

**Okemos Board of Education**  
**Okemos, Michigan 48864**  
**REGULAR MEETING JUNE 22, 2020**

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6-22-2020

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:01 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

Attorney Gordon Van Wieren gauged the Board's interest in further pursuing a proposal regarding the Cell Tower at Bennett Woods that would amend the lease previously approved and impact the parceling of the property. The land division required by Meridian Township is larger than originally approved. Members agreed to pursue the proposal, seeking clarification and additional information.

Cell Tower  
Proposal

Members inquired about the following: bus parking; what land division means from a practical standpoint; the access road; easement; and cost to the district.

Assistant Superintendent Bailey provided an update as it pertains to the continuous learning plan, as well as the process for planning the 2020-21 school year. An overview of the committee and the process so far was reviewed. In addition to an academic plan, plans are also being developed to address professional development and training, student, family and staff. Tentative timelines were given. Communication plans that allow for input from the board, community and Governor's recommendations were described. Several questions for consideration were posed to learn the board's expectations, including how the CLP satisfies the District's mission, vision and value statements and its alignment with the strategic plans critical issues.

Continuity of  
Learning Plan  
& 20-21 School  
Year

Members inquired regarding the following: public health and safety as a policy of the board; a trauma-informed approach; detail and flexibility in the plans; equity; mask age requirements; which organizations guidelines will be followed; enforcement of the policy; peer interaction; alternatives to compliance; standardized testing legislation; and social emotional supports.

The board continued their discussion of the childcare and athletic protocols and clarified LARA guidelines.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: recent graduation ceremony; technology director position update; transportation director position; possible food service summer distribution; upcoming board vacancies; and online streaming of board meetings once the executive order expires.

Superintendent  
Report

Vincent Lyon-Callo reported on the transportation director position; and public health expectations.

Nathan Mahn addresses the board in support of in-person instruction.

Citizen Address  
Agenda & Non-  
Agenda Items

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Nicole VanZwoll concerning budget reductions and Covid considerations for children.

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Board Reports &  
Request

MOVED Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Sarah Wohlford that board approve items 1 through 3 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 8, 2020

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the special meeting of June 15, 2020

Item 3: Approval of the minutes of the executive session meeting of June 15, 2020

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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 Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board approve the 2020-2021 elementary level, Kinawa, Chippewa Middle School, and the Okemos High School Student-Parent Handbooks for distribution to students and parents.

Student-Parent  
Handbooks

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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 Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that board waive the reading and ratify the salary and benefits portion of the successor contract between the Okemos Board of Education and the Okemos Education Association effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

OEA Contract

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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 Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that board waive the reading and ratify the salary and benefits portion of the successor contract between the Okemos Board of Education and the Association of Okemos Administrators effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

AOA Contract

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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 Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that board approve the Clerical/Technical Unit salary and benefits schedule as documented for the 2020-2021 school year.

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Clerical  
Technical

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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 Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that board waive the reading and ratify the salary and benefits portion of the successor contract between the Okemos Board of Education and the Custodial/Maintenance/Food Service Units effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Custodial  
Maintenance  
Food Service  
Contract

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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 Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Sarah Wohlford that board waive the reading and ratify the salary and benefits portion of the successor contract between the Okemos Board of Education and the Okemos Transportation Association effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Transportation  
Contract

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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 Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Vincent Lyon-Callo that board approve the changes in salary and benefit for central office administrators as documented for the 2020-2021 school year.

Central Office  
Administrators

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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 Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board approve the select personnel salary and benefits schedule as documented for the 2020-2021 school year.

Select  
Personnel

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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 Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that board adopt the following new textbooks and materials for use at Okemos High School beginning with the 2020-2021 school year: AP US History - America's History; Physical Science - Explore Learning Gizmos; Calculus – Calculus; Spanish II - Autentico 2; Spanish IVN (approved 2018-19 school year) – Imagina; German I - Deutsch Aktuell 1 7th Edition; and German IV & AP - Kaleidoskop 9th Edition.

New  
Textbooks

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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 Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Tonya Rodriguez that board adopt the My View ELA program for 5th grade beginning in the fall of 2020.

5<sup>th</sup> Gr ELA

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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 Vincent Lyon-Callo, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board adopt the My Perspectives ELA program for 6th grade beginning in the fall of 2020.

6<sup>th</sup> Gr ELA

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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 Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board enter into a contract for the purchase and installation of Level Data Integrated Appliance hardware and software, not to exceed \$166,275.

Technology  
Purchase

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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 Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Sarah Wohlford that board approve the low bid of \$100,576 per bus submitted by Holland Bus Sales for three 77-passenger conventional school buses for a total cost not to exceed \$301,728.

Bus  
Purchase

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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 Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that board open the meeting to the Budget/Truth-in-Taxation Hearing to present information on the 2020-2021 general fund budget, including the total authorized millage levied for operating purposes, and receive questions and comments from the public. Budget Truth-In-Taxation Hearing

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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**

The budget truth in taxation hearing was opened at 9:26 p.m.

Director of Finance Elizabeth Lentz provided information regarding the proposed 2020-2021 budget including general fund; debt retirement; building and site sinking fund; capital projects; student/school activity fund; and food service budgets. The projected impact on the general fund balance is a deficit of \$135,962. These budgets do incorporate several budget reductions identified by the board during the budget development process. The food service budget does include an increase in lunch prices of \$.05.

Information regarding State School Aid Fund and School Loan Revolving Fund were also provided.

There were no public comments.

The budget truth in taxation hearing was closed at 9:49 p.m.

MOVED Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Tonya Rodriguez that board waive the reading and adopt the general appropriations resolution for the General Fund of \$53,088,085; Debt Retirement Fund of \$12,747,000; Building and Site Sinking Fund of \$709,662; Capital Projects Fund of \$148,917; Student/School Activity Fund of \$981,118 and Food Services Fund of \$1,865,473 for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. 2020-2021 Budget

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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 Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Sarah Wohlford that board waive the reading and adopt the resolution to authorize the issuance and sale of notes not to exceed \$4,000,000 for the payment of monies to be received from the State School Aid Fund. School State Aid Fund

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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 Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that board waive the reading and adopt the resolution authorizing the Director of Finance to file application and initiate borrowing during the 2020- 2021 fiscal year through the School Loan Revolving Fund program of approximately \$2,975,000.

School Loan  
Revolving  
Fund

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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 Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Tonya Rodriguez that board approve the employment of Amanda Hall, School Psychologist for the District at Step 7, Division III of the teacher salary schedule, effective August 24, 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 -  
Certified

Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |                    |     |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 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**

No one addressed the board.

Public Comment

Katie Cavanaugh inquired about substitute bus drivers.

Other Matters

Melanie Lynn acknowledged the retirement of Custodian Ken Green.

The board next meeting will be Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup> via the Zoom platform.

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 10:02 p.m.

Adjourn

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Mary Gebara, Secretary