

Okemos Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan 48864
SPECIAL MEETING AUGUST 13, 2020

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Call To Order

The special meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:04 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Sarah Wohlford

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

Chair Sue Hallman and Trustee Ron Styka presented an update from the Okemos Education Foundation. Mrs. Hallman explained the mission and functions of the OEF and how the OEF supports the district through grant opportunities. Mr. Styka announced the OEF's newest fundraising campaign "Okemos Stronger Together" and expressed their desire to support clubs that were a recent budget cut. Community members were encouraged to donate or purchase merchandise that supports the campaign.

Presentation:
OEF Update

Dan McCole addressed the board concerning the proposed cell tower; and Chris Silker addressed the board regarding athletics.

Citizens Address
Agenda & Non-
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: cell tower will be discussed at the August 24th meeting; introduced new Director of Transportation Corrinne Karpinski and Director of Media and Technology Tom Isom; childcare opportunities; recent memo from State Superintendent Rice regarding attendance and hours requirements and recommendations; expressed gratitude to the community for their involvement at meetings and through correspondence.

Superintendent
Reports

Katie Cavanaugh reported on legislative advocacy.

Board Reports
& Request

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Kendall Mahn; Melissa Erikson; Tom Hamann; Chris Nugent, Deep Grewal; Ana Vazquez; Katy Colbry and Laura Shuart regarding return to school and safety plans; Michelle Ciabotti; Crystal Scott and Dan McCole concerning the proposed cell tower; Marcy and Gary Kinzer; Brian Gulbransen; Stacy Tapscott; Lee Martin; Rebecca Gawecki; Amy Basel; Jenny Karr; Rebecca Precise; Jeff and Shelly Korb; Kathleen Michael; Jungwirth Family; Aiden Hanchett; Anna VanSumeren; Mary Jo VanSumeren; Craig VanSumeren; Doug Hartman; Sarra Guggemos; Jack Guggemos; Calle Guggemos; Brian Guggemos; Nicki Guggemos; Bena Hartman; Hibah Fatteh; Louise Mead; Dwayne Stephens; Sarah Stephens; Tara Fischer; Amira Oun; Leah Smith; Mark Smith; Ray Smith; Liam Smith; Terrie Malinak; Carmelita North; Carole Woodward regarding athletics; Melissa Samluk; and Laura Friedhoff regarding extra-curricular activities; and Matt Diemer regarding community input and board deliberations.

MOVED Mary Gebara, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board approve item 1 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 3, 2020.

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton Yes
Katie Cavanaugh Yes

Vincent Lyon-Callo Yes
Tonya Rodriguez Yes

Mary Gebara	Yes	Sarah Wohlford	---
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

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

MOVED Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that board approve the employment of Erik Potere, English Teacher at Okemos High School, at Step 3, Division I; and Kara Thurbur, 50% PPK/Kindergarten Teacher at Okemos Public Montessori at Central at Step 4, 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	---
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

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

MOVED Katie Cavanaugh, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that board approve the 2020-2021 Covid19 Preparedness and Response Plan as required under the Governor's Executive Order 2020-142.

Preparedness &
Response Plan

Roll Call Vote

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

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

MOVED Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that board waive the reading and adopt the resolution authorizing the superintendent to temporarily suspend board policies and regulations that conflict with COVID-19-related public health directives, Executive Orders and Directives, and the District's Preparedness Plan.

Resolution:
Covid19 Policies

Roll Call Vote

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

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

MOVED Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Melanie Lynn that board approve the return to practice and competition for the Golf, Tennis and Cross Country Teams.

Athletics: Return
To Practice &
Competition

Roll Call Vote

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

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

Superintendent Hood and representatives from each level presented an overview of the Covid19 supplement to accompany the 2020-2021 Student-Parent Handbooks. Requirements and expectations for the following areas are addressed: attendance; behavior expectations; busing; breakfast and lunch procedures; emergency drills; facial coverings; hallway expectations; health and safety expectations; illness policy and positive Covid19 test results; lockers and backpacks; mental health supports; recess; technology expectations; and visitor policies.

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Covid19
Supplement
Student-Parent
Handbooks

It was explained that revisions may be necessary to the supplement, and the board will consider approving the handbook supplement at the August 24th meeting.

Members inquired about virtual assemblies and field trips; as well as how the supplement will be revised and those revisions communicated.

The following individuals addressed the board: Chris Nugent and Jenny Carr concerning athletics; and Jocelyn Mankowski regarding online learning.

Public Comment

Member Lynn inquired about a searchable, more user friendly version of the Preparedness and Response Plan.

Other Matters

Member Cavanaugh inquired about marching band and a construction update.

President Bolton declared the WLNS new story as false and reported that he would follow up with the station.

President Bolton adjourned the special meeting at 10:05 p.m.

Adjourn

Mary Gebara, Secretary