

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 27, 2020

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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.

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

Call To Order

The board recognized the following employees who have attained 24 years of service: Phil Aho, Technology Teacher at Chippewa Middle School; Julie Bellinger, Principal at Hiawatha Elementary; Errin Chapman, Director of Media & Technology; Kevin Culling, Band Director at Chippewa Middle School; Heidi Greenhoe, Language Arts Teacher at Chippewa Middle School; Melissa Marks, Phys Ed Teacher at Kinawa; and Danielle Tandoc, Science Teacher at Okemos High School.

24 Years of Service

Ingham ISD Superintendent Jason Mellema presented information regarding an upcoming March 10th election with a Headlee Restoration for Special Education on the ballot. Mr. Mellema explained the Headlee amendment that has led to the erosion of a 4.75 mills levy down to the current 4.5. The restoration would generate \$2.3 million annually for 20 years in support of special education students in the Ingham ISD service area. For the average taxpayer, the cost would be \$1.27 per month. This is not an additional millage, rather it restores what was approved by taxpayers in 1998.

IISD Headlee Restoration Election

Members inquired about special education enrollment; equity and how districts are prioritized; what is needed for the vote to pass; and the special education funding committee. Additional information can be found on the OPS website homepage.

Construction Manager Rob Crowe from The Christman Company presented information regarding the bid process, administration's recommendation, timelines and next steps as they pertain to the installation of 3M window film. The board will take action on this project at their February 10th meeting.

Bond Project:
3M Window Film

Members inquired about the lifespan of the film, instruction interruptions, clarity, and if the new classrooms at Bennett Woods will be included in the project.

Construction Manager Rob Crowe and Operations Director Steve Lathrop presented information regarding LED lighting, electrical, air conditioning and bathroom upgrades, the bid process, timelines and next steps as they pertain to this project. Mr. Lathrop explained that the project will occur over the course of two summers, as well as the use of the building and site sinking fund to supplement the cost. Rebates from Consumers will significantly subsidize the cost of the LED lighting. The board will act on these projects at a future meeting.

Bond Projects:
LED Lighting,
Air Conditioning
& Bathrooms

Operations Director Steve Lathrop provided information regarding a Building and Site Sinking Fund project for roofing at Chippewa Middle School and a Capital Outlay fund project to upgrade and replace the radio communication system across the district. He also described safety and security features of the radio system, installation and programming.

Building & Site Sinking Fund Projects

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: enrollment update with a projected increase of 82 students; draft superintendent goals; health data apps utilized in physical education classes; CMS Parent Group meeting including a presentation regarding tweens and teens on February 13th; school board appreciation month; and OHS Student Council's soles for souls shoe drive.

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Superintendent
Report

Members inquired about a long range response to the increased enrollment; redistricting; kindergarten aide qualifications and responsibilities; and a student-led drama production at the high school.

Student Lauren reported on the following high school activities: Talent show on February 8th; upcoming student-led shows at CMS; recent final exams; Coaches vs Cancer basketball fundraiser; AP forms are due February 17th; 7th grade camp and high school volunteers; Touch of Class fundraiser to benefit Okemos Cares.

High School
Student Report

Kristin Hundt addressed the board regarding her son's school experience.

Citizen's Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Steve Hyer regarding robotics judges; Peter Falb regarding solar energy initiatives; and Kristin Labelle concerning a teacher.

Board Reports &
Requests

Mary Gebara reported on the OEF strategic planning process.

Vincent Lyon-Callo reported on Lansing Public Schools new alternative start time.

MOVED by Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Tonya Rodriguez that the board approve items 1 and 2 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.
Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 13, 2020;
Item 2: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the requested leave of absence for Katie Parker, 3rd Grade Teacher at Bennett Woods Elementary for the period of March 7th through June 12, 2020; Laura Sauer, Language Arts Teacher at Okemos High School for the period of January 27th through June 12, 2020; and Kortney Whitmyer, Social Studies Teacher at Okemos High School for the period of May 4th through June 10, 2020.

Consent Agenda

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

MOVED by Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board approve the following new high school courses to be offered beginning the 2020-2021 school year: Environmental Science & Wildlife Biology (elective); and Marketing & Social Media (elective).

High School
Courses

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

MOVED by Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Sarah Wohlford that the board approve the following revision to the high school graduation requirements beginning the 2020-2021 school year: Allow all Physical Education classes to fulfill the Physical Education graduation requirement.

Graduation
Requirements

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

The board discussed potential School of Choice openings to be advertised (February 15) for the Pre-K through 8th grade Montessori program. The numbers being proposed

Montessori SOC

will reflect available seats, while maintaining the district's ability to accommodate resident students. The number of openings are as follows: Kindergarten - 3 Openings; Grades 1 and 2 - 0 openings; Grades 3 and 4 - 0 openings; Grades 5 and 6 - 7 openings; and Grades 7 and 8 - 9 openings.

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SOC Cont.

Katie Cavanaugh reported on Montessori student access to electives at the middle levels.

Superintendent John Hood presented for board discussion, the Strategic Plan 2020-2024. Mr. Hood reviewed the process, feedback and data, the committee and next steps. Minor revisions were suggested. The board will take action at its February 10th meeting.

Discussion:
Strategic Plan

No one addressed the board.

Public Comment

There were no other matters.

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 9:25 .m.

Adjourn

Mary Gebara, Secretary