

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 28, 2019

PAGE 8720
10-28-19

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:00 p.m.

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; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Call To Order

Special Education Director Heather Pricco presented information regarding the district's special education programming, including: the district's current special education population; current enrollment trends; programs and services available; the IEP process; the new enrollee process; least restrictive environment; and additional support for general education staff.

Presentation:
Special
Education

Members inquired about the enrollment trends and possible causes for increases; the process to initiate a special education evaluation; how a student becomes eligible for special education services; and how to support the least restrictive environment.

Operations Director Steve Lathrop and Construction Manager Rob Crowe from The Christman Company presented an overview of the Bennett Woods Elementary expansion and renovation project, including information regarding the bid process, timelines and next steps.

Bennett Woods
Elementary
Expansion

Mr. Lathrop briefly described the addition and renovation project at Bennett Woods Elementary including the addition of classrooms, a bus loop driveway, and additional parking spots.

Mr. Crowe explained the bid process including advertising of the bid, receiving and post bid interviews. Sixty (60) bids were received and an early indication is that the project will come in under budget. The recommendation will be presented to the board for approval at the November 11th meeting. Construction is scheduled to commence mid-December.

Member Lynn inquired about the safety measures implemented while construction is going on while school is in session; and how are we communicating safety measures to families who are visiting and utilizing the Bennett Woods playground.

In addition, Mr. Crowe provided an update on the installation of the 3M Window Film including timelines and installation requirements.

3M Window Film

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: draft scope and timelines for additional bond projects; upcoming Bennett Woods Community meeting regarding the construction project on November 12th; upcoming budget revision; new enrichment portion of the board packet; strategic planning process update; student representatives to the board update; StraightTalk presentation featured on Okemos On Demand Channel; maple tree at Bennett Woods will remain intact; policy regarding Prohibition of Referral of Assistance update.

Superintendent
Report

Members discussed student involvement at the board level suggesting possible work sessions and presentations.

Members agreed to add the Prohibition of Referral of Assistance policy to the agenda as a

discussion item.

PAGE 8721
Citizens Address
Agenda &
Non-Agenda Items

No one addressed the board.

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence Canan Kutlu regarding school of choice processes.

Board Reports &
Request

Members requested a discussion or update regarding the following: high school homework and exam schedules; continued zero hour at the high school; balanced calendar; start times; recess and gym time update; and environmental initiatives Members discussed if these items were a part of the strategic planning process.

Mary Gebara reported on OEF activities and upcoming banquet.

MOVED By Melanie Lynn SUPPORTED BY Mary Gebara that the board approve items 1 through 3 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Community Forum meeting of October 10, 2019;

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 14, 2019;

Item 3: Approval of the minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting of October 16, 2019.

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

The board continued their discussion of the Prohibition of Referral of Assistance policy including defining the term referral or including some administrative regulations. Members inquired as to the current practice of teachers and counselors and professional standards of interaction. Members agreed to communicate with legislators directly.

Discussion:
Board Policy

No one addressed the board.

Public Comment

There were no other matters.

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Adjourn

Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary