

**Okemos Board of Education**  
**Okemos, Michigan 48864**  
**REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 23, 2020**

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11-23-2020

Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Okemos Board of Education was called to order by President Bolton at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

The board continued its discussion regarding the Safe Return to School Plan. Superintendent Hood and Assistant Superintendent Bailey provided an update to the Board and community regarding implementation of the plan and the current status of established metrics to activate the plan. A metrics update will be provided to the community every two weeks. Mr. Hood reviewed steps and action taken so far, as well as the metric targets and requirements. The Covid dashboard can be found on the district website, including current totals.

Safe Return to  
School Plan

Member Cavanaugh inquired about sustainability of the metric targets and triggers.

Superintendent Hood and Assistant Superintendent Bailey provided an update to the Board and community regarding updates and revisions to the District's Extended Learning plan which will include the district's approach to remote work to align the plan with MIOSHA requirements.

Extended  
Learning Plan

Updated included that the district is 100% online including special needs populations which were previously in-person. A summary of the two-way interaction rates and averages was given, as well as results from a recent feedback survey. Strengths and opportunities from the results were identified. Due to MIOSHA requirements, the Extended Learning Plan will now include a remote work policy and factors of consideration for determining remote work. The board will receive and update and reconfirm the ELP again at the December meeting.

Superintendent Hood gave the status of current in-person programs, described the MDHHA guidelines and how the guidelines impact local decisions. Mr. Hood reviewed a flow chart created to depict the route a program, activity or sport might take through the decision-making process. He covered several if-then scenarios and explained the process if MDHSS guidelines allowed the situation, but the OPS metric did not and vice versa.

MDHHS  
Guidelines &  
Metrics

Members inquired about recommendation versus prohibition; detailed survey results; and provided feedback regarding the flow chart.

The following individuals addressed the board: Wei Li concerning athletics and in-person learning; Fiore Leo and Jayme Taylor regarding metrics.

Citizens Address  
Agenda & Non-  
Agenda Items

Superintendent Hood reported on the following: Equity Plan update and board representative for upcoming professional development; Good Trouble Coalition membership; expressed gratitude to Community Education and childcare staff; bond projects update; Diversity Equity Inclusion Advisory Coalition meeting and name change; HR support from Cheri Meier; electronic participation at board meetings; student groups and activities being offered virtually, Chief/Chieftain name

Superintendent  
Report

conversation facilitator; and new board member orientation.

A policy committee update was given and included information regarding a cell tower prohibition policy that the committee declined; procedures for requiring contractors to communicate with community members regarding large outdoor construction projects; including construction projects in the superintendent's report; recording summer meetings; and an upcoming projects page on the website.

Assistant Superintendent Stacy Bailey reported on social-emotional learning and supports, including a no homework policy at OHS during winter break; no High School final exams; MSU partnership; and upcoming staff training.

Members inquired about the following: board representative for equity training as a discussion item at the December meeting; notification when there are Covid positive cases; and physician orders to obtain a Covid test. Members also expressed gratitude to the childcare staff and regarding the social-emotional learning efforts and activities.

High School Representative Lauren reported on the following: virtual library services; upcoming Thanksgiving break; breakfast and lunch services available; senior activities; upcoming Radio Show production; student representative on the DEIA Coalition; and making sure information is accessible to all students.

High School  
Report

President Bolton acknowledge correspondence from the following: Chris Dana and Kendall Mahn regarding the return to school planning; Wayne Schmidt regarding filtration technology; Yingxin Zhou and Tracy Henion regarding athletics; and Yingxin Zhou concerning Covid infection rates.

Board Reports  
& Request

Member Gebara reported on the OEF, and the consistency of the district's approach.

President Bolton reported on the recent drama performance.

MOVED by Tonya Rodriguez, SUPPORTED by Sarah Wohlford that the board approve items 1 and 2 for immediate implementation and appropriate action.  
Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 9, 2020;  
Item 2: Approve the request for a Leave of Absence for Victoria Alchin, ELL Teacher at Hiawatha Elementary and CMS for the period of April 3rd through June 11, 2021.

Consent Agenda

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 approve the district's Extended Learning Plan as required by law.

Reconfirm  
Extended  
Learning Plan

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**

Finance Director Elizabeth Lentz provided for board discussion information regarding the 2020-2021 budget revisions. Ms. Lentz reviewed revenue and expenditure revisions and accompanying budget impacts on the general fund. She also provided a Covid funding update including uses of the grants and their impact on the 20-21 budget. Updated assumptions resulted in an approximate positive impact on the general fund of \$1.9 million before trigger language and level 1 priority considerations. The board will consider adopting the revised budget at their December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, with another in April or May, 2021.

The board discussed participation trends at the board's Zoom meetings and the impact of new legislation on this approach after December 31, 2020. Superintendent Hood confirmed that the district will be able to live stream meetings, however, by law public comment would still need to be made in person per the Open Meetings Act. President Bolted reported on a recent MASB webinar on this topic and upcoming legislative advocacy efforts to address it as well as in-person board member participation.

Participation at  
Meetings

There was no public comment.

Public Comment

President Bolton reminded the board of their December 1<sup>st</sup> special meeting for the purpose of the Superintendent's evaluation.

Other Matters

Member Cavanaugh inquired about snow days.

President Bolton adjourned the regular meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Adjourn

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Mary Gebara, Secretary