

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 9, 2019

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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-Callos, Tonya Rodriguez and Sarah Wohlford

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

Okemos High School Principal Christine Sermak and teacher Trisha Funk presented an update on the high school's no homework during break philosophy and communication plan for the upcoming winter break.

Presentation:
No Homework
Policy

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey provided an overview of the English Language Learner programming. ELL teachers Torey Alchin, Michelle Arndt, Julie LeGoulven and Melissa Sainz discussed the goals for the ELL program and introduced who English Learner students are. They also described our EL population, trends, and explained the multiple supports available in the district. Support is provided in a variety of ways including: instructional support; accommodations; push-in and differentiation; behavior support; cultural competency; screenings and assessments, continuous monitoring; and administrative tasks.

Presentation:
ELL Program

Members inquired about the use of technology.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: beginning in 2022 Spring Break will move to the last full week in March in alignment with surrounding counties and away from state mandated testing windows; upcoming headlee restoration vote; 3M window film bid will be presented at the January 13th meeting; bond project update and market conditions; the Great Lakes Equity Center will be providing services through their Tier III: Systemic Equity Partnerships; recent policy committee meeting; and a recent orientation with student representatives to the board.

Superintendent
Report

High school student representative Hunter reported on the following: no homework over break policy at the high school; discussion regarding finals before break; recent assembly regarding open-mindedness; and stricter enforcement of parking pass and attendance rules.

High School
Student Report

Simar Pawar addressed the board regarding Meridian Garden Club's recent experience with Okemos student volunteers.

Citizen's Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

Katie Cavanaugh reported on the Fox 47 Excellence in Education Award recently given to Christine Batora, teacher at OPM at Central Elementary; and the Sandy Hook Promise Program.

Board Reports
& Requests

Dean Bolton reported on a recent Ingham School Officer's Association meeting including a presentation regarding the NAEP test; and upcoming fine arts performances.

Consent Agenda

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

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 25, 2019;

Item 2: Acknowledge receipt of the November financial; statement and approve payment of bills for November;

Item 3: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the requested leave of absence for Shelby Fletcher English Teacher at Okemos High School for the period of March 30th through May 26, 2020; and Kim Ouellette, Resource Teacher at Okemos High School for the period of December 16, 2019 through February 20, 2020.

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Consent Agenda
Cont.

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

MOVED By Mary Gebara SUPPORTED BY Sarah Wohlford that the board endorse the OHS Orchestra student trip to Germany from April 2nd through April 11, 2020 with the understanding the students will abide by all school policies and procedures while abroad.

Student Trip

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

MOVED By Sarah Wohlford SUPPORTED BY Melanie Lynn that the board waive the reading and adopt the resolution for collection of summer property tax as appropriate from Alaiendon Township, Meridian Township, and the City of Lansing and to negotiate a reasonable expense for such collection of the district's tax levy.

Certify Summer
Tax

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**

MOVED By Katie Cavanaugh SUPPORTED BY Vincent Lyon-Callo that the board approve the amended 2019-2020 Budget.

2019-2020
Amended Budget

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**

MOVED By Mary Gebara SUPPORTED BY Sarah Wohlford that the board approve employment of Emily Edger, 5-8 Counselor at Kinawa and Chippewa Middle School at Step 5, Division II of the teacher salary schedule, effective January 6, 2020 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

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

MOVED By Mary Gebara SUPPORTED BY Katie Cavanaugh that the board accept the summary report of the November, 2019 Superintendent Evaluation as presented to the community.

Superintendent
Evaluation

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

MOVED By Sarah Wohlford SUPPORTED BY Mary Gebara that the board amend the contract of Superintendent John Hood to include the contractual step increase for July 1, 2020.

Supt. Contract

Roll Call

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

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

The board discussed the governance and the relationship between the district’s Strategic Plan and Equity Plan. Superintendent Hood explained the connection between the district’s Strategic Plan and Equity Plan and how they inform and support each other, as well as how the Equity Plan is embedded in all district work.

Strategic Plan &
Equity Plan

No one addressed the board.

Public Comment

A reminder that the January 13th board meeting includes the semi-annual organization meeting.

Other Matters

A special meeting was established for February 3rd at 6:30 p.m. to develop superintendent goals and board priorities.

There is a Strategic Planning meeting on Wednesday, December 11th.

The Bennett Woods groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for December 17th at 9:30 a.m.

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Adjourn

Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary