

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 25, 2019

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The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 6:16 p.m.

Call To Order

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Tonya Rodriguez and Sarah Wohlford

Members Absent: Vincent Lyon-Callo

Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; Director Steve Lathrop; Director Elizabeth Lentz

Other: Attorney Gordon Van Wieren

MOVED By Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED BY Katie Cavanaugh that the board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of reviewing attorney-client privileged communications.

Closed Session

Roll Call

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	---
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Tonya Rodriguez	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Sarah Wohlford	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

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

The board adjourned to executive session at 6:17 p.m.

Member Lyon-Callo arrived at 6:58 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened by President Bolton at 7:02 p.m.

Reconvened

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez and Sarah Wohlford

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

The board reviewed a leasing proposal from New Cingular Wireless for a cell tower located on Bennett Woods Elementary School's property. Attorney Gordon Van Wieren of Thrun Law discussed insurance, interest and terms of the lease including responsibilities and liability of New Cingular and the district. Director Lathrop described the districts experience with the current cell tower located on Central's property. The board expressed a desire to pursue the offer.

Cell Tower Proposal

Mayberry Homes requested an easement allowing use of a small parcel of land on the south east corner of the district's Powell Road property. Attorney Gordon Van Wieren of Thrun Law provided information regarding the request and potential options available to the district. David Straub of Mayberry Homes described the location and purpose of the turnaround they are requesting. Director Lathrop provided information about the location of the parcel on our property and features that would illustrate potential future use. The board expressed a desire to pursue the easement request.

Easement Request

Okemos High School Choir Director Claire Bellamy presented information for board discussion regarding a Choir student trip to Vienna, Salzburg and Prague. The trip is proposed for March 31st through April 7, 2019 and is a cultural and performance experience. It was

Student Trip

emphasized that all school rules and policies will be applied at all times while abroad.

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Superintendent
Reports/Requests

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: Michigan Model scope and sequence follow up; Handle With Care partnership with Meridian Township; weed killer follow up; recent Leadership Council professional development regarding equity; upcoming board discussion regarding the impact of the security measures at the building level; new signage at Okemos High School funded by the class of 2017; and upcoming legislative breakfast.

Members inquired about Michigan Model implementation across the district; and clarification regarding weed killer usage.

Student Representative Alma reported on the following OHS activities: Touch of Class fundraiser to benefit Okemos Cares program; recent Blood Drive; upcoming Diversity Assembly, Sadie’s Dance; and MHSAA Scholar Athlete scholarship recipients.

Student Rep
Report

The following community members addressed the board: Girija Mani regarding transportation to Chippewa Middle School; and Lynda Kerns regarding Edgewood Early Childhood Center and preschool programming.

Citizens Address
Agenda &
Non-Agenda Items

President Bolton acknowledged receipt of correspondence from the following: Joey Latterman concerning reading proficiency.

Board Reports &
Request

President Bolton reported on the upcoming Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser to benefit the Okemos Music Patrons.

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about a board discussion regarding transportation boundaries.

MOVED By Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED BY Mary Gebara that the board approve items 1 through 4 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

- Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the special meeting of February 5, 2019;
- Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the executive session meeting of February 5, 2019;
- Item 3: Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 11, 2019;
- Item 4: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the requested leave of absence for Chrissy Schoonover, Math Teacher at Okemos High School for the period of May 20th through June 7, 2019.

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

MOVED By Vincent Lyon-Callo, SUPPORTED BY Melanie Lynn that the board select Mr. Guillermo Lopez as the Region 7 candidate of its choice to complete the election ballot for members of the 2019 board of directors of the Michigan Association of School Boards.

MASB Board
Of Directors

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

MOVED By Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED BY Melanie Lynn that the board endorse the OHS Spanish student trip to Costa Rica from June 18th through June 27, 2019 with the understanding the students will abide by all school policies and procedures while abroad.

Spanish Student
Trip

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

MOVED By Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED BY Sarah Wohlford that the board award the following facility maintenance project for completion during summer 2019, funded from the district’s Building and Site Sinking Fund: Asphalt Replacement: Transportation entry drive, staff and surrounding lots– not to exceed \$201,650; and Chippewa Phase 4 renovation which

Building & Site
Sinking Fund
Projects

will be to convert the existing pool area into a multi-purpose room, locker rooms and storage area – not to exceed \$1,427,777

Roll Call

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	Yes
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Tonya Rodriguez	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Sarah Wohlford	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

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

Director of Technology Errin Chapman presented information regarding proposed technology purchases subject to the May 7th bond election. Proposed projects include wireless access points; firewalls; filters; UPS, servers and switches. Mr. Chapman explained timelines and possible E-rate savings. The district has the opportunity to save up to \$200,000 by purchasing through this E-rate reimbursement program. Due to e-rate deadlines, bids were sought for these purchases. Mr. Chapman also described the process used to obtain the bids through the E-rate system.

Technology
Purchases

Members inquired about the purposes and benefits of the purchases; timelines for the reimbursement; implementation timelines; and options for use of the reimbursement/savings.

The board discussed pursuing proposals for an architect and a construction manager for projects that would result if the bond is successful. In addition, Mr. Hood reviewed the current scope of work and contract details with Kingscott, and explained the roles of an architect, construction manager and construction company.

Architect
Proposals

Members inquired about communication, the use of construction managers in the past; and additional marketing materials from Kingscott.

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding the development of the 2019-2020 budget. Preliminary budget assumptions were provided and included increased revenue due to pupil foundation allowance; enrollment projections; and an increase in Special Education revenue. Increased expenditures include health insurance premiums, MPSERS (retirement) rate increases, contract negotiations and roll up cost. At this time the “most likely” projections result in an approximate negative impact on the general fund of \$81,680.

2019-2020
Budget

No one addressed the board.

Public Comment

Dean Bolton and Sarah Wohlford will serve as representatives to the negotiations team.

Other Matters

Tonya Rodriguez will serve on the grade review panel.

The board established a work session regarding budget priorities for March 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Vincent Lyon-Callo expressed concern over the number of board work sessions.

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Adjourn