

**Okemos Board of Education**  
**Okemos, Michigan 48864**  
**REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 12, 2020**

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10-12-2020

Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:02 p.m.

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

Member Absent: Tonya Rodriguez

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

Sex Ed Supervisor Nicole McGuire presented the recommendations from the district's Parent Council for four appointments to the district's Personal Health and Sexuality Education Advisory (PHASE) Board as follows: two parent representatives, one healthcare professional, and one community member at large. Candidates included: Sondos Al-Hachim, Stephanie Shafer, Brett Meteyer, and Pauline Ashton. The board will take action on these recommendations at the October 26th board meeting.

PHASE Board  
Members

Member Lynn inquired as to the diversity of the applicants, as well as efforts to attract applicants.

Superintendent Hood presented the Safe Return to School Plan for when the Governor moves to Phase 5 of the Michigan Safe Start Plan. Chairs Noelle Palasty, Jody Noble, Stacy Bailey and Elizabeth Lentz provided updates on specific committee work.

Safe Return to  
School Plan

Tonya Rodriguez arrived at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Hood reviewed the recent survey data that indicates the district will need to allow for choice and offer an online option for families. He reviewed planning efforts so far and described the vision and guiding principles for reopening. Several responsibilities of the steering committee were reviewed and include a communication plan and a transition plan. Social distancing expectations and ability to maximize social distancing were clarified.

Assistant Superintendent Bailey presented the recommendation from the instructional committee on the model to be used in Phase 5. The criteria used to develop the different models, as well as the benefits and challenges of each model was discussed. Model A includes one OPS teacher instructing both in-person and virtual students at the same time. Model B includes one OPS teacher teaching virtual students, and a different OPS teacher instructing in-person students. Model C would have a 3<sup>rd</sup> party responsible for virtual students and in-person students taught by an OPS teacher. It is the committee's recommendation that the district choose Model B. She also described the assessment plan to be used.

Operations committee representative Elizabeth Lentz reviewed the committee's planning responsibilities including athletics, food service, transportation, hygiene and cleaning. Wellness committee representative Jody Noble reviewed the committee's planning which includes screening procedures and response plans.

Members discussed the following: continuity; safety; transition plan and time between phases; differences between modes of instruction; possible imbalances between Model A and B; on-line learning for in-person students required to quarantine;

response plans when there are positive cases; contact tracing procedures; what does a day-in-the life of a student look like in the different models; possible switching of teachers; equity; commitment from families; singular course subjects and instructional mode; what do we need to know to make a decision; educational experience for each group of students; and impact of recent supreme court ruling.

The board will discuss again during the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, with possible action on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Kristin Brooks, Wei Li, Chuck Wynn, John Lambert, Jayme Taylor, Kim Ouellette, and Jennifer Ronan addressed the board regarding the safe return to school plan.

Citizens Address  
Agenda & Non-  
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: Community mental Health will no longer lease the Wardcliff Building; Covid19 handbook supplement revisions; curriculum update and reading support from Title I Reading Specialist; preliminary enrollment update including an approximate decrease of 70 students;

Superintendent  
Report

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided a budget update including preliminary 20-21 revised budget assumptions and a net impact of a positive approximately \$2.6 million. Impending budget discussions and considerations were reviewed including trigger language from the negotiations process.

Member Vincent Lyon-Callo inquired about student representatives.

President Bolton acknowledge correspondence from the following: Courtney and Robb Shubel regarding technology and food service resources, and online learning experience; Hedlun Walton regarding the Chieftain name; Michael Martin regarding curriculum; Deborah Sang, Heidi Ma, and Hongbing Wang regarding the high school schedule; and Katie Shahinian regarding the results of the parent survey.

Board Reports  
& Request

Katie Cavanaugh inquired about glasses to block the blue light from devise screens.

MOVED by Sarah Wohlford, SUPPORTED by Mary Gebara that the board approve items 1 and 2 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 19, 2020;  
Item 2: Acknowledge receipt of the August financial statement and approve payment of bills for August.

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 Melanie Lynn that the board accept the audit report of Maner & Costerisan P.C. for the 2019-20 school year.

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		

The superintendent and board of education discussed the decision making process as it pertains to winter and spring athletics and extracurricular activities, including expectations and what decisions will the board weigh in on versus just learn about. It was decided that athletics would become a part of the superintendent's report on a consistent basis.

Winter & Spring  
Sports

The superintendent and board discussed the approach to provide the board with updates regarding the Extended Learning Plan and the board's adequate information to proceed policy. It was determined that minor revisions would be reviewed, incorporated and reconfirmed at the same meeting; while significant changes would be reviewed and discussed by the board at one meeting, and incorporated and reconfirmed at the following meeting.

Extended  
Learning Plan

Superintendent Hood provided information regarding an Equity Plan revision. Mr. Hood reviewed the revision timeline and process, which includes data gathering, community conversations, Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee meetings, a board presentation, discussion and finally approval.

Equity Plan  
Revision

Member Lynn inquired about the district's philosophical approach to revising the equity plan.

The board discussed the recent Michigan Supreme Court ruling as it pertains to the Open Meetings Act and online board meetings. The policy committee will make adjustments to the board's electronic participation policy. Members discussed when the board should return to in-person meetings; for example now since the district is allowing sports, or returning when students return. Members agreed they would like to keep a Zoom or online component in place upon returning.

Online Meetings

No one addressed the board.

Public Comment

There were no other matters.

Other Matters

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 10:19 p.m.

Adjourn

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Mary Gebara, Secretary