

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
SPECIAL MEETING AUGUST 3, 2020

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The special meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:03 p.m.

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo and Sarah Wohlford

Members Absent: Tonya Rodriguez

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

Call To Order

Superintendent Hood and Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey provided an update as it pertains to the development of the 2020-2021 Preparedness and Response Plan.

Preparedness &
Response Plan

Assistant Superintendent Bailey described professional learning opportunities for staff including upcoming webinars with MSU, training modules available, and an internal professional development website to house resources for staff. Resources for families were also explained and include technology, social-emotional needs, the Mental Health Taskforce and a referral system, upcoming timelines and calendars. Mrs. Bailey also reviewed some of the most frequently asked questions.

Mr. Hood provided examples from each of the departments throughout the district and how they are implementing the Phase 4 protocols. Operations included signage, cleaning, traffic flow, walk-throughs at each building for consistency, feedback plans etc. Food Service included guidelines and guidance from the State and Federal governments, breakfast and lunch procedures, strategies to increase participation, PPE, etc. Transportation included getting on and off and riding procedures, expectations for riders, cleaning and communication. Community Education included student supervision, building use and needs, daily schedules and programming. Athletics included expectations, safety protocols and communication plans.

A special meeting for August 11th was established for the purpose of presenting the comprehensive plan in detail, and board approval on August 13th.

Members inquired about the following: possible limited, criteria-based student supervision; athletic participation fees; contact time for student new to the district; using volunteers; and length of the school day.

Athletic Director Brian Fuller presented a recommendation regarding athletic opportunities that can be offered while still implementing Phase 4 safety and health expectations and protocols. The differences between returning to conditioning, practice and competition were described. Mr. Fuller convened a committee of coaches, parents and MSU Health Services representatives to develop the recommendation. He reviewed the process, rationale and additional considerations including the return to play guidelines developed by the MHSAA and the Governor's office. The recommendation is for all athletes to return to voluntary, no-contact conditioning as soon as possible and for golf, cross country and tennis could return to practice on August 12th.

Return to
Athletics
Recommendation

Superintendent Hood also presented a recommendation regarding athletics, as well as the criteria, considerations and process used to develop the recommendation. It was agreed that all sports could return to voluntary, outdoor, non-contact conditioning.

Golf, cross country and tennis could return to practice and possible competition with an approved plan. Dance, cheer and water polo teams were also clarified. Mr. Hood also explained the difference between clubs that were a budget reduction, and other Schedule B opportunities that were not cut.

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Return to
Athletics

Members inquired about the following: protocols if there is a positive test result; tracking; enforcement and notification; marching band; leadership among athletes; legality of disclosure requirement; involvement of health department; ensuring athletes who don't participate aren't penalized; report back with a recap of the week.

The following individuals addressed the board regarding the return to athletics: Brian Guggemos; Jenny Carr; Mike Krumm; Liam Carr; Deep Grewal; Chloe Krumm; Maggie Kinzer; Alana Reome; Andrew Arvanitis; Rebecca Precise; Jamie Ianni; John Lambert; and Zara Atta. The following individuals also addressed the board: Kendall Mahn regarding return to school plans; Rosemary Passanza concerning other extra-curricular participation; and Thomas Gorman concerning mental health resources.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: Debate club and other Schedule B activities versus clubs; transportation hiring update; and the postponed retirement of Cheri Meier.

Superintendent
Reports
& Requests

Katie Cavanaugh and Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about funding for clubs.

Board Reports
& Request

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Jamie Delong; Elizabeth Deliyski; Wei Li; Dayna Christians; Susan Kelly; Chantal Rose; Brittany Govorchin; Keyan Roberts; Sheryl Page; Kendall Mahn; Morgan Cole; Melissa Terry; Crystal Scott; Melissa Erikson; Carley Hodgins; Paul Jodoin; Lee Martin; Autumn Gebara; Kristin Caswell; Valerie Levitt; Michelle Ciabotti; regarding return to school and safety plans. Tom and Martha Rand; Kristin Phillips; Peilei Fan; Jiahang Li; Michael Brunjes; Xiaoshi Li; The Champion Woods Condominium Association; Elizabeth McKeon; Lori Fortino; Wei Li; Kathy and Larry McCurdy; Christina Salem; Dayna Christians; Deb Wieber; Rebecca Stoner; Joy Liu; Maria Nystrom; Gang Teng; Jiao Zhou; Fabio Casagrande; Ting Shen; Chandra Owen; Eric Torng; and Paula Miller concerning the proposed cell tower. Kevin Joldersma; Chris Nugent; Jennifer VanderKlok; Mary Michner; Alana Reome; Carmelita North; Ric and Bridget Balesky; Douglas Hartman; Mary Arvanitis; Wayne and Roushell Nesbitt; Leslie Gonzales; Amy basal; Jackson Kosier; Erik Petersen; Deidre Kosier; Jason Woodward; Eric Meyer; Marla Ekola; Jamie Ianni; Chris Wilson; Dennis Arvanitis; and Zara Atta regarding athletics, strength and conditioning and other after school activities. Juhyun Lee requesting enrollment documents. Chen Xu; Estella Gan; Audrey Chen; Marie Yu; Bowei Li; and Clara Liao regarding Debate Club.

MOVED Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that board approve item 1 through 3 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 20, 2020;

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 23, 2020;

Item 3: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the requested leave of absence for Ashleigh Fesko, 1st Grade Teacher at Cornell Elementary for the period of October 26, 2020 through January 29, 2021.

Roll Call Vote

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

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

MOVED Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Vincent Lyon-Callo that board approve the employment of Nicole Fitchett, Physical Education Teacher at Kinawa 5-6, at Step 4, Division I; and Connor Huizenga, 70% ELA Teacher at Chippewa Middle School at Step 3, 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	---
Mary Gebara	Yes	Sarah Wohlford	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

AYE: 6 NAY: 0 ABSENT: 1 **MOTION CARRIED**

Superintendent Hood provided an update from a recent Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee meeting, including the development of an action plan with short and long term strategies, as well as plans for revising the district’s Equity Plan. This plan will be presented to the board at their August 24th meeting.

Equity Update

The board discussed a resolution giving temporary authority to the superintendent to waive specific board policies that may be impacted by the district’s Covid19 safety measures, the district’s Preparedness and Response Plan or the Governor’s executive orders, for example policies regarding visitors, building use and field trips. Student handbooks will also include a Covid19 addendum. The board will vote on this resolution at their August 13th meeting.

Resolution:
Covid19
Impacted
Policies

There was no public comment.

Public Comment

A special meeting was established for September 22nd for the purpose of the Superintendent’s mid-year evaluation check in.

Other Matters

Members inquired about a possible discussion item or presentation regarding the budget and the possibility of funding clubs, other extracurriculars and LMC clerks, as well as the impact participation fees has on the budget.

President Bolton adjourned the special meeting at 11:02 p.m.

Adjourn

Mary Gebara, Secretary