiawatha Elementary School for the

period of April 15<sup>th</sup> through June 12, 2019; and Alexandria Starnes, Speech & Language Pathologist at Bennett Woods Elementary School for the period of April 8<sup>th</sup> through June 12, 2019.

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Consent Agenda  
Cont.

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED By Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED BY Mary Gebara that the board approve the following recommended number of PPK-8 Public Montessori school-of-choice openings for potential enrollment: Kindergarten-3 openings; Grades 1 and 2– 0 openings; Grades 3 and 4– 1 opening; Grades 5 and 6 – 8 openings; and Grades 7 and 8 - 4 openings.

Montessori  
School of Choice

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED By Mary Gebara, SUPPORTED BY Melanie Lynn that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution calling for a special school election Tuesday, May 7, 2019; setting the matters to be voted upon as follows: Shall Okemos Public Schools, Ingham County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Twenty-Four Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$24,900,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor for the purpose of: remodeling, equipping and re-equipping and furnishing and re-furnishing school buildings, including for school security improvements; erecting, furnishing and equipping additions to Bennett Woods Elementary School; acquiring, installing and equipping or re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; purchasing school buses; and preparing, developing and improving athletic facilities and sites. (Roll Call Vote)

School Election  
& Matters To Be  
Voted Upon

Roll Call

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	No
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Tonya Rodriguez	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Sarah Wohlford	---
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

AYE: 5 NAY: 1 ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding the development of the 2019-2020 budget including timelines.

2019-2020  
Budget Timelines

Member Lynn inquired about access to previous budget information, discussion and priorities.

Board members received information on candidates seeking election to the board of directors of the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB). The election ballot must be completed and returned by March 6, 2019. Okemos may vote on candidates from Region 7, which this year is for one three-year term. Members discussed their selection to vote for.

MASB Board  
Candidates

No one addressed the board.

Public Comment

A reminder that there is a closed session beginning at 6:15 p.m. to start the February 25<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Adjourn

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Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary