

**Okemos Board of Education**  
**Okemos, Michigan 48864**  
**SPECIAL MEETING JULY 23, 2020**

PAGE 8783  
7-23-2020

The special 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

President Bolton set the tone for the meeting, suggesting it was to establish a framework and narrow down the instructional model the board intends to support. He recommended that members collect their questions about details and submit to administration.

Superintendent Hood reviewed timelines and the process so far, as well as the efforts of the taskforce developed to formulate instructional model scenarios. The task force membership was described, as well as an overview of their work and the professional development needs the task force identified.

Superintendent  
Reports &  
Request

Assistant Superintendent Bailey described each of the instructional delivery models. Hybrid includes online and in-person instruction. A Choice model would give families the choice between in-person and online instruction. The Online only model is 100% remote instruction.

2020-2021  
Return to School  
Plan

Mr. Hood reviewed the results of the family and staff surveys, including demographic groups, comfort level, preference for each model, and considerations or reasons for decisions. The criteria used to evaluate each model was explained, as well as benefits and challenges with each model. The superintendent's recommendation is to adopt a 100% online model while in Phase 4 and to remain in this model anytime the county is in Phase 4. In addition, the superintendent recommends remaining in the 100% online model until October 31st regardless of the Phase the county is in. Considerations for special needs populations and at risk students may be provided. Next steps were outlined and include the establishment of a mental health task force, start of the year plans, professional development and training.

Members inquired about the following: support and training for staff specifically for teaching online; mastery of concepts; new student experiences; amount of time online; peer interaction time; possible model where K-3 attended in-person and 4-12<sup>th</sup> was online; safety protocols for special needs students; substitute teachers; flexibility with start date of school; correspondence from staff and community; tech support for staff; and the benefits of making the decision or voting at this meeting.

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: reflection on the July 20<sup>th</sup> board meeting regarding equity; and upcoming Cultural Diversity Committee meeting.

Superintendent  
Reports  
& Requests

The following individuals addressed the board concerning the return to the 2020-2021 school year and the method for delivering instruction: Chad DeKatch; Josh Hunt; Maurice Atkinson; Janet Leslie; Rachael Hilliker; Kendall Mahn; Nicole Hagen; Jayme Taylor; John Lambert; Jennifer Keith; Chris Nugent; Dayna Christians; Crystal Scott; Jayson Chizick; Kelli Wright; Lakeka Pruitt; George Carter; Jocelyn

Citizens Address  
Agenda & Non-  
Agenda Items

Mankowski; David M.; Audrey Paul; Patrick Edger; Nathan Mahn; Katie Shahinian; Alisyn Crawford; Lisa Nowak; Shannon Winters; Maya Bubolz; Stephanie Boledovich; Jeremy Vanlerberg; Caleb Shin; Morgan Cole; and Daniel Hubble.

PAGE 8784  
Citizens Address  
Agenda & Non-  
Agenda Items

The following individuals addressed the board concerning the proposed cell tower at Bennett Woods Elementary: Wei Li and Jan Casey.

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Alexia Mansour, Ann Chrapkiewicz, Jen Schmidt, Kate Quinn, Amy Ward, Anna Laird, Chris Dana, Tracey Pickard, Kelly Bianchi, Nicole Sammartino, Adrienne Hagon, Amy Lothamer, Amy Cavanaugh, Jayne Lock, Joe Thornton, Don Poore, Amy Olivarez, Robb Shubel, Mariana Austrins, Crystal Scott, Stephanie Coontz, Jocelyn Mankowski, Kortney Whitmyer, Christy Hintz, Elena Mapley, Lori Mazzullo, Tom Hopper, Megan Stadt, Melissa Sainz, Laura Bell, Christina Abbott, Rachel Freeman-Baldwin, Ben Woodcock, Margie McJames, Chad DeKatch, Allison Cironi, Alexandria Williams, Danielle Tandoc, Diane Dockus, Lindsay Harrod, Dorean Brazier, Rachel Hollenback, Katie Seidl, Anne Feldpausch, Jennifer Garmon, Kim Ouellette, Shelby Fletcher, Daniell Ives, Katy Gilchrist, Larry Erdman, Tyler Hursey, Dawn Reed, Melissa Samluk, Karen Sanders regarding return to school and safety plans; Crystal Scott, Mythli Mukundan, Chrstina Inman, Jan Casey, Dan McCole, Gisela Hussey, and Yingxin Zhou, Wei Peng regarding the proposed cell tower; Bethany Rigg, Liz Mack, Daniel Chang, Anonymous Alumni, Seungmeen Rhee, Julie Tomczak, Elizabeth Deliyiski, Kate Quinn and Amy Huntley regarding equity concerns; and Lynn Mande regarding athletic policies.

Board Reports  
& Request

There were no board reports or requests.

MOVED Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that board approve item 1 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

Item I: Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 13, 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 Mary Gebara that board approve the employment of Kayla Diederich, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher at Bennett Woods Elementary, at Step 1, Division I; and Vanessa Stephens, Kindergarten Teacher at Cornell Elementary, at Step 1, Division I 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**

MOVED by Dean Bolton, SUPPORTED by Tonya Rodriguez that board adopt the recommendation for online only model for the return to school to begin the 2020-2021 school year.

PAGE 8785  
Instructional  
Model to Begin  
2020-2021

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**

Discussions regarding board policies impacted by Covid19, and the MHSAA's plans for fall sports were postponed until the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Discussion

The following individuals addressed the board concerning the return to the 2020-2021 school year: Melissa Samluk; George Carter; Maurice Atkinson; and Pavan Kannan.

Public Comment

A special meeting on August 13th was established for the purpose of adopting the Covid19 Preparedness and response Plan.

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the special meeting at 11:40 p.m.

Adjourn

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Mary Gebara, Secretary