

**Okemos Board of Education**  
**Okemos, Michigan 48864**  
**REGULAR MEETING JUNE 10, 2019**

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The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 6:15 p.m.

Call To Order

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

Members Absent: Vincent Lyon-Callo and Sarah Wohlford

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

MOVED by Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations.

Exec Session

Roll Call

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

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

The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 6:16 p.m.

Vincent Lyon-Callo arrived at 6:50 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened by President Bolton at 7:03 p.m.

Reconvene

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

Members Absent: Sarah Wohlford

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

Elementary Principals Julie Bellinger, Tara Fry, Sue Hallman and Noelle Palasty; Kinawa Principal Steve Stierley; and Chippewa Middle School Principal Jody Noble presented K-8th grade level activities and strategies guided by the Equity Plan's Operational Plan. Goals, areas of focus, and administrative and staff professional development opportunities were described. In addition, current practices were reviewed. A portion of a video sharing teachers' perspectives regarding the African American Student Initiative experience was viewed.

Presentation:  
K-8  
Equity

Members inquired about homework expectations; social justice materials; and equity in hiring practices. Members asked that the presentation and video be shared on the district's website under the Equity menu.

The board congratulated retiring Principal Sue Hallman on her upcoming retirement and thanked her for the service to the district.

Operations Director Steve Lathrop provided an update regarding the architect and construction management firms to be used for facilitating the projects outlined in the Facilities/Technology/Security/Transportation and Capital Outlay Bond. Mr. Lathrop explained why the architect is required and their role, as well as we why a construction

Architect &  
Construction  
Manager Update

manager is necessary. Request for proposals were sought and the district has selected Bergman as the architect and Christman as the construction manager.

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Member Lynn inquired about transparency and communication with the community regarding bond progress and projects. Working during school hours.

Elementary Principal Tara Fry presented the proposed changes to the elementary student-parent handbook. Changes include compliance with board policy 5144 Code of Conduct regarding serious behavior infractions; electronic equipment and communication-enable devices; special education services and guidelines; student education records; and web accessibility statement.

Student-parent  
Handbook

High School Assistant Principal Andrea Hallead presented the proposed revisions to the Okemos High School student handbook. Proposed changes include: inclusion of identity theft; use of personal electronic devices; absence reporting by parents/guardians; tardy rules and regulations; approved guest at school dances; clarifying authorized and unauthorized areas; false fire alarms; additional language regarding dangerous driving; included Wilson Talent Center information; clarification of Saturday school, long and short term suspension processes; e-cigarettes and vaporizes as drug paraphernalia; additional language concerning expulsions; student code of conduct; restorative practices language; and security and integrity of classroom assessments.

Members inquired about the sick leave language; identity theft protection; guest at dances; tardy policy and accompanying circumstances; dangerous driving; Saturday school appeal process; the tobacco policy; and assessments that cannot leave the building.

Assistant Principal Andre Ridley presented the proposed revisions to the Chippewa Middle School student handbook. Proposed changes include: tardy policy; short term suspension and expulsion processes; and e-cigarettes and vaporizes as drug paraphernalia.

Assistant Principal Sara Roland presented the proposed Kinawa 5-6 revisions. Proposed changes include: inclusion of identity theft; tardy policy; false alarms; e-cigarettes and vaporizes as drug paraphernalia; short term suspension and expulsion processes; student code of conduct language; and highlighting restorative practices.

Member Lynn inquired about modifying the restorative practices language and Member Cavanaugh suggested a Montessori specific handbook.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: Central Montessori Principal hiring process update; welcomed new Athletic Director Brian Fuller; thanked Asja Wilcox who served as interim Curriculum Director since January; power issues at Kinawa and Chippewa Middle School Monday morning; congratulated recent OHS graduates and welcomed families of new kindergarteners.

Superintendent  
Reports/Request

Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about the upcoming start times presentation; mental health professionals and services in public schools grant opportunity.

Superintendent Hood explained the parameters and opportunities of the 31N Mental Health grant. As well as how the district hopes to utilize the grant funding.

No one addressed the board.

Citizens Address  
Agenda &  
Non-Agenda Items

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: MDE regarding a grant audit; Meridian Township regarding a re-zoning public hearing; and Ingham ISD with the results of their board member election.

Katie Cavanaugh inquired about the Begindergarten program.

MOVED By Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED BY Mary Gebara 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 May 20, 2019;
- Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the executive session meeting of May 20, 2019;
- Item 3: Approval of the minutes of the special meeting of June 3, 2019;
- Item 4: Approval of the minutes of the executive session meeting of June 3, 2019;
- Item 5: Acknowledge receipt of the May financial statement and approve payment of bills for May.

Item 6: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the requested leave of absence for Erin Binkley, Special Education Teacher at Bennett Woods Elementary School for the period of August 21st through September 30, 2019; Molly Hughey, Kindergarten Teacher at Cornell Elementary, for the period of August 21st through November 18, 2019; and Elizabeth Gauthier, Kindergarten Teacher at Bennett Woods Elementary School for the period of September 9th through December 6, 2019.

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

MOVED By Mary Gebara, SUPPORTED BY Melanie Lynn that the board waive the reading and certify collection of summer tax levy for Okemos Public Schools in the amount specified by the tax levy provided by the Ingham Intermediate School District and negotiation of the fee for collection of the tax levy.

Certify Summer  
Taxes

Roll Call

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

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

MOVED By Vincent Lyon-Callo, SUPPORTED BY Mary Gebara that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution permitting Okemos Public Schools to continue membership in the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the year August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020.

MHSAA  
Membership

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

MOVED By Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED BY Mary Gebara that the board approve the employment of Laura Bell, Science Teacher at Okemos High School at Step 8, Division II; Christina Abbott, Science Teacher at Okemos High School at Step 2, Division I; Rebecca Fedrigo, Counselor at Chippewa Middle School at Step 8, Division II; and Desirae Ortiz, Physical Education Teacher at Chippewa Middle School at Step 6, Division II of the teacher salary schedule, effective August 21, 2019 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 Dean Bolton that the board adopt the new textbooks and materials for use at Okemos High School beginning with the 2019-2020 school year: AP Government – Government in America: People, Politics and Policy; Biology – HMH Science Dimensions Biology; Literature & Comp – The Tempest: The Graphic Novel; The Hate U Give; Dear Martin; and Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood; Algebra – Algebra II; Accounting – Century 21 Accounting 11e General Journal; Spanish I – Autentico I; French II – Bien dit! II; and Language Arts – Opening the World of Learning (OWL) Literacy Program.

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Textbook  
Adoptions

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED

MOVED By Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED BY Mary Gebara that the board approve the low bid of \$93,356 per bus submitted by Holland Bus Sales for four 77-passenger conventional school buses for a total cost not to exceed \$373,424.

Bus Purchases

Roll Call

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

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 to accept the bid of 1.528856%% by J.P. Morgan Securities LLC; and to authorize the Treasurer to open two special bank accounts with MILAF, held at Fifth Third Bank of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Bond Bid  
Resolution

Roll Call

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

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 MOTION CARRIED

The board continued their discussion regarding the development of the 2019-2020 budget. Food Service Director Lynna Hassenger explained the USDA Paid Lunch Tool and the equation used to determine lunch prices and possible increases. For the 2019-2020 school year, it is recommended that all lunch prices be increased by ten cents. Updated assumptions were provided and included changes to the per pupil allowance, MPSERS retirement rate offset; and the inclusion of level one board priorities, resulting in a projected most likely impact on the general fund of a positive \$170,985. The board also discussed budget priorities to determine level two priorities should the budget allow them to be incorporated. Lacrosse was identified as the highest level 2 priority.

2019-2020  
Budget  
Development

Rod Wolfe addressed the board regarding the lacrosse program.

Public Comment

There will be a board work session for the purpose of an MASB training on the superintendent evaluation tool as well as the superintendent evaluation on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Other Matters

There will be an executive session beginning at 6:30 p.m. on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 10:20 p.m.

Adjourn