

**Okemos Board of Education  
Okemos, Michigan 48864  
REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 14, 2020**

Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn,  
Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez and Sarah Wohlford  
Administrator: Superintendent John Hood

MOVED by Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Tonya Rodriguez that the board adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of reviewing attorney-client privileged communications.

Executive  
Session

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 meeting adjourned to executive session at 6:35 p.m.

The board reconvened at 7:09 p.m.

Reconvene

Members Present: Dean Bolton, Katie Cavanaugh, Mary Gebara, Melanie Lynn,  
Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez and Sarah Wohlford  
Administrators: Superintendent John Hood; Assistant Superintendent Stacy  
Bailey; Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz

Attorney Gordon VanWeiren provided an update regarding the proposed cell tower on the Bennett Woods property and asked the board to determine whether to amend the option and lease agreement with New Cingular that would require a land division.

Discussion  
Moved Forward  
Cell Tower

The following individuals addressed the board regarding the proposed cell tower: Joy Liu; Sabine Liu; Wei Li; Satya Narra; Mukundan Agaram; Prabode Weebadde; Jan Casey; and Crystal Scott.

Citizens Address  
Cell Tower

MOVED by Melanie Lynn, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board not agree to amend the agreement's identified site location for the communications facility.

Cell Tower  
Amendment

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**

Superintendent Hood and Assistant Superintendent Bailey presented a summary of the extended learning plan as required by Public Act 149. An overview of the various plans since march was provided including the Continuity of Learning Plan,

Extended  
Learning Plan

Preparedness and Response Plan, and now a new Extended Learning Plan is required by the State legislature. While this plan includes many components of the previous Preparedness and Response Plan, new requirements include but are not limited to: timelines, educational goals, approval by the Ingham ISD, placement on the website; progress reports to the board; benchmark data provided to the State; reconfirmation meetings; and two-way communication rates.

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Extended  
Learning Plan  
Cont.

Board members discussed the following: the assessment tool used; opt-out or parent consent mechanism; measure of improvement; special education students; goal or assurance that includes equity; state reporting; sample questions asked in the social-emotional screener; achievement gap; and screener for K-1 students from U of M.

In addition, Superintendent Hood discussed the Phase 5 safety protocols shared with the board during its July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. He clarified that as long as the State is in Phase 4, the district will remain online. There will be a transition period of 2-3 weeks once the State moves to Phase 5. Phase 5 resumes in-person instruction.

Jayne Taylor addressed the board regarding the achieve gap and assessments, particularly for special education students.

Citizens Address  
Agenda & Non-  
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: student supervision opportunity; upcoming early release day; a budget update and Operations Director hiring update from Director Lentz; upcoming audit presentation; handbook changes regarding attendance and two-way communication; athletics update and what the district considers a mask; equity work; and recent Town Hall meeting regarding the Safe Return to School.

Superintendent  
Report

Members inquired about participation levels; one-on-one mentoring; video on versus video off during instruction; mask enforcement; and the student supervision opportunity and requirements.

Board Reports  
& Requests

President Bolton acknowledged correspondence from the following: Dan McCole, Kendall Mahn, Sarah Stephens, Patrick Murphy, Christina Salem, Yingxin Zhou, Crystal Scott, Mary Arvanitis, Seth Ciabotti, Jan Casey, Mywish Maredia, Wei Li, Fabio Casagrande, Kevin Elliott, Cynthia Duda, Amy Inzetta, Kathy and Larry McCurdy, Wei Ping, Linda Scarpetta, Prabode and Dr. Cholani Weebadde, Renata Opoczynski, Jasenka and Robert Zegarac, Joy Liu, Sergey Kotcharov, Gisela Hussey concerning the proposed cell tower; Jan Casey regarding recordings of board meetings; Stephanie Fournier regarding parent partnerships; Brian Kosier, Steve Zimmerman, Michael and Michelle Weiszbrod, Jamie Ianni, Matt Diemer, Eric Meyer, Jennifer Vanderklok regarding athletics; Kendall Mahn regarding online learning and Return to School Plans; Kyle Torpey with a Covid tele-health resource; Lexi Sanders regarding board meeting minutes; and Gina Farnelli concerning academics versus athletics.

Mary Gebara reported that OEF merchandise is available to be picked up; and Katie Cavanaugh expressed gratitude to teachers.

MOVED by Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board approve items 2 through 4 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 24, 2020;

Item 3: Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 8, 2020;

Item 4: Acknowledge receipt of the leave of absence report and approve the requested leave of absence for Anne Feldpausch, Special Education Teacher at Okemos High School for the period of September 14th through October 20, 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 by Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Katie Cavanaugh that the board certify the following winter tax rates for collection on behalf of Okemos Public Schools from Meridian Township, Alaiedon Township, and the City of Lansing of 9 mills non-homestead, 3.5 mills debt, and .4931 sinking fund; and from Williamstown Township of 18 mills non-homestead, 7 mills debt, and .9861 sinking fund.

Certify Winter  
Tax

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 Mary Gebara, SUPPORTED by Tonya Rodriguez that the board approve the revised 2020-2021 elementary level, Kinawa, Chippewa Middle School, and the Okemos High School Student-Parent Handbooks.

Revised Student-  
Parent  
Handbooks

Roll Call Vote

Dean Bolton	Yes	Vincent Lyon-Callo	No
Katie Cavanaugh	Yes	Tonya Rodriguez	Yes
Mary Gebara	Yes	Sarah Wohlford	Yes
Melanie Lynn	Yes		

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

Superintendent Hood provided for board feedback, information regarding a Superintendent's Study Committee and timelines to review the Chief/Chieftains name in response to community concerns and equity considerations. Mr. Hood reviewed historical information including past committees, board resolutions and logos. The committee would study the impact of terms, hold community conversations and develop a recommendation. Timelines were outlined, as well as committee membership.

Chief Name  
Committee

Board members discussed the following: need for a lengthy process; decision-making process and the benefits and challenges regarding it; learning opportunity for students and community; committee membership; setting committee norms and expectations; facilitation; and educating the community during board meetings.

The following individuals addressed the board: Audrey Matusz and Emma Fedorchuk regarding equity work and the Chief name; Dan McCole regarding the cell tower.

Public Comment

A reminder of the special board meeting for the purpose of the Superintendent Evaluation check in on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the special meeting at 9:24 p.m.

Adjourn

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Mary Gebara, Secretary