

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

PAGE 8726
11-25-2019

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

Call To Order

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; Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey; and Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

OHS Orchestra Director Justin Valla presented information regarding an orchestra student trip to Germany and Austria proposed for April 2-11, 2020. The trip is a cultural exchange and performing experience. Fundraising opportunities are available. It was emphasized that students would abide by all school rules while abroad.

Presentation:
Student Trip

Superintendent John Hood presented information regarding the decision making process for weather-related school cancellations including: safety; timing; sources used to inform the decision; and communications. In addition, Mr. Hood reviewed administration's discussion and findings regarding two-hour delays including the pros, cons and considerations.

Discussion
Moved Forward:
School Weather
Cancellations

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: congratulated the OHS Drama department for their performance of Radium Girls; employee ID badges; discipline data and district systems update; OEF and Commitment to Excellence Banquet; upcoming board presentations on ELL and STEM activities; and reflected on all Okemos Public Schools has to be thankful for.

Superintendent
Report

Members inquired about the SWIS discipline data system including evaluation of the system, the check-in check out intervention, and rolling out to 5-12th grade level timeline.

High school student representative Lauren reported on the following: winter sports and upcoming Meet The Chiefs; recent college visits; non-fiction bake sale to benefit the Okemos Outreach and the Mankowski Christmas Party; and discussion regarding homework-free Thanksgiving, winter and spring breaks.

High School
Student Report

Steve Chermak and Chloe Zdybel addressed the board supporting the lacrosse program.

Citizen's Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from Tom Buffet regarding the strategic plan.

Board Reports
& Requests

President Bolton reported on the OEF Banquet.

Katie Cavanaugh reported on Central's recent gratitude ceremony.

Vincent Lyon-Callo reported on a recent Parent Council meeting; and encouraged members to reflect on Thanksgiving from the perspective of Native Americans.

Consent Agenda

MOVED By Mary Gebara SUPPORTED BY Vincent Lyon-Callo that the board approve items 1 through 4 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 11, 2019

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of November 18, 2019

Item 3: Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of November 18, 2019

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

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz presented the proposed revisions to the 2019-2020 budget for board discussion. Proposed revisions included increased special education revenue, e-rate reimbursement funds, increased state aid due to increased enrollment and an increase in the foundation allowance, MPSERS retirement stabilization and federal grants. Expenses were adjusted to reflect staffing additions and adjustments, insurance cost, utilities and other adjustments to more accurately reflect spending trends. The proposed revisions result in a projected increase \$264, 889 before contractual trigger language. Ms. Lentz explained the contractual trigger language and the impact to the operating surplus and general fund, as well as including the budget priority of making lacrosse a district sport. The board will consider adopting a revised budget during their December 9th meeting that reflects a \$74,620 surplus.

2019-2020
Budget Revisions

Ms. Lentz also explained the capital projects budget and specific items included in that budget.

Members inquired about the increased 21f expenses and increasing that line item in future budgets; the staffing adjustments; ongoing versus one-time revenue and expenses; how did the decrease in activity and athletic fees affect participation; and the impact increased enrollment has on the budget.

Rob Wolfe addressed the board regarding the lacrosse program.

Public Comment

A board work session will be established at the December meeting.

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Adjourn

Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary